



International Webinar on “Promoting Agribusiness Startups – Experiences from Asia-Pacific”

NABARD-APRACA Centre of Excellence (ACE), BIRD, Lucknow organized an International Webinar on “Promoting Agribusiness Startups – Experiences from Asia-Pacific” on 24th August 2021.

The webinar was chaired by Dr. G.R. Chintala, Chairman, NABARD and APRACA and graced by Sh. P.V.S. Suryakumar, Deputy Managing Director, NABARD.

In his welcome address, Shri Shankar A. Pande, Director, BIRD, Lucknow congratulated Dr Chintala on taking over the Chairmanship of APRACA. He welcomed the panellists and participants and hoped that an interaction between the agri startup promoting agencies, bankers, venture capitalists and agri-preneurs from various countries would lead to cooperation and collaboration in this sphere.

Dr Prasun Das, Secy General, APRACA in his special address appreciated BIRD and ACE for organising the Webinar for fostering cross learnings which can help evolve strategies for developing the agri-startup ecosystem.

Chairman while delivering the keynote address, observed that globally agri start-up sector is witnessing steady growth. He opined that start-ups can provide tech-led solutions to many of the problems of smallholder farming. He stressed that AI-based smart solutions, block chain, advanced farm analytics etc. would define the next growth phase of the farm sector. He highlighted the efforts being made by NABARD through NABVENTURES and Incubation centres.

The inaugural session was followed by panel discussion with eminent panelists from venture capitalists and Agri start-up promoters. Sh. P.V.S. Suryakumar, DMD, NABARD was the lead speaker and set the template for the discussions. He spoke at length as to how start-ups have made a difference in terms of adoption of technology and the need for collaboration and coordination. The other panelists included Dr. J.A. Alip, CARD MRI, Philippines, Ms. Nalinee Santi, Sr. A.V.P, BAAC, Thailand, Mr. Ashish Fafadia, Partner at Blume Ventures, Mr. Sivakumar Palaniswamy, CEO MABIF, TNAU, Dr. Sat Kumar Tomer, CEO at Satyukt Analytics and Mr. Amit Sinha, Co-founder Unnati, The Webinar was deftly moderated by Sh. Rajesh Ranjan, CEO, NABVENTURES.

Over 300 participants from Banks, sector experts, NABARD Regional Offices, NABARD Training Establishments, CBBOs, FPOs, Agriculture universities,

participated in the Webinar. The programme was compered by Smt. Deepmala Ghosh, FM and In – Charge, ACE.



Director, BIRD welcoming Dr. G.R Chintala, Chairman NABARD



Chairman NABARD delivering the keynote address



Sh. P.V.S. Suryakumar, DMD, NABARD - lead panellist addressing the webinar



Director, BIRD addressing the webinar



APRACA webinar in progress