

Gangtok, Sept 7: (IPR) ASSOCHAM along with Ministry of Food Processing Industries Government of India and Department of Industries Government of Sikkim organised an interactive session in a local hotel today to promote World Food 2017 the MoFPI show and Kisan Sampada Yojana, the scheme by Ministry of Food Processing to promote and support entrepreneurs from North East Region.

MP, Lok Sabha Shri P.D Rai inaugurated the programme which also had the presence of Mayor Shri Shakti Singh Chaudhary, Ministry of Food Processing officials Dr B K Behera Economic Advisor MoFPI GOI, Advisor Agriculture GOI, Ms Padma Shankar and ASSOCHAM officials.

Shri P.D.Rai in his address congratulated the gathering present for hosting such a beneficial programme. He encouraged all the potential entrepreneurs present to make the best use of such programmes and further the achievement of the state. While talking about the Start Up Policy of the state government, he threw light on the subject and said that the government is doing everything for the youth to empower and make them self reliant. Shri Rai also said that the state would be hosting a Start Up Festival on the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> November which would guide the young people and accelerate them towards venture capital world.

Economic Advisor, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, GOI, Dr B K Behera (IES) shared the vision of the Ministry and said that the purpose of World Food India 2017 is to showcase India's strength in Food sector as India offers the largest diversified production base. Dr Behera threw more light on the occasion and said that Kisan Sampada Yojana is an umbrella programme 'SAMPADA' for food processing sector with Rs. 6,000 crore outlay to integrate current and new schemes aimed at reducing food wastage and doubling farmers' income. The Yojana thus will help entrepreneurs to take up projects at lower financial outlay.

Regional Director East and North East of ASSOCHAM, Mrs Perminder Jeet Kaur opened the program and said the scheme will help young upcoming entrepreneurs and also will support forward and backward linkage. With strengthening of agriculture, food processing there will be strengthening of rural economy.

The programme was then followed by an interactive session with entrepreneurs on the scheme where Mrs Kaur hoped all related queries of entrepreneurs, FPOs, NGOs, Research scholar were answered.

