

VOTE OF THANKS

K. S. RAJU, Co-Chairman, The Fertiliser Association of India, New Delhi



Hon'ble Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Steel, Dr. J. S. Sarmagaru, Secretary, Fertilizers, Mr. U. S. Jha, Chairman, FAI, Mr. R. C. Gupta, Deputy Director General, FAI, Members of the Board of FAI, Distinguished Delegates and Invitees.

Last year, I was amazed by observing the depth of the knowledge of the Hon'ble Minister. This year, I am even more amazed by seeing his deep knowledge of the whole agriculture sector. In spite of having such a wide portfolio, i.e., Chemicals, Fertilizers and Steel, the Hon'ble Minister is able to rattle out so much statistics, I am sure, he will be able to give the whole sector a new vision and a new capability to the industry to back his vision. We are indeed grateful to you Sir, for having spared your valuable time today in this seminar of 2007. Although you have spoken in Hindi, I hope, many of our foreign delegates also captured the senses.

I wish to give just a little response about the new investment policy for the

fertiliser sector. We are actually eagerly looking forward for a policy which will attract new investment in the fertiliser sector. But the existing industry cannot continue under the present state of affairs because of the abysmally low profitability. We are with the Government in terms of availability, production, distribution of fertilisers and also for the developmental activities with the farmers. But unless the industry becomes financially strong, cash flow to create new capacity may be a dream. Since, new investment policy is coming, alongside a policy for the current investment is also needed, because the current players in the fertiliser sector have to come forward for new investment.

I thank the members of the diplomatic core and the senior Government Officials for their esteemed presence. We are thankful to Dr. Sarmagaru, Secretary, Fertilizers, for his esteemed presence. This year the response to the seminar has been as overwhelming as in the past. Over 1200 delegates, including 150 foreign

delegates are participating in this year's seminar. We are indeed grateful to all the distinguished guests and delegates for their presence. We would like to thank, particularly, His Excellency, Ambassador of Jordan, Mr. Luc Maene, Director General, IFA, Paris, Mr. Amit Roy, President and CEO, IFDC, Muscle Shoals, USA, and all the speakers for being with us this afternoon.

This time, we have chosen the theme of *Holistic Approach to Agriculture and Fertilisers*, as it is most appropriate. We need to bring a paradigm change in the whole fertiliser and agriculture sectors. We take this opportunity to thank all the authors for preparing excellent papers. These papers are extremely relevant. Our hearty congratulations to all the award winners. We are particularly grateful to the award committees for selection of the best awardees as the companies look forward to the compliments for the special efforts made by them.

We are indeed grateful to the advertisers, the sponsors of the supplement in the newspaper and those who have availed the table space.

We are thankful to the Press, AIR, Doordarshan and other representatives of the media for their presence and seek their active support for coverage of the event today.

We are also grateful to the MMTC, New Delhi for financing the reception today and the Management and staff of the Hotel Ashok who have been hosting us for so many years traditionally.

May I thank all of you once again for making this occasion a grand success.

Thank you.