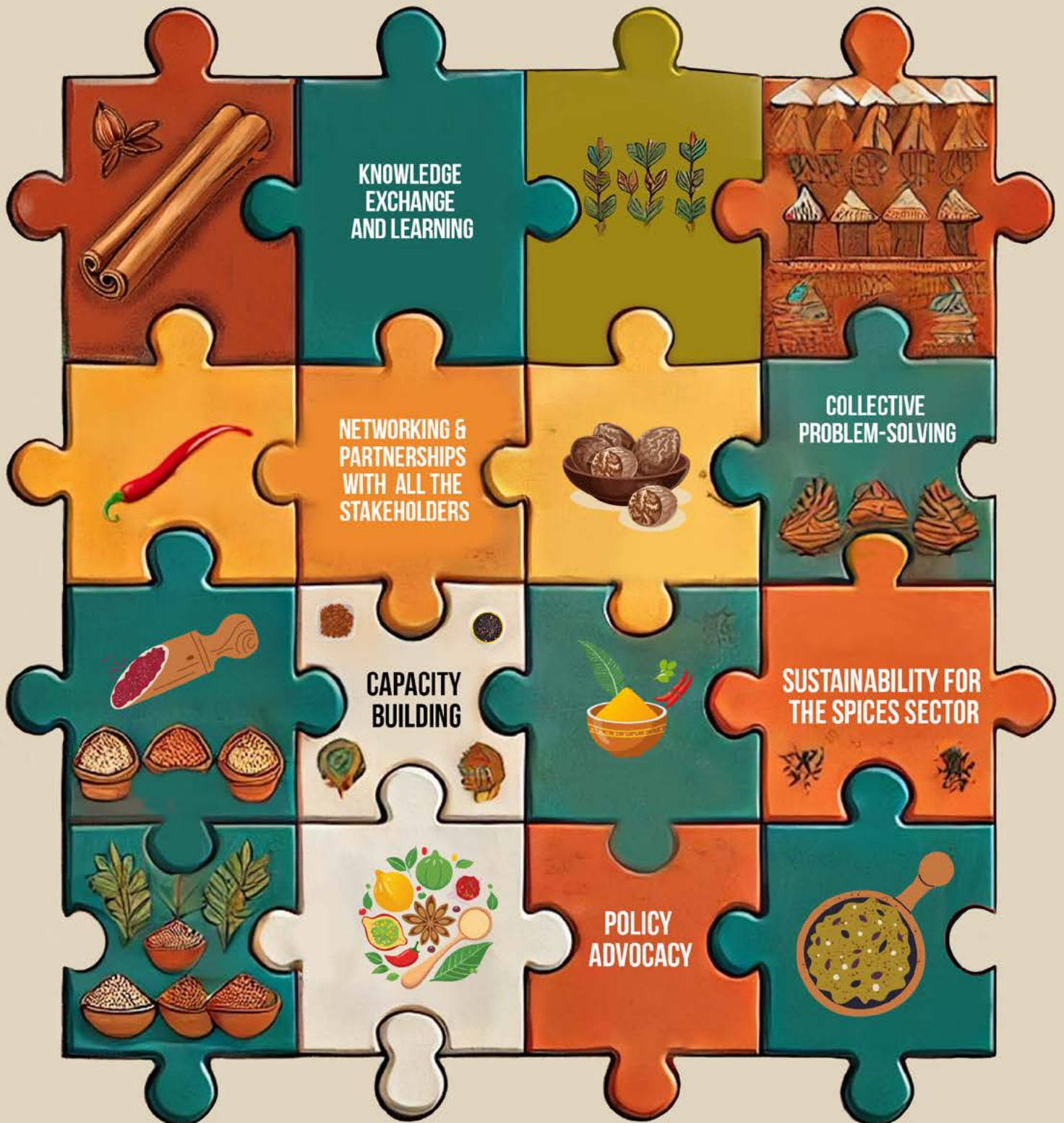


Sustainable Spices Community of Practice

Collaborating for Sustainability in
the Indian Spices Sector



Community of Practice (CoP)

brings together individuals and organisations with shared concerns or interests. They collaborate to find and co-create sustainable solutions, exchange knowledge, and achieve collective goals. The CoP for the Indian Spice Industry is dedicated to the shared objective of sustainability and resilience, which stakeholders have identified as their top priority.



Why is

CoP needed?

The Indian spice industry faces several pressing challenges such as rising cultivation costs, environmental degradation from excessive chemical use, market fluctuations, and climate change. Spices, being high-value crops, often require intensive agrochemical application which harms soil health and biodiversity. Additionally, growing market demands, and regulatory changes (e.g., Minimum Residue Levels) to these challenges. There is also a critical gap between the research community and market dynamics, limiting the practical implementation of research advancements.

The CoP bridges this gap by serving as a common collaboration platform for all stakeholders including farmers, researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers. This collaboration fosters clarity on issues facing the industry and drives practical, sustainable solutions for its long-term benefit.



DID YOU KNOW?

India is the world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter of spices.

In the fiscal year 2022-23, India produced approximately 11.1 million metric tons of spices.

India produces about 75 of the 109 spice varieties

listed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), making it a global leader in spice production.



Map Disclaimer: The geographical map used is for informational purposes only and does not constitute recognition of international boundaries or regions, nor does it represent the presence or distribution of spices in specific areas or states. GIZ makes no claims concerning the validity, accuracy or completeness of the maps and assumes no liability resulting from the use of the information therein

Source: Statista, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/870934/spice-production-by-state-india/>

Objectives

The overarching **goal of the CoP** is to promote collaborative knowledge-building and sharing of best practices. It seeks to facilitate knowledge exchange and the co-creation of practical, scalable, and locally adaptable solutions that address stakeholder needs while enhancing sustainability in the spice sector.

Specifically, the CoP will:

01 Address key challenges in the Indian spice sector, including sustainability standards, pesticide regulations, and capacity building for smallholder and marginal farmers.

02 Serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and resources.

03 Facilitate policy dialogues to strengthen sustainability in the spice sector especially in the context of climate change impact.



Modality of

Operation



Regular interactions to exchange best practices and share knowledge among all stakeholders.



A web interface and LinkedIn page for the CoP to enable continuous communication and foster trust among stakeholders.



Leveraging existing platforms, such as the International Spice Conference and National Spice Conference, to host CoP events.



Virtual events between major conferences to ensure ongoing engagement.



Prioritising focus areas through collaboration, co-create the agenda, and develop a roadmap for the coming months to ensure relevance and alignment with current needs.



Sustainability-focused approach, ensuring that all initiatives align with long-term ecological and economic goals.

Key Focus Areas

Based on stakeholder discussions, the CoP to focus on these key areas:

Knowledge Sharing: Regenerative agriculture (focused on local bio input preparations), agro-biodiversity, pesticide and MRL regulations, resilient seed varieties, and solutions for post-harvest challenges.



Policy Advocacy: Aligning domestic standards with international regulations, enhancing traceability and digitalisation, harmonising sustainability standards, and introducing shared performance metrics.



Enhancing Collaboration across Networks: Strengthening and complementing existing networks such as NSSP, the Sustainable Spice Initiative, the Spices Board, and research institutions.



Host Agency

The CoP is being hosted on the existing National Sustainable Spice Program (NSSP) platform, which aims to mainstream sustainability in the Indian spice with the World Spice Organization (WSO) serving as the Secretariat. NSSP brings together stakeholders from across the spice industry to advance a shared vision of sustainability, fostering collaboration for long-term impact.

The CoP is guided by an Advisory Committee comprising stakeholders from across the spice industry.

Host:



Institutional Partner



MYTH	FACT
The Spice CoP is just another networking event with no real outcomes.	The Spice CoP is a collaborative community with a clear focus on tangible outcomes. Members don't just network—they also work together to solve real challenges, share knowledge, and implement solutions that make a difference in the spice industry.
Only large organisations or big farmers benefit from the Spice CoP.	The CoP is open to everyone. Whether you're a smallholder farmer, a researcher, or an industry expert, your voice matters. It's about inclusive collaboration and building a network that benefits all levels of the spice industry.
Joining the Spice CoP requires a huge commitment of time and resources.	Participation in the CoP is flexible. You can engage at your own pace, whether by attending events, contributing ideas, or simply learning from others. The CoP values quality participation, not the quantity of time spent.
The CoP focuses only on the challenges, with no solutions.	The Spice CoP is solution-driven. While we acknowledge challenges, we focus on finding innovative solutions. Through collaboration and knowledge sharing, we work together to address the issues and improve the industry.
The Spice CoP is a short-term initiative that will soon fizzle out.	The Spice CoP has a long-term vision. With a 5-year plan, the CoP is committed to sustained growth and driving meaningful change in the spice industry. We are here for the long haul, working to make a lasting impact.

Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Published on: 25 February 2025

Illustration & Design: Yukti prints

JOIN THE CoP AND BECOME PART OF KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Contact person: Muralidhar Menon

Email: sustainability@wsospice.org

Members can also support by:

- **Annual Fees:** Contributing to the operational costs.
- **Volunteering:** Offering time, expertise, and leadership to support initiatives.
- **Hosting Events:** Supporting events within larger spice industry gatherings.



Funding programme



Implemented by



In cooperation with

