

ILSI-INDIA

Conference on “Processed Foods for Nutrition Security” April 25, 2014 at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi

Vote of Thanks by Mr. N M Kejriwal, President, ILSI India

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is nice to see all of you today in this Conference. I understand that there was overwhelming response to our invitation to this Conference and we could not accommodate everyone. This, I believe an indication of ILSI-India stature in scientific arena.

Before I proceed with the very pleasant task of proposing vote of thanks, I would like to briefly mention how ILSI is working in the area of Food and Nutrition Security.

ILSI, as you all know, is a scientific forum and works with scientists from industry, agriculture, government and academia, apart from other international organizations like FAO and WHO to improve public health. One of the focus areas is “Sustainable Agriculture And Nutrition Security”. Food and Nutrition Security presumes long term view and hence must take into account climate change.

ILSI Research Foundation has set up a dedicated center of excellence called “Center for Integrated Modeling of Sustainable Agriculture & Nutrition Security (CIMSANS)”. This Center was set up last year, responding to the urgent need to monitor climate change and evolve models for predicting impact on water resources, agriculture and nutrition security. This will help us in taking timely actions for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts and make concerted efforts through research to change cropping pattern, improve productivity and nutrient contents. ILSI-India had organized an international conference last year on this subject. About 33 national and international scientists have deliberated to come out with an Action Plan. This will be forwarded to the concerned stakeholders.

In ILSI-India we have been focusing the role that food processing can play in improving the public health, particularly through adoption of new technologies for improving nutrition content of foods, making foods safe and through improving lifestyle.

Food processing, according to me has an important role to play in ensuring food and nutrition security in two ways:

Firstly, with a vibrant food processing sector the demand for agricultural products increase and that is instrumental in checking colossal losses of food grains, fruits and vegetables. This increases the supply of agriculture and horticulture raw and processed products. Further, food processing increases shelf life and makes products available during off season also.

Secondly, processed foods which are enriched with micronutrients or probiotic or prebiotic can be instrumental in meeting the challenges of malnutrition and other health issues.

Food Industry has to look at many health challenges facing the country particularly cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, hypertension etc. We have to make efforts to ensure that healthy oils, less salt and sugar are used to ensure that healthy food is made available to the consumers.

With these words I would like to propose my hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Ajit Kumar, Chairman, NIFTEM for inaugurating today's Conference and gracing the occasion with his presence. As you all know, he is the architect of NIFTEM and has been involved in building up this institution right from the time when it was decided that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries will set up NIFTEM. We wish him all the best in his future journey with NIFTEM.

I am also grateful to all the speakers for agreeing to share their views on various issues relating to role of processed foods in nutrition security with us. The recommendations from today's Conference will be sent to all the stakeholders.

I am also grateful to all the participants for joining us in the Conference today.
