



देवेन्द्र कुमार सिंह, आई ए एस
अध्यक्ष

D. K. Singh, IAS
Chairman

कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद
निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण
(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

**Agricultural and Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority**
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

MESSAGE

India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world and according to FAO statistics 2013-14, India ranks 1st to 3rd in several agri-horticultural products. With a large cattle and poultry population, India also holds an edge in bovine meat exports and is also the largest milk producers in the world. During 2016-17, India exported Fresh Fruits and Vegetables worth of Rs.10369 crores (\$1552 million), Floriculture and Seeds were Rs.1076 crores (\$161 million) and Livestock products (Meat, poultry and dairy) worth Rs.29,533 crores (\$4416 million). All this sums up to a significant Rs.40,979 crores (\$ 6129 million).

There is a progressive increase in export of perishables from the country and the volumes are expected to grow. Export of perishables requires quick evacuation. With growing affluence amongst the vast middle class, consumers are looking for high quality of fresh produce. So there are opportunities in domestic market as well.

In order to boost horticulture production of international quality, APEDA is promoting 10 product clusters in 7 states with the objective to channelize the development of supply and value chain infrastructure. APEDA is also actively pursuing infrastructure development in North Eastern Region where four projects in the public sector are currently at various stages of implementation. While APEDA is getting packaging standard developed for Kiwi Fruit, efforts are also afoot for development of pineapple exports from the region.

Air shipments are one of the vital logistics link. There is need to rationalize the airfreight costs and also provide sufficient cargo space in aircraft for perishables for the destinations as per the requirement of exporter. I am confident that the deliberations during the proposed event would focus on the above aspects and a concrete action plan would emerge in a collaborative way.

I compliment STAT Media Group for organizing AIR CARGO INDIA 2018, which also has AIR SHIPPERS' forum on perishables and I wish the organizers my best wishes for the successful conduct of the event.


(D.K. Singh)

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