

Emerging Opportunities: Agro Food Processing in Tripura

Agartala, July 21st 2017: “Food Processing sector is one of the major thrust areas of the Government of Tripura and the Industries and Commerce Department is the nodal agency for Food Processing Enterprises” said Mr. M. Nagaraju while speaking at the inaugural function of the seminar on ‘Emerging Opportunities: Agro Food Processing in Tripura’ jointly organized by FICCI and NABARD. Mr. Nagaraju encouraged all the existing entrepreneurs for their effort and promised full support from his department, he also highlighted the different schemes of the State and Central Government targeted at supporting the food processing industry. He urged the entrepreneurs to utilise the services of the Department of Industries and NABARD to access the benefits available under different schemes.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. V.G. Jenner, Director, Department of Industries and Commerce emphasized and highlighted the benefits of the SAMPADA scheme and also requested interested participants to approach his office for any further information about the same or other facilities being forwarded by his department.

While welcoming the participants, Mr. Biswajit Chakrabarty, Director, FICCI said that Food processing is one of the core sectors where Tripura and the North East has core competencies. He said Entrepreneurs in Tripura should take advantage of the inherent strengths and the support being offered by the Government.

Mr. Sunil Kumar, General Manager, NABARD Agartala informed that though farm income in Tripura has increased by 12.04% during the last few years but will need another 5 to 6 years to double the farm income. He further shared information about the Kisaan SAMPADA scheme and invited the interested participants to approach him for more information, if required. Later Mr. K Venugopal of NABARD described in details the role of the development banks like NABARD and the facilities they are forwarding for agriculture development including the SAMPADA scheme and informed that the benefit of the Sampada scheme is available for units to be set up inside Mega Food Parks. He also sought support from enterprising youths, state government and other support agencies to facilitate development of the food processing sector in Tripura.

‘Improving relationships with neighbouring countries is creating new avenues for entrepreneurs from Tripura to explore. Food processing is one avenue where Tripura can become a force to reckon with’ said Ms. Swapna Debnath while narrating the schemes and support available from the Government of Tripura through the Industry department. She also informed the participants that Tripura has been adjudged to be the front runner among all NE States in terms of ‘Ease of Doing Business’ (EODB). Mr. Arindam Chaudhuri shared concepts like ‘ripening chamber’ and similar projects that APEDA can support for interested entrepreneurs. He also informed about the new online registration process for exporters and internet based facility to connect with importers directly.

NERAMAC was represented by Mr. Debajit Sarma. He invited the existing food processing industry in the state to approach them and benefit from the supports which the government is providing through them for marketing of agro-produce.

The success story of PRAN Beverages was shared by Mr. Sujon Roy and he hoped that the story of PRAN would motivate a lot of people to try for such feats. Mr. Ajoy Chakraborty of Mothers Food Products discussed about the ups and downs of the business and promised his support for budding entrepreneurs.

e-Marketing avenues for Agri-Horti products was discussed by Mr. B.M. Prasad of MSTC Ltd, Kolkata, making it a very interesting subject for the participants. He requested support from the participants as well as government so that they may be able to provide competitive prices for local produce like pineapple by selling their products through e-auction. Interesting aspects about technology advancements and innovations being done around food processing sector was shared by Dr. Avijit Chatterjee of NIT Agartala.