

Ditch unhealthy munching, go for Dutch veg snacking options

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Lucknow: Instead of munching biscuits to beat hunger pangs, have you ever thought of snacking on sweet tomatoes, sweet peppers, or cucumber? If you haven't come across these options, then you must explore vegetable snacks options at the Netherlands pavilion stall at Krishi Bharat 2024 Expo in Vrindavan Yojana.

To promote healthy snacking, several sweet vegetable options produced with the help of Dutch technology are on display. Along with the world's largest potato seed producer, potato snacks processing solutions, vegetable processing technologies, and much more have been exhibited at the agriculture expo.

As many as nine Indian companies showcased technologies that ensure the yield of fresh fruits and vegetables, longer shelf life, 96% water sa-



Dutch snacks on display

ving, and pesticide and chemical-free produce grown with the help of Dutch technology.

Talking to TOI, Ambassador of the Netherlands to India Marisa Gerards shared information about the Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence (CoE), which is a collaboration between India and the Netherlands to promote sustainable food production and agricultural technology.

The CoE programme includes showcasing technologies that help farmers produce safe and sustainable food, offering training programmes for farmers, entrepreneurs, and extension officers, producing and distributing quality plan-

ting material and seeds, and exploring possibilities in agri-horti tourism.

"With the help of Dutch technology, we have come up with vegetable snack options, a healthy replacement for unhealthy snacks we usually have during our office hours or at home. We offer a variety of small, bite-sized vegetables that are convenient and healthy to eat on the go. These include familiar options like tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers, as well as more unusual choices like radish, celery, melon, snack lettuce, kohlrabi, and cauliflower," said Ajit Kumar, general manager of a Dutch vegetable breeding and seed production company. "Our vegetable processing machine offers good sorting, grading, washing, polishing, brushing, weighing, bagging, and material handling of potatoes and onions," said sales head Mohd Faruk from a company that specializes in machinery, processing lines.