

# MSME-DFO hosts national seminar at Pakyong to empower entrepreneurs

## One Day National Seminar /Workshop on Sikkim Agro Food Export Summit

### Initiative aims to increase Sikkim's share in global agro and food products market

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In a bid to empower entrepreneurs and promote Sikkim's agro and food products in the international market, the MSME-Development & Facilitation Office, Gangtok, Sikkim, in association with the Office of ADC (Dev) Pakyong, Sikkim, organized a one-day national seminar/workshop on Sikkim Agro Food Export Summit in Pakyong today.

Shri Raju Basnet, State Minister of Education, Sports and Youth Affairs, Law, and Parliamentary Affairs Department, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, and Shri Robin Pd. Sewa, ADC (Dev), Shri Vishnu Kant, Joint DGFT, Kolkata, Shri M. Ravi Kumar, Director, Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Sikkim, Shri Kesang Namthak Tenzing, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Shri Urgen Lepcha, CA to HCM, Shri Sangay Gyasto Bhutia, ADC Pakyong and Shri Purna Prasad Sharma, OSD, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, attended as Guests of Honour.



The workshop began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamps by the dignitaries followed by the National Anthem. Shri N. Chowdhury, Asst. Director, MSME-DFO Gangtok, in his inaugural address welcomed the Guests and the participants, and also outlined the agenda and the main objective of the workshop, which aims to create awareness and motivate the existing and potential entrepreneurs to enter into the big

international market with their products, specially agro & food products. The workshop also aimed to facilitate interaction between the local entrepreneurs and all the related stakeholders on a common platform.

Shri Raju Basnet, in his address, underscored the significance of enterprise development, asserting that industrial growth is pivotal for Sikkim's self-reliance. He further emphasized that family-run businesses not only sustain livelihoods, enabling multiple family members to contribute, but also make a positive impact on the country's GDP as valuable contributors.



He further observed that MSMEs in Sikkim currently make a relatively modest contribution to the country's overall GDP, compared to the broader MSME sector. However, with initiatives like "One Family One Entrepreneur" and recently announced government schemes offering financial support of up to Rs 5 Lacs to budding entrepreneurs, a positive shift in this trend is anticipated, enabling even small businesses to thrive.

He also emphasized the need to shift the prevailing mindset, where securing a government job is often considered the ultimate goal of education. He noted that unless this mindset is transformed, and one entrepreneur per family emerges, Sikkim's aspiration for true development and progress, or "Viksit Sikkim," will remain elusive. He concluded by expressing his gratitude to the organizers and wishing the participants well, while encouraging them to make the most of the National Level Seminar.





The workshop featured technical sessions, where expert panellists delved into various aspects of MSMEs and their operations. The sessions covered key topics such as the roles and responsibilities of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), a detailed overview of the Niryat Bandhu scheme, and the certification processes governed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The panellists also discussed export documentation procedures, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) scheduled products, and the authority's initiatives for export promotion.

The workshop drew a diverse audience, comprising Block Development Officers (BDOs), Panchayat Presidents, stakeholders, entrepreneurs, agro-food professionals, and senior government officials, including officials from DGFT, APEDA, FSSAI, and the Spice Board.



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