

**FOODWORLD INDIA 2008**  
Global Convention on Food Business & Industry  
Nov 13-14, 2008  
Intercontinental- The Grand Mumbai

**Hon'ble Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Minister for Food Processing Industries**

**Shri Ashok Sinha Secretary, Ministry for Food Processing Industries**

**Distinguished Guests, Senior Government Officials, Sponsors, delegates, Members of the media and Friends,**

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to FICCI FoodWorld India 2008- the Global Convention on Food Business & Industry & Annapoorna World of Food-Exhibition on Food & Beverages sector

It is my honor to welcome the Hon'ble Minister for Food Processing – **Shri.Subodh Kant Sahai**, the man who has driven the food processing sector from the front. Your dynamism, Sir , has led to greater FDI in this sector into the country and also made the world aware of India's capabilities in Food Processing.

Sir, we are honored to have your Ministry; partner us in hosting this two day global convention on food business.

I welcome **Mr. Ashok Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries .**

We are thankful to the Government of **Maharashtra** & the Government of **Kerala** to join us as the **Host & Partner States respectively for this year's** Global convention in food business & Industry.

We have State of Illinois as international associate. I welcome our guests from the State of Illinois and wish them all the very best in exploring their business interest and opportunities with their Indian counterparts.

**Special thanks to the CMA ( The German Agriculture Marketing Board) who join us with a 14 people strong German delegation.**

Sir, you will be glad to know we have international delegates participating from Italy, Germany, France, Saudia Arabia, Singapore, USA, U.K & many of the SAARC Countries.

This convention is an effort to understand and reveal the potential that is emerging from the huge shift that is apparent in today's global food business towards Asia. The potential is immense, the prospects aplenty.

As per the latest FICCI-TECHNOPAK report the size of the Indian Food Industry is estimated at Rs 8,80,000 crores (US \$ 200 billion) in 2006-07 and is slated to reach Rs 1,320,000 crores (US \$ 300 billion) by 2015. **(The report will be released by Honb'le Minister after the Special Address)**

Fruits and vegetables, dairy products, marine and fish, meat and poultry, edible oils, staples, alcoholic and non alcoholic beverages, breads and bakery, confectionary and packaged foods are the key sectors in the industry, which offer tremendous growth potential and investment opportunities. I must share that Indian wine is gaining a lot of recognition across the globe; the domestic wine market has grown at a compounded annual growth rate of more than 25% and RTE foods growing almost at 40% per year.

The major push will surely come from retail Industry that is likely to grow by 30 per cent in the next five years and become Rs 110 billion industry by 2010.

Sir, Annapoorna world of Food- exhibition will showcase the entire spectrum of food, drinks and raw materials. This year we have more than 180 exhibitors from 14 countries are participating with six country pavilions from Germany, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan and Thailand and we are expecting more than 5000 business visitors. The covered space has increased from 4800 sqm to 6000 sqm. The exhibition will be the perfect platform for the food and beverage industry to meet, interact, exchange ideas and develop business contacts

Sir, the stage is set for “**The Big Leap**” that has been eluding the Indian food industry.

To achieve this FICCI would like to present the following 5 point agenda:

- 1. We propose the Government to set up Inter Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) under the leadership of Ministry of Food Processing with FICCI as a knowledge partner to look at comprehensively addressing various issues that are holding this sector back.**
- 2. It is important that agribusiness issues should be addressed from the entire food chain perspective as addressing certain portions has not yielded the desired results.**
- 3. Restructure the tax system to reduce the impact of multiple levies and reduce the final price of products.**
- 4. Create an enabling environment for modern food retailing as this will benefit the entire value chain linking the farmer to the consumer.**
- 5. Implementation of both the amended APMC act and the FSSA act in letter and spirit.**

We have a line-up of global speakers, each a specialist in his or her area, here; from food manufacturers, food retailers, consulting companies, supply chain providers to scientists. I am sure each one will bring out new perspectives and recommendations to augment our agenda.

Let me again welcome all of you to FoodWorld and Annapoorna – World of Food.

Thank you & wishing you successful deliberations.