

National Conference

on

**Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets
November 28, 2017, College of Fisheries, Lembucherra, Tripura**

FOOD PROCESSING HAS HUGE POTENTIAL TO CREATE JOBS IN TRIPURA & NEEDS TO BE PROMOTED AGGRESSIVELY

'There is need for supporting and nurturing entrepreneurship skills and helping farmers, startups and SMEs in food processing, and help. Tripura in fast realizing its full potential' said Shri Tathagata Roy, Hon'ble Governor of Tripura during one day "Conference on Linking Startups & SMEs in Food Processing with Government schemes and market" in College of Fisheries, CAU (I), Lembucherra, Tripura, organized by ASSOCHAM in collaboration with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries Government of India and College of Fisheries, CAU (I), Lembucherra, Tripura. In his Inaugural Address, the Chief Guest, Shri Roy expressed the need to promote co-operative system and contract farming so as to enable aggregation of holding, production, technology etc. for economic prosperity. He pointed out the potential of pineapple, jackfruit, oranges and other exotic fruits of Tripura as startup initiative and invited industry across the country to intervene in its processing value addition. He also expressed his concern towards the involvement of middleman in the marketing channel which needs to be eliminated for improvising the farmers income. He urged the different research, extension and educational institutions to come up with the suitable technologies that can be used for improving the farmer's income.

The conference was addressed by several other key speakers from financial Institutions like – NABARD, SBI, and NERAMAC.

Shri S. N. Nundy, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM Eastern Region Committee extended a warm welcome to Honorable Governor of Tripura and other dignitaries on the dais, delegates, press and media. He told about objectives of this initiative to create awareness about support schemes for start up and food entrepreneurs. He highlighted about growth of the agriculture and processed food sector in the North-East region while comparing it with the overall growth of the economy of Tripura. He said that focus for development should be on food processing which is one of the major sector which holds unexplored scope to strengthen the economy of the state of Tripura.

Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Dean, College of Fisheries, CAU (I), in his address he highlighted that Government of India is promoting the food processing sector in the region to utilize its vast potential of raw horticultural produce. He recognized a number of constraints both in forward & backward linkages and called upon small entrepreneurs to think big and make global brands. He expressed his views that doubling of farmers' income can not be witnessed only through increasing the farm output, but need to

focus upon improvised post harvest and food processing. In this regard, the startups and SMEs can play a vital role. He mentioned about the various government programme and schemes which need to be utilized by the farming community.

Shri S K Panda, Chairman, Executive Committee, Tripura Skill Development Mission, Govt of Tripura expressed the need for better awareness among the various farming groups to divert towards economically important crops of the state. Further, he pointed that the farm produce should be sufficient enough to feed the industry. He urged the different research, extension and educational institutions to come up with the suitable technologies that can be used for improving the farmers' income.

Dr. Ranendra K Majumdar, Professor & Head, Dept Fish Processing Technology & Engg. College of Fisheries, CAU (I), Tripura extended a Warm Vote of Thanks to all the dignitaries on and off the dais and especially thanked Hon'ble Governor for sparing his valuable time in inaugurating and addressing the Conference.

Other speakers who addressed the Conference included **Shri S. Prabhu**, Director, Skill Development, Directorate of Skill Development, Department of Industries & Commerce Government of Tripura, **Shri Sujon Krishna Roy**, General Manager, PRAN Beverages (India) Pvt. Ltd, **Dr. Anil Dutt Upadhyay**, Asst. Prof. (SS), College of Fisheries, (CAU), **Shri Sunil Kumar**, General Manager, NABARD – Tripura, **Shri Sanjeeb Kumar Nath**, Chief Manager Credit, State Bank of India, **Shri Mahendra Dohare**, DGM & Chief Regional Manager, United Bank of India, Tripura, **Dr. B.K. Kandpal**, Joint Director, ICAR, Tripura Centre, **Shri D Sarma**, Senior Zonal Manager, NERAMAC.