



### **'Spice cultivators should think globally'**

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**E-Paper**

Noting that advanced practices with an eye on global standards were key to ensure success in the global market, Governor P Sathasivam said spice cultivators should be encouraged to think globally and make use of the latest farming technologies.

Inaugurating the fourth session of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) established under Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) at Kovalam on Monday, Sathasivam said it was important to help Indian farmers by providing better storage facilities, which in turn would facilitate consistent supply for value addition. Union minister for commerce & industry Suresh Prabhu wished success to the five-day meet through video conferencing. He said with the implementation of agriculture export policy, much significance has been given to promotion of organic spices' exports.

Delivering the keynote address, Rita Teatota, chairperson of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), noted that CCSCH, in previous sessions, succeeded in getting approval of Codex Alimentarius Commission for three standards: black, white and green pepper, cumin and thyme.

In the current session, CCSCH will deliberate on draft standards for oregano, basil, ginger, garlic, chilli pepper and paprika, nutmeg, saffron and cloves, which are in the form of reports of Electronic Working Groups (eWGs) established by the previous session held at Chennai in February 2017. Set up in 1963, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an intergovernmental body established jointly by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in food trade. More than 100 delegates from 30 countries are participating in the meet.

Spices board secretary M K Shanmuga Sundaram, M Saravanan, director (plantations), ministry of commerce and industry, M R Sudharshan, chairman, CCSCH and A B Rema Shree, director, research, Spices Board spoke at the inaugural.