

Launch of

IGPC

India Grains and Pulses Council

Friday, 12th April 2024

POST EVENT REPORT

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भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्
INDIAN CHAMBER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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India Grains and Pulses Council under the aegis of Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) was launched on 12th April 2024 in New Delhi, marking a strategic initiative to tackle challenges, leverage emerging opportunities, and propel the growth and prosperity of the pulses and grains sector in India.

Dr MJ Khan, Chairman; Prof. Ramesh Chand, Hon'ble Member, Niti Aayog; Shri RK Tiwari, Chairman IGPC Steering Committee, Ex Chief Secretary, UP; Mr. Deepak Pareek, Convener IGPC; Mr. Tarun Bajaj, Director, BEDF, APEDA; H.E. Dr. Manoj Nardeo Singh, Secretary General, AARDO; H.E. Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador, Embassy of Myanmar; Mr. Arnaud Petit, Executive Director, International Grains Council (IGC); Mr. Amrendra Mishra, Managing Director - India, ADM; Mr. Sanjay Sacheti, Country Head - India, Olam Agro; Mr. Dushyant K Tyagi CEO Farmgate Technologies; Sh. Samuel Praveen Kumar, Joint Secretary, Dept of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India were present.

Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), emphasized the significant changes witnessed in the Indian agriculture sector over the past few decades and highlighted the evolving challenges that have emerged, underscoring the long journey ahead for the pulses and grains sector. Dr Khan stressed on the urgent need for concerted efforts to stabilize the trade market, emphasizing the long-standing necessity of such a body as the Indian Grains and Pulses Council. He pointed out the vast opportunities awaiting exploration in the market, emphasizing the importance of unlocking its full potential. Dr Khan also touched upon the crucial role of pulses in addressing food security concerns, particularly in the context of global trade dynamics. As the world's population continues to grow, ensuring a stable and efficient trade environment for pulses and grains becomes increasingly paramount.

The panel discussions that were held alongside the launch ceremony covered two important topics:

- **International trade and cooperation in grains and pulses**
- **Policies concerning production, logistics, consumption, value addition and exports**

PANEL DISCUSSION ON

International Trade and Cooperation in Grains and Pulses



H.E. Sh. Manoj Nardeo Singh, Secretary General, AARDO - emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts among countries, particularly in the grains and pulses sector, addressing trade-related issues and the interconnectedness of food security and nutrition security. He highlighted India's leading role in rural development, noting the significance of pulses and grains on the agenda of international organizations like the United Nations. He encouraged further partnerships for trade, emphasizing the crucial role such collaborations play in solving food security challenges globally. He appreciated the clear mandate of the council and its potential to make a meaningful impact in addressing these critical issues. Continuing on this theme, he also stressed the need for innovative approaches and sustainable practices in agriculture, especially in the context of changing climate patterns and evolving global trade dynamics. He underlined the importance of sharing knowledge, technology, and best practices among nations to achieve food security goals and ensure sustainable agricultural development.

H.E. Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador, Embassy of Myanmar brought to the focus the strong cultural ties between India and Myanmar, noting their close proximity and the significant trade relationship they share. Mr. Aung expressed his belief that Myanmar has the potential to produce more than its current capacity and commended India's advancements in the grains and pulses sector. He highlighted the importance of technology transfer from India to Myanmar, urging Indian investors to consider opportunities in Myanmar and provide technical assistance to enhance productivity and trade collaboration. He expressed his optimism about future cooperation between India and Myanmar, particularly in enabling direct trade in rupees, which would reduce dependence on the US dollar and facilitate smoother trade transactions between the two nations. He looked forward to strengthened cooperation and mutual benefit through increased trade partnerships and exchange of expertise.



H.E. Mr. Peter Hobwani, Ambassador, Embassy of Zimbabwe, stressed on importance of strengthening bilateral trade between India and Zimbabwe and highlighted key challenges faced by Zimbabwe, such as climate change and food insecurity. Mr Hobwani expressed admiration for India's trade prowess and its ability to produce beyond its potential, particularly in the grains and pulses sector.



He noted the contrast in rainfall patterns, mentioning that Zimbabwe experiences less rain and faces challenges in agricultural production due to drought-prone areas. To address these issues, he highlighted Zimbabwe's government focus on irrigation schemes and expressed the desire for India to invest in irrigation infrastructure in Zimbabwe. Moreover, He saw this as a valuable opportunity for both countries to collaborate and contribute to economic growth and job creation in the region. By leveraging India's expertise and resources, Zimbabwe aims to enhance its agricultural productivity and overall economic development.



Mr. Arnaud Petit, ED, International Grains Council highlighted the trade dynamics between Asian and African regions, particularly emphasizing India's tremendous improvement in productivity in the grains and pulses sector. Mr. Petit discussed the export-import scenario of India and underscored the significant opportunity for Asian countries to supply products to various regions, thereby fostering trade development. Regarding pricing challenges, Mr. Petit stressed the importance of having accurate yield forecasts to navigate market fluctuations effectively. He also pointed out the considerable market potential in the coming years, both in terms of trade volume and opportunities, offering valuable insights into market trends and dynamics.



PANEL DISCUSSION ON

Policies concerning grains and pulses production, logistics, consumption, value addition, marketing and exports



Mr. Amrendra Mishra, MD, ADM emphasized the need for an ecosystem approach for pulses and grains systems which involves incorporating research and development (R&D) initiatives alongside establishing a niche for logistics and warehouses. By fostering innovation, optimizing logistics, and ensuring efficient storage and distribution, these ecosystems can create a conducive environment for sustainable agricultural practices and market competitiveness. In addition, Mr. Mishra emphasized the potential of these vibrant ecosystems to attract investment, promote technological advancements, and enhance value chains within the agriculture sector. He stressed the need for collaborative efforts among industry players, government agencies, and research institutions to develop and implement strategies that harness the full potential of India's pulses and grains systems.

Mr. Sanjay Sacheti, Country head, OLAM emphasized the need for conducive policies and resilience in the production part, stressing the importance of a resilient farming system. He also highlighted the necessity of investments in logistics and infrastructure to enhance competitiveness in the global market. He questioned how India's farming system could unlock more potential and compete effectively with other countries. Discussing the importance of policies, Mr. Sacheti noted the significance of reliable and consistent suppliers and remarked that India was underselling what was produced. He called for policies that prioritize value maximization and also discussed the government's role in supporting pricing systems to ensure fair returns to farmers and promote sustainable agricultural practices. He stressed the need for strategic planning and policy frameworks that encourage innovation, efficiency, and quality in agricultural production. Additionally, he emphasized the role of partnerships between the private sector and government agencies in driving positive change and fostering growth in the agriculture sector.



Mr. Tarun Bajaj, Director, Basmati Exports Development Foundation, APEDA highlighted the dominance of cereals in the market, particularly emphasizing on the significant role of grains and pulses in trade. He underscored India's pivotal role in the cereal sector, acknowledging its importance not only in terms of economic development but also in ensuring food security, which he deemed as of utmost importance alongside other development factors. Furthermore, Mr. Bajaj emphasized the crucial role that the Indian Grains and Pulses Council (IGPC) will play in the future of this sector, stating that the council's establishment marks a significant step toward enhancing trade, promoting innovation, and addressing challenges within the grains and pulses industry. He expressed optimism about the council's



ability to facilitate better collaboration, streamline processes, and foster growth opportunities for stakeholders involved in the grains and pulses trade. Moreover, Mr. Bajaj touched upon the potential for value addition and diversification within the sector, highlighting the importance of technological advancements, sustainable practices, and market intelligence in maximizing the sector's potential. He also emphasized the need for continuous dialogue, research, and policy support to ensure the long-term viability and competitiveness of India's grains and pulses industry on both domestic and international fronts.

Mr. Dushyant K Tyagi, CEO Farmgate Technology highlighted the significance of digitalization in the agricultural sector. He commended the thoughtful objectives set by the council, stressing the importance



of transparency between production and availability of agricultural products. Mr. Tyagi emphasized that for the system to be successful, stakeholders must have choices and access, underlining the critical role of digitalization in both production and post-harvest trading. He further emphasized the importance of focusing on India's export and import strategies to enhance market opportunities and global competitiveness.

Sh. Samuel Praveen Kumar, Joint Secretary Dept of Agriculture and farmers welfare discussed the role of the private sector in assisting the government in creating the right buffers to ensure food nutrition and security. He acknowledged the multifaceted challenges faced by the government, particularly in addressing surplus production, which can be more challenging than handling deficits in production. During his address, Sh. Kumar discussed various government schemes and initiatives aimed at improving the agricultural value chain. He highlighted the importance of farmer-centric approaches to pricing and efforts, emphasizing the need for strategies that prioritize the well-being and empowerment of farmers. He also touched upon the pressing issues of climate change, water management, and soil health, noting the importance of implementing buffering



mechanisms to mitigate risks and ensure the resilience of the agricultural sector. He emphasized the necessity of an efficient supply system and stressed the importance of private sector engagement in driving forward progress and innovation.

Sh. RK Tiwari, Chairman IGPC Steering Committee, Ex Chief Secretary, UP stressed the importance of stakeholders and collaboration in the agricultural sector, recognizing the tremendous power that comes from working together. He emphasized agriculture's critical role as one of the most important sectors of the economy and noted the significant progress made in the grains and pulses sector post Green Revolution. Sh. Tiwari acknowledged India's favorable export and



import numbers, indicating the sector's potential for further growth and development. Sh. Tiwari also highlighted the centrality of farmers in agriculture and underscored the importance of making swift decisions in the sector. He emphasized the need for agility and responsiveness in policy-making to address the evolving needs and challenges faced by farmers and the agricultural industry.

Prof. Ramesh Chand, Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog observed the increasing share of agriculture globally and identified a critical issue where food production often exceeds consumption due to challenges in



distribution, leading to food wastage. He emphasized that malnutrition remains a major problem globally, highlighting the essential role that IGPC and similar institutions play in addressing these challenges and promoting food security. He predicted that institutions like IGPC would become even more important in the future, especially as plant-based foods gain prominence due to climate change concerns. Prof. Chand credited the increase in grain production to the Green Revolution and stressed that the primary purpose of agriculture should be to ensure food and nutrition security. In the context of India, he

emphasized the significance of grains and pulses, noting that pulses, in particular, sustain the Indian population and are a crucial source of nutrition and affordable energy and protein. He also highlighted the role of high-value crops in agriculture. An important point Prof. Chand made was regarding livestock, which primarily consumes by-products of grains and pulses such as wheat and maize. This aspect contributes to the sustainability of agriculture by utilizing resources efficiently and maintaining a balanced ecosystem. Furthermore, he discussed the importance of trade intelligence in meeting market demand, emphasizing the need for right pricing strategies based on quantity and quality to facilitate efficient trade of grains and pulses, ensuring sustainability and economic viability for farmers and traders alike.

Mr. Deepak Pareek, Convener IGPC elaborated on the specific initiatives and objectives that IGPC aims to



achieve in the grains and pulses sector. Mr. Pareek highlighted the council's focus on promoting technological advancements, such as precision farming techniques, digital solutions for supply chain management, and sustainable agricultural practices. These efforts aim to enhance productivity, reduce

resource wastage, and improve overall efficiency in grain and pulse production. He mentioned initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture, including soil health management, water conservation, and biodiversity preservation. The council aims to empower farmers with knowledge and resources to adopt environmentally friendly practices that ensure the long-term viability of agricultural production. Mr. Pareek discussed IGPC's plans for capacity building and skill development among farmers and agricultural stakeholders. The council intends to conduct training programs, workshops, and knowledge-sharing sessions to equip individuals with the latest agricultural techniques, market trends, and regulatory knowledge, empowering them to make informed decisions and adapt to changing market dynamics. He also highlighted the council's role in advocating for farmer-friendly policies, fair pricing mechanisms, investment incentives, and trade facilitation measures that promote the growth and competitiveness of the industry.



"ICFA released the brochure of World Grains Conference Dubai 26-28 Nov 2024 with the support of Ministry of Commerce and International Grains Council"

VOTE OF THANKS BY Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman ICFA

Dr. Khan expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and attendees for their valuable contributions and support towards the successful launch of the Indian Grains and Pulses Council. He highlighted the significance of the event in addressing key challenges and opportunities in the grains and pulses sector, emphasizing the council's commitment to promoting sustainable practices, enhancing market access, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. He thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and participation, expressing optimism about the positive impact that IGPC will have on the agricultural industry in India and beyond.

Recommendations:

- **Collaboration:** Emerged as a key theme, with participants stressing the importance of partnerships among stakeholders, including government bodies, agricultural organizations, research institutions, and farmers. Collaborative efforts were seen as essential for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and driving innovation in the sector.
- **Technology Adoption:** Encourage widespread adoption of technology-driven solutions such as precision agriculture tools, digital farming platforms, and climate-smart farming practices to improve resource efficiency and enhance agricultural productivity.
- **Capacity Building:** Invest in training programs, workshops, and knowledge-sharing initiatives to build the capacity of farmers, agricultural extension workers, and rural communities in sustainable farming practices, climate adaptation strategies, and water conservation techniques.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Advocate for policy reforms that support sustainable agriculture, including incentives for adopting eco-friendly practices, funding for research and development in sustainable farming technologies, and regulatory measures to promote sustainable land use and water management.
- **Public Engagement:** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate consumers about the environmental and social benefits of choosing sustainably produced food, promote local and organic farming practices, and encourage responsible consumption and waste reduction.



GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT





India Grains and Pulses Council

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