



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Panel Discussion on “Road Map for the Food Processing Sector in Jammu & Kashmir: From Raw Produce to High-Value Products”

Awantipora, September 17, 2026: A panel discussion on “Road Map for the Food Processing Sector in Jammu & Kashmir: From Raw Produce to High-Value Products” was organized on the sidelines of JK Science Congress-2026.

The event was attended by Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, and Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir. Dr. Tahmeed Aijaz, Head, Department of Food Technology, delivered a presentation highlighting the prospects and potential of food processing in Jammu & Kashmir.

The programme began with a welcome address by Dr. Farhana Mehraj, while the panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Basharat Yousuf.

The panel brought together experts from academia, agriculture, horticulture and industry, including Mr. Shafat Sultan, former Managing Director, J&K HPMC; Prof. F. A. Masoodi, Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology, University of Kashmir; Ms. Shafiq Khalid, Chief Horticulture Officer, Budgam; Mr. Altaf Andrabi, former Director, Agriculture, J&K; Mr. S. Parveez Qalander, Industrial consultant; and Mr. Ab Rashid Chadinoo, Managing Director, Aarafh Foods Pvt. Ltd.

The discussion emphasized the need for an integrated farmer-to-consumer value chain, covering scientific post-harvest management, processing, food safety, packaging, branding and market access. The panellists highlighted the importance of reducing post-harvest losses, promoting value addition and strengthening linkages among farmers, research institutions, government agencies and industry. Need for strengthening of food safety and regulation measures was also emphasized.

The experts also stressed the need to promote technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, skill development and MSMEs to enhance the competitiveness of J&K’s food products and generate employment and rural economic opportunities.

The deliberations concluded with a call for a coordinated, policy-oriented roadmap for strengthening food processing and value addition in Jammu & Kashmir.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Aamir Hussain Dar.