



**Embassy of India
Abu Dhabi**

Press Release - Virtual Networking Meet on Agricultural & Food GI Products

Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), India jointly organised an India-UAE Virtual Networking Meet on Indian Agricultural & Food Geographical Indication (GI) Products on 28 October 2020.

The meeting was attended by more than 80 participants from both sides including senior officials from the Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi; APEDA; Ministry of Commerce, India and representatives from UAE's leading supermarket chains Lulu Group, Al Maya Group, KM Trading, Spinneys, India-Arab Spices besides, major food exporters or importers from India and the UAE.

H.E. Mr. Pavan Kapoor, Ambassador of India to the UAE in his address highlighted the importance of nurturing powerful and unique agricultural brands which can help farmers gain a competitive advantage in 'buyer-driven' global markets. He spoke of India-UAE historic people-to-people relations and a strong cultural affinity with familiar cuisines and tastes. Ambassador Kapoor mentioned the important contribution of the Indian agricultural sector to the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. A self-reliant India in agriculture and food would largely benefit global food security with India's increasing contribution to global supply chains for farm produce. He highlighted the strategic significance attached to food security by the UAE and assured that India will remain UAE's trusted partner in meeting these objectives including through establishment of dedicated food corridors.

Dr. M. Angamuthu, Chairman APEDA in his remarks highlighted the efforts made by APEDA in promoting exports of agricultural and food GI products, including through special promotion strategies. On this occasion, an e-catalogue containing details of GI Food products and list of participating companies from both India and the UAE was jointly released by Ambassador Kapoor and Dr. M. Angamuthu, Chairman APEDA.

Besides being the leading producer of several agricultural commodities, India has a distinct advantage of having registered geographical indication (GI) for several agricultural and food products. Presently, India has 370 registered GIs, including 130 in agriculture and food. From Basmati rice to Kashmiri Saffron and from Assam Tea to Bikaneri Bhujia, there are many food products that have received the GI tag and are popular across the globe.

The networking session facilitated the interaction and tie up between participating Indian and UAE companies to explore and promote new business partnerships.

Abu Dhabi
28 October, 2020