

# Food grains production up but processing facilities poor

**ASSOCHAM**  
holds meet on  
agro & food pro-  
cessing in the  
state

● OUR STAFF REPORTER  
BHOPAL

The government is keenly working on promoting food processing industries in the state. It has already allocated Rs 350 crore to set up cold storage chains, with 25 per cent subsidy. Being the leader in food grains production, the state has immense scope for the food processing sector.

This was stated by Suryaprakash Meena, minister of state for horticulture and food pro-

cessing, while inaugurating a day-long summit on 'Agro and Food Processing: Technology-Investment-Infrastructure' with focus on Madhya Pradesh. It was organised by the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(ASSOCHAM). Dhaval Raval, chairman, food processing and SME Committee, ASSOCHAM Western Council; Dr KK Singh, director of Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering; Satyanand, director

of horticulture and food processing and other speakers expressed their views on the occasion. Most of the speakers were of the view that better infrastructure like storage and transport, minimum support price



and marketing facilities can benefit farmers as well as industries.

Raval in his welcome address said that the objective of the summit was to dwell upon the opportunities and challenges, technological advancements, investment opportunities and infrastructure availability for promoting the agro and food processing sector in the state.

Dr KK Singh, referring to the food grains production statistics of the state said that although the production has increased immensely but we are still not able to match global standards as far as ensuring better returns by processing the produce is concerned. "We are far behind China, the US and even countries like the Philippines."

## Govt promoting food processing industries in MP: Minister Meena



Minister for Horticulture and Food Processing (independent charge) Surya Prakash Meena speaks at Agro & Food Processing Summit-2017, organised by ASSOCHAM in Bhopal on Thursday Pioneer photo

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Inaugurating the daylong Summit on Thursday on 'Agro & Food Processing Summit: Technology - Investment - Infrastructure' with the focus on Madhya Pradesh, Horticulture and Food Processing Minister Suryaprakash Meena said that Madhya Pradesh Government is keenly working to promote food processing industries in Madhya Pradesh.

The Summit was organized by the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), India's Apex Chamber of Commerce.

He further said that his government has already allocated Rs.350 crore worth of fund to set up cold storage chains with a 25 per cent subsidy plan to set up the chains. Being the leader in foodgrain production and a solid position in horticulture produce Madhya Pradesh has immense scope for food processing sector.

Dhaval Raval, Chairman, Food Processing and SME Committee, ASSOCHAM Western Council; KK Singh, Director, Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering; Satyanand, Director, Department

of Horticulture and Food Processing and other dignitaries expressed their views on the occasion. Most of the speakers were of the view that better infrastructure, particularly storage, transport, minimum support price and marketing facilities can benefit farmers as well as the industries.

The Summit marked presence of Central and State Government officials, Government regulatory bodies, Leading national & international Agro & Food Processing Companies, Equipment Manufacturers, Technology Developers, Associations, Research Institutes, Financial Institutions, Banks/ Financial Service Providers, Private Equity, Research Scholars, Fellow and Academics, R&D Institutions.

Dhaval Raval in his welcome address said that the objective of the Summit was to discuss the opportunities & challenges, technological advancements, investment opportunities and infrastructure availability to promote Agro & Food Processing sector in the Madhya Pradesh. He also gave an overview of the Agro & Food Processing sector in the State and discussed ongoing projects in the State.

# Prospects in abundance for food processing industries in State

Staff Reporter, Bhopal

**M**inister of state for Horticulture, Food Processing (Independent Charge) and Forests Suryaprakash Meena today said in ASSOCHAM seminar that state has opportunities in abundance for industries based on food processing.

He said that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is making efforts for doubling agriculture income. The State received Krishi Karman Award five times.

Onions of Rs 60 crore were procured from farmers. Meena said that farmers need to get value of production of food processing. Industrialists



should take initiative in setting up more and more units of food processing. The government will extend full support to them.

Industries should be set up in the number that at least every one should get one product. Meena said that national food pro-

cessing mission is effective in the state since 2012. Seventy five per cent centre share and 25 percent state share was

provided in the scheme. Food processing scheme has been de-linked since 2015-16 by the government of India.

**Dhawal** Rawal threw light on food processing industries, products and their qualities. Director of horticulture and food processing department Satyanand informed about objectives of the seminar.

**Director of Central Institute of Agriculture Engineering KK Singh**, president, Madhya Pradesh gold chain industries association Hasmukh Jain and industrialists were present on the occasion. Vipul Gajingwar conducted the programme.

