

NCCD (India) and Cemafrroid (France) sign MOU on Cold-chain Development.

National Center for Cold-chain Development (NCCD) of India recently signed an MoU with Cemafrroid of France to jointly develop services of excellence, tailored to the needs of the cold chain industry.

On the evening of 3rd April 2013, a historic event occurred in India's cold-chain development. A path breaking MoU was signed between NCCD (National Centre for Cold-chain Development) and Cemafrroid of France. This MoU established the beginning of a long term association between the two organisations and was initiated almost a year ago as part of future steps in the implementation of the Indo-French Joint Working Group on Agriculture. The Indian dignitaries for the signing ceremony were led by Sanjeev Chopra (Joint Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Director NCCD) with Indra M. Pandey (Ambassador Designate of India to France), Capt. Pawanexh Kohli (Chief Advisor, NCCD) and Rakesh Sharma (First Secretary, Embassy of India). The dignitaries from France for the ceremony included Gérard Cavalier (President of Cemafrroid), Philippe Vinçon (Head of International Relations, Ministry of Agriculture), Cédric Prévost (Agriculture Attaché to Embassy of France in India), Patrick Antoine (President AFF) and Didier Coulomb (Director IIR).

This accord between NCCD and Cemafrroid is a milestone that heralds enhanced interaction between India and France in the field of cold-chain through knowledge sharing, technology development and capacity building. It is also expected that such close working will lead to pronounced business relations and promote mutually beneficial investments between these countries. On signing the MoU, Sanjeev Chopra maintained that this MoU signaled close working alliance

AFF (Association Française du Froid) and IRSTEA (Institut National de Recherche en Sciences et Technologies pour l'Environnement et l'Agriculture) and sponsored by different industry operators.

This 2nd IIR conference on cold-chain



between France and India in the field of cold-chain. This was reiterated by Vinçonand Cavalier who added that France is keen to participate more closely in this field and sees this as an opportunity for increased cooperation. Philippe Vinçon who jointly chairs the Indo-French Joint Working Group on Agriculture also added that this MoU was significant and strengthened France's relations with India, setting the stage for future collaborations.

Earlier, on the 3rd of April the Indian delegation headed by Sanjeev Chopra, attended the International Conference for Sustainability and the Cold-chain at Paris. The delegation included cold-chain industry representatives from the country. India was invited as the Guest of Honor at this global conference and the Chief Advisor to NCCD made the plenary address to this forum. In his address, Pawanexh Kohli emphasised the challenges and the major successes of India's cold-chain and provided an insight into the Indian government's policies. This conference forms part of the series to be held across the globe and was organized by IIR-IIF (International Institute of Refrigeration-Institut International du Froid), Cemafrroid,

focused on Sustainable Development and Future Technologies. The event, inaugurated by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture of France, involved a series of workshops over two days (3rd and 4th April 2013). The participants to this conference originated from over 30 countries, from the global scientific and business communities. A representative from BITS Pilani (India) presented a scientific paper on the behavior of Carbon Dioxide as a refrigerant specific to Indian conditions. Other focused topics at this global cold-chain conference included refrigerants of the future, modeling & predictive solutions, energy efficiency, transport & storage innovations, solutions for pharmaceutical cold-chain, packaging and monitoring ideas, food quality & safety and carbon footprints.

As part of NCCD and Cemafrroid cooperation, the Indian organization is planning to dispatch batches of students and trainers to Paris for specialized training in this field. Cemafrroid intends to participate in setting up of testing labs and accreditation centres with NCCD in India and will offer exclusive internship programs to NCCD members.

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