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NEED OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT:

Food processing industry is of enormous significance for India's development because of the vital linkages and synergies it promotes between the two pillars of our economy, industry and agriculture. India produces about 450 million tons of raw food materials of plant and animal origin which are refined, stored and transformed into various usable products using conventional and modern postharvest and food processing technology. Estimated value additions to the raw food materials through primary and secondary/tertiary processing in India are 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. The major segments in the Food Processing sector comprise of fruits and vegetables, dairy, edible oils, meat and poultry, non-alcoholic beverages, grain-based products, marine products, sugar and sugar based products, alcoholic beverages, pulses, aerated beverages, malted beverages, spices, and salt. Out of these segments, dairy (16%), grain based Products (34%), bakery-based products (20%), and fish and meat products (14%) contribute to a major portion of industry revenues, apart from the manufacture of beverages.

KEYWORDS

Food Processing Industry , economy, industry and agriculture.

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INTRODUCTION:

Food processing industry is of enormous significance for India's development because of the vital linkages and synergies it promotes between the two pillars of our economy, industry and agriculture. Fast growth in the food processing sector and simultaneous improvement in the development of value chain are also of great importance to achieve favorable terms of trade for Indian agriculture both in the domestic and the international markets. The sector however has to go a long way. Even important is the crucial contribution that an efficient food processing industry could make in the nation's food security for instance the post-harvest losses of selected fruits and vegetables are about 25 to 30 per cent in our country. Even marginal reductions in these losses are bound to give us better returns and thereby improve the income level of the farmers.

Table: Production of Fruits and Vegetables in India.

Year	Fruits			Vegetables		
	Area (million Ha)	Production (Million Tonnes)	Growth Rate	Area (million Ha)	Production (Million Tonnes)	Growth Rate
2002-03	4.8	49.2	--	5.9	84.8	--
2003-04	5.1	49.8	1.22	6.7	101.4	19.57
2004-05	5.3	52.8	6.02	7.1	108.2	6.71
2005-06	5.3	55.4	4.92	7.2	111.4	2.96
2006-07	5.6	59.6	7.58	7.5	115	3.23
2007-08	5.8	63.5	6.54	7.8	125.9	9.48

Source: National Horticultural Board, 2007-08

The production of fruit in India, shows detailed in the above Table shows an average production of 55.05 Million tones over a period of 6 years starting from 2002-03 to 2007-08. It was 49.2 Million tonnes in 4.8 Million Ha in the year 2002-03. A slight increase in the area of the land showed almost the same in 2003-04. In 2004-05 there was some increase in production in 5.3 Million Ha, in 2005 and 2006 the production increased considerably in the same extent of land of 5.3 Million Ha. The production remarkably increased in 2006-07 to 59.6 Million tones in almost the same extent of area of 5.6 Million Ha. In 2007-08 only 1 Million Ha of area increased but the production was increased by about 14 Million tones.

NEED OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY:

India produces about 450 million tons of raw food materials of plant and animal origin which are refined, stored and transformed into various usable products using conventional and modern postharvest and food processing technology. It involves operations like cleaning, grading, drying, storage, milling, packaging, transport, marketing and utilization. At the end of each operation, value is

added to the product. The lowest and the highest monetary values of a food commodity are, respectively, when it is in raw and fresh form and when it is in processed and ready to consume form. Post harvest and food processing technology are commodity and location specific. It enhances and augments per capita food availability form a unit arable land and other resources by preventing avoidable post harvest losses and adding value to the fresh agro-produces. It also creates opportunities for employment and income generation. Integration of production agriculture with on-farm primary processing is needed to have higher and sustainable production, productivity and better quality end products for domestic and export markets. It, therefore, demands establishment of Agro Processing Centers in the production catchments itself to facilitate backward linkage with farmers, have fresh and best quality raw food materials for processing and value addition, minimize material movements, check migration of rural people to urban areas for jobs and thereby reducing pressure on public utilities in urban areas. Such centre would be a very strong tool for rural reconstruction and its upliftment. It would help in reducing rural urban disparity and ensuring household food and nutritional security for all at an affordable cost.

The technology is available but political will and commitment is required to implement the program to shape a new India in the new millennium where everyone would be healthy and happy. It is in the interest of the nation and its people. In India, the post-harvest losses are to the tune of Rs. 76,000 Crores per annum, giving out a gruesome picture of industry. A substantial amount of these losses could be prevented if appropriate agro-processing centers having backward linkage with farmers to ensure constant supply of quality raw food materials are established and operated. The two major goals of Post harvest technology are loss prevention and value addition to the raw food commodities through preservation and processing. Raw food materials are cleaned, graded and then they are either stored or processed. Processing is done to make raw commodities edible through primary and secondary processing and ready to eat through tertiary processing. Estimated value additions to the raw food materials through primary and secondary/tertiary processing in India are 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. Now, we will explore some of the conventional and improved agro processing technologies which are used in food processing industry. Indian food processing industry is growing at a healthy rate, and two sectors which are driving the growth are dairy sector and horticulture sector.

MAJOR SEGMENTS IN THE FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR:

The major segments in the Food Processing sector comprise of fruits and vegetables, dairy, edible oils, meat and poultry, non-alcoholic beverages, grain-based products, marine products, sugar and sugar based products, alcoholic beverages, pulses, aerated beverages, malted beverages, spices, and salt. Out of these segments, dairy (16%), grain based Products (34%), bakery-based products (20%), and fish and meat products (14%) contribute to a major portion of industry revenues, apart from the manufacture of beverages.

1.Fruits and vegetable: Fruits and vegetables processing is dominated by unorganized players, who occupy a share of 70 per cent in the total market size. Over the last few years, the industry has witnessed rapid growth of Ready to Eat foods, frozen vegetables, processed mushroom etc. The major challenge with this sector is unavailability of infrastructure facility to store produce. The cultural preference for fresh fruits and vegetables dominates over processed items.

2.Dairy: The current size of the Indian dairy sector is Rs. 3133.50 billion and has been growing at a rate of 5 per cent a year. The dairy sector is mainly unorganized due to which the products do not match international standards. In 2011, the value of milk output from livestock is around Rs. 2.4 lakh crore and the value of dairy products market is around Rs. 4 lakh crores.
3.Meat and Poultry: Entry of many organized players like Godrej, Venkateshwara Hatcheries, Suguna poultry etc. in meat processing and packaging has accelerated growth of this industry segment. Meat production is estimated at 6.5 MT during 2007-08, which is around 2 per cent of world meat production. The contribution by bovine, ovine, pig and poultry is 43 per cent, 12 per cent, 8 per cent and 37 per cent respectively.
4.Fish and marine products: The dietary habits of the people all over the globe are changing fast and India is gearing up to produce and supply value added products in tinned packs by adopting the latest technologies and by tapping the unexploited and under exploited fishery resources. Value addition has been considered as the thrust area. Indian seafood processing units are being encouraged to go in for value addition and export through setting up new units, expanding their capacity and diversifying their current activities etc for value addition. The export of marine products has steadily grown over the years-from a mere Rs. 3.92 core in 1961-62 to Rs. 8607.94 crore in 2008-09. Marine products account for approximately 1.1 per cent of the total exports from India.
5.Snacks: The Indian snacks market is estimated to be worth Rs. 150 billion with the organized segment accounting for half of the market share and is growing at a rate of 15-20 per cent. The unorganized share is roughly Rs. 75 billion and is currently growing at a rate of 7-8 per cent. Potato chips and potato based products occupy almost 85 per cent share of the Indian snack market.
6.Beverages: The market for carbonated drinks in India is worth US$ 1.5 billion while the juice and juice-based drinks market accounts for US$ 0.25 billion. Growing at a rate of 25 per cent, the fruit-drinks category is one of the fastest growing segments in the beverages market. Major food processing states in India are Andhra Pradesh (13.4% of India's food processing industry, and a centre for fruits, vegetables, grains and livestock products viz. Poultry, dairy, fisheries, meat, etc.), Gujarat (12.7%, and a centre for edible oils and Dairy), Maharashtra (14%, and a centre for fruit, vegetables, grains, and beverages), and Uttar Pradesh (12%, across almost all product categories). There is uneven development of food processing industries in India, most of the states have not fully capitalized their resources, and most of the produce is getting waste.

CONCLUSIONS:

Food processing industry is of enormous significance for India's development because of the vital linkages and synergies it promotes between the two pillars of our economy, industry and agriculture. India produces about 450 million tons of raw food materials of plant and animal origin which are refined, stored and transformed into various usable products using conventional and modern postharvest and food processing technology. Estimated value additions to the raw food materials through primary and secondary/tertiary processing in India are 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. The major segments in the Food Processing sector comprise of fruits and vegetables, dairy, edible oils, meat and poultry, non-alcoholic beverages, grain-based products, marine products, sugar and sugar based products, alcoholic beverages, pulses, aerated beverages, malted beverages, spices, and salt. Out of these segments, dairy (16%), grain based Products (34%), bakery-based

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