

## Value addition of spices, the way forward – Kohona

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Nanda B. Kohona was elected Spice Council Chairman at the AGM held recently. One of the key responsibilities of the Spice Council will be to contribute effectively to the goal of the Government to achieve US\$ 20 billion in income from exports, Kohona said at the AGM.

“The Spices sector need to contribute US\$ 1 billion to this target by the year 2020.

The TSC will work with key Government institutions, such as the Ministry of Minor Export Crops, Ministry for Industry and Commerce, EDB, DEA, Commerce Department, ITI, SLSI and research institutes to meet this goal,” Kohona said. “Positive growth in the spice sector during the last decade shows a very attractive picture towards Sri Lanka with high prices for our spices from overseas buyers especially for Cinnamon and Pepper, followed by other spices.



The introduction of the Pure Ceylon Cinnamon Logo by the EDB and the initiation of the process to obtain Geographical Indication for Cinnamon is significant since this add value to the product.

Our Pepper which has a very high level of “Piperene” and it is time for the relevant government authorities together with the exporters to brand SriLankan Pepper as well since the ”Piperene “level is around 5-6% compared to 3-4% for other origins. The production of Spices such as cloves, nutmeg,ginger, turmeric, citronella, cardamom, lemon grass need to be increased very much with the growing demand for these in the world in value added form and to their health benefits.

“Value addition for spices is a must instead of the traditional bulk export approach as it is encouraged by the government very much by the implementation of a cess. TSC is aiming to move forward with the new initiatives for spices where 7.9% of the total extent of cultivated land allocated to Minor Export Crops in comparison with other crops such as tea, rubber and coconut. The Minor Export Crops contributed around 14.5% for the export earnings in 2013. This percentage needs to be increased further in the next few years if the vision of the government is to be achieved,” Kohona said.

See more at: <http://www.dailynews.lk/?q=business/value-addition-spices-way-forward-kohona#sthash.yPf97z7o.dpuf>