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Agriculture Production Commissioner



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Message

I am happy to note that U.P. Council of Agriculture Research, Lucknow and Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, (IIASAT), Integral University, Lucknow in collaboration with other partners are organizing an "International Congress on Post-harvest Technologies of Agriculture Produce for Sustainable Food and Nutritional Security" on 10-12 November, 2016 at IIASAT, Lucknow.

India is the largest producer of pulses, tea, milk, meat and the second largest producer of wheat, rice, groundnut, fruits and vegetables including potato in the world. In Indian agriculture, U.P. has a significant role as it contributes about 20 percent food grains to the national basket. The state is a major producer of wheat (34%), rice (14%), pulses (14%), sugarcane (35%), potato (37%), vegetable (16%) and milk (18%) in the country. Post harvest losses are major problems in our country and these are caused by a variety of factors like weight loss, loss of food value, loss of economic value, loss of quality or acceptability and actual loss of quantity due to vermin etc. Of late, issues of global food losses and food waste have been making news with estimates of 10-30% of the food produced on earth likely to be wasted before it can be consumed.

The reasons for post harvest losses are improper harvesting, inadequate infrastructure, poor handling, lack of storage and packaging facilities and inappropriate transport. Economically, it reduces the farmers' income and increases consumers' expenses. Environmentally, food losses and waste inflict a host of problems including unnecessary greenhouse gases emission and inefficiently used water and land, which in turn can lead to diminished natural eco-systems. Use of proper post harvest technologies of perishables and semi-perishables will reduce the waste to a great extent and will add value to the product, generate employment in villages and reestablish agro based industries in rural sector. Although, reduction of post harvest losses represents a large business opportunity and potential for economic benefit, it is a research and development area which is receiving limited attention. I am confident that the Congress would be beneficial to farmers, agriculture scientists, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders.

My best wishes for the entire endeavor.


(Pradip Bhatnagar)