



AGRITECH NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE
APRIL 26, 2023,
UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE (USI), NEW DELHI

Introduction

IAFAT has been constituted to serve the promotional needs of Agritech Startups and involvement of innovation and technology in the traditional farming system of India so as to fulfill the commitment of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

IAFAT has organized first Agritech National Roundtable Conference on 26th April, 2023 at United Services Institute (USI), New Delhi

Participation

Participants includes Agritech Startups, Agriculture Sector, AI, IOT Service Providers, from all over the country attended the Conference.

Director National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF), Joint Director Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Under Secretary (Agriculture) Niti Aayog, Chief Technology Officer, Food & Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), General Manager Food Corporation of India, Director Association for Sustainable Development, Chairman Steering Committee, Vice Chairman AICRA Steering Committee, President AICRA, eminent personalities from Agritech and Agriculture Sector, senior officials from Defense relating to technology and a number of startup companies in Agritech sector attended the Conference.

Initiating the Roundtable, Shri Anand Giri, Chief Executive Officer IAFAT welcomed all the participants and dignitaries. He pinpointed that though Agri Sector contributes more than 17% to the National GDP and more than 50% population is engaged in agriculture and related sector, still there a number of issues like lack of sustainability, lack of tech penetration and limited market access etc. A remarkable growth is seen in recent past due to more focus of the government, digitization, and awareness and above agritech platform. Apart from blockchain, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Agri Robotic & Drone are now tested and deployed in certain area of farming. CEO IAFAT hoped that these technologies will shape the food ecosystem and drive agribusiness growth. A small video about IAFAT and its services was also played in front of the dignitaries and participants.



Shri Rajkumar Sharma, President AICRA addressing the Conference



Shri Anand Giri, CEO IAFAT initiating the Roundtable proceedings.

Shri Rajkumar Sharma, President AICRA briefed about objectives of IAFAT and how to involve technology and innovation in upgrading the traditional farming. Shri Sharma expressed his gratitude to the dignitaries and said that for involvement of technology in traditional farming, IAFAT initially want to adopt 3-4 villages. In the initial stage these villages will be from Delhi/NCR and then after that villages in the deep rural areas will be approached. IAFAT will try to find out issues/difficulties being faced by the villagers and how technology can help in sorting out these issues. IAFAT will create awareness in the villages about the latest innovations and technologies which can help the farmers in their farming practices. IAFAT will find out the Agritech Startups who can provide best solution for the problems of the farmers, they will make presentation in front of the farmers and accordingly the Agritech technology & Innovation will be involved in boosting farming Sector.



Dr. Gagnesh Sharma, Director NCONF addressing the gathering



Dr. C. Viswanathan, Joint Director, IARI and Hon. Chairman AIFAT making presentation on Startups

Director NCONF briefed the participants about innovations in natural and organic farming. Joint Director IARI briefed about types of startups and how their Institute help the different type of startups in agritech and related sectors and the details about the success of their projects.

To provide an initial support and assistance to IAFAT, it was unanimously proposed and accepted that Dr. C. Vishwanathan, Joint Director IARI will be the Honorary Chairman of IAFAT. Further it was proposed and unanimously accepted that being the only Patron Member of IAFAT, Dr. Abdurahiman Chalil, Managing Director, Digital Bridge International will be the Executive Chairman of IAFAT for the year 2023-34.

Dr. Radheshyam Dixit, Director for Association for Sustainable Development guided the startups about how and where to approach and make plan for success of their project with awareness and knowhow about the latest technology and innovation.

Ms. Lily Prasad, Chief Technology Officer Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) informed about the policies and facilities offered by FSSAI for the startups and how Agritech Startups can approach them. CTO FSSAI informed that there is a number of sites on internet with fake or outdated information.

CTO FSSAI suggested that a website/link may be created which contains authentic details of Agritech Sector, exact details of concerned nodal officers of different department and the policy and procedure. This link will be very useful for the startups as well as for the government agencies.

General Manager FCI briefed about their successful storage and warehousing system which performed exceedingly well during the covid times as well. It was further informed the type of services offered by FCI and how these can be utilized.



Padamshri Kanwal Singh Chauhan, Vice Chairman IACRA raising issues

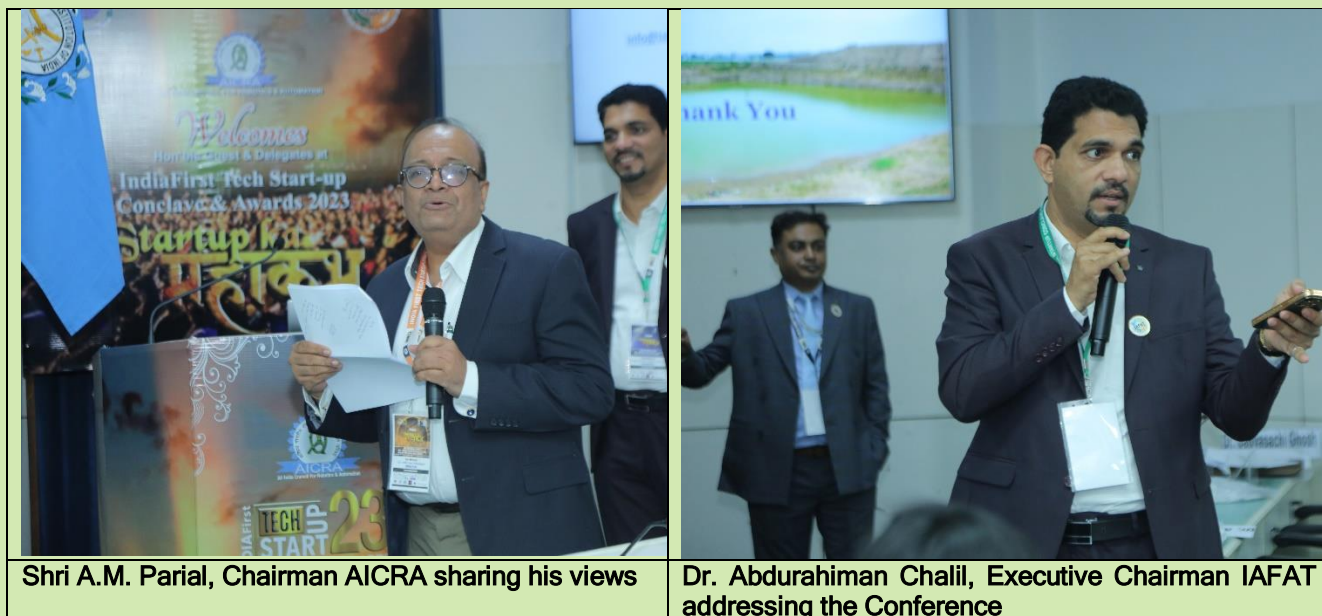


Dr. C.K. Ashok Kumar of First World Community guiding the Conference

Vice Chairman AICRA Padamshri Kanwal Singh Chauhan raised issues about the difficulties in getting funds from financial institutions and banks with regard to government funding schemes. Number of issues were raised by the startup participants with regard to funding, awareness, policy and procedures, implementation, lack of awareness and acceptability of new norms and incentives of the government within the departments and amongst the consumers.

Dr. C.K. Ashok Kumar, Founder - First World Community assured his fullest cooperation and assistance in the efforts of IAFAT by way of assistance in providing funding to startups, giving platform for such Conferences in Tamilnadu, approaching the concerned authorities at centre and state level etc.

Shri A M Parial, Chairman AICRA Steering Committee briefed and concluded the deliberations. He advised that all the points raised in the conference may be highlighted with all the concerned departments and update may be provided to the concerned units.



Shri A.M. Parial, Chairman AICRA sharing his views

Dr. Abdurahiman Chalil, Executive Chairman IAFAT addressing the Conference

The newly elected Executive Chairman IAFAT moderated the session and assured that now further course of action with regard to submission of issues and organizing further events for Agritech Sector will be chalked-out in assistance with the Honorary Chairman from IARA. IAFAT will address all issues raised during this Conference and other issues which were not discussed and try to find out more potentials in this sector and way-out to implement these. He suggested that micro level approach and access to the real players at the ground level is very much required.



Participants/exhibitors and the dignitaries expressed their gratitude and feel of satisfaction about fruitfulness of the event. Participants from Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh approached CEO IAFAT to conduct such events in their respective states and assured their fullest cooperation. Dignitaries as well as the participants suggested that these type of conference must be organized on a regular basis, not only in NCR but in other states and in the rural areas where IAFAT may organize awareness programme, give training to the farmers. IARI will provide every help and assistance to IAFAT in executing an effective schedule of events and submission of grievances to the concerned departments.

The Conference then ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.