



भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्
INDIAN CHAMBER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

AGRO COOPERATIVES TRADE DELEGATION FROM BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY

Wednesday, 1st November 2023

India International Centre, New Delhi



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DELIBERATIONS

ICFA hosted the Agro Cooperatives Trade Delegation from the MERCOSUR countries- Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay at IIC, New Delhi on 1st November'2023. The 22-member delegation was led by **Mr. Nelson Andrade Junior from Map-Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, Brazil**. The meeting also witnessed the participation of significant Indian stakeholders and industry experts, representing sectors that aligned with the delegation's interests.

Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman, ICFA, extended a warm and gracious welcome to the esteemed participants and delegates. His opening address set the tone for a day of meaningful discourse and collaboration, emphasizing the importance of fostering stronger ties between nations and industries to drive innovation and progress in the food and agricultural sector. He mentioned that the growth in LATAM countries have been aggressive over years, with agricultural exports from the region currently account for 16% of total global food and agricultural exports.



The session proceeded with the quick introduction of delegates representing the MERCOSUR block and the industry experts. **Mr. Angelo de Queiroz Mauricio, Agricultural Attaché at the Embassy of Brazil**, aptly labeled the session as "A table of opportunities." He remarked it as a historic occasion as it was the inaugural effort of the MERCOSUR block to collectively explore opportunities within the Southern Asia region. Through this delegation, the representatives sought to create fresh avenues for communication, with the overarching goal of enabling MERCOSUR cooperatives to broaden their business horizons and prosper in vibrant market of India.

The cross discussions and deliberations continued with representatives from varied sectors such as poultry, dairy, fruits, agtech, seeds, pesticides etc. **Mr. SK Chadha, Additional Secretary**, Government

of India, illuminated the audience on India's proactive response to the increasing demand for processed foods. "India is more open to import owing to the strengthened processing industry and enhanced retail supply chains", he added. The stronger supply chains and increased productivity of farmers in India has been a result of culminated efforts to introduce ICT and infrastructure in the agricultural landscape. **Mr. Ashudeep Garg, VP, Absolute Foods** shed light on role of technologies in solidifying the success of large scale agribusiness models. He also highlighted the significant untapped potential within the Indian market for apples and avocados, suggesting that leveraging technology could further enhance and streamline trade in these sectors.

Given the swift global climate changes, it is crucial for agricultural practices to adapt to these shifts. **Mr. Elias Zydek, President of Cooperativa Frimesa in Paraná**, focused on their initiatives that blend environmental preservation and bio-processing. Their objective was to pool resources and share clean technology, with the shared goal of significantly boosting global grain production and processing, which currently stands at 65% in Parana city of Brazil. Our Indian counterpart, **Mr. MJ Saxena, Advisor, Dabur Ayurved Limited** underlined the growing importance of incorporating 5F Vision in production techniques. He also put forth the idea to utilize bioethanol and biofertilisers to harmonize the production and food system globally.

Uruguay is the topmost business hub in Latin America, and offers state-of the art technology, telecommunications, infrastructure and best energy supply. The livestock and dairy sector are the leading sectors in Uruguay's export arena. **Mr. Ing. Agr. Fernando Secco from COPAGRAN - National Agrarian Cooperative** suggested the possibility of India's support in providing irrigation inputs and improved fertilizers. In parallel, **Mr. Narendra Singh Nagar, Joint Managing Director of VRS Foods (Paras Dairy)**, emphasized the importance of enhancing the production aspects of the dairy and livestock sector which could be achieved through research management and streamlined trade facilitation.

In order to maximize the meeting's effectiveness, the participants collectively reached a consensus on specific actions that should be translated into measurable results to foster the relationships between the MERCOSUR Block and India within the food and agriculture sector.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ❖ The participants emphasized the significance of hosting a webinar on "Turning Waste into Wealth" to optimize food and production systems, in the wake of climate change.
- ❖ A collective focus was directed towards addressing nutritional security through active policy advocacy and trade facilitation.
- ❖ Prioritizing enhancements in value addition, particularly in the development of ready-to-eat products, was highlighted, with a strong emphasis on fostering innovation.
- ❖ Rather than adhering to protectionist policies, there was a consensus to focus on reducing tariffs and promoting international trade.
- ❖ To further livestock and feed research management, efforts to improve in this area were acknowledged.
- ❖ The importance of establishing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives (OCB) was stressed to strengthen and facilitate collaboration between the MERCOSUR block and India.



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