

## 2nd State Level Conference on Agriculture in Maharashtra - New Technology & Policy for Better Yields 22nd September 2011, Kolhapur



Inauguration of the Conference by Lighting the Lamp

Maharashtra Economic Development Council and Kolhapur Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) jointly organized one-day State Level Conference on "Agriculture in Maharashtra – New Technology & Policy for Better Yields" on 22nd September 2011 at Residency Club, Kolhapur, with support of Kolhapur Engineering Association, Shirol Manufactures Association, Gokul Shirgaon Manufactures Association, Manufactures Association of Kagal Hatkanagale, Kolhapur Udyam Co-Op. Society Ltd., & Sheti Padvidhar Sahakari Kharedi-Vikri Sangh Ltd, Kolhapur.

Inaugural Session started with lighting of lamp in the presence of Mr. Nanasahab Patil, Ex-Principal Secretary, Agriculture Dept., Govt. of Maharashtra, Mr. Vithal Kamat, President, MEDC, Mr. Anand Mane, President, KCCI, Cdr. Dipak Naik, Vice-President, MEDC, Mr. Anil Hatkar, MEDC Regional Director, WM, Mr. Arun Narke, Chairman, Gokul Milk, Mr. Ravi B. Budhiraja, IAS (Retd.) DG, MEDC, Mr. Pandurang Watharkar, Director, Directorate of Agriculture, GoM, Mr. Lalit Gandhi, V.P, KCCI, and others.

**Mr. Vithal Kamat**, President, MEDC, welcomed the speakers and audience and highlighted the importance of Kolhapur in agriculture development. In his welcome address he narrated the difficulties / problems faced by the farmers in Kolhapur belt. Few of them mentioned by him are as under.

- Wastage of tomato crop: Major tomato crops grow in

Shirol and Hatkangale talukas. It is sold all over Maharashtra. But even after its sale, major portion of tomato is wasted due to lack of storage as well as processing facilities. To minimise the wastage, cold storage as well as processing facilities are needed in Kolhapur district.

- Jaggery Production, in Kolhapur is in Karveer and Kagal talukas, has a good quality, but again due to lack of cold storage facilities farmers have to sale it immediately. Hence, they are deprived from getting good price for jaggery. Jaggery produced in Kolhapur, but it is exported from Gujarat. Thus credit of export goes to neighbouring state.

- Kolhapur belt produces good quality of cashew nuts in Ajara and Chandgad talukas, nachani in Radhanagari taluka, etc. but due to lack of processing facilities, most of the produce sold in local market and farmers are not getting proper price for it.
- There is an urgent need to have cold storages and processing facilities in various parts of the district to avoid wastage as well as to get good price to the crops of the farmers. The finally he assured that MEDC will take these issues with respective government authorities.



Mr. Vithal Kamat, President, MEDC addressing the Conference

**Mr. Anand Mane**, President, KCCI, in his address emphasized the need of setting up of testing laboratory in Kolhapur for Agriculture, Horticulture Fruits/Foods and dairy products. He also emphasized the need for cold storage in order to

get better appreciation to jaggery and allied products. He further said that Kolhapur should be given more attention for developing it as a Tourism Place, as it has tourist places such as Panhala, Amboli, Dajipur, etc.

**Cdr. Dipak Naik**, Vice-President, MEDC, said that as the people in and around Kolhapur have ability to learn and absorb knowledge and also to think of new technology, hence MEDC has decided to hold this Conference here at Kolhapur. He further explained that there is a gap in technology and agriculture. It is therefore necessary to bridge/remove the gap and bring them together.

In industry there is "Small & Medium Enterprises" which is called 'SMEs', on this line, there should be category called "Small & Marginal Farmers (SMFs)" in Agriculture sector. The Govt should develop a Special package for SMFs. Adoption and absorption of technology in agriculture is needed to enhance the productivity. Education to farmers on use of modern technology in agriculture is necessary.

**Mr. Nanasaheb Chitale**, Chitale Udyog Samuh, said that – we think that Modern Technology means heavy expenditure. But this is not so. For prosperity, the use of technology is necessary. Farmers should understand the



Mr. Nanasaheb Chitale, addressing the Conference

use of technology and he himself should be able to use it. Industry should also think of agriculture activities and their needs during agri-seasons. The export of fruits was very negligible i.e. 0.06% so there is urgent need to enhance this cultivation. Use of modern technology should be adopted by farmers and govt. should take the initiative and encourage them.

**Mr. Nanasaheb Patil**, in his presentation pointed out that Kolhapur Bhandara Scheme originated from Kolhapur, and reached Sangli-Satara. Farmers in Kolhapur are self-dependent. Every new enterprise started in Maharashtra e.g. Horticulture, which has been developing 10000 hectares annually. Growing of Soyabean as industrial crop in Maharashtra is necessary. He said 85% onions, 90% Grapes and 80-90% Pomegranate export is from Maharashtra.



Mr. Nanasaheb Patil, IAS (Retd.), Ex-Principal Secretary, Agriculture Dept., GoM, making the Presentation at the Conference

Maharashtra's farmer is very intelligent. Novel ideas have been conceived from uneducated farmers of Maharashtra. Farmers suicide is due to lack of availability of affordable technology and high risk costing pattern. Farmer is unable to make sustainable agri-business. The 11th Plan Mid-term Review says no employment is generated in Agriculture. It is a failure of the planning. Next century will be Asian Century of Asian Tigers like India-China-Brazil. Our India will be third Power House in the world.

Only service sector is creating employment but it is not adequate. He said, China is the only country that has taken lead by taking Agriculture out of the hands of Govt. In China 200 cities developed every year with proper infrastructure. Bring several villages together as a City and develop cities, as 'Cities are Growth Engines'. China has accepted this concept. Action of correct policy is absent in every sector in India. In China, there is Industry of Grampanchayat, Municipality, Corporation, etc. Milk production has been increasing by 2.5 million tonnes annually, it should go up to 5 million tones. Interest free loan should be given for education of Farmer's Sons / daughters. All of us should not remain in agriculture. Proper and more emphasis should be given on Horticulture development.

Inaugural Session ended with the Vote of Thanks by Mr. Anilkumar Hatkar, MEDC Regional Director, WM.

Inaugural Session was followed by 3 Business Sessions.

**Business Session: 1 -Government Policies & Schemes for Agriculture and Allied Industries**

It was chaired by Mr. Nanasaheb Patil, IAS (Retd.), Ex-Principal Secretary, Agriculture Dept., GoM and addressed by Mr. Pandurang Watharkar, Director, National Horticulture Board, and Mr. Dhal Singh, Sr. Asst. Director, National Horticulture Board, Mr. Arun Narke, Chairman, Gokul Milk, Mr. Sanjeev Mane, eminent farmer from Sangli.

**Business Session : 2 - Finance & Funding for Agriculture and Allied Industries**

It was chaired by Mr. M. V. Ashok, Chief Gen. Manager, NABARD Mr. B. S. Potdar, Deputy Regional Manager, Bank of Maharashtra and Mr. Umesh. G. Patil, District Superintendent, Agriculture Dept, Kolhapur, were other speakers at this session.

**Business Session : 3 - Technology & Marketing for Agri Business**

It was chaired by Dr. Prashant Patil, RPP Biosciences. Main speakers at this session were Mr. Nilesh Waghode, Manager-Sales, LEMKEN India, Mr. Radhakesh Uttarwar, Member, Australian Trade, Mr. Vijay Mali, Sr. Agronomist, Jain Irrigation and Mr. Anil Bitale, Agronomist, Netafim Irrigation.



Audience at the Conference

During the Valedictory Session, Mr. Mohan Bajikar, Eminent Agriculturist and Mr. Shekhar.P. Jain, Mg. Director, Krushna Doodh presented their success stories and shared their experience.

After the presentation of success stories, the session was addressed by Mr. Anand Mane, President, KCCI, Mr. Nanasaheb Chitale, Mr. Arun Narke, Mr. U.G. Patil. Mr. Lalit Gandhi, Vice-President, KCCI, proposed the Vote of Thanks.

The Conference was attended by over 450 farmers, agriculturists and representatives of business & industries, banks and financial Institutions and Govt. Officials.