

## Workshop on Agri-Business and Value Addition

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

**Venue:** HAMETI, Jind

Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran conducted a workshop on Agri-Business and Value Addition at HAMETI, Jind. Dr. Karam Chand, Principal, HAMETI, Jind thanked all the august members and farmers for their presence and sparing valuable time. He initiated the proceedings with a brief background of the workshop and its objectives.



Putting forth his views on the occasion, Dr. R. S. Dalal' said that our country faces challenges with growing population, rapid urbanisation and climate change, so there is a need to educate our farmers to become future ready. We need to take care of the soils and the natural resources at our disposal for the sake of the future. Unsustainable management practices like excessive irrigation, over grazing, deforestation, excessive tillage, practice of burning agricultural fields causes soil organic carbon losses. He emphasised on the fact that excessive use of chemicals like fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides generates a significant amount of residues which cause quality-reduction of agricultural produce and hence leads to nutrient imbalance in humans. Agricultural diversification can improve crop productivity by adopting more diversified cropping systems. He said that farmers need to adopt integrated farming to enhance their income and venture into agri-processing to add value to their produce.

Dr. Asha Kawatra, Retired Professor, College of Home Science, CCSHAU, made a power point presentation regarding value added products of pearl millet. In her presentation she mainly focused on explaining that Centre of Excellence established at CCS HAU Hisar has all primary and secondary processing facilities to help in capacity building of farmers and to promote the consumption of



pearl millet at household and national level, and contribute towards nutritional security & economic development of farmers. She elaborated about the nutritional importance, processing techniques of pearl millet and value added products of pearl millet.

Sh. Rajesh Kumar, Progressive farmer from Sikander Kheri (Kaithal) shared his experiences about agri-processing activities undertaken by him. Telling his own story of success, he said that he started with organic cultivation and has now ventured into agri-processing with a number of products. He motivated the farmers to adopt such model and fetch profits like him. Sh. Suber Singh, a Progressive Farmer and Entrepreneur also



elaborated his side of story to the fellow farmers and motivated them to become their own masters. He is successfully running his business in Uchana, Jind for the value added products like *Aachar*, *Chutnies*, *Juices*, etc since a decade. He is earning a handsome turnover of more than a crore per year.

Sh. Bhupinder Singh, CEO, HKKP applauded the efforts made by the expert speakers to make the event a success in achieving its target of motivating the farmers and encouraging them to think beyond just growing the produce. He emphasised on the need of training and visits to already established agri-processing units by the farmers before venturing into agri-processing activities.