

## **Minutes of the meeting with Hon. Minister for Food Processing Industries, Govt. of India, New Delhi**

- **Venue:** Panchsheel Bhavan, New Delhi
- **Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006
- **Time:** 12:30

### **Following members attended the meeting:**

1. Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Hon. Minister for State, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Independent Charge), Government of India, Panchsheel Bhavan, August kranti Marg New Delhi.
2. Prof. M.C. Varshneya, Vice Chancellor, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat State
3. Prof. Baboo M. Nair, Chairman, SASNET Fermented Foods and Professor Emeritus, Department of applied nutrition, Lund University, Sweden.
4. Dr J. B. Prajapati, Coordinator, SASNET Fermented Foods and Head, Dairy Microbiology Department, Anand Agricultural University, Anand
5. Shri Arun Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of food processing Industries (MoFPI)
6. Shri S.S. Chahal, Deputy Secretary, MoFPI
7. Mr. Gautam Sanyal, Director, PS to The hon. Minister MoFPI
8. Dr. G.K. Pallal, Head, Meat & Dairy Division, MoFPI
9. Dr Anil Kumar Singla, Asst. Head, Meat & Dairy Division, MoFPI

At the onset, Hon. Minister warmly welcomed Prof. M.C. Varshneya, Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand, Dr Baboo M. Nair and Dr J.B. Prajapati. Recalling his visit to Anand for the SASNET conference on fermented foods health status and social wellbeing on dec 17<sup>th</sup> 2005 and appreciated the work done at SMC college of dairy Science Anand in general on fermented foods and the concept of Vidya Dairy training pattern in particular.

Prof. Varshneya thanked Hon. Minister for inviting us to present the proposal on centre of excellence. He gave introductory remarks indicating the purpose of meeting before the minister requested Prof. Nair to present the proposal to be discussed.

Prof. Nair made an impressive power point presentation by giving some background information on fermentation, probiotics, prebiotics, synbiotics, present status of functional fermented foods in the world and multifarious advantages of producing fermented functional foods in India for export and how it will directly improve the efficiency of the agro food sector and the income level of the poor people who depend on the agro-food sector for their livelihood.

He outlined a proposal that the ministry may consider establishment of a centre of excellence on fermented foods at Anand Agricultural University in cooperation with SASNET Fermented Foods. He then explained in detail about the possible activities of such centre and various strategic steps to achieve the goal. He also indicated that while the centre of excellence at Anand could be based on milk and milk products, there could be three more such centres located strategically at different parts of the country destined for cereals & pulses, vegetables & fruits and fish & meat respectively.

There were queries by Hon. Minister, Hon. Vice Chancellor and other participants during the presentation and a lively discussion followed at the end of presentation.

**Following decisions were made at the end of the meeting:**

1. There was a common feeling among the participants that the proposal was good and it could be developed further. Hon. Minister agreed to establish the centre of excellence on fermented milk based functional foods at Anand. At the same time, he also advised to coordinate four such centres in different regions of the country, which may act as satellite centres of the institute NIFTAM which is being established by MoFPI near the capital city of the country.
2. Hon. Minister suggested that a meeting of important officers from different states of India, who can be involved in such centres may be organised for training in post harvest technology and production of value added products for export.
3. A core group consisting of following members was formed under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Minister for Food Processing Industries to take the proposal to the next stage towards the final goal
  - 1) Hon. Minister for State, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Independent Charge), Panchsheel Bhavan, New Delhi.
  - 2) Prof. M.C. Varshneya, Vice Chancellor, Anand Agricultural University, Anand
  - 3) Prof. Baboo M. Nair, Chairman, SASNET Fermented Foods and Professor Emeritus, Lund University, Sweden.
  - 4) Shri Arun Kumar, Joint Secretary, MoFPI
  - 5) Mr. Gautam Sanyal, Director, PS to Minister, MoFPI
  - 6) Dr J. B. Prajapati, Chairman, SASNET Fermented Foods and Head, Dairy Microbiology Department, Anand Agricultural University, Anand

The core group started its first session with discussion on how the proposal could be further elaborated and adapted to the present policies and future changes.

Shri Arun Kumar suggested that the present proposal may be submitted as a concept note to the ministry. In preparing the concept note on the proposed centre of excellence the objectives, outcomes and costing may be given special attention.

He also informed us about the present schemes of the ministry and advised that a proposal for R & D may be made, for which 100% support for plant and machinery would be granted.

It was also suggested that the proposal for COE at Anand may include a proposal to establish a similar COE in the North East part of the country and then two more may be added.

Mr Gautam Sanyal suggested that two separate proposals may be submitted to the ministry one each for R&D – equipment/instruments and HRD/internationalised master’s degree programme in food science and biotechnology.

**The meeting was concluded identifying a mission to**

- 1, Further develop the concept note on COE with the required details regarding, objectives, outcome and costing
- 2, further develop the concept of the centre of excellence as a satellite unit to NIFTAM
- 3, Write a proposal on R&D-equipment and instruments
- 4, Write a proposal on HRD- Masters programme
- 5, Write a proposal on collection and storage of data on fermented foods

**Minutes taken by**

Dr. JB Prajapati  
Professor & Head, Dept of Dairy Microbiology  
SMC Dairy Science College, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat.

**Attested by the chairman of the meeting**

Shri Subodh Kant Sahai,  
Hon. Minister for State, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Independent Charge),  
**(Chairman of the Core Group, Project on Satellite Centres of Excellence)**  
Panchsheel Bhavan, New Delhi.

And

Prof. MC. Varshneya,  
**(Co-Chairman of the Core Group Project on Satellite Centres of Excellence)**  
Vice Chancellor  
Anand Agricultural University,  
Gujarat State, INDIA