



FOOD PROCESSING

A TOOL FOR VALUE ADDITION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY

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Introduction

India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables, rice, wheat and many other cereals in the world. Overall, it is the third largest producer of agricultural produce in the world is it plant based, animal or poultry based or marine based products. In spite of being, one of the largest producers, India houses 25% hungry and poor population of the world. Enough production does not mean that it will provide sufficient access for food & nutritional security to all. Study indicates that >70% of our

population consumes <50% of the RDA of micronutrients. We know that Majority of agricultural commodities are perishable in nature. Today, we need adequate processing facilities and infrastructure for value addition of commodity to avoid its wastage. In India only 1-2% agriculture commodity is processed which is quite low, hence it possess huge scope and opportunity to build India healthy as well as wealthy.

Why We Need Food Processing as Tool for Value Addition of Agriculture Commodity?

According to a report of CIPHET, Ludhiana, 'Quantitative Harvest and Post-harvest Losses

of Major Crops and Commodities in India is almost INR 920 billion (USD 13 billion) per

annum in which highest loss is of cereals which worth about Rs. 20,700 crores and the second & third highest losses are in fruits and vegetables Which stands at Rs 16, 650 crores and INR 14, 850 crores respectively

A report of CSR journal says that “**Indian’s waste as much food, as the whole of United Kingdom consumes**”.

According to FAO, one-third of total global food production is wasted annually. Globally



1.4 billion hectares of land is devoted to producing food that is ultimately lost.

Today, when one out of every nine persons in the world is starving, food wastage is a significant cause for it which leads to malnourishment and hunger. Hence, we need urgently food processing as tool for value addition of agriculture commodity



Benefits of Food Processing to Indian Economy

- The food processing industry is an important part of the Indian economy.
- It accounts for about 10% of India’s GDP and employs around 15 million people.
- The size of food processing industry is about INR 5.1 trillion and it is growing at the rate of about 17.8%. However, the share

of processed food industry in total food consumption in India is 32% only.

- This sector is multiplying rapidly and is estimated to reach a value of Rs. 3, 00,000 crore by 2025.
- There are many opportunities for investment in the food processing sector, and it offers good returns on investment.

Strategy To Use Food Processing as Tool for Value Addition

- Organizing marginalized and unorganized farm sectors towards ensuring minimum harvest and post-harvest loss.
- Creation of backward and forward linkages between agriculture produces and food processing industry.
- Strengthening infrastructure for establishing integrated cold chain, improving the supply chain and quality assurance infrastructure.
- Providing training in entrepreneurship development and skill development through NGOs, KVKs etc.

- Setting up of Mission on Food Processing in every part of the country.
- Creating, Expanding, processing/, preservation capacity and agro processing clusters.
- Bringing innovations in technology at both easy and affordable range.
- Creating Awareness about benefits food processed and attracting larger investments in this sector.
- Formulating suitable food safety regulations for its controlled and smooth functioning.

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