

NCUI collaborates with Agripreneurs and Embassy of Israel to promote Israel Hi-tech Agricultural Developments in India

An event was organized on 27th December 2016 at NCUI by Eden Horticulture Services of Karnal, Haryana in collaboration with NCUI and Embassy of Israel, New Delhi to promote “*Professional Agri Tour - Learning from Israel Hi-Tech Agriculture Development*”. The objective of the programme was to learn from the scientists & agripreneurs about the modern way of doing agri business.

While welcoming the participants, Shri N. Satyanarayana, Chief Executive NCUI told about the importance of agricultural cooperatives in attaining food security, climate change and sustainable soil management which are the pillars of attaining the sustainable development goals of United Nations. He also emphasized the important role of agricultural cooperatives in doubling the income of farmers and government support through NABARD for timely credit to farmers at low interest rates by easing the repayment procedure. He also discussed about the challenges facing by the farming community and stressed the need for adopting latest technology and involvement of youth to adopt modern techniques to boost the agri business in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Satyendra Yadav, Cluster Head of Indo-Israel project and Centre of Excellence for vegetables, Gharonda, Haryana informed that 15 centres of excellence are presently functional out of 27 such centres proposed to be established across India to boost the agriculture. He highlighted many innovative techniques that has been developed in the centre and transferred the new technology to the farmers in past years. The centre is the hallmark of Indo-Israel collaboration and very recently the Hon'ble President of Israel visited the centre.

Dr. Akhilesh Kumar, CEO of Eden Horticulture Services and main host of the event who has spent four years in Israel, while pursuing his post doctoral research at the Volcani Centre of Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development of Israel spoke in details about his experience in Israel and his desire to contribute in horticulture sector in India to raise the farmers income. He also launched the proposal of professional agri tour to Israel on the occasion.

Mr. Barack Granot, Head of the Economic & Trade Section of Embassy of Israel emphasized on adoption of modern technology for sustainable agriculture and also urged the participants to become a part of the professional agri tour to Israel to be organized on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of the diplomatic relationship between India and Israel.

Ms. Kanupriya Sehgal, CEO of BeePositive++, an young agripreneure spoke about her initiative to promote beekeeping cooperative towards boosting rural livelihood and augmenting farmers income in modern & scientific manner. She mentioned that her start up project has been selected by the panelist of IIT Delhi and she looked forward for financial assistance to the farmer members of beekeeping cooperatives and promote marketing avenues of honey & other bi-products.

Shri Tarun Bhargava, Deputy General Manager, IFFCO spoke about the largest fertilizer cooperative IFFCO and its role in assisting farming community in India through various ventures like IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Ltd., IFFCO Tokio General Insurance etc.

Besides officials of NCUI & Israel Embassy, representatives of agriculture cooperatives viz. NAFED, IFFCO, KRIBHCO and agricultural scientists, agripreneurs and progressive farmers took active participation in the discussions.

By Ritesh Dey, Deputy Director, International Relations