FOREWORD

 The introduction of plastics is a milestone in the Indian Packaging Industry, which challenged traditional concepts and changed the face of the industry. Plastics packaging is the fastest growing segment of the industry and is considered the wonder material of the new age.

The dynamic nature of plastics to be ahead of time keeps the industry in the limelight, always ready for innovation, R&D and adaptation to changing times, tremendous growth is being witnessed in the food processing and packaging industries. This should give a boost to marketing our products and adding value to agro-horticultural products, specially for exports.

Positive attributes have clearly established 'preferred' status for plastics in packaging. Safety and hygiene factors have voted them 'in' for food packaging. Despite the growth in popularity of food packaging in plastics, all has not been rosy for the industry. Many popular misconceptions like plastics contributing to environmental pollution, being non-recyclable, non-existent laws for food safety and hygiene in plastics need to be rectified and the air cleared for the discerning public to understand the issues concerned in the right perspective.

I am indeed happy to note that the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) and Indian Centre for Plastics in the Environment (ICPE) have prepared this eminently useful reference publication **'Plastics for Food Packaging'.** The publication covers exhaustively many important aspects that are of great concern to the food packagers, plastic packaging manufacturers and the increasingly environment - conscious consumer public. Topics covered include food safety, food packaging laws and standards, applications, plastic packaging and the environmental issues besides profiles of the industries. In this context **'Plastics for Food Packaging'** could not have appeared at a better time. My hearty congratulations to the Indian Institute of Packaging and ICPE for pioneering such a worthwhile project.

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