

**PRESS RELEASE  
DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF DELHI  
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI**

27TH NOVEMBER 2021

**Hon'ble Deputy CM inaugurated India's first 'Smart Urban Farming Expo' at Thyagaraj Stadium today**

**The two-day urban farming expo is being organised by DDC in partnership with Urban Gro, ISAE and IARI**

**Every person's life is led through agriculture so we are all 'Krishijeevi' in that sense. The adoption of urban farming is the need of the hour to ensure food quality and security and to ensure every person can experience the joy of farming from their homes: Sh. Manish Sisodia, Dy CM**

**Delhi government will initiate a mass movement towards urban farming so that it reaches every rooftop and balcony. Over 400 orientation workshops will be organised in various areas of Delhi to make people aware of the outlook, technology and latest trends in urban farming: Sh. Manish Sisodia, Dy CM**

**Urban farming shouldn't remain an elite concept. DDC will work jointly with IARI and all partners to simplify the process and increase its reach to the masses: Jasmine Shah, Vice Chairperson, DDC**

**PUSA Institute will readily extend research support for training to urban farmers: Dr. A K Singh, Director, IARI**

NEW DELHI:

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Shri Manish Sisodia inaugurated the two-day 'Smart Urban Farming Expo' today, being organised by the Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC), in partnership with Urban Gro, Indian Society Of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) and Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI).

India's first fair specialised in urban farming is being organised in Thyagaraj Stadium, INA, Delhi on 27-28 November 2021 in order to start a movement towards mass adoption of urban farming in the national capital. The expo includes sessions on the new frontiers in urban farming, its associated technical (horti-engineering), business, economic, social and environmental aspects.

The Chief Guest at the event, Shri Manish Sisodia said that the expo is being organised with the futuristic vision of bringing a new revolution of urban farming in Delhi so that it reaches every rooftop and balcony in Delhi. The adoption of urban farming is the need of the hour to ensure food quality and security and to ensure every person can experience the joy of farming from their homes. He said, "Every person's life is led through agriculture so we are

all 'Krishijeevi' in that sense. In villages, agriculture and social media co-exist but in urban areas, people are more dependent on social media and tend to forget the role of farmers in sustaining us through the year."

He noted that one of the drawbacks of our education systems has been that the role of the producers has not been adequately emphasised. Demeaning the value of work done by farmers has led to many challenges like food insecurity and food quality crisis and adopting urban farming can help city-dwellers better appreciate the intensity of work and care it takes to grow food at a larger scale.

He said, "Around 400 - 500 orientation workshops will be organised in various areas of Delhi over the next few months in partnership with Delhi Government, and those interested can be inducted for a week-long training where they will be further made aware about the outlook, technology and latest trends in urban farming."

Sh. Jasmine Shah, Vice Chairperson, Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi welcomed all urban farming enthusiasts and experts to the first-of-its-kind expo. He said that urban farming has emerged as a booming industry in cities like London, Singapore etc. and in some countries like Cuba, around 60% of vegetables are produced by urban and peri-urban farms. He noted that despite curiosity for the same, urban farming in India has remained an elite concept limited to the segment of trading farmers and has still not gained enough prominence among common people.

He said, "As the think tank of the Delhi Government, the Dialogue and Development Commission is committed to making Delhi the innovation capital of the country. When Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Arvind Kejriwal decided to distribute Pusa bio-decomposer, a highly effective microbial solution for stubble management, among Delhi farmers free of cost, he set an example of the things that can be achieved if governments and research institute partner and work together."

Tracing his personal journey as an urban farmer, he said that the biggest gap he identified was the access to knowledge regarding the same for common people in urban areas. He said, "The government's motivation is that the expo does not just serve the purpose of knowledge exchange among professionals to bring world-class innovations to Delhi but the two-day deliberations at the expo should be able to simplify the process and increase its reach. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister's presence today is a marker of Delhi Government's commitment towards making urban farming a mass movement."

Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa said, "The expo is dedicated to discussing urban farming which has emerged as a great alternative in the context of population increase, urbanisation, reduction in agricultural land area and decline in quality of natural resources. Building systematic urban farming projects should be integral to urban planning for smart cities. Seed varieties need to be bred and developed for the particular circumstances of urban farming and Pusa Institute has pioneered the technology for vertical farming, aeroponics, hydroponics, protected cultivation etc. We will readily extend research support for the training of farmers in the same.

Dr. Indra Mani Mishra, President, Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) said, "Through Delhi, the message is for the country that smart urban farming is a need for people in urban areas to grow their own nutritious food and avoid residual fertilisers. Working with nature and a healthy diet will lead to a stronger, disease-free citizenry who can build a healthy and strong country."