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Moringa: A Crop of Future

Keynote / Inaugural Address

of

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in

Brain Storming Session on Moringa,

Organized at

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore
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Moringa: A Crop of Future

H.P. Singh¹

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. I am happy to be here amidst you, to discuss about a way for accelerated development of Moringa with the experts, who have assembled here to attend "**Brain Storming Session on Moringa**" organized jointly by project coordinator AICRP and Deans of college of Horticulture TNAU. *Moringa oleifera* of the family Moringaceae, referred as Moringa or drum stick, has attracted the attention of scientist across the globe for health management due to its high nutraceutical traits. Thus, it is emerging as future crops considering its wider adaptability and tolerance to many abiotic stresses. Accordingly, it became essential to take stock of knowledge and develop a road map to harness its potential for the benefit of farmers as well as consumers. This consultation meeting assumes much greater significance, now to understand the crop and devise a means for harness its potentiality.

2. Moringa, an indigenous plant, is now valued for providing the fruits for vegetable with nutraceutical traits. Leaf, flower, bark, root and even wood are also used. Thus is considered as one of the world's wonder crop, packed with nutrients in all its plant parts. Traditionally, Moringa was used by people to prevent and protect various physiological disorders, since it contains 7 times more Vitamin-C than orange, 4 times more calcium than milk, 4 times more Vitamin than carrot, 2 times more protein than milk and 3 times more potassium than banana, besides, its richness in iron. What is the task now is to have more scientific data of its usefulness, cultivars and production technologies for higher profitability and capture the food and beverage market as food supplements.

¹ Deputy Director General (Horticulture) Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II, Pusa Campus, New Delhi 110 012, Keynote address for Brain Storming Session on Moringa to be held on 23, September, 2010 at TNAU, Coimbatore.

