



Press Release

Agri Horti Food Fest 2015

Kolkata, 26th February, 2015: “Revoke Land Ceiling to Promote Tea Estates in the state”: Mr Krishnendu Narayan Choudhury, Hon’ble Minister of FPI & H, Government of West Bengal

“Market development is essential for development of the food processing industry in the state”: Mr Krishnendu Narayan Choudhury, Hon’ble Minister of FPI & H, Government of West Bengal

“Food wastage containment is a prerogative”: Mr Arup Roy, Hon’ble Minister of Agricultural Marketing, Government of West Bengal

Speaking at the Agri Horti Food Fest 2015, jointly organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture & Department of Food Processing, Industries & Horticulture, Government of West Bengal, Mr Krishnendu Narayan Choudhury, Hon’ble Minister of FPI & H, Government of West Bengal called for the need to educate the farmers and the state agri department officials, on the best practices in the industry. He advocated low usage of chemical fertilizers and called for the need of soil testing and greater use of organic manure, which can mostly be produced in the villages itself. Hailing prevention of food wastage as a prerogative, Mr Krishnendu Narayan Choudhury felt there is a need to do away with the land ceiling act to promote the food processing industry in the state and also the tea gardens. Speaking about fiscal incentives, the Hon’ble Minister called for dovetailing of government subsidies. Aseptic pulp packaging has good prospects for the state food processing industry, he informed.

Mr Arup Roy, Hon’ble Minister of Agricultural Marketing , Government of West Bengal informed that, the state government has actively taken up the cause of agri productivity augmentation and farm mechanization, towards ensuring betterment of the economic conditions of the farming community. Stating that the state government is actively looking forward to the prospect of surplus crop production, agri infra development and remunerative prices for the farmers and reasonable consumer prices, he maintained food wastage containment is a must. West Bengal has been selected for 'Krishi Karman' Award for 2012-13 as the best performing state in overall agricultural production in the country.

Mr Aditya V Agarwal, Vice President, ICC felt the cold storage infrastructure in the state should improve. He opined that the share of agriculture investment in the GDP should increase in a phased manner over time. The reach of agri credit can be leveraged through the institutional lenders and proper thrust should be on agri R& D.

The summit cum exhibition was graced by eminent dignitaries like Mr R S Shukla Principal Secretary, Department Food Processing Industries and Horticulture, Government of West Bengal, Mr Manoj Panth Secretary , Department of Biotechnology , Government of West Bengal, Mr Subrata Biswas, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Agricultural Marketing, Government of West Bengal, Mr P K Majumdar Adviser - Agriculture to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal and Smt. Shaon Sen, Deputy Secretary, Dept of FPI & H, Government of West Bengal.

The three day long exhibition cum summit has witnessed wide spread stakeholder participation including farmers, government officials, and industry representatives.

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