

NE states sunrise zone for food processing, other agro business industry

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IMPHAL : There is a need for multi-dimensional support and nurturing entrepreneurship skills by helping farmers, startups and SMEs in food processing sector in Imphal, said Y Joykumar Singh, Deputy Chief Minister, Manipur organized by ASSOCHAM in association with MoFPI (Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India), ICAR RC NEH, Imphal and NABARD in Imphal on Monday.

While addressing the conference on "Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets" in collaboration with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, he expressed the need to promote the Food Processing industry by developing integrated system as to enable aggregation of holding, production, technology etc. for economic prosperity.

He also emphasized on the need for infrastructure development like cold



storage, connectivity, partnerships for training and marketing to accelerate growth and development to Food processing sector in this region leading to more jobs, incomes and opportunities for the people of this region. He also suggested comprehensive agriculture in Manipur via Organic Farming, veterinary, poultry, floriculture etc. He also gave a holistic picture of the Indian Food Processing industry as well as scope of Manipur to get itself in the forefront. Market linkage is the major problem faced by Manipur farmers; hence industry associations like ASSOCHAM should focus on building external market linkage for food processing units in Manipur. Talking to EC Chetan Vij, Assistant Director, ASSOCHAM shared that the food processing industry has made some significant progress in North Eastern region of India. Areas like - Agro & Horticulture Processing, Processing of Plantation Crops, organic farming as potential area in the promotion of industrial activities in the state of Manipur. He highlighted various schemes run by MoFPI like Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojna etc. According to P N Praveen Kumar, OIC, NABARD expressed that focus for development should be on financial programmes for the Agro Entrepreneurs in Manipur. Government of India is promoting the food processing sector by creating a fund of Rs.2000 Crores exclusively for Food Processing Sector with NABARD.

ASSOCHAM organises conference on food processing

By A Staff Reporter

IMPHAL | Feb 20

Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) organised a conference on 'Linking Start-up and SMEs in Food Processing with government schemes and Markets' at Hotel Classic, Imphal today.

The conference has been organised with the aim of bridging the gap between entrepreneurs and government by creating awareness on government schemes and policies.

Delivering his speech as chief guest of the function, deputy chief minister, Yumnam Joykumar said that the



state is suitable for cultivation of various high quality agricultural produces. But due to the lack of proper infrastructure and marketing channel the state is struggling to earn the amount it has expected from this sector.

He said that develop-

ment of food processing industry will help in addressing the problem of large scale wastage of agricultural items which are caused due to lack of proper marketing channel.

He informed that upon discovering the potentiality of

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ASSOCHAM organises conference on food processing

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this sector, the government had sanctioned funds in the recent budget for the construction of cold storage and also emphasised in the need of developing road, transport and connectivity.

He suggested of giving proper training to the farmers and promotion of comprehensive agriculture via organic farming, veterinary, poultry, floriculture etc which would help in increasing the farmer's income.

He said "Market linkage is the major problem faced by farmers of Manipur" and urged that industry association like ASSOCHAM should focus on building external market linkage for food processing units in the state.

OIC of National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD), P N Praveen Kumar said that as the increase demand of processed food items in and outside the country is prevalent, this sector plays crucial role

in increasing the income of the country.

He informed that government of India is promoting the food processing sector by creating a fund of Rs. 2000 crores exclusively for food processing sector with NABARD. This fund will provide credit facility to farmers or SMEs who want to start food processing unit at concessional rates with the strict provision of opening the unit in designated food parks. There are special incentives for North Eastern region, he said.

Farmers producers Organisations should be at the forefront in the development of food processing sector, he suggested.

Chairman of Manipur Rural Bank, Prasanna Kumar Bal said that development of the agricultural sector require financial support to the farmers. And hence banks play an important role in meeting their major requirement.

He highlighted the grievances that are being faced by

banks due to constant threat made by some group of people that led to shutting down of bank branches. He urged not to create any inconveniences by any groups in the operation of banking sector in the state.

Assistant director of ASSOCHAM, Chetan Vij and joint director of ICAR NEH I, Meghachandra Singh also took part in the programme which was collaborated by ministry of food processing industries, NABARD and ICAR.



Dy CM holds fort on cold storage facilities

IMPHAL, Feb 20 (DIPR)

Deputy Chief Minister Yumnam Joykumar Singh has said that the Government has been considering to open cold storage facilities in every district of the State soon.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of a National conference on "Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets" at Classic Hotel here today.

The Deputy Chief Minister said although agricultural and horticultural products are abundant in the State, adequate processing and preserving facilities are not available as of now.

He said, beside this, there has been long pending demand for opening cold storage facilities for preserving foods mainly fruits and vegetables in the State.

Keeping in view such necessities, at least one cold storage facility in each and every district is highly needed and therefore the Government has been planning to open them.

Joykumar Singh further said many fruits and spices like lemon, orange, pineapple, ginger etc and also vegetables of superior quality are available in Manipur.

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Dy CM holds fort on cold storage facilities

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Appealing to the entrepreneurs to look into such differences, Deputy Chief Minister said such quality products should be made available even in the international market.

He said various medicinal plants are also abundantly available in the state.

"Most of the plants which had been used as medicines by our forefathers have peculiar and unique values and the younger generations should be able to identify these plants as well as their properties", Joykumar said.

Deliberations in the conference will definitely help small and medium entrepreneurs to develop their businesses in future, he added.

Entrepreneurs from different parts of the State attended the conference which was jointly organised by ASSOCHAM in association with Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Research Complex for North Eastern Hill region (ICAR RC NEH), Imphal.

Joint Director, ICAR NEH Dr Meghachandra Singh, OIC, NABARD Manipur PN Praveen Kumar, Chetan Vij, Assistant Director, ASSOCHAM and Sanajouba Singh and Secretary General, All Manipur Food Processors Association also attended the conference among others.

Dy CM calls for boosting state economy through agriculture

STAFF REPORTER/DIPR

IMPHAL: Stressing the need for the farmers of Manipur to apply technology for increasing agricultural products, deputy chief minister **Yumnam Joykumar** has observed that agricultural sector can no longer be a source of mere survival.

Speaking as chief guest during inauguration of a national conference on 'Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets' at Classic Hotel here on Tuesday, Joykumar highlighted that interpretation of agriculture and allied activities as only production of food-grains will not be able to make any substantial contribution in improving the state's economy.

Farmers need to regularly consult subject experts and invest on modern farm equipment to increase annual yield



of both food-grains and cash crops, he said.

Further stating that the government is taking up all possible measures for establishing cold storage facilities in every district very soon, the deputy CM noted that although agricultural and horticultural products are abundant in the state, adequate processing and preserving facilities are not available as of now.

He further said, beside this, there has been long pending

demand for setting up of cold storages to preserve foods, fruits and vegetables in particular, in the state.

Keeping in view of such necessities, the government is seriously mulling to ensure existence of at-least one cold storage in each of the district, Joykumar said, adding that many fruits and spices like lemon, orange, pineapple, ginger, etc., as well as vegetables of superior quality are available in Manipur.

Appealing to the entrepreneurs to take advantage of such opportunities, he expressed confidence that quality products from Manipur could be marketed abroad if farmers and agricultural experts work in cohesion and production of quality food crops could be maintained.

Further stating that various medicinal plants are also abundantly available in the

state, Joykumar highlighted that most of the plants used as medicines by our forefathers have a peculiar and unique value and therefore such value should be made aware to the younger generations.

Entrepreneurs from different parts of the state attended the conference which was organised by ASSOCHAM India in association with Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Indian Council of Agricultural Research- North Eastern Hill Region (ICAR RC NEH), Imphal.

ICAR NEH joint director Dr Meghachandra Singh, OIC/NABARD Manipur PN Praveen Kumar, ASSOCHAM assistant director Chetan Vij and All Manipur Food Processors Association secretary general Sanajaoba Singh were also present on the occasion.

