

## Establishment of agro-based industries to play an important role in India's economic development



Our central and state governments have increased its focus significantly in framing policies and schemes to ensure that through developing a competitive agro-industry, the employment and income generation opportunities become more consistent. Agro based industries not only have the capability to provide mass job engagement but also have the capacity to generate income through off-farm activities such as packaging, processing, logistics and marketing of agricultural products. Whether or not the policies and

schemes drafted have been able to attract more entrepreneurship in agro-industries, has been a subject of continuous discussion. Also, how can the sector be harnessed to serve as an engine for economic development has been repeatedly deliberated.

To discuss opportunities in the agro sector World Trade Center Jaipur, MSME DI Jaipur, NABARD RO Jaipur and Rajasthan State Agricultural Marketing Board Jaipur- Government of Rajasthan jointly organized a webinar 'Schemes and Programs of Govt. of India and Govt. of Rajasthan for setting up Agro based Industry'.

Chief Guest, Mr. Kuldeep Singh, General Manager, NABARD

Rajasthan RO, Jaipur while sharing the objective of the new AMI scheme under ISAM said that applicable with effect from 22.10.2018 to 31.03.2021, the scheme serves the purpose of developing market infrastructure, promote innovative and latest technology, assist processing and marketing by FPOs, create scientific storage capacity, develop and upgrade Gramin Haats, provide infrastructure facilities, promote integrated value chain and undertake publicity & awareness campaigns. Mr. Singh further shared details of the eligible beneficiaries under various schemes.

Guest of Honour, Mr. M. L. Gupta, Director (PHM), Rajasthan State Agricultural Marketing Board, Jaipur, Government of Rajasthan, in his address shared Agri Export Policy, Rajasthan Agro-processing, Agri-business & Agri-export Promotion Policy 2019. He also elaborated on the Agricultural Reforms announced in the Special Economic Package, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Agri Infrastructure Fund and PM FME scheme. Mr. Gupta further informed that the Agro Processing Industry which includes food processing, forms an important segment of the Indian economy in terms of contribution to GDP, employment and Investment. He also remarked that in the near future it will be a major driving force in the country's growth.

Mr. Yashpal Mahawat, Additional Director, Directorate of Horticulture, Government of Rajasthan said informed the participants that the Government of India launched a Scheme which is operational since 2007 called Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). This scheme was introduced to incentivize states to draw comprehensive agriculture development plans, taking into account agro-climatic conditions, natural

resources and technology for ensuring inclusive and integrated development of agriculture and allied sector.

Mr. R.S. Choyal, Executive Director, Shri Vishvakarma (E.S.) Industries Pvt. Ltd., Ajmer shared a presentation on milling technology and mini floor mill. He also responded to multiple queries on costing of various milling plants based on various capacities. Further, Mr. Choyal recommended that practice of periodically upgrading technology in Agri sector can make our country export competitive.

Earlier, welcoming the participants Mr. Pradeep Ojha, Dy. Director, MSME DI Jaipur, threw light on PMEGP (Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme and Credit linked Capital Subsidy Scheme. Director MSME DI Jaipur Mr. V.K. Sharma urged youth of the nation to see agriculture as a long-term career option and contribute to nation building.

Mr. R.B. Phanda, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Rajasthan RO, Jaipur shared features of Special Long Term Refinance Scheme for Transformation of PACSs as MSC which is a special refinance scheme introduced by NABARD to address the issue of rural migration and to give boost to the agriculture and rural sector in the post COVID era.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Assistant Director, World Trade Center Jaipur requested decoding of many popular schemes and programs of the central and state government. He also shared the Information Document containing Major Government Schemes in Agri Sector.

Mr. Balram Meena, Investigation, MSME DI Jaipur, Ministry of MSME, Government of Rajasthan proposed the vote of thanks.

The webinar was attended by more than 500 participants belonging to various districts of Rajasthan.

The webinar was held on December 18, 2020