

Press Release

Second Meeting of Fish Processing Development Council in New Delhi on 25.08.2010 in Ministry of Food Processing Industries – creation of National Fish Processing Development Board (NFPDB).

The Indian Fisheries occupies third position in global scenario in terms of production of fish which is 4.4% of global fish production. The contribution of fisheries sector is 1.10% to the total GDP and 5.3% to the agricultural GDP. Fishery sector has emerged as the largest group in agricultural export of India with quantity of 5.20 lakh tonnes and value of Rs 8363 crore respectively. The sector employs 14.0 million of the population.

The need for constitution of the Development Council arose as there was no focus on fish processing, its nutrition value, hygienic method of fish handling, sorting and storage which is at present negligible as 81% of the catch is marketed as fresh or chilled and form staple food for the coastal population.

The second meeting of the Fish Processing Development Council (FPDC) was held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Ashok Sinha, Secretary, Food Processing Industries wherein Special Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Shri Shri Rajesh Ramchandra Dake, Vice President of FPDC, members representatives from various Government organizations including NCDC, NABARD, NIO, Goa and Fishery Entrepreneurs from Mumbai and West Bengal were present. During the course of the meeting, it was felt that there is a need to strengthen the existing Council for making it more effective to give a much needed boost to the fish processing sector. It was also observed that there is a need to create awareness regarding medicinal and nutritional value of the fish food and also to popularize the use of fish products, sea food, hygienic landing and quality control. It was also observed that there is need for a strong research and development on technologies for fish processing and creating a "India Brand" for processed fish products.

Secretary, Food Processing Industries pointed that there exists a huge gap between the total fish production in the country and its processing for domestic consumption and export. Post harvest, pre processing, processing and marketing sectors are very much export oriented and domestic market in the processing of sea food is awaiting a major thrust. Keeping in view the above facts and the vast potential for fish processing to cater to the domestic market and supplement the export of processing sea foods, the Members present supported the proposal to convert the existing Council into National Fish Processing Development Board (NFPDB). The Members present unanimously approved the need for creation of NFPDB.

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