



सत्यमेव जयते

Consulate General of India
Dubai

Press Release

UAE India Food Security Summit 2020

The UAE India Food Security Summit 2020 saw over 500 participants representing public and private sector organizations, concluded with sense of optimism to take the UAE India partnership in the food sector to the next level. The stakeholders of food and allied industries sector exchanged ideas and deliberated on challenges and opportunities in this sector.

Mr. Raveen Guliani, DP World, Dubai who spoke at the Summit said that DP World is preparing itself to the size and shape of food security challenges to occur post Covid. He said that DP World is in the process of setting up an Agri and Food terminal to meet the requirements. Sharaf group represented by Mr. Anand Kalaskar stated that the group is planning to further their investment in India in the range of USD 250 million to USD 1 billion. The group has already invested in excess of USD 300 million in building India's logistics infrastructure services, warehousing & storage including cold storage for perishable, ship services, rail, road and air transportation service, which has the future potential employment generation of 10,000+.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Saifee Rupawala, CEO of Lulu Group International and Board Member of Agthia Group PJSC said that both UAE and India look at each other as reliable partners in food security. He also said that as a preferred trade hub for Indian businesses, UAE can offer several competitive advantages such as its world-class logistics and transport infrastructure as well as a geographic position enabling Indian food exporters to expand their reach across the GCC markets. Currently, the India operations of Lulu group exports vegetables, fruits, fish, meat, garments, etc to the tune of INR 3500 crores annually.

The Agrotech Session held as part of the Summit focused on emerging technologies like hydroponics, aquaponics, catalyzing innovation, building capacity and enhancing productivity in the agriculture and food processing sector. The companies which made presentations the Summit include VeggiTech UAE, Hydrilla, Zeal Aqua, Future Farms (India), Intello Lab (India) and Aries Agro Limited. The session highlighted the attractive investment opportunities in India and UAE in the areas of Agrotech where UAE could source their greens through vertical farms.

Mr. Manoj Sharma, Project Head, Avantee Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd , Madhya Pradesh stated that the Mega Food Park programme started in

India in 2008-09 is currently in its fifth phase and invited MoU agreements from the UAE companies at the Summit. Representing GESS International FZC LLC, Mr. Anwar Shaikh, MD, spoke on emerging technologies in the cold storage area and how his company was preparing to support the Agri and food sector. Mr. Sudhakar Gupta, Director-International Business Development, IFFCO Allana emphasized the key role played by his group in India's food sector including imports of various Agro and food products from India.

Mr Subramanyam Javvadi, IAS, Director of Industries and CEO APEDB, Government of Andhra Pradesh said that the possibilities for productive engagement between the two countries in this sector were immense and he envisaged joint ventures in the food sector soon. Mr. Achal Jain from Invest Punjab spoke about the immense opportunities that Punjab has to offer including investments opportunities in the Mega Food Parks in the State.

Mr. Rahul Agarwal, Logistics Head, Invest India gave an overview of the current scenario of India's logistics sector which currently employs nearly 22 million people and is expected to grow at a rate of 16% over the next two years. Mr. Agrawal also touched upon recent policy and regulatory changes in the logistics sector and mentioned that current opportunities in India's cold storage sector has a shortage of more than 10 MT for agro produce.

Dr. Aman Puri, Consul General of India, urged participants to carry forward the ideas discussed during the two day summit, with a sense of urgency as the challenges of food security has gained new significance due to the current pandemic situation.

The Summit concluded with the B2B sessions during which a group of leading entrepreneurs from Jammu & Kashmir made presentations to potential UAE importers where they showcased export capabilities in food and Agri sector and also displayed agricultural and food products from Jammu & Kashmir.

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