

रोहित कुमार सिंह  
भा प्र से  
Rohit Kumar Singh  
IAS



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आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव

सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग  
Secretary  
Government of India  
Department of Consumer Affairs

D.O. No. N-20/7/2021-P&C

06<sup>th</sup> July, 2022

Dear Prof. Singh,

One of the objectives of the Department of Consumer Affairs is ensuring availability of quality essential commodities to the consumers at affordable prices. Among these, one of the critical commodities is Onion whose price often fluctuates significantly due to several factors. Besides, due to improper storage systems, some estimates put the annual losses to be substantially high. Leveraging advanced technology to improve the ecosystem of onion storage and supply chain besides value addition and food processing is definitely the need of the hour.

2. This Department is organising a Grand Challenge for development of "Technologies for Primary Processing, Storage and Valorization of Onions". There are **four verticals** of challenge viz.

- Improvements in the designs of storage structures
- Pre-harvesting stage
- Primary Processing
- Valorization: Value addition and utilisation of onion waste

3. Students (UG/PG/Diploma), Research Scholars, Faculty and other individuals having interest in this area are welcome to participate in the challenge. The challenge is being rolled out in **three stages**: (1) Ideation to Proof of Concept stage; (2) Proof of Concept to Product stage; and (3) Field implementation. There will be evaluation of ideas, technology solutions at the three stages by a high level committee comprising eminent experts. Also, there is **prize money** for the shortlisted participants and winners at each stage. Further, it would also give the participants exposure to the challenges being faced by the agriculture sector.

4. A **brochure** of the grand challenge having details of the challenge is enclosed herewith for reference. I shall be grateful if you could publicize the challenge and encourage the participation from your institution on [dca.gov.in/goc](http://dca.gov.in/goc).

5. Looking forward to your active support in the Grand Challenge on Onions.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

(Rohit Kumar Singh)

Professor Yogesh Singh,  
Vice Chancellor,  
University of Delhi,  
Delhi – 110 007.  
Encl : As above.

