

ENHANCEMENT OF SMALLHOLDER SPICE FARMERS' CAPACITIES IN SUSTAINABLE FARMING

The challenge

India has a long history of trading spices and continues to be one of the world's largest producers and exporters. Many valuable spices endemic to the Western Ghats of India contribute to the growth of the spice sector. The Western Ghats are amongst the world's most important biodiversity hotspots and main areas for spice cultivation. Spices provide a prime source of livelihood to thousands of smallholder farmers in India. About 85% of the spice production in India is generated by small-scale farmers, who typically farm on less than two hectares of land and seasonally rotate spices with other crops. The major challenges for spice farmers are uncertain pricing and adverse climatic situations. The overuse of agrochemicals results in biodiversity loss, degradation and contamination of soil and water. In addition, this leads to contaminated spices unsuitable for consumption. Sustainable spice production will strengthen the economic resilience of these farmers. By ensuring long-term demand for high quality and sustainably produced spices at a fair price, spice production will become a more attractive option for smallholder farmers, creating a continuous supply base of sustainably grown spices

Project Name	Enhancement of Smallholder Spice Farmers' Capacities in Sustainable Farming
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Regions	Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu
In cooperation with	AVT McCormick Ingredients Pvt. Ltd and McCormick Switzerland GmbH
Duration	2020-2025

Objective

This project aims to increase the capacities of spice farmers in six Indian states to make production practices more economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable.

Approach

- Strengthen farmers' skills in sustainable spice farming practices and agri business management.



L. to r.: Picture of Kausalya Devi, one of master trainer of sustainable turmeric cultivation with FSA-certified turmeric from her field ; boiling of Turmeric rhizomes and spreading on drying yard for sun-drying over the next 21 days.



L. to r.: A glimpse of cumin farm from Rajasthan ; healthy vegetative phase of turmeric crop in Erode district, Tamil Nadu.

- Strengthen farmers’ skills in sustainable spice farming practices and agri business management.
- Introduce a sub-set of farmers to organic farming practices.
- Build industry-wide capabilities around sustainable spice farming by providing buy-back arrangements and market access to the farming communities engaged in sustainable production of spices.

Project Contribution to the Agenda 2030



The Project will support:

- Transferring knowledge and expertise in innovative agricultural practices.
- Promoting sustainable and biodiversity-friendly spice production.
- Enhancing farmers’ livelihood.
- Engaging more women farmers in cultivation (core initiative) and post-harvest management practices (value-added initiatives).
- Preventing environmental degradation.
- Strengthening spices supply chain for sustainably and organically grown target spices.
- Promoting conservation of natural resources – soil, water, and nutrients.
- Producing sustainably certified safe-to-consume spices.

Expected Outcome

- Increase net income of smallholder farmers from certified spices by 20%.
- Engage 50% women farmers in trainings.
- Implement McCormick Women Empowerment Framework (M-WEF) in five spices supply chains.
- Increase participation of women farmers to 40%.
- Train over 2,070 farmers on sustainable spice farming practices and agri-business management.

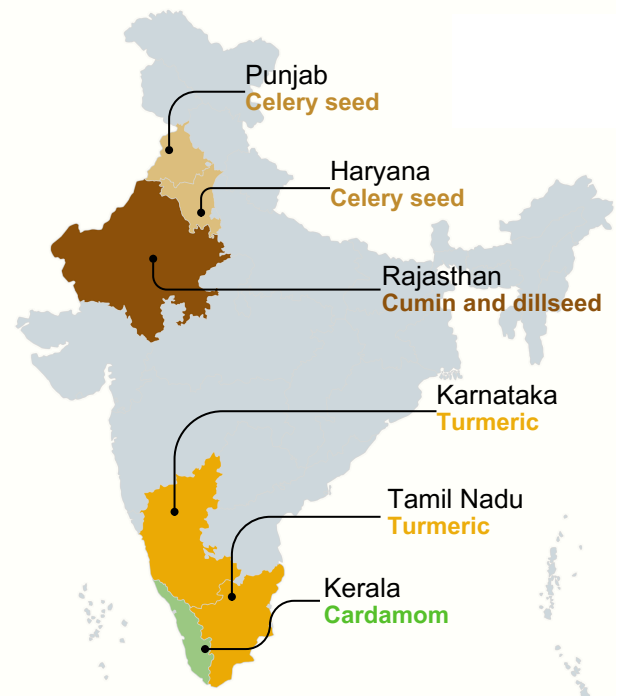


Figure 1: Project states

Disclaimer: The geographical map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute recognition of international boundaries or regions; GIZ makes no claims concerning the validity, accuracy or completeness of the maps nor assumes any liability resulting from the use of the information therein.

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