

ICAR-CIPHET Industry Interface Meet and Agro-Processing & Food Processing Fair 2024: A Grand Success in Ludhiana

Ludhiana, October 5, 2024 – The Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) marked a successful conclusion to its 36th Foundation Day celebration with the highly anticipated CIPHET-IIFA 2024 - Industry Interface Fair on Agro-processing & Food Processing. In collaboration with organizations like COFEAM, Grant Thornton Bharat, Axis Bank, Verka, Invest Punjab, Start Up Punjab, IFFCO and PSCST, the event served as a key platform for connecting the farming community with the agro-processing and food industries.

The valedictory ceremony featured notable dignitaries such as Dr. B.S. Dhillon, former VC of PAU, Chief Guest; Sh. Sandeep Saini, Chairman of Backfinco; and Dr. Nawab Ali, former Deputy Director General of ICAR, as Guest of Honour. Other prominent attendees included Mr. Gurwant Singh, President of COFEAM, and Dr. Arvind Alhawat, Head of KVK, Fazilka.

In his address, Padma Shree Dr. B.S. Dhillon praised CIPHET for organizing the fair and creating a dynamic platform for stakeholders across agriculture and food processing. He stressed the need to connect agricultural research with practical applications that directly benefit farmers and industry, particularly through technological innovations in post-harvest management and value addition. Sh. Sandeep Saini echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the role of small enterprises in boosting Punjab's economy, while Dr. Nawab Ali highlighted the importance of collaboration to modernize Indian agriculture and ensure that advancements reach the grassroots.

The event's key attractions included the Kisan Mela, Kisan Goshti, and two Industry Interface Meets focusing on rice milling and fiber processing. Other activities included a workshop on opportunities for FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations) in the food processing sector and a hackathon for students. These initiatives provided valuable opportunities for knowledge sharing, networking, and exploring business prospects in the agricultural processing space.

During the valedictory function, awards were presented to top exhibitors, entrepreneurs, and the winners of the Techno-Food Hackathon Version 1.0. IIT Ropar and Chitkara University secured top honors at the college level, while Dayanand Model Sr. Secondary School, Jalandhar, and Bal Bharti Public School, Ludhiana, excelled in the school category.

Dr. Nachiket Kotwaliwale, Director of ICAR-CIPHET, underscored the importance of the event in empowering farmers and advancing the agro-processing industry. He reiterated the institute's commitment to supporting innovation in post-harvest engineering and food processing. Dr. Ranjeet Singh, Head of the ToT Division & Convener, expressed deep gratitude to all participants, exhibitors, and contributors for making the event a resounding success. The fair attracted approximately 5,000 attendees, including students, researchers, farmers, and entrepreneurs.



