

Newsletter “Food for Thought”

“FOOD FOR THOUGHT” was held in Social Activity centre, CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, on 8th May 2019, where innovative discussion was done on nine different topics. Experts gave concluding remarks along with their teams at the end of the event. Highlights of the discussion on each table are summarized in this special edition.



Table -1: Entrepreneurship in Educational Institutes

Entrepreneurship component should be implemented in all educational institutes. Training for becoming an employer rather an employee at the school level will definitely change mindset of students to inculcate entrepreneurship quality in them. Student awareness of govt. schemes and funding sources will attract them towards entrepreneurship.



Table -2: Start-ups – Prospects and Constraints

Impractical and impossible ideas are always a success in start-ups. Major constraints are majorly the lack of market knowledge, requirement of prototype for start-ups, awareness on incubation centres; make people aware of the product etc. Main mantra to succeed is to stick to quality, affordability and trust.

Table -3: Traditional Knowledge based Entrepreneurship

Integration of modern and traditional marketing can uplift traditional knowledge-based entrepreneurship. Bringing in unification to products with National Institute of Design, becoming a part of Khadi gram, a part of promotion of tribal hood, and also having collaboration with brand like Fab India can be few ways.



Table -4: Women Entrepreneurship

Women entrepreneurs face numerous challenges such as, unsupportive family, professional jealousy, insufficient capital money to start up, not able to fulfil market demand etc. Govt. support through more policies and funding on skill training of women on production, technologies and marketing strategies will be helpful in their marketing strategies and bring them into main stream business.



Table -5: Waste to Wealth

Novel idea like use of special type of sensor (solar light sensitive) attached with dustbin can be used for environmental remediation, use of liquid from heated wood as biopesticide, use of bricks preparation from stone dust and cement, can be few innovative ways to convert biowaste to wealth.

Table -6: Nature Inspire Healthcare

The burning issues like, govt. not taking steps towards destruction of rare medicinal plants due to deforestation, govt. not allowing these practitioners to plant valuable medicinal plants in protected forest areas should be solved with the help of scientific community along with local practitioners by identifying and validating the medicinal herbs and plants. More traditional healers' hospitals in the region should be opened just like the one in Dhemaji District of Assam opened in the year 2013



Table -7: Knowledge for Empowerment

Empowerment for farmers can only be possible by providing them skill training, protecting the farmers right of getting fair price of their product in the market, helping the farmers through govt. laboratories in improving the quality of their product (such as, lemon grass oil, citronella oil). Provision of better, smart and portable devices for analysis of quality of their product.



Table - 8: Agri-Entrepreneurship (Organic, GM & non-GM crops)

To have a successful Agri-Entrepreneurship, identification and solving challenges faced by entrepreneurs in the field such as insect management, testing facility at village level, technology hub for villagers, product and farm certification, promotion of organic farming, introduction of tested and improved varieties of crops from CSIR labs to the entrepreneurs, fund provision for start-ups, and influencing students community to Agri-Entrepreneurship.



Table - 9: Data Science for Sustainable Development

Data across the globe is growing exponentially and the main challenge is to convert the raw and unstructured data into structured form and make sense out of it. Predictive analysis of the data with the intervention of artificial intelligence and machine learning will be helpful for solving any community and societal problem. Generation, authenticity and validation of data collection of right kind will be important before documentation and digitalization of data.



Glimpses of "Food for thought"

