

# BAA and EPCH organise interactive seminar on GST and CITES

18th August 2017; New Delhi



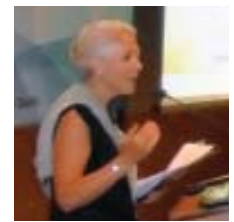
*Eminent members of exporting fertility and buying agents at the seminar*



*Mr. O.P. Prahladka, Chairman, EPCH*



*Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, BAA and Executive Director, EPCH*



*Ms. Christine Rai, Gen. Secretary, BAA and CEO, Indian Inc.*



*Ms. Ruma Malik, Vice Chairman, BAA and CEO, Something Else*



*Mr. Prabhakar Panda, technical expert on CITES*



*Mr. Manoj Kumar Goyal, CA and expert faculty on GST*



Buying Agents Association (BAA) and Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) organised an interactive seminar on GST and CITES, on 18th August 2017 at New Delhi. This saw an attendance of 90 people from the buying agents' fraternity.

The objective of the seminar was to address the impact of GST on buying agents and to update the participants on CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Ms. Christine Rai, Gen. Secretary, BAA and CEO, Indian Inc., initiated the program and Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH, welcomed the participants.

Mr. O.P. Prahladka, Chairman, EPCH, in his address, acknowledged the contribution of buying agents in shaping up the industry. He explained how working on capacity building, FDI, cluster development, increasing exposure of NER products, product development, technology, skill development and exploring new markets, would pave way for a promising future for the entire handicrafts exports industry.

Ms. Ruma Malik, Vice Chairman, BAA and CEO, Something Else, made an engaging presentation on how and why the Buying Agents Association was created, what has been

achieved so far and what it has set out to collectively achieve for the fraternity. She briefly touched upon BAA's ideologies and how one can benefit by being a part of it.

Speaking on the impact of GST, CA, Mr. Manoj Kumar Goyal explained, "GST applies to buying agents as they fall under the "Intermediary" category of the GST act. In the GST regime, there are 36 different Jurisdictions through which Tax Admin will take place. Those working out of more than one State will have to get themselves registered multiple times. GST is to be borne by buying agents as the location/place of supply is India."

Mr. Goyal advised a 'way forward' would be to "redefine" what a buying agent is and their services. Here, BAA can play a major role in getting together buying agents from other export promotion councils, towards a collective endeavour.

Technical experts on CITES, Mr. Prabhakar Panda who represents the implementing agency for EPCH's Vriksh certification, detailed on Vriksh audit & certification and CITES certification. He explained to the gathering about the procedure of getting Vriksh Shipment Certificate and how the process has been simplified and undertaken in a time bound manner. Mr. S S Bhatnagar, Founder Member, BAA and Chairman, Sakshay International, proposed the vote of thanks. ■