

Cold chain draws Govt attention

The government of India, on the basis of various industry recommendations, launched the newly formulated autonomous body: National Centre for Cold Chain Development (NCCD) with a high profile think tank conclave on 17th of July. NCCD is intended to serve as the nodal agency for India's cold chain development, the centre piece for all future support interventions to this sector. As a welcome change from the past, the NCCD has recognised the prime role of logistics and supply chain in the cold chain, evidenced by the establishing of a separate committee on Supply Chain & Logistics.

This committee is unique in its formation,



Pawanexh Kohli

a first for India and clear indication that integration as part of a supply chain and related logistics intervention is gathering primary attention in the country's cold chain development. While the committee is mandated to focus on the agricultural sector, this covers majority of the user segments in the cold chain. In communication with the newly appointed Chairman of the committee, Capt. Pawanexh Kohli, we were informed that the objectives of the committee include relating relevant technologies with supply chain processes which integrate the various links in the agri-produce supply system, to assess factors (national & local) that inhibit efficient and competitive movement of goods from point of origin

to domestic and international destinations. This would require considering infrastructure capacity, cross-modal connectivity, investment, regulatory, and intra-governmental coordination factors that affect supply chain competitiveness, goods movement, and sustainability.

The declared vision statement for this committee is to facilitate implementation of the policy of the Govt. of India / Ministry of Agriculture with focus to promote holistic integration in the supply chain which incorporates components of cold chain technologies, non-cold chain options, hybrid options, packaging and solutions to aid the foremost aim of

Such a committee could also aid in altering the opportunity outlook in the FDI in multi-brand debate, where efficiencies to India's supply chain are the primary off-takes. India's Logistics and Supply Chain organisations have frequently sought recognition as an industry from the government. The logistics sector has sought to be seen in representation and interpretation of existing policies from the supply chain business managers' perspective, in spirit of the true intent of government initiatives. This committee will help forward to this end by providing interface for proactive dialogue in matters with food supply chain & logistics thereby



enhanced market reach & realisation of agri-produce.

The committee is also entrusted with developing participatory thought leadership that encompasses economic, social, technical, environmental and legal aspects necessary to bring about integrations across stake holders in the total supply chain. This would include coordinating Supply Chain initiatives and industry initiatives undertaken by other agencies to build synergy between the operators and the managers. This supply chain & logistics committee would seek and recommend strategic inputs with a supply chain domain outlook, to assist in policy assessments and future formulations including on the National Green Grid for perishables.

providing an avenue for recommendations in supply chain processes and interventions focused on improving services, value creation and solutions that best suit the Indian backdrop.

It will be with interest that the nation's logistics sector will look on, to observe and take opportunity to participate in future developments in India's cold chain. The country was so far largely promoting the development of storage infrastructure within the cold chain. With the birth of a specialised supply chain committee, one can hope to see fresh strategy being developed on using such infrastructure in action thereby serving as effective links in an integrated supply chain practice.

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