ABSTRACT

A study titled “Role of Spices Board in the cultivation and export of spices: with particular reference to Kerala” has been undertaken to analyze the role played by the Spices Board of India for the development of spices sector in the state of Kerala. The role played by the Board in respect of cultivation, post harvest operation and export is covered here. The study traces the evolution of the Board and its expansion over the years, production and productivity of spices, value addition of spices, organic cultivation, export and import of spices etc.

The study reveals that the functions of the Board cover all round development of cardamom and for rest of the spices, its activities consist of conducting adaptive research, organizing planters’ meet, teaching farmers better production methods, development of organic farming, organizing workshops and seminars for cultivators and policy makers, etc. Post harvest schemes are also implemented by the Board for all spices with a view to improving quality of spices. On the export front, the efforts of the Board are directed towards undertaking projects for the growth of global market for Indian spices.

The study indicates that most of the schemes for the cultivators are under utilized by them due to technical reasons, lack of timely information, lack of initial funds etc. But the schemes for the export promotion have been utilized by exporters to a remarkable extent.

Keywords: