

Stress on robust agri supply chain at CII's FACE plenary session

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Ashwani Maindola, New Delhi

CII's Food and Agriculture Center of Excellence (FACE) organised a Special Plenary Session focussing on System interventions and adoption of post-harvest management for a robust agri supply chain on December 16, 2021. The Special Plenary was followed by the 6th CII Cold Chain Awards.

Experts opined that towards ensuring an effective and viable cold chain, it is imperative to keep pace with the necessary infrastructure development, commodity specific protocols development, promoting technological innovations, dovetailing of various schemes, alignment between the various ministries for financial outlay and business model restructuring.

In this regard, an industry-led Cold Chain Logistics Resource Center (CCLRC) was set up under CII's food and agriculture Center of Excellence. The CCLRC was supported by international Agencies such as GIZ and UNEP and aligned to international priorities such as the Sustainable Development Goals and Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

CII in its statement said that going forward, the CCLRC will continue working towards promoting green technologies, piloting community cooling solutions and building the capacity of the sector in India.

Meanwhile, addressing the Plenary Session, Amrit Lal Meena, special secretary – Logistics, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, stated, 'A well-developed sustainable cold chain network will help in the reduction of wastage, improve value addition, promote crop diversification, ensure better return to the farmers, and also address critical issues of food security and food inflation'.

Supplementing his views, B. Thiagarajan, managing director, Blue Star Limited, added that ensuring delivery through multi-modal logistics was important to strengthen the post-harvest management across all the touch points of the supply chain. He added that an effective cold supply chain will also have a direct impact on the economy.

P. Ravichandran, chairman, CII Task Force on Post-Harvest & Logistics; and president, Danfoss Industries Private Limited, said that 'Refrigerated supply-chain logistics is critical towards achieving sustainable development goals of clean climate and is a key enabler for achieving the 5 trillion-dollar economy'.

Also present on the occasion, Dr. Antje C. Berger, counselor, Climate and Environment, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in India, and Lily Riahi, coordinator, Cool Coalition, Energy and Climate Branch, UNEP.

The day ended with the announcement of the winners of the CII Cold Chain Awards 2021. The award ceremony was a significant forum to recognise the outstanding performers in the categories of Cold Storage, Integrated Supply Chain solutions, Packhouse, Innovations and FPOs in Cold Chain.

This year, the jury for the awards was Chaired by Dr. Ashok Dalwai, Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed area Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Co-chaired by Pawanexh Kohli, former CEO and chief advisor, National Centre for Cold Chain Development. Other members of the Jury were, Rajesh Subramaniam, MD, IDMC Limited; S.K. Sharma, MD, Global Agrisystem Private Ltd; B. Thiagarajan, MD, Blue Star Ltd; Dr. Satish Kumar, president & ED, AEEE; and Prof. M. P. Maiya, prof. Mech. Engineering, IIT Madras.

The Award for Outstanding performance in Cold Storage was won by APM Terminal India Pvt Ltd, Chennai Unit for world class infrastructure and well-defined processes and operations the unit stands apart.

The Award for Outstanding performance in Integrated Supply Chain Solution was won by Cold Man Warehousing and Distribution (Sricity Unit)The award for Outstanding performance in Packhouse was won by Magnus Farm Fresh LLP (Nashik) for their well-defined PHM processes, automated Systems and clean packing lines.

Other winners of Significant Achievement included

Aimijay Agri Fresh LLP for the Cold Storage Category

Adani Agri Fresh for the Integrated Supply Chain Solution category

SK Cold Storage for the Packhouse category

To encourage the most important segment of the agri supply chain, this year CII introduced the Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO) as a segment for the awards.

Tamil Nadu Banana Producer Company won the Award for Outstanding performance among the FPOs.

The FPOs recognised for significant achievement included:

Vizhuthugal Agricultural Farmers Producer Company

Hunagunda Horticulture FPCL

Shri Amaranarayana Horticulture Farmer producer Company Limited

The Amrita Dhara Milk Producer Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd

Gaukaran Farmers Producer Co Ltd.

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