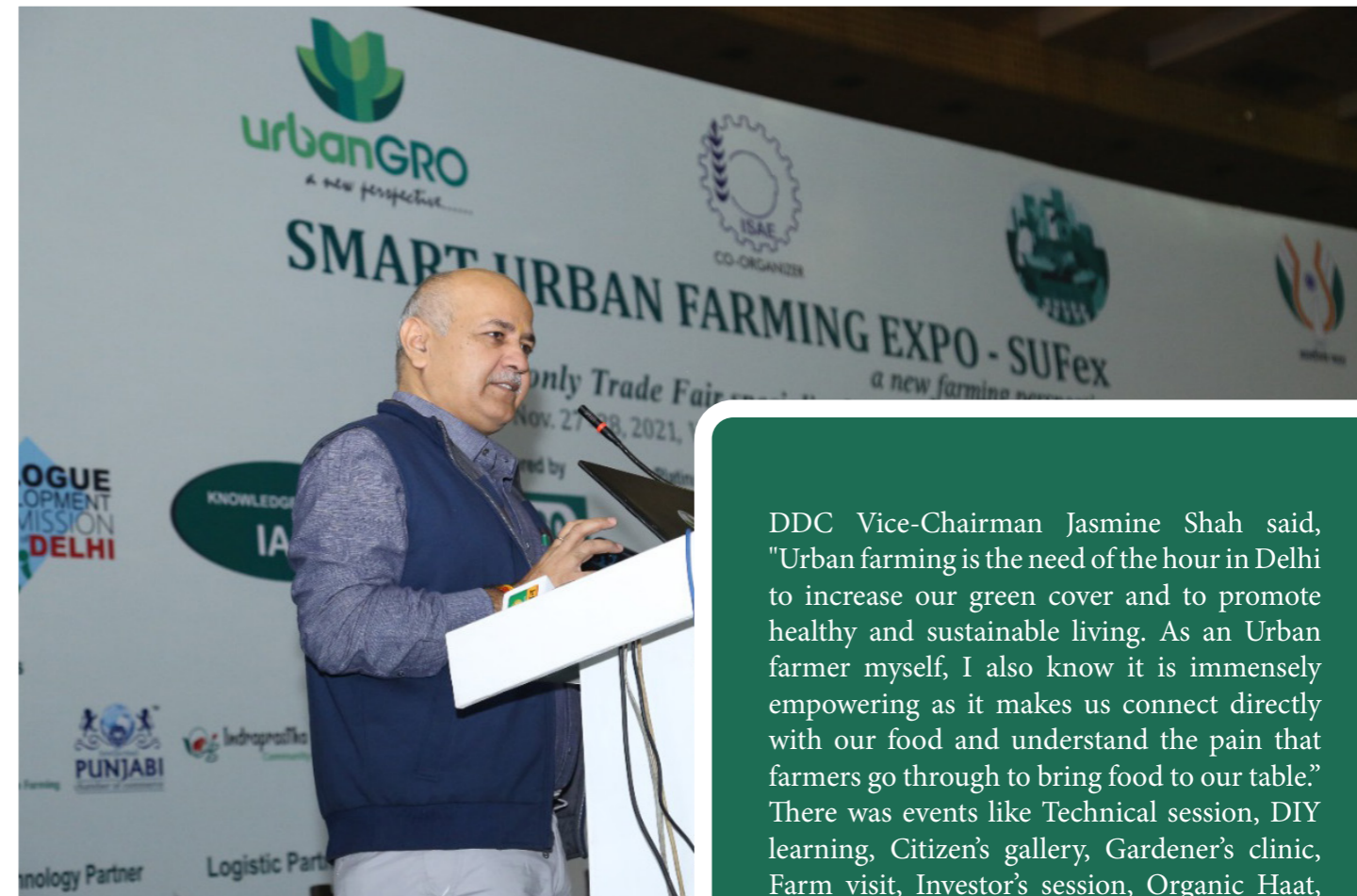


SMART URBAN FARMING EXPO



The Delhi government initiated the first step for a unique event by organizing a two-day 'Smart Urban Farming Expo' at the Thyagraj stadium on 27th and 28th of November, 2021. It was first of its kind, India's trade fair specialized on Urban Farming. The Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC) partnered with Urban Grow, the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) to organized the event. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was the Chief Guest of this Grand Event. He said that expo organised with the futuristic vision of bringing a new revolution of urban farming in Delhi to reach every rooftop & balcony of delhi.

The two-day fair covered new frontiers in urban farming and discussions on case studies in smart urban gardening and vertical farming.

The Expo mainly focused in promoting urban farming and its components i.e. soilless farming (aeroponics, hydroponics, aquaponics), vertical farming, indoor farming, roof terracing, apiculture, smart gardening and landscaping. Many urban farming-based companies like Aeroganics, Greenspace, AS Agri and Aqua LLP, Rivulis, Delia, Barton Breeze, CV Hydro had put up their stalls in the expo and showcased new technologies and new inventions to visitors. The Chief Guest of this expo was Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. He inaugurated this expo and said that it was the first trade fair focused on Urban Farming. He also stated that Urban Farming was our need and dream too. This was also a futuristic reason to promote Urban Farming in Delhi.



DDC Vice-Chairman Jasmine Shah said, "Urban farming is the need of the hour in Delhi to increase our green cover and to promote healthy and sustainable living. As an Urban farmer myself, I also know it is immensely empowering as it makes us connect directly with our food and understand the pain that farmers go through to bring food to our table." There was events like Technical session, DIY learning, Citizen's gallery, Gardener's clinic, Farm visit, Investor's session, Organic Haat, Women empowerment and Awards ceremony. Visitors came to the expo to learn more about Urban Farming and its components. People also bought products which were showcased in the fair. The main objective of this Expo was to promote Urban Farming techniques and to reach out this technique from door to door, balcony to balcony and expand the technology in most urban cities. Scientists from IARI, Industrialists, Training Co- Ordinators and Researchers should come forward to promote and provide trainings to enthusiastic people who are interested to start their business and launch start-ups based on Urban Farming. We must think that Urban Farming is not just an industry or market but a lifestyle. India is an Agriculture based country in the world. Many people spend their entire life on agriculture. Due to modernization young people migrate to urban cities from village areas. People often forget the hard work of farmer's contribution in daily life. Invention of new technologies are very good but farming should also be equally focused on. New generation people must adopt the agriculture technologies in their daily life.



Here are some initiatives if implemented, will promote Urban farming like Dr. Doshi method which are fully organic production that can be installed in terraces, balcony, backyard of houses. In Mumbai, the Mumbai port trust started organic farming on terraces. In Hyderabad, Government took initiatives to promote urban farming where the products were sufficient for fulfilling the demand of vegetables for around 4000 families. Government of India should definitely promote Urban Farming and explain its benefits to the urban people by organizing such kind of expo, exhibitions or agriculture fairs. Urban Farming should be included in school syllabus to create awareness about modern agriculture practices. Trainings should be provided on topics based on Urban farming to farmers, entrepreneur or youths. Government subsidies should be provided to the people who are willing to start Urban farming practices. Marketing of the products should be done with the help of Government organizations. This way Urban Farming can be promoted among the farmers and can be accepted by people as a part of Agriculture.

This expo was just an initiative to showcase that everyone could start farming from their small balcony. If Urban Farming is adopted in modern lifestyle people will also respect the farmers. During this Pandemic situation Agriculture is the only sector that showed positive GDP.

There are so many advantages in Urban Farming like Nutritional and food quality aspects, health benefits, environmental benefits, proper utilization of time, socioeconomic development, employment generation of youth and so on. Alongside there are some disadvantages also as there is not much acceptance of this kind of farming amongst the traditional farmers. The farmers seem less ready to accept advanced methodology of farming practices. Also, the initial setup and input costs are quite high.