

Make state hub of organically processed food units: Guv

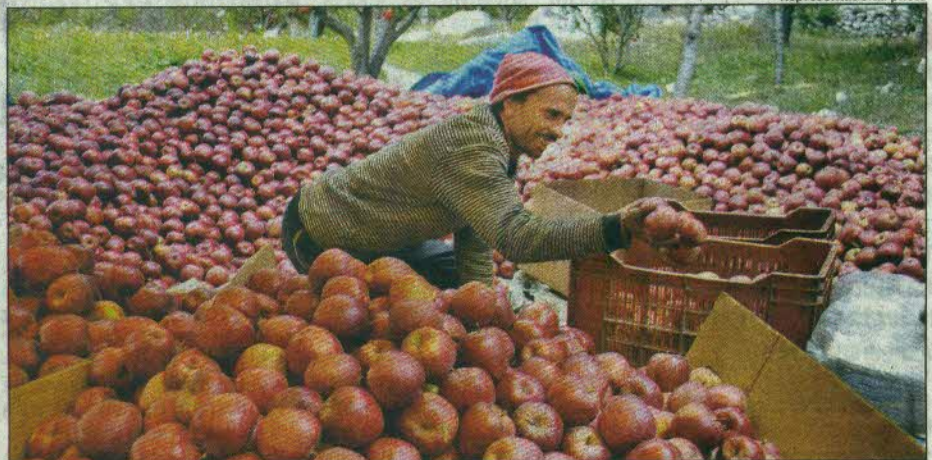
Paul Says Focus On Sector Can Generate Employment

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Dehradun: The food processing industry has immense potential for growth in Uttarakhand, said governor K K Paul on Friday, adding that focus on organic food processing could provide the hill state an edge in the global market and employment opportunities.

"According to government estimates, the food processing sector in India has received around USD 6.82 billion worth of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the past 16 years. This can rise manifold provided we focus on the organic component of processing whereby less chemicals will be used. Organic products would be in demand in coming days as the processed food we eat these days is laden with chemicals which are dangerous to health," Paul said at a conference here.

The conference was organised by Assocham in collaboration with Ministry of Food & Processing Industries (MoSPI) and Industries Association of Uttarakhand (IAU). Uttarakhand is home to 510 food processing units and sees investment of over Rs 1,000 crore annually, said experts at the conference.



Representational photo

Uttarakhand has around 1,500 clusters where organic food is grown

Uttarakhand has around 1,500 clusters in villages where the entire produce is organic but farmers aren't equipped to exploit the produce for the food processing industry due to lack of entrepreneurship. Paul suggested setting up organic small food processing units in Uttarakhand and taking steps to focus on growth potential of this sector. "It is time that the state government starts implementing measures. The industry in the state is recording high migration and poor crop/veggie produc-

tion," Paul added.

Horticulture experts also said that small food processing units in Uttarakhand need a boost. Officials from the horticulture department said that the sector has been hard hit after discontinuation of several centrally-funded schemes related to food processing.

Dr B S Negi, director, Uttarakhand horticulture department, said, "Centre has discontinued various horticulture related schemes for the state which has led to sluggish pace of growth. The state

government's recent announcement to release funds of Rs 3 crore to aid small units will provide thrust to growth of the industry."

Meanwhile, president of Industries' Association of Uttarakhand, Pankaj Gupta, also expressed concern over slow pace of implementation of agro projects in the state. Gupta said, "In Uttarakhand, 45% of fruit and vegetables that are grown rot away in warehouses. This can be addressed by setting up state of the art food processing units in the state."

ASSOCHAM hosts Agri & Food Processor's Conclave

DEHRADUN,
DEC 2 (HTNS)

A one day Conference on "Agri & Food Processor's Conclave: Finance - Technology - Market" was organized today by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) in collaboration with Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India and Industries Association of Uttarakhand (IAU) for providing a platform to aspiring food entrepreneurs, existing SMEs in food, agriculture professionals and students, progressive farmers and Self Help Groups for sharing their views and learn about latest initiatives and opportunities available in the field of Agro Food Industries.

Governor Dr KK Paul, inaugurating the Conference, said that Food Processing Industry was of enormous significance for the development of Uttarakhand because of the vital linkages and synergies that it promotes between the two pillars of the economy namely Industry and Agriculture. The growth potential of this sector was enormous and the consumption of value added food products would grow at a fast pace. The consumption of processed food has gone up considerably. Youth are fond of processed food. This growth of the Food Processing Industry will bring immense benefits to the economy, raising agricultural yields, meeting productivity, creating employment and raising the standard of very large number of people the state, specially, in the rural areas. The Governor emphasized upon the adoption of an integrated approach to facilitate development of agriculture and food processing industry in Uttarakhand can create 320,000 additional employment opportunities.

DN Magar, Chief General Manager, NABARD, discussed various financial schemes funded by NABARD to help farmers and rural youth to develop into successful agriculture

entrepreneurs. Process food enhances the employment opportunity. It also enhances the demand of the farm produce. He also mentioned that under NABARD initiative, 2000 crore fund has been sanctioned by the government to promote food processing industry and also to encourage capacity building.

Shushmul Maheshwari, Managing Director, RNCOS gave a presentation highlighting on the current trends in Finance, Technology and Marketing in Food Processing sector. He also talked about the opportunities that exist for youth entrepreneurs in sectors such as marketing, quality testing and implementation

of new agri technologies to improve production. Pankaj Gupta, President, Industries Association of Uttarakhand mentioned about the state's potential in generating employment opportunities for youth in the Food Processing sector. He also mentioned that food wastage was a challenge and we need to focus



on this and youth should take up growing opportunity in food processing sector.

Proposing vote of thanks, Dr Om S Tyagi, Senior Director, ASSOCHAM, highlighted the importance of Conference for the enthusiastic budding entrepreneurs for starting new ventures in agriculture.

Other speakers who addressed the Conference included Dr BS Negi, Director (Horticulture & Food Processing), Government of Uttarakhand, Amit Srivastava, Senior Program Manager, Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board (UOCB), Vijay Sabharwal, Managing Director, Reliance Food Processing, Dr JP Mishra, Principal and HOD, College of Agriculture, Uttaranchal University, VS Kahura, AGM, State Bank of India, Zonal Office, Dehradun, JB Singh, Deputy Director, National Horticulture Board, Dehradun and Dr Ajay Singh, HOD, Department of Chemistry and Food Technology, Uttaranchal University.

U'tkhand has vast potential for Food Processing: Gov

By OUR STAFF REPORTER

DEHRADUN, 2 Dec: Governor Dr KK Paul said here today that the trend of processed foods had grown recently and, thus, Uttarakhand, with its great potential in this sphere, could have many small food processing units.

He was speaking at the 'Agri & Food Processor's Conclave: Finance, Technology, & Market' organised by ASSOCHAM in association with Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Industries Association of Uttarakhand (IAU) held, here, today.

He said youngsters, due to lack of time in their busy routines, were more inclined towards processed and packed foods. With growing demand for such food, food processing could be encouraged and the quality of these foods ensured.

Paul said that the quality and nutrition level of these foods had to be good and not harmful to the health of consumers. All prescribed norms had to be followed and monitored.

He said Uttarakhand had a vast potential for the food processing industry as fruits like



apricots, apples, grapes, pears, peaches, litchis, mangoes and guavas grew here and if these were processed in a quality manner, hill farmers could benefit directly. This would also help in checking migration from the hill areas. Youth in the hills would get employment in food processing units and this

would also attract them towards agriculture and horticulture.

He pointed out that, if the food processing companies gave appropriate profit to farmers, then vegetables could also be processed. He said a food park existed in Haridwar and another one was coming up near

Haldwani. This would bring about improvement in the hill economy and better incomes to farmers.

The Governor said that godowns and cold storage facilities were needed besides transportation facilities in addition to setting up food processing units in the state. Markets had to be

linked to the villages.

The speakers on the occasion were Parag Gupta, Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries; DN Magar, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Dehradun; Pankaj Gupta, President, Industries Association of Uttarakhand; Shushmul Maheshwari, Managing Director, RNCOS; PK Jain, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Food Processing and Value Addition Council and Chairman & Managing Director, PMV Group; Vinay Kumar, Managing Director, Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board (UOCB); Dr BS Negi, Director (Horticulture & Food Processing), Uttarakhand; Vijay Sabharwal, Managing Director, Reliance Food Processing; Dr Ajay Singh, HOD, Department of Chemistry and Food Technology, Uttaranchal University; Dr J P Mishra, Principal & HOD, College of Agriculture, Uttaranchal University; VS Kalura, AGM, State Bank of India, Zonal Office, Dehradun; Manoj Gaur, Branch Manager, NSIC Limited, Dehradun; and JB Singh, Dy Director, NHB, Dehradun.

सिर्फ बातें नहीं, जमीन पर काम हो: गवर्नर

देहरादून | प्रमुख संवाददाता

राज्यपाल डॉ. केके पॉल ने शुक्रवार को सरकारी मशीनरी-गैरसरकारी संस्थाओं की कार्यप्रणाली पर बड़ा सवाल उठाया। राज्यपाल ने साफगोई से कहा कि केवल संगोष्ठी-सेमीनारों में ही बड़ी-बड़ी बातें और दावे नहीं होने चाहिए। हकीकत की जमीन पर भी काम होना जरूरी है।

मौका था सुभाष रोड स्थित एक होटल में एसोचैम के एग्री एंड फूड प्रोसेसर कॉन्क्लेव का। राज्यपाल ने कहा कि पिछली बार भी यहीं ऐसे ही कार्यक्रम में यही बातें हुई थीं। इससे पहले एसोचैम के वरिष्ठ निदेशक डॉ. ओम. एस त्यागी, उद्यान निदेशक बीएस नेगी, नाबार्ड के सीजीएम डीएन मगर, आईएयू के अध्यक्ष पंकज गुप्ता ने अपने विचार रखे।

स्विट्जरलैंड, न्यूजीलैंड से सीखें: राज्यपाल ने कहा कि कोको का उत्पादन न होने के बावजूद स्विट्जरलैंड बेहतरीन



दून में शुक्रवार को एसोचैम के कार्यक्रम में पहुंचे गवर्नर डॉ. केके पॉल।

चॉकलेट बनाता है। जो अपनी गुणवत्ता के लिए दुनियाभर में मशहूर है। यूरोप के कई देश न्यूजीलैंड से मक्खन और चीज आयात करते हैं। नीदरलैंड चीज की 150 प्रकार की किस्में बनाता है। इनके प्रोडक्ट इसलिए पसंद आते हैं, क्योंकि ये गुणवत्ता से समझौता नहीं करते। हमें भी इसी दिशा में आगे बढ़ना होगा।

86वें वार्षिक सत्र में जुटे विशेषज्ञ

देहरादून। राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान अकादमी भारत (नासी) के 86वें वार्षिक सत्र में मानव विकास विषय पर संगोष्ठी का उद्घाटन एफआरआई सभागार में गवर्नर डॉ. केके पॉल ने किया। यूकॉस्ट महानिदेशक डॉ. राजेंद्र डोभाल ने स्वागत भाषण दिया। राज्यपाल डॉ. पॉल ने राज्य के औषधियों, जड़ी-बूटियों, मसालों इत्यादि के बारे में विचार रखे। उन्होंने प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के निरन्तर उपयोग पर जोर दिया। इस अवसर पर नासी के अध्यक्ष प्रो. एन. पुरोहित, भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान बंगलुरु के प्रो. जी. पदमनाबन, डॉ. सरिता, एफआरआई से डॉ. मंजू शर्मा आदि मौजूद रहे।

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण में भी है विकास की कुंजी

विशेषज्ञों का मानना है खाद्य प्रसंस्करण में राज्य के विकास की कुंजी छिपी है। इस पर फोकस करें तो अर्थव्यवस्था में क्रांतिकारी बदलाव आएगा। कॉन्क्लेव में उद्यान निदेशक बीएस नेगी, उत्तराखंड आर्गैनिक बोर्ड के वरिष्ठ कार्यक्रम प्रबंधक अमित श्रीवास्तव, रेनकोस के सीईओ शुभमुल महेश्वरी ने कहा, वर्तमान दौर धीरे-धीरे जैविक उत्पादों की ओर बढ़ रहा है। उत्तराखंड को पर्वतीय क्षेत्र समग्र रूप में जैविक क्षेत्र ही है। खाद्य प्रसंस्करण केवल पांच फीसदी है। जबकि विदेशों में 60-70 फीसदी है। राज्य में 70 फीसदी किसान छोटी जोत वाले हैं, इसलिए इसमें संभावनाएं हैं।

