

## **Seminar/Panel on Agro & Food Processing**

**Topic:** Odisha -A hub of Agri Business Opportunity

**Venue:** Hotel Crown, Bhubaneswar

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011

**Time:** 1 pm

**Members Present:**

1. Dr. Arvind Padhee, Director , Special Projects, Panchayati Raj Department, GoO
2. Mr. Sanat Mishra, CEO, Odisha Livestock Development Society
3. Dr. Abhay Kumar Pati, Founder and CEO, Best Nutrition Inc, Silicon Valley, USA
4. Mr. Aravind Sahoo, Director, Ruchi Spices.
5. Mr. Sibasish Mishra, CEO, 5 Elements Agro.

**Objective**

The seminar was convened to focus on the opportunities in Odisha and policies for MSMEs in Agro/Food Processing sector.

**Description:**

Mr. Sibasish Mishra was the moderator for this panel. He initiated the discussion by throwing light on some of the schemes that are running in Odisha.

Dr. Arvind Padhee talked on the topic “Policy framework around Agri industry in Odisha and opportunities for MSME”. He said agriculture sector gives the real meaning economy and stressed on removing rural corruption. He cited new Agri technology, farming on PPP mode and farm mechanization as some of the effective ways to progress in agriculture commercially. He also told that Odisha has been awarded by Prime Minister for initiatives in agriculture. He said Odisha’s climate helps the plantation of white sesame. Heavy plantation of the these crop will give a positive growth of the economy of the farmers.

Mr. A. K. Pati talked on the topic “Global Importance of Medicinal Plants, their usage in Modern Bio pharmaceutical Science and opportunities for Odisha”. He said that medicinal plants can be grown in Odisha. His expressed his views by saying medicinal plants has always been a healthy source of life and has a big role in medicine. He said 15,000 to 20,0000 plants have good medicinal value and used in modern medicine, medicinal herbs & wild herbs play an important

role in the lives of rural people. The importance of medicinal plants is growing in many countries, particularly in India and China. He cited the example of white Sesame which is a source of vital nutrients and can be developed in Odisha.

Mr. Sanat Mishra gave a talk on “Policy Frame work around Livestock Development and Opportunities for MSME”. He said that there are many new schemes in Animal Resource Development sector is coming up in near future. He discussed about the livestock cycle of Odisha. According to him dairy and poultry are the two sectors where the MSMEs can start investing. Prospects of investment in poultry is bright and considered setting up of poultry firms as a profitable venture. He also said that policy support in poultry is provided.

Mr. Arvind Sahoo claimed that agriculture industry is as important as other industry which should be given priority. He shared his experience as how vacuum packing technology is introduced in place of manual packaging. He stressed on the importance of food sector by comparing with other sectors. He highlighted some of the activities that they have undertaken, one of them being facility of keeping dehydrated onions for storing them for a longer periods.

The seminar was concluded by presenting mementos to all the speakers.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

