

Welcome address by Srivatsava Ganapathy, President, Foretell
Business Solutions Private Limited

Respected dignitaries on the dais, His Excellency **MOHAMMED BADARU ABUBAKAR, Honourable Executive Governor of Jigawa State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr. HakanBahceci**, Group CEO, HakanAgro DMCC, experts, speakers and panellists, representatives from government and government – sponsored organisation, industry colleagues, press and media, ladies and gentlemen, a very warm welcome to you all to the inaugural edition of World Sesame Convention 2019. Welcome to the Istanbul and hope you had a comfortable journey into Istanbul.

At this inaugural edition of World Sesame Convention, we have amidst us over 307 delegates gathered here from 34 countries around the world. This is in itself a proof that the industry is keen on a global platform for sesame, the production, processing and use of which for health, nutrition, taste, environment and cultural and many other reasons are growing phenomenally around the world.

The World Sesame Convention is organised by Sesame information.com, an information service portal owned by Foretell Business Solutions Private Limited, Bangalore, India. This platform is created because of all of you and it would grow as you aspire it to grow. So, at the outlet, although we put it together, its always your support and inspiration that pushed us to work on this platform which we aim to make it as inclusive, growth and development oriented and agnostic to a country or region.

An international conference of this nature is not possible without the support of sponsors, partners and supporting bodies. We place of sincere thanks to all of them for reposing their faith on this initiative and sincerely believe that it would be beneficial for them.

We have been tracking agro-commodities for over 20 years as an organisation. Our understanding of sesame sector has grown immensely, thanks to this initiative. The role played by the technical advisory committee in shaping the programme agenda and selecting the speakers is incredible. I am deeply indebted to the committee for their time and support. The fruit of their labour is unfolding now. I am sure you would enjoy it.

So, what's lined up for you in the next two days. We have an interesting mix of presentations and panel discussions on both the days. Broadly, today we would deal with supply side of the value chain. Accordingly, in the morning, we would discuss on crop situation, and in the post lunch trade related aspects of sesame seed along with sustainability going forward. Post these, between 3:30 pm and 6:00 pm we have organised a buyer-seller meet, where one to one meeting can be facilitated.

Tomorrow, we will begin with an open house on "Sesame Council" and then, would understand more about the consumption trends in Japan, Israel and Turkey. We would also have a presentation on the recent technological advances in Sesame processing. We have tried to provide a lot of time and opportunity for networking, visits to exhibition booth over the next two days.

We have tried to leverage technology tools. First, over 75 of you have already used 'connect hub' service to fix appointments. You can still make use of it by simply going to www.sesameconvention.com and clicking on "Connect hub" link. Contact our team for getting login and password details.

Second, during the conference, you can post your questions by going to the browser, www.slido.com and using passcode "wsc2019".

Last and most interesting, we encourage each one of you to post updates related to conference in the facebook handle @sesameinformation. The most active participant would stand a chance to win a 100-gm silver coin tomorrow by the close of the conference.

With the commencement of the conference the journey has begun. By working closely, we can make this journey a fruitful one for all of us. This is your platform. Let us build it together for the better sesame industry.

With these words, I wish each one of you here a very successful conference and best wishes.

Thank you very much.