



INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Press Release

**Exclusive Interactive Session with
Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal
Hon'ble Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Government of India
on
Technology up gradation and Innovations in Indian Food Processing sector
Integrated Value Chain for Creating Forward-Backward Linkages in Processed Food
Industries**

“Funding of Rs. 6000 crore is available with MoFPI under the SAMPADA Yojana to set up Food Processing Industries and Forward & Backward linkages across India. West Bengal based industries and FPOs should send proposals under the scheme to help farmers increase their income.”– Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India

Kolkata, 13th July, 2018: At the **Exclusive Interactive Session with Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India**, organized by the **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** at Taj Bengal, Kolkata, **Hon'ble Minister** felt that West Bengal, with 6 agro-climatic zones, huge coastline and abundance of raw materials, has a huge potential in food processing industries. She maintained that with new technology upgradation, agriculture has become very scientific in India. She highlighted the schemes of Central Government, especially the Mega and Mini Food Parks, Cold Chain Scheme and the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (along with the scheme of Backward & Forward Linkages), by which Government of India is providing subsidies and modern infrastructures to the farmers. Also, the Ministry is in the process of setting up its own financial institute to finance the Indian food processing sector. Ms. Badal informed the audience that FDI inflow in Agriculture and Food Processing in India has increased from Rs. 500 million in 2014 to nearly Rs. 1 billion in 2018. Around 300 crore farmers have already taken the advantages of e-NAM facilities. She also urged the Farmer Producer's Organizations (FPOs) of West Bengal to come forward and take advantages of such Government schemes. Hon'ble Minister felt that 'Operation Greens' will be hugely beneficial for West Bengal, especially for the farmers producing perishable commodities like Tomatoes, Onions and Potatoes.

Mr. Minhaj Alam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India opined that Food Processing is a sunrise sector in India, which is currently the largest producer of milk, spices, tea, jute and the second largest producer of wheat, rice, fruit, vegetables etc. He stated that Government of India, while promoting SAMPADA Yojana for the

economic wellbeing of farmers, is also encouraging private investment in the sector with proper incentives. He felt that State Governments are also promoting the sector, though more investments should be forthcoming.

Mr. Mayank Jalan, Chairman, Expert Committee - Agri & Food Processing, ICC, in his Theme Address informed, that the contribution of Indian Food Processing sector in the GDP is already around 17%. He felt that the country should focus more on its food processing sector, which can address farmer's distress in the country, reduce inequality and generate new employments.

Mr. Shashwat Goenka, President, ICC, in his welcome address highlighted the fact that Indian food industry is increasing its contribution to the world food trade every year, with immense potential for value addition. He felt that Government policy support, with schemes like 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana', improved production strategies, increased public investment in infrastructure and R&D activities have significantly increase India's food production and availability of marketable surplus.

Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General, ICC delivered the formal Vote Of Thanks.

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