ICAR-IISR partners with Spices Board to boost spice sector startups and export initiatives

Agventure TBI at ICAR-IISR designated as an official incubation centre under Spices Board's ASPIRE scheme to foster export-oriented spice enterprises.

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In a major initiative aimed at strengthening enterprise development and export-oriented startups in the spices domain, the ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode, through its Agventure Technology Business Incubator (TBI), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Spices Board, Kochi, on Thursday.

As per the MoU, Agventure TBI hosted at ICAR-IISR will serve as an official incubation centre for ASPIRE (Assistance to Spice Incubation Centres for Raising Entrepreneurship) scheme of the Spices Board. This institutional partnership aims to create a unified framework for nurturing tech-driven agricultural and spice-based enterprises.

The MoU was formally exchanged between Mr. M S Manivannan, IAS, Secretary, Spices Board, and Dr. Sajesh V K, Senior Scientist and Secretary, Agventure TBI, ICAR-IISR, at a ceremony held at the Spices Board Headquarters in Kochi.

Through this partnership, startups, MSMEs, spice exporters, and FPOs will receive comprehensive institutional support. This includes joint research backing, technology transfer, product development, incubation, business mentoring, and guidance on accessing funding and concerned export channels.

Speaking on the development, officials highlighted that the Spices Incubation Centre established as part of the agreement will focus on developing value-added spice products and promoting novel processing technologies aimed specifically for international markets.

The ICAR-IISR's Agventure Technology Business Incubator functions as a nodal centre for scaling technology-driven ventures in agriculture and allied sectors, bridging academic research and commercial application. The facility provides research commercialization, startup incubation, industry-academia linkages, and capacity building, supported by dedicated pilot plant facilities for product development and processing.

The signing ceremony was attended by Dr. R. Dinesh, Director, ICAR-IISR and Prof. V Palanimuthu, Director, NIFTEM-Thanjavur; Dr. Midhu, Chief Operating Officer, IIT Palakkad Incubation Centre; Mr. B N Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board; Ms. Vijeeshna V, Assistant Director, Spices Board; and Mr. Sanoj K L.





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