



Comment board



*Associate Professor **Dr. Manorama Kanuri**, Department of Biotechnology, ANGR Agricultural University, India.*

Participant, workshop on Applications of Nanotechnology in the Food Industry, Thailand, 15–19 June 2009.

“The workshop was one of the most interactive workshops that I have ever attended. Participants from various countries had different levels of basic knowledge about nanotechnology and

its applications. Once the four resource persons had disseminated basic knowledge regarding various aspects of nanotechnology applications, the floor was left to the participants to share knowledge with respect to their own countries. Field visits were then arranged to strengthen the knowledge base of participants. The last day was the highlight, with participants invited to give their views on how to go about taking the technology forward, including charting the most and least promising applications. It was an all-round knowledge-sharing exercise, where brainstorming brought out the best of ideas from people with different specializations in different Asian countries. Such a session conducted at the right time before real takeoff of the technology will surely help commercialization.”

*Associate Researcher **Dr. Mei-Ping Cheng**, Livestock Research Institute, Council of Agriculture, Republic of China.*

Participant, multicountry observational study mission on Waste Management in the Agroprocessing Industry, Republic of Korea, 16–19 June 2009.

“It was a great experience to participate in the study mission. I learned a lot from the presentations of resource and country papers. The best parts of the program were the site visits and group discussion. We saw the operation of technologies with our own eyes, asked many questions to evaluate the technology, and then shared opinions on how to apply the technologies and practices we learned from the presentations and visits to our own countries. To me, this mission was

not only a study of technology, but also a chance to see the problems and issues in the field of waste management in Asian countries. Based on the information and knowledge I gained from the project, I will make more research efforts on the utilization of waste as an energy resource in my country. I hope that all the participants will find the best ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste in their own countries.”

*Director **Prasanta Kumar Swain**, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, India.*

Participant, workshop on Planning and Management of Rural-based Agroprocessing Enterprises, Indonesia, 11–15 May 2009.

“The workshop was held to understand the level of development of rural agroprocessing in the Asian region and establish business plans for those enterprises. The workshop found out that while dairy processing has progressed well owing to excellent value chain linkages from farms to retail outlets, the development of processing of perishable horticultural produce is at various levels in the region owing to different growth of supporting institutions, policy interventions, and entrepreneurship. It was also confirmed that agricultural universities and allied research institutes play a major role in introducing innovative, appropriate energy-efficient technologies for rural agroprocessing and extension activities. Major problems faced by rural-based agroprocessing enterprises were identified such as the provision of clean water in rural areas, supply of energy for processing units, and access to credit and market information systems at both macro and micro levels. Participants agreed that given the small and marginal nature of farm holdings in Asia, it is essential to form clusters of growers to aggregate farm produce for economy of scale and effectively link them to both markets and processing units. Participation in the workshop was very important for me since India has embarked on development of the horticulture sector. Hence the growth and development of rural agroprocessing will be a key focus in the national growth strategy.”