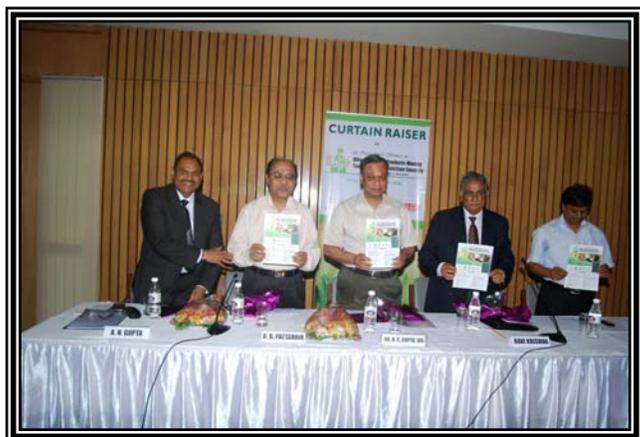




6th International Seminar on
**Wheat & Wheat Products-Moving
Towards Food & Nutrition Security**

February 10-11, 2012, New Delhi

CURTAIN RAISER



The **SIXTH INTERNATIONAL WHEAT SEMINAR**, with the title **MOVING TOWARDS FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY** will be held on **FEBRUARY 10 & 11, 2012** at New Delhi.

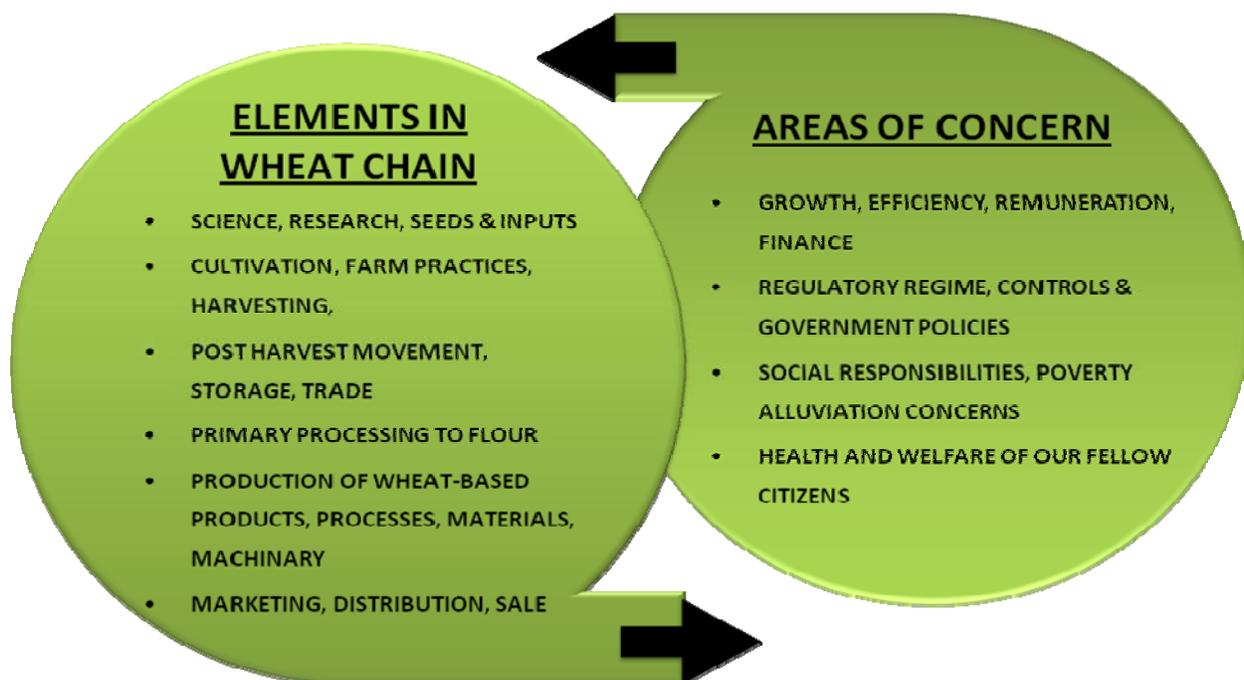
In order to announce and launch the Seminar, the Organisers held a curtain raiser on May 13th, 2011 at India International Center, New Delhi. **Dr. Bushan Chander Gupta, IAS, Secretary Government of India, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Food & Civil Supplies**, was the Chief Guest at a select gathering. The Seminar was formally launched by release of the first announcement leaflet. Union Food Secretary then opened the seminar web site by pressing the remote to display web page on twin giant screens placed on the side of the hall.

BACKGROUND & THEME OF THE SEMINAR

Wheat is the most important crop in India, effects livelihood of a large number of our people, and is of major importance among commercial crops globally. WHEAT system has a number of significant elements. Each sub-system has its own issues, and yet depends upon, & influences other sub-systems. Our Wheat Seminars have attempted to bring together different stake holders to one forum, to take a review jointly of global and domestic status, and to be informed of progress in each area, matters that are influencing change, and understand thought processes of other stake holders for bringing in elements of synergy.

Broadly, elements in the system can be grouped as:

At each sub-system, there are numerous considerations:



Each sub-system works within its own issues, and yet is dependant on, and influences other stake-holders. It is to understand this interdependence and dynamics that some visionaries among wheat system thought of bringing all stake-holders together on one platform to present to each other developments that are taking place, matters that are influencing change, and planning that is happening at each point for growth. Attempt was to bring about an open environment for mutual understanding of local and global issues, and pressures being faced and thought processes on plans to accelerate growth. Seminars have been organised jointly by Wheat Products Promotion Society, Society of Indian Bakers, All India Bread Manufacturers Association, and Roller Flour Millers Federation of India. We have received active support from all concerned of Govt. Ministries & Departments Of India, State Departments, Government Agencies, Research Agencies and Institutions from India and Abroad, NGO's, Organisations In Wheat Based Industries, vendors of materials, machinery and systems, Financial Institutions, & all other stake holders. Seminars have been attended by two to three hundred delegates, with thirty to forty speakers and presenters. Proceedings have been published to form a permanent record of reference.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT SEMINARS

Five International Wheat Seminars have been held since the year 2000.

First Seminar: WHEAT – FARM TO FOOD – FIRST DECADE OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM, September 15-16, 2000, Bangalore

Second Seminar: WHEAT & WHEAT PRODUCTS - GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES, September 27-28, 2002, Hyderabad

Third Seminar: WHEAT & WHEAT PRODUCT - EMERGING TRENDS & OPPORTUNITIES, March 7-8, 2006, New Delhi.

Fourth Seminar: WHEAT & WHEAT PRODUCTS - VISION 2020, February 8-9, 2008, Bangalore

Fifth Seminar: WHEAT & WHEAT PRODUCTS - TOWARDS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, February 19-20, 2010, Ahmedabad.

SIXTH seminar is planned for **Tenth & Eleventh February Of 2012**, to be held at New Delhi. It is proposed to focus on role of wheat system in tackling twin issues of sustained availability of basic food and combating menace of malnutrition among citizens of our country.

Title of the seminar is **WHEAT & WHEAT PRODUCTS- MOVING TOWARDS FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

FOOD SECURITY

We presently face a global food crisis, triggered by unprecedented rise in food prices, economic crisis, political uncertainties, natural calamities, an increasing food usage towards both feed and fuel, and increasing oil prices. Food inflation at retail level is at 18%. Such price hike is a food crisis for the poor. There is looming threat of Ug99 – a wheat disease which is threatening to destroy a crucial portion of the wheat crop, up to 80 percent globally.

We need to ponder on the question-does enough of food availability assure food to all? It is reported that 2500 children of less than five years age reportedly are every day in India due to malnutrition and poverty. This is a grave ground reality. It has been stated that there are 65.2 million BPL families, 81 million poor families and another 29 million poor middle class. Indian Constitution provides that it is duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health, and that The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties. The Rome Declaration (1996) made during the World Food Summit states that *'food security is achieved when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active life'*.

Three broader aspects of food security are

- Availability - ensuring adequacy of food supplies
- Distribution - maximizing stability of supplies
- Accessibility - ensuring access to food supplies by all who need them

A major thrust of the government has been to formalise through legislation a national commitment towards ensuring that basic food is available to all segments of society. Regulation, control, logistics and targeted delivery will be vital. Wheat system shall have major role, and Sixth Seminar will take a look at status of food security bill from point of stake holders in wheat system.

NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

Improved nutrition means improved work capacity and better productivity potential among the people. Nutrition is a bridge builder between agriculture, food, health, education, economics and general well being of the population.

There is need for improving access to healthy food, availability of appropriate nutrients, general affordability of nutrient-rich food, and awareness on importance of nutrients in regular diet of masses. There has been neglect of nutritional grains like millets which were traditionally rich sources of nutrition in large segments of the country. This has now to be made up enriching basic foods that makes for regular food intake.

Without an assurance of nutritional adequacy, food security has very little meaning. Unfortunately, we suffer from inadequacy of motivation on nutrition. Assessment of nutritional aspects of food security is evident from 2005-2006 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) data:

- Children: 45.9 %
- Anemic children: 79.2%
- BMI below 18.5 (women): 33 %
- Obese: 14%
- Increasing aging population

Mindset of present work environment must change, to give dynamic positive leadership, which should be responsible and responsive to needs of the society. Moral considerations alone should be sufficient to motivate us to improve our methods to help improve nutrition and reduce malnutrition. Food industry players and all stakeholders should become aware that their business is not just processing but providing food and nutrition for our people. Meeting food and nutrition needs is a challenging, fascinating and satisfying opportunity and let us put our endeavors to meet the challenge.

How do we achieve this? We must Facilitate partnership initiation, development, implementation, management and evaluation. Who needs to partner? All stakeholders in Industry, Government, academia, NGO's, civil society etc. What kind of Partnership? A proactive partnership with a periodic review, clear objectives , roles and understanding. A mission mode approach, without any blame game. There must be effective advocacy , communications and nutrition education and constant measuring of developmental benefits.

Wheat based products can play a vital role in tackling malnutrition. There are a huge number of initiatives in government, private groups & NGO's, and many success stories & examples to emulate. Seminar will try to bring out current status of work being

WHEAT PRODUCTION-FUTURE CHALLENGES

Projected wheat demand by 2020 is 109 MT. There are serious concerns over our ability to meet this target. India wheat output has been growing consistently for the last seven years and this trend is expected to continue in 2011-12 fiscal. Wheat output is expected to touch record levels of 84.27 in 2011-12. The government wheat stocks as on April 1, 2011 were 15.36 MT against 16.13 MT a year ago. This is still more than the requirement of 4 MT to meet buffer norm and 3 MT as strategic reserve. The projected of world wheat production is 672 MT for 2011-12 which this is 22 MT more than the year before, but less than 2 MT from last year. International food prices are expected to continue on a rising curve.

Seminar will look at Global scenario and National status. Eastern region states like Bihar and Jharkhand are projected to be gaining importance as centers of growth. Farmers' perspective on practices, cost and prices and motivation must receive special attention. Innovations in achieving efficiency and farm productivity, and use of technology will be brought out.

WHEAT TRADE, HANDLING & LOGISTICS

Sessions on Wheat Trade will discuss demand & supply and issues relating to commodity exchanges, export and international trade, financing and tariffs. Major immediate concern is of storage at bulk and farm level, and innovative actions that are needed from all stake holders will be brought out. Government policies which support private public partnership and subsidies to farm level storage will be highlighted. Discussions will try to cover all aspects of post harvest management of wheat.

PROCESSING – VALUE ADDITION

Majority of wheat is used after minimal processing rather than in value added products. However, wheat based producers of ready for consumption form a large industrial segment. There are more than 1000 flour mills, and a milling capacity of 15 to 16 MT across the country. Due to prevailing conditions, most of flour mills are grossly underutilized and are not economically viable. At local level, there would be around 100,000 small chakkies producing whole wheat flour wheat.

Bakery and biscuit demand has been growing at about 15% annually. Demand will be driven by easy availability of affordable ready for consumption foods. Wheat based foods can play an important role in providing easily available, hygienically packed foods for all segments of population. Large volume of bakery foods are consumed in non-urban areas.

There are more than 200,000 small bakers in unorganized sector and about 1000 units in medium and large scale, including key large player of international stature. This industry has seen development of technological expertise and also tremendous entrepreneurship development. The wheat based industries are a large source of employment, both at skilled and general level. This can be exploited by a supportive growth oriented environment.

At present, center and state governments apply different tax structures. Both wheat and wheat products are lowest cost foods available to masses. Bread and Biscuits are lowest cost ready for consumption foods, which are hygienic, wholesome, and carry nutrition. A level playing for the industry at the national level is missing. The wheat based industries are a large source of employment, both at skilled and general level. This potential can be exploited by a supportive growth oriented environment.

POLICIES AND REGULATION

Regulatory policies, Government directives and plans, effect wheat businesses in their operations. Industry works within the framework of government policies, and seminar will try to bring out current status and implications.

- Procurement and Distribution Policies – OMS, PDS, ICDS.
- Agriculture Produce Marketing – Status and Complications.
- Food Safety And Standard Bill – Implementation And Implications.
- General Sales Tax and Vat.

OTHER ISSUES

- Seminar will be over 8 to 9 sessions, spread over two days. Speakers with specific domain knowledge will be invited to make studied and focused presentations.
- Eminent persons will Chair and Co-Chair each session.
- Interactive discussions with questions from the audience.
- Reporteur make summary and recommendations, which will be presented at closing session and widely circulated.
- Seminar document will be put together and published as a volume for information and reference.

COMMENTS & REMARKS



Dr. Bushan Chander Gupta commended the manner in which International Wheat Seminar had been planned. He emphasized the importance of sharply focused presentations that brought out the issues which are relevant to finding solutions for growth. He said that such seminars can fill the need to bridge the gaps between the scientist, technologist, entrepreneurs and the beneficiaries. The small entrepreneur needs to be encouraged for the innovative work which is required to combat malnutrition. There should be involvement of industry with the institutes & universities for transfer of technology and implementation of results of research.



Mr. B. B. Pattanaik, Managing Director, Central Warehousing Corporation and member of advisory panel of the seminar recalled his association with International Wheat Seminars since that time idea took shape. Previous seminars have been successful and this event should be very useful, looking at the theme adopted. Need to highlight issues of wheat storage will be of significance, as the government schemes for help in creating privately owned storage systems are in place and benefit should be taken by stake holders. Mr. Pattanaik assured his support in making the seminar successful.



Dr. H. S. Gupta, Director IARI, PUSA, and member of Advisory Panel remarked that Nutritional security as a theme topic is appropriate, as tackling mass malnutrition should be with multi pronged approach. Cereal scientists are working on Bio-fortification of Food Staples to Improve Human Nutrition. Wheat varieties with higher presence of iron and essential nutrients can go a long way in improving public health. He stressed need to come up with newer techniques to tackle the problem of malnutrition, if we aim to achieve food & nutrition security.



Dr. R. Sankar, Special Advisor & Regional Manager, South Asia, GAIN, in his address stressed that malnutrition due to micronutrient deficiencies is the major area of concern for India. Our success stories of growth have been through strength of our intellectual work force. Micronutrient deficiencies that affect brain development will push the country into a downward spiral of Intellectual dwarfism. Flour fortification offers if not complete but a significant solution to the problem of malnutrition in our country.



Dr. C. K. Pandav, Professor and Head, Center for Community Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences complimented the organisers on objectives selected for the seminar, which are significant to public health issues in the country.



L2R:

Mr. Adi Narayan Gupta,
 Mr. B. B. Pattanaik,
 Dr. Bhushan Chander Gupta, IAS,
 Mr. Ravi Krishna,
 Dr. H. S. Gupta
 and Mr. Prem Goyal



Mr. Prem Gupta, Hony. Treasurer, WPPS, introduced the honorable chief guest and other dignitaries and moderated the program.



Mr. Adi Narayan Gupta, Chairman, WPPS, welcomed all on the behalf of the Organizing Committee.



Mr. Ravi Krishna, Chairman, Organizing Committee, International Wheat Seminar gave details of the seminar.



Mr. Vinod Kapoor, Executive Committee Member and Past President, WPPS, in his address covered issues related to food and Nutrition security.



Mr. R. K. Garg, President, Roller Flour Miller's Federation of India, threw light on tax and economic issues.



Mr. J. N. Kushawaha, President, Society of Indian Bakers proposed the vote of thanks.