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## **MESSAGE**

India has witnessed a remarkable increase in production and productivity of many farm produces including food grains, horticultural crops, milk and fisheries products. The country is now self sufficient in food grains and exports many produces. However, the post-harvest management of these produces is still a serious issue with very high post harvest losses, both in terms of quality and quantity and low level of value addition in our country as compared to most of other South – East Asian countries. The scientific community, development and extension officials, self help groups, farmers producers organizations, non government organizations and even private players in food chain have to take relevant activities in mission mode to fill the gaps in scientific innovations, infrastructure development, capacity building and skill development of stakeholders. Such approach wherever practiced, has demonstrated its utility in loss reduction, income and employment generation and high value addition leading to not only higher economic returns to producers but overall development of rural areas.

In this reference, I am very happy to learn that UP Council of Agricultural Research, Lucknow in association with Integral Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Integral University, Lucknow , SHIATS, NHB, CISH and CIPHET-ICAR is organizing a 03 days International Congress on Post-Harvest Technologies of Agricultural Produce for Sustainable Food and Nutritional Security during 10 to 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 at Integral University, Lucknow.

I am sure that the deliberations and recommendations of the Congress would go a long way in shaping the future development of post harvest sector in UP state as well as whole country.

I congratulate the organizers for their timely initiative and wish the International Congress a grand success.

  
(P.K. Srivastava)