

Nutrient management and irrigation along with partnering farmers have been the buzz word around. The CII sponsored 4-day event at Chandigarh seeks to attain the level of productivity in the farm sector

Managing CROP NUTRIENT

In order to enhance food productivity in the country by mechanisation in agriculture sector, adopting new and innovative technology and risk management in farming, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised its Biennial Agro Technology & Business Fair in Chandigarh during 1 to 4th December, 2012.

In the fair, hundreds of leading agri companies participated. The domestic and international companies ranging from tractors, heavy agri implements, small agri equipments, seeds, fertilisers, agriculture universities, food processing, horticulture and others participated in the grand fair.

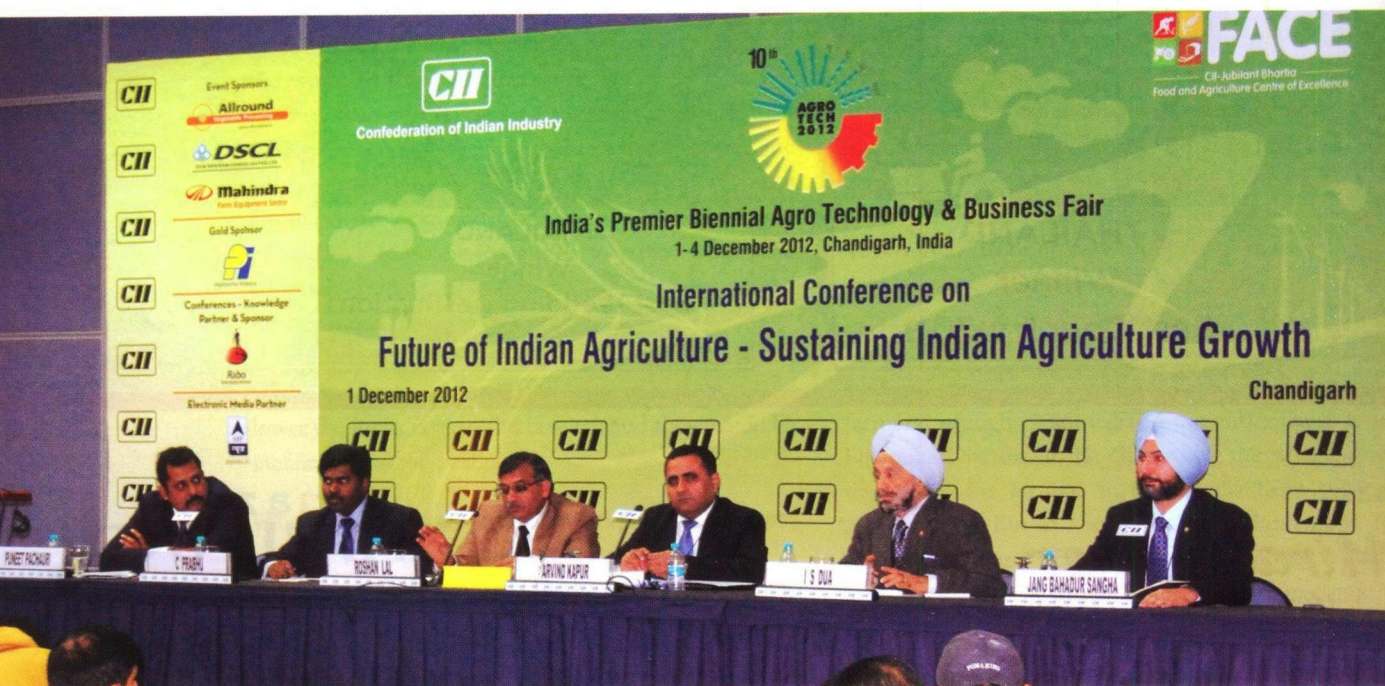
During the fair, a one day international

conference was held at the regional headquarters of CII in Chandigarh speakers from across the world aired their views on the agricultural issues.

PARTNERING FARM

On the occasion, Jang Bahadur Sangha, Managing Director of Sangha Seeds stressed on the farmers involvement in the all kinds of developments take place in the agricultural operations from warehousing to marketing.

He said, "We need to treat farmers as a partner in growth in the whole operation of warehousing, marketing and other activities. All kinds of trading, market rates should be online, so that they can be empowered. The agricultural universities should recommend





The migrating labours have stopped coming to Punjab and Haryana after launching of MNREGA. This is a welcome sign that they are getting sufficient job opportunities in their respective states. Why should they come here just to be a second class citizen

ROSHAN LAL

Principal Secretary,
Dept. of Agriculture, Haryana

Srikant Chundi, Vice President, DSCL tried to attract attention of policy makers and farm equipments manufacturing companies and said, "The rural people have better source of income than agriculture. So they are turning towards non-farming related business. We need to bring things farmer friendly to engage them in farm sector."

Dr. J. N. Raina, Head – Department of Soil Sciences & Water Management, Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry emphasised on water conservation and soil nutrition management and said, "Water



management is a critical issue in India as the country utilises it only two per cent of rain water. We need to take water conservation projects especially in the northern states of the country. In Punjab and Haryana, the farmers have exploited groundwater on large scale and the water level has gone down very deeply. We need to take it seriously otherwise; there will be no more water in the future."

PROVIDING FINANCE

Gokul Patnaik, Chairman, Global Agri System Pvt. Ltd focused on the risk management in agriculture and said, "If the farmers produce high yield, the prices go down and if they produce low, the prices shoot up. In this scenario, there is an insurance policy needs to be put in place. There is a very urgent need of insurance policies for farmers. That can give them surety of their products."

On the role of banks and providing finance to the urban people and ignoring farmers, he further added, "Banks are ready to finance those who do not need it but those who are in need, there are many excuses."

An agricultural consultant from Netherlands, Francois De Putter, Agriplan Consultants, thrown light on the agricultural scenario in his country and said, "The farming practice in Europe is very capital extensive. Five million euro is not enough to start farming in 100 acres of land. If you go to the banks, they are not ready to finance it. The per hectare output is very low so it's very tough to continue farming practices there."

He shared his personal experience in very light manner and said that his grandfather was a farmer, due to rising agri input cost, now we are not able to continue our old business, but running an agri consultant agency.

On the farming model and usage of heavy agri machineries, he further added, "One farmer in the Netherlands holds 100 acres of land, who uses lot of tractors, agri machineries and storage facilities. Just two or three people running the entire farming operation and produce five million tonnes of commodities." ■