

Meeting of National Food Processing Development Council (NFPDC)



A meeting of National Food Processing Development Council (NFPDC) was held today on 19.11.2014 at 11:00 AM in PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, PHD House, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Hon'ble Minister for Food Processing Industries. The meeting was attended by Shri Prathipati Pulla Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture & Agri Processing, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Shri Agri S.S. Krishnamoorthy, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. Seniors Officers of concerned Ministries and Industry experts also attended the meeting.

Hon'ble Minister, FPI mentioned that annual wastage of fruits & vegetables is estimated at 5.8% to 18%. The estimated harvest and post-harvest losses of major agricultural produces at national level was of the order of Rs. 44,143 crores per annum at 2009 whole sale prices. There is a need to handle our Agri-Horti produce in a better manner and as per globally acceptable best practices for enhancing shelf life and also ensuring remunerative prices to farmers. She further mentioned that food processing has the potential to be a major driver in India's growth in the coming year.

Hon'ble Minister also informed the members that in the General Budget 2014-15, a fund of Rs. 2000 crores has been setup in NABARD to make available affordable credit to agro-processing units being setup in the food parks. The guidelines to make the fund operation have been issued by the RBI. The promoters of the food parks and entrepreneurs desirous of setting up of their units in the food parks may now avail concessional credit from the fund.

MoFPI has uploaded on its website district wise information of production of fruits & vegetables. It is hoped that investors desirous of setting up of food processing units will make use of its data base for deciding the location of their units.

It was informed to members that the new Government has launched an aggressive 'Make in India' campaign under which it is proposed to attract substantial investment in manufacturing sector. Food processing is an important sector of manufacturing industry. Higher investment in food processing will create large number of jobs in rural areas. Also international participation in fairs should have representation from states so that we can present ourselves as "Brand India". Hon'ble Minister asked industry members to give long term as well as short term suggestions so that targets can be set. A presentation on the schemes of MoFPI was given to participants. Shri Prathipati Pulla Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture & Agri Processing, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Shri Agri S.S. Krishnamoorthy, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu also addressed the council and made valuable suggestions for development of food processing sector.

Industry members from M/s Saguna Poultry Farm, M/s Tetra Pack, M/s Dabur India Ltd., M/s MTR Foods Ltd., M/s Allanasons and M/s Elmac Agro also gave their valuable inputs which MoFPI will be examining and take up with relevant departments for redressal.