

Focused steps required to provide agro-based job opportunities for youth in Sikkim: ASSOCHAM

Gangtok, Jan 18

There is a need for multi-dimensional support and nurturing entrepreneurship skills by helping farmers, startups and SMEs in food processing sector in Sikkim, said Shri Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Commerce & Industry, Government of Sikkim at ASSOCHAM event held in Gangtok today. 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 co-operative system and contract farming so as to enable aggregation of holding, production, technology

etc. for economic prosperity.

He also emphasized on the need for partnerships for training and competence building marketing, processing, projects and infrastructure development 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 diversifying agriculture in Sikkim via Organic Farming, veterinary, poultry, floriculture etc. He also gave a holistic picture of the Indian Food industry as well as scope of sikkim to get itself in the forefront. Market linkage is the major problem faced by Sikkim farmers; hence, industry associations like



ASSOCHAM should focus on building external market linkage for food processing units in Sikkim. Dr. Jyoti Prakash

Tamang stated north eastern region with agro friendly climate and agrarian roots has potential to be sunrise zone for food processing and other agro business industry. He future added that the geo-climatic situation of Sikkim offers an excellent scope

for growing different varieties of fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops, medicinal and aromatic plants of high economic value. There is a need to diagnose the problems in the region for providing an improved production and marketing environment and value added economic benefit to farmers through appropriate science and technological policies for various post harvest functions in food processing industry.

Dr Om S Tyagi, Sr. Director, ASSOCHAM in his opening remarks 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, Animal Husbandry and Meat Processing Industries have declared as potential in the promotion industrial activities in state of Sikkim. He further said that focus development should be horticulture which is on the major sector which holds unexplored scope to strengthen the economy of Sikkim. Government of India promoting the food processing sector in region to utilize its potential of horticultural products through its various financial assistance schemes primarily Ministry of Food Processing Industries through State Government of Sikkim and agencies

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ASSOCHAM holds seminar on linking food processing startups with govt schemes and markets

SE Report

GANGTOK, January 18: There is a need for multi-dimensional support and nurturing entrepreneurship skills by helping farmers, startups and SMEs in food processing sector in Sikkim, said State Commerce & Industries principal secretary Arvind Kumar at an ASSOCHAM event held in Gangtok today.

Addressing the conference on 'Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets' in collaboration with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Kumar expressed the need to promote co-operative system and contract farming so as to enable aggregation of holding, production, technology etc. for economic prosperity.

A press release informs that the Commerce & Industries principal secretary also emphasized on the need for partnerships for training and competence building marketing, processing, projects and infrastructure development 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 diversifying agriculture in Sikkim via organic farming, veterinary, poultry, floriculture etc.

Market linkage is the major problem faced by Sikkim farmers; hence industry associations like ASSOCHAM should focus on building external market linkage for food processing units in Sikkim.

Dr. Jyoti Prakash Tamang stated that north eastern region with agro-friendly climate and agrarian roots has potential to be sunrise zone for food processing and other agro business industry. He added that the geo-climatic situation of Sikkim offers an excellent scope for growing different varieties of fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops, medicinal and aromatic plants of high economic value. There is a need to diagnose the problems in the region for providing an improved production and marketing environment and value added economic benefit to farmers through appropriate science and technological policies for various post-harvest functions



ASSOCHAM senior director Dr. Om S. Tyagi shared that the food processing industry has made some significant progress in North Eastern region of India. Focus for development should be on horticulture which is one of the major sector which holds unexplored scope to strengthen the economy of the state of Sikkim, he said.

Government of India is promoting the food processing sector in the region to utilize its vast potential of raw horticultural produce through its various financial assistance schemes primarily by Ministry of Food Processing Industries through State Government and agencies like MSME, NHB, APEDA, NABARD, QCI,

NHM, NERAMAC, public and private sector banks and other financial institutions.

Rakesh Chitkara, senior director, Global Government Affairs, South Asia, Abbott Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., extended a warm welcome to dignitaries and gathering.

In his welcome address, Chitkara 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. The startups and SMEs in food processing sector can

play a vital role in doubling farmer's income, he said. He compared Gangtok with many hill stations and tourist places in Europe and suggested that there is need to create infrastructure for supporting tourist activities.

ICAR-NRC Sikkim director Dr. D. R. Singh, in his address, said agriculture is the main occupation for majority of the populace in this region wherein and experts opine that horticulture is an important sector which has major contributor to the economies of these state.

NABARD DGM P. Jayakannan highlighted financial linkages which are extremely critical for development of food processing entrepreneurship in Sikkim. She focused on the importance of easy loans to the budding entrepreneurs which can boost their morale and motivate them to start more and more projects. She added that it shall also encourage others to learn from their success stories.

Central Agriculture University assistant professor Dr. B.K. Singh extended the vote of thanks to all the dignitaries attending the seminar.

Himalaya Mirror (Gangtok)

19 January, 2018

Focused steps required to provide agro-based job opportunities for youth in Sikkim: ASSOCHAM

Gangtok, Jan 18: To promote co-operative system and contract farming, so as to enable aggregation of holding, production, technology etc. for economic prosperity, a conference on "Linking Startups and SMEs in Food Processing with Government Schemes & Markets" organized by ASSOCHAM in collaboration with Ministry of Food Processing Industries was held at Gangtok today.

"There is a need for multi-dimensional support and nurturing entrepreneurship skills by helping farmers, startups and SMEs in food processing sector in Sikkim," stated Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Commerce & Industry, Government of Sikkim. He emphasized on the need for partnerships for training and competence building, marketing, processing, projects and infrastructure development to accelerate growth and development of food processing sector in the re-

gion for more job and income generating opportunities for the people of the region. He suggested diversifying agriculture in Sikkim via organic farming, veterinary, poultry, floriculture etc.

Kumar gave a holistic picture of the Indian Food industry and its scope in Sikkim. Market linkage is the major problem faced by Sikkim farmers, hence industry associations like ASSOCHAM should focus on building external market linkage for food processing units in Sikkim, he added.

Dr. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, ASSOCHAM stated that the North Eastern region with agro friendly climate and agrarian roots has the potential to be a sunrise zone for food processing and other agro business industry. He said the geo-climatic situation of Sikkim offers an excellent scope for growing different varieties of fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops, medicinal and aromatic plants of high eco-

nomonic value. There is a need to diagnose the problems in the region for providing an improved production and marketing environment and value added economic benefit to farmers through appropriate science and technological policies for various post harvest functions in food processing industry.

Dr Om S Tyagi, Sr. Director, ASSOCHAM shared that the food processing industry has made some significant progress in the North Eastern region of India. Areas like agro & horticulture processing, processing of plantation crops, animal husbandry and meat processing industries have been declared as potential area in promotion of industrial activities in Sikkim. He further stated that focus for development should be on horticulture, which is one of the major sector which holds unexplored scope to strengthen the economy of Sikkim. "Government of India is promoting food pro-

cessing sector in the region to utilize its vast potential of raw horticultural produce through various financial assistance schemes, primarily by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries through State Government and agencies viz. MSME, NHB, APEDA, NABARD, QCI, NHM, NERAMAC, Public and Private sector Banks and other financial institutions," he informed.

Rakesh Chitkara, Senior Director, Global Government Affairs, South Asia, Abbott Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. informed that the Government of India is promoting 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 mentioned about the various government programmes and schemes which needs to be utilized by the farming community. He compared Gangtok with many hill stations and tourist places in Europe and suggested that there is a need to create infrastructure for supporting tourist activities.

The conference was also addressed by Rakesh Chitkara, Senior Director, Global Government Affairs, South Asia, Abbott Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.; Dr. DR Singh, Director, ICAR, National Research Centre for Orchids (NRC), Sikkim; P. Jayakannan, DGM, NABARD, Dr. B K Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Process & Food Engineering, College of Agricultural Engineering & Post Harvest Technology, Central Agriculture University, Sikkim and Dr. Om S. Tyagi, Senior Director, ASSOCHAM.

