

KINFRA BOOSTS KERALA SELLERS AT 'INDUS FOOD 2018'



A delegation from Kerala led by Wing Cdr. K A Santhosh Kumar (Rtd.), Managing Director, Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA), attended the 'Indus Food 2018' – an international food show-cum-reverse-buyer-seller meet organised by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) and Ministry of Commerce, Government of India in Greater Noida recently.

The Kerala Pavilion was sponsored jointly by KINFRA and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC). The state pavilion consisted of 13 fully-furnished standard booths which were utilised by the exporters from the State. Participant-exporters from Kerala showcased their products, catering to international markets.

Akay Flavours and Aromatics Pvt Ltd., Amalgam Frozen Foods Pvt. Ltd., AB Mauri India Pvt. Ltd., Unipulp Agro Industries, Aksa Food & Spices Pvt. Ltd., Tropicana World Trade Pvt. Ltd., Tasty Nut Industries, Sreelekshmi Cashew Company, N S Cashew Company, Kumar Cashews,

Mebran Spices Pvt. Ltd., Palakkad Coconut Produce Company along with Dinesh Foods and Raidco Kerala Ltd. were the exporters who took part as exhibitors from the State.

In addition to the booths for display of products, the event also included sessions with various stakeholders. A highlight was the presentation titled 'Agro and Food Processing Sector in Kerala – Potential and Opportunities' made by KINFRA. Manu George, Strategist, KINFRA also attended.



'Indus Food 2018' enabled the participant-exporters from Kerala to meet buyers from different parts of the world and learn about various products and services from across India. The opportunity was also utilised to promote KINFRA Mega Food Park at Palakkad. The salient features of the project and brochure were presented to participants. KINFRA also took part in meetings with Oman, Iraq and Vietnam delegations.

Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Industries and Commerce, inaugurated the event. The key objective of conducting 'Indus Food 2018' was to promote India as a major supplier of food and beverages in the international market. An exclusive B2B meet, without any participation from the public, 'Indus Food 2018' facilitated exhibitor-buyer meets through the online event portal and also offered exhibitors the opportunity to invite buyers through Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI).

The co-sponsors of the event included Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Tea Board of India, Coffee Board of India, Spices Board of India, Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Indian Confectionery Manufacturers Association (ICMA), Soya Bean Processors Association of India (SOPA), the Solvent Extractors Association of India, the Society of Indian Bakers (SIB) and Indian Oil-seeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC).

PHD SCHOLARS FIND TRUE CALLING

In the last four years, more than 65,000 students have secured PhD degrees in India. While this is a laudable feat, for scholars, finding suitable employment continues to be a challenging task, be it in India or abroad. This is especially true when it comes to finding a job in their respective core area of study. But this group of young industrious PhD scholars in Chemistry from Kozhikode has a different story to tell. They too failed to find the right job, but refused to give up and shrink their profile to that of tutors at coaching centres. Instead, they decided to tilt the startup environment in Kerala in their favour. That was the birth of 'Amplicon BioLabs' at KINFRA Techno Industrial Park at Kakkanchery in Malappuram district.

Setting a new standard in the field of quality assessment, research and training, the operation of Amplicon BioLabs was inaugurated by Dr. P Mohan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Calicut in December last. Kishor Kumar, Project Manager, KINFRA Park in Kakkanchery unveiled the logo of Amplicon Bio Labs.

The pioneering research and analytical laboratory service has been started by a group of young scientists who recently secured their PhDs in Chemistry, Biotechnology and Life Science from University of Calicut. The new startup entity under KINFRA offers quality assurance and contractual research services to industries, public, researchers and students.

The research expertise of the lab is poised to extend an extensive range of proficient services in quality assessment, analytical testing, genomics, bioinformatics and microbiology. The lab also boasts of a strong Research and Development wing to provide holistic solutions to clients.

"Our vision is to become a comprehensive lab offering flawless qual-



KISHOR KUMAR, PROJECT MANAGER, KINFRA TECHNO INDUSTRIAL PARK LIGHTING THE LAMP AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY

THE FIRM GIVES QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CONTRACTUAL RESEARCH SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC, INDUSTRIES, RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS



ity assessment services, supporting researchers and students with right guidance and training by simplifying the process profitably," says Akhilesh V P, the Managing Partner of Amplicon BioLabs.

The main services offered at this startup laboratory are water quality assessment and analysis, sensory, physical, chemical and microbiological analysis of water, food product testing services for industries, soil testing, and nutrients and pH sample testing for agriculture purpose.

The lab will provide a platform for researchers and other institutions which require the facility and equipment. "Here, we conduct analyses of samples. Normally, in such cases, clients may not have required apparatuses and equipment to hold tests. That's why we call it contractual research services," he adds.

Amplicon BioLabs also offers skill development and training programmes for researchers, students

and academicians in various disciplines of life sciences.

Courses offered for research students have been authored and tweaked by learning specialists and are curated by experts. Bespoke training systems and modules, according to Akhilesh, are the best in the industry.



AKHILESH V P AND VIJESH VARGHESE

KINFRA allotted space for Amplicon BioLabs after the PhD holders applied under the startup program of the State Government. Akhilesh, along with his business partner Vijesh Varghese, availed bank loan to set up the facility. The group is planning to expand the operation with the help of KINFRA in the coming months.

KERALA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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