

PRESS RELEASE

Visit of Indian food & agri products business delegation led by Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) to Bahrain from 02-03 November 2022

A 40 member Indian delegation representing 21 food & agri business companies and 3 Farmer Producer Organizations led by FIEO visited Bahrain from 2-3 November 2022 to explore possibilities of further expanding trade and investment relations between the two countries in this important sector. It is one of the largest ever Indian business delegation in this sector visiting Bahrain.

2. Embassy of India, in partnership with Bahrain India Society, organized a networking and B2B meet on 2nd November 2022 for the visiting delegation which was attended H.E. Mr. Mohamed Al Kooheji, Second Vice Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI), Mr. Abdulrahman Juma, Chairman of Bahrain India Society, Mr. Ahmed Sultan, Executive Director, Bahrain Economic Development Board, Mr. Faisal Al Sari, Chief of Food Control Section, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Bahrain, and more than 100 senior officials, and Indian and Bahraini businessmen. During the event, Bahrain Economic Development Board gave a presentation about incentives and benefits offered by Bahrain for establishing production units, businesses/ joint ventures in Bahrain and for making Bahrain hub for expanding their business to entire Gulf and MENA region. Ministry of Health, Government of Bahrain also gave a presentation about sanitary and phytosanitary measures, food licensing, packaging and labelling requirements in Bahrain related to import of food articles.

3. Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Ambassador Piyush Srivasatava said that India aspires to turn the traditional trading relations in this sector into a strategic one and intends to be a partner of Bahrain towards its food security efforts. He highlighted significant opportunities for investment in food parks in India, and Government of India's focus on ensuring seamless quality certification of products to be exported, for which the government has recognized 220 labs across India to provide services of testing to a wide range of products and exporters. Highlighting strong historical relations between the two countries, Mr. Mohamed Al Kooheji said that there is still immense scope to further increase bilateral trade and commerce. Mr. Abdulrahman Juma stated that two countries should expand their collaboration in research & technology in areas of mutual interest besides focusing on increasing bilateral trade.

4. Earlier in the morning of 2nd November, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) organized a B2B meeting for the visiting delegation in their premises which was attended by more than 80 companies. The delegation also visited Lulu, Aljazira, Megamart and Bahrain Dalla for Food Factory Company- major hyper/ supermarkets and food manufacturers of Bahrain- to have an understanding of the local market.

5. Earlier, a 13 member food and beverage delegation led by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) had visited Bahrain in September 2022. India's agricultural products global exports had grown by 20% during 2021-22 to cross USD 50 billion. Food and agro products are major component of India-Bahrain bilateral trade and constitute approximately 15% of India's total export to Bahrain. India, traditionally, is a major supplier of rice, meat, sugar, spices, fruits and vegetable to Bahrain. In recent times, Indian processed food products, organic and healthy food items & dairy products are also getting popular in Bahrain due to their high quality and reasonable pricing. India-Bahrain bilateral trade took a quantum leap in 2021-22 and reached its highest ever level of USD 1.65 billion.

6. The visit of FIEO delegation is expected to open up further avenues to Indian and Bahraini companies to expand business and collaboration in agro and food sector.

Bahrain

06 November, 2022

<u>Photos</u>

1- Networking Event















2- BCCI Event







3- Visit to Supermarkets





