

PROGRAMME REPORT

National Conference “Creating Vibrant Food Processing Sector: Tapping Potential and Investible Projects in Uttar Pradesh” on February 25, 2023 – Hotel Ramada Plaza, Varanasi, UP

The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) & Indo Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), Varanasi Desk and Indian Industries Association (IIA) jointly organized an **National Conference- “Creating Vibrant Food Processing Sector: Tapping Potential and Investible Projects in Uttar Pradesh” at February 25, 2023 at Hotel Ramada Plaza, Varanasi, UP. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon’ble Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti, Government of India was the chief guest of this seminar.**

Mr. C.K. Sharma, Co-Chair, FMCG Council, ASSOCHAM, & Business Head, Mouth Freshener Division, Dharampal Satyapal Ltd. (DS Group), **Mr. Rajesh Kumar Tiwary**, Chairman, IACC Varanasi Desk, **Mr. R.K. Chaudhary**, Vice President, IIA, **Mr. Suraj Nangia**, Managing Partner, Nangia-Andersen LLP, **Dr. C.B. Singh**, Regional Head, Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), GOI, **Mr. S. Rajalingam**, DM, Varanasi, **Mr. Dhruv Kumar Sharma**, Lead – Food Processing, Invest India, **Mr. Shubhangi Nikam**, Assistant Director, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Northern Regional Office, **Dr. Yashwant Singh**, Director Institute of Agricultural Sciences, BHU, Varanasi, **Dr. Supriya Singh**, Food Safety Officer, Food Safety and Drug Administration, Varanasi, UP, **Mr. Rajesh Kumar Bhatia**, National Secretary, IIA, **Mr. Neeraj Parekh**, Board President, IIA, **Mr. Ritesh Kumar Singh**, Deputy General Manager and Branch Head, SIDBI, Varanasi, **Mr. Shakti Singh** Shekhawat, Associate Director, Nangia Andersen LLP, **Mr. Anuj Kumar Singh**, District Development Manager, NABARD, **Mr. Deepak Kumar Bajaj**, National Chairman, Food Processing Committee, IIA, **Mr. Umesh Kamble**, CEO, Farm to Fork Solutions, **Dr. Ashok Singh**, Senior General Manager, Ananda Dairy, **Mr. Vijay Mishra**, Director, Buddha Ratana (SAMP India Trade), **Ms. Suyashi Purwar**, Program Manager-I, HarvestPlus, **Dr. S.N.S. Chaurasia**, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR, IIVR, Varanasi and **Mr. Shubhendra Singh**, Research Scholar, Department of Dairy Science and Food Technology, BHU, Varanasi was the guest speakers of this National Seminar.

Chairman of IACC, Varanasi **Mr. Rajesh Kumar Tiwary** presented memento and bouquet to the chief guest and all guest speakers.

Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti **Sri Prahlad Singh Patel** called upon industrialists to invest in the food processing sector without fear from various agencies of the ministry. He said that this is a golden opportunity and industrialists should take advantage of it.

Mr. Patel was addressing the inaugural session of the National Conference on Food Processing Sector organized by the leading industry body ASSOCHAM and Indo American Chamber of Commerce, Varanasi here on Saturday.

Shri Patel's emphasis was on promoting food processing industry especially in the area of 'Coarse Cereals'. He said that out of the total production of coarse grains in the world, 40 percent of coarse grains are produced in India. The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Millet Year. New products of coarse grains are being promoted all over the world. Its demand is increasing.

Enumerating several schemes launched by the food processing industry for industrialists to invest, **Mr. Patel said**, "If the raw material is available in abundance, the supply chain is strong, then I believe this will strengthen the industry."

Mr. Patel was referring to various government agencies working on the quality and standards of food items. He said that instead of quality, we have moved towards increasing quantity. "We need to create an idea about the quality of the product. We have to set our own standards. There is a demand in the world, the same people who pushed us away from coarse grains are demanding it today. There is also the cost factor but if raw material is there, strong supply chain is available then the industry should go ahead."

Shri Patel also drew the attention of industrialists towards the fast exploitation of water resources available in the country. He said that our basic diet was only coarse grains but we rapidly adopted high water crops like wheat, paddy and sugarcane. "We became exporters of sugar, rice and flour, whose crops use more water, but if you look at any crop of millet, semi-millet, it requires less water. That is, we over-exploited our water resources. India has 18 percent of the world's total population, while only four percent of the total potable water is available. We have to think in this direction also. We have to change the pattern of farming. Natural resources have to be saved. The coming generation also has a right over them.

Speaking on the occasion, Varanasi District Magistrate **Mr. S. Rajalingam** said that Uttar Pradesh offers many opportunities for capital investment in the food processing sector. Assistance is being provided to the entrepreneurs in the state for setting up better projects in the food processing sector.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. CK Sharma**, Co-Chairman, FMCG Council, Assocham and Head, Mouth Freshener Unit, Dharmapala Satyapal Limited, said that the nutrition sector is changing rapidly these days. In view of the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, the change in food habits towards coarse cereals is a better step. By bringing Uttar Pradesh in a leadership role in the food processing sector, the state can be made economically strong and it will be beneficial for all parties.

Dr. CB Singh, Regional Head, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) talked with industrialists about export promotion. He said that APEDA helps industries to promote export of scheduled products through financial assistance. Uttar Pradesh has wide availability of raw material with 20 percent share in grain production.

On the other hand, **Mr. Rajesh Kumar Tiwari**, Chairman of Varanasi Chapter of Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, Varanasi and CEO of Ramo World Group, highlighted the need to increase the capacity of food processing industry. He said that through various schemes, emphasis should be laid on making the food processing industry technologically modern, technology up gradation and expansion according to the available capacity.

Mr. Suraj Nangia, Managing Partner, Nangia Andersen LLP spoke about the opportunities available in the food processing sector. He emphasized on linking farmers with the market along with farmer producer organizations and production clusters.

Senior members of IACC Varanasi Desk Mr. Alok Kumar Baranwal, Mr. B.N. John, Mr. Raj K. Agrawal, Mr. Amit Kumar Baranwal, CA Vinay Kumar, Mr. Khakshar Alam, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Srivastava, Mr. J.P. Mundra, Mr. Prashant Nagar, Mr. Sanjay Jhunjhunwala CA Sudeshna Basu etc. and other businessman actively participated in this seminar.

Rajesh Kumar Tiwary
Chairman
IACC, Varanasi Desk



Bouquet presented of IACC Varanasi Chairman **Mr. Rajesh Kuamr Tiwary** to **Shri Prahlad Singh Patel**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti, Government of India

Bouquet presented of IACC Varanasi Chairman **Mr. Rajesh Kuamr Tiwary** to **Mr. S. Rajalingam**, District Magistrate, Varanasi



Bouquet presented of IACC Varanasi Chairman **Mr. Rajesh Kumar Tiwary** to **Dr. C.B. Singh**, Regional In-charge
UP, Bihar & Uttarakhand, Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development
Authority (APEDA), GOI,



Participants of the Seminar



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Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti, Government of India address to participants



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