Unlocking Opportunities in Food Tech: IARI Launches 6-Day Agripreneurship Development Program

The Zonal Technology Management & Business Planning and Development (ZTM & BPD) Unit, in collaboration with the Division of Food Science & Post-Harvest Technology (FS & PHT), ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, successfully launched a week-long Agripreneurship Development Program (ADP) on the theme *"Recent Avenues in Food Processing for Agritech Startups."* The training program that will be held from 8th to 13th September 2025, aims to equip aspiring entrepreneurs and agritech innovators with cutting-edge knowledge and practical insights into emerging trends and technologies in the food processing sector.

The inaugural session took place on Monday, 8th September 2025, at the Division of FS & PHT. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The session commenced with a welcome address and introductory remarks by Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Principal Scientist & Head, Division of FS & PHT.

In his address, Dr. Srinivasa Rao commended the participants for their keen interest in food processing and entrepreneurship. He emphasized that such training initiatives serve as crucial platforms for innovation, skill enhancement and entrepreneurial growth. He highlighted the growing demand for value-added food products and the need for startups to adopt sustainable and scalable technologies. Dr. Rao also stressed the importance of building strong industry linkages and staying updated with evolving market trends.

He informed participants that they could seek funding and financial assistance for their agri-business ventures through IARI's incubation center, Pusa Krishi. Dr. Rao concluded by encouraging participants to fully leverage the diverse training opportunities offered by IARI.

A manual titled *"Recent Avenues in Food Processing for Agritech Startups"*, detailing the key topics covered in the training, was also released on the occasion. It serves as a comprehensive resource for participants throughout the program.

The objective of this 6-day ADP is to introduce participants to emerging technologies in food processing, enhance their theoretical and practical skills and support the development of market-ready products. The training will cover important topics like, Good Manufacturing Practices, FSSAI

compliance, quality standards and the use of AI in food processing. In addition, participants will receive guidance on licensing and certification processes to help them launch or scale their agritech ventures.