**Press Release**

**Delhi Roadshow Led by PWD Minister, Mr. Yunus Khan**

**RAJASTHAN STRONGLY PITCHES FOR ‘GRAM’ AND INVESTMENT IN AGRI SECTOR**

**Jaipur, August 05, 2016**: Rajasthan today strongly pitched for investment in agri sector as well as proactive participation in the ‘Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet 2016’ (GRAM 2016) at a roadshow in Hotel Taj Mahal in the national capital today. The Rajasthan delegation led by Shri Yunus Khan, Minister for Public Works Department (PWD), Government of Rajasthan said that the primaryobjective of ‘GRAM 2016’ is to ensure the economic empowerment of the farmers through accelerated yet sustainable growth in agriculture and to double farmer’s income by 2022. Farmers at the event would be taught various new techniques to be used which would help them to earn more yields. For example, they will be educated about the methods of drip irrigation which will help them to overcome drought like situations. The event will also highlight new regulations,grants and policies of the Rajasthan State in agriculture and allied sectors. He invited farmers and industrialists to partner with Rajasthan in agri and related sectors.

The Minister further said that the state offers various diverse agri zones that are perfect for crops such as Oranges, Kinnu, Mustard, Soyabean, Moong, Moth, Bajara, Khejari, Sangli, Dates, etc. 40% of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor falls in the state. There are promising opportunities in Dates, Olive production and Dairy Business. On the other hand, the government is also focusing to enhance the income of farmer by felicitating them with skill development & training, setting up farmer information centers. Agri sector contributes to 31% in state’s growth and we are aiming it to increase by 50%. The state is pioneer in labour law reforms. We are focusing on MSME investors so that the farmer can get better profits. Imbibing the belief of *Atithi devo bhavah*, I welcome the investors with our very own saying *Padharo Mhare Desh”.*

The Principal Secretary, Urban Development & Housing, Mr. Mukesh Kumar Sharma and Principal Secretary, Agriculture & Horticulture, Ms. Neelkamal Darbari, Director, Horticulture, Mr. VP Singh and the Advisor of FICCI for Agriculture & Food Processing, Mr. Pravesh Sharma were also present on the occasion.

Rajasthan shall showcase investment opportunities in the sector involving products like pressure irrigation, solar pumps, custom hiring of farm machinery & implements, farm mechanisation, agro-processing etc. The international event - with representations from Netherlands, Israel, Australia and Canada - will be attended by over 50,000 farmers.

This event will feature an Exhibition showcasing strengths of the Rajasthan agricultural sector, Live demonstrations of latest agro technologies and equipments, B2B& B2G meetings with national and foreign partners, Conference on knowledge sharing and best agri practices and a networking session between the agri industry, academia and policy makers including Government officials. It will provide a common platform for bringing everyone involved in the full value chain of agricultural ecosystem – farmers, academicians, scientists, technologists, agribusiness companies and policy makers.

GRAM will also offer a platform for companies and service providers to showcase their latest offerings and global best-practices in farming & allied activities to over 50,000 farmers. Rajasthan is a strong performer in agriculture with ten agro climatic zones.

GRAM 2016 – being organized in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) - is an attemptto make the farm sector to move up the value chain, attract Agri businesses, processing, packaging industries in the Agri and allied sectors.

Further information at <http://gramrajasthan.in/index.html>or com.astana@mea.gov.in