



Notes from the Executive Director of IPC

In recent years, the international market for pepper has become more stringent, which means that producing countries have no alternatives but to improve on their products through proper farm management and improved post-harvest products.



Taking cognizance of these needs, the IPC have for the last three Sessions initiated on developing Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for pepper, to be used as standard documents for IPC member countries. During the 34th Session of IPC held in Kandy, Sri

Lanka, the IPC Committee on Quality made a recommendation that IPC formed a small working group for the purpose of drawing up the IPC GAP and IPM for Pepper.

Various inputs were received from experts from member countries and also from ESA on the draft GAP and IPM documents which were circulated and posted on IPC's website.

Subsequently, the group of experts from member countries, led by Mr. Anandan Adnan Abdullah from Malaysia heading the GAP team and Dr Y.R. Sarma from India heading the IPM team, met again in Jakarta from 24th - 27th April 2007 with a view of collating the various inputs and deliberating on them before finally agreeing on the final documents to be adopted.

With the completion of the GAP and IPM documents, it is hoped that IPC and member countries would be better equipped to serve the pepper industry including the farming communities, by coming up with better quality products which in turn could fetch remunerative returns to producers. This will in the long run improve the economic livelihood of so many who are involved directly or indirectly with the pepper industry.

On this note I would like to urge member countries, especially those facing severe constraints in marketing their produce in the international markets due to low quality products, to fully support these two programmes, by not only making an effort to implement them, but to also provide continuous feedbacks to IPC and the experts, for only through such mutual co-operation could IPC and member countries become stronger and ready to face future challenges.

Dede Kusuma Edi Idris
Executive Director

Upcoming event:

35th Annual Session & other Meetings of IPC

29th October - 2nd November 2007

Corus Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

For more detail and registration

Visit www.ipcnet.org/session35

Marker Review for April 2007

The IPC Price Index for black and white pepper experienced a substantial increase in April. The price index for black pepper jumped up almost 50 points to 219.87. While for white pepper, the price index increased over 23 points to 188.32.

Correspondingly, the Composite Price had scaled new levels of USD.3,350 / mt for black and USD.4,297 / mt for white representing about 30% and 14% increase respectively from the previous month.

The IPC Price Index and Composite Price of black and white pepper are shown in Table 1 and 2 below.

Table 1
IPC Price Index
(Base Year: Average 2002 - 2006)

Month	Black Pepper	White Pepper
Apr 2007	219.87	188.32
Mar 2007	170.45	164.88
Feb 2007	168.89	159.58
Jan 2007	165.08	157.24
Dec 2006	153.76	153.18
Nov 2006	157.41	159.82
Oct 2006	168.63	172.92
Sep 2006	162.59	168.09
Aug 2006	129.06	129.59
Jul 2006	111.98	114.88
Jun 2006	94.89	93.27
May 2006	83.84	86.67
Apr 2006	83.13	83.38

Table 2
Composite Price of Black and White Pepper (USD/mt)

Month	Black Pepper			White Pepper		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Jan	1,419	1,361	2,515	2,259	1,990	3,588
Feb	1,394	1,392	2,573	2,180	2,076	3,641
Mar	1,361	1,278	2,597	2,132	1,993	3,762
Apr	1,370	1,267	3,350	2,100	1,902	4,297
May	1,390	1,282		2,121	1,978	
Jun	1,384	1,446		2,021	2,128	
Jul	1,389	1,706		2,093	2,621	
Aug	1,369	1,966		2,113	2,957	
Sep	1,362	2,477		2,035	3,835	
Oct	1,373	2,589		2,001	3,945	
Nov	1,360	2,398		1,981	3,646	
Dec	1,390	2,343		1,990	3,495	

Note: Composite prices are calculated using the monthly export and FOB price of the top five pepper producing countries (Vietnam, Brazil, India, Indonesia and Malaysia) for the period 2002-2006.

Cont. to page #2