



Scire Science Newsletter

Scire Science Newsletter 1(1), 2017

An Open Access, Online Newsletter Available at <http://www.scire.co.in/newsletter.php>

2017, Lakshmi and Hanumantharaju

DOI:<https://doi.org/10.25129/SSNL2017.155>

Food processing and its importance in India

Lakshmi HR* and Hanumantharaju KN

*Department of Biotechnology, Basaveshwara Engineering College,
Vidyagiri, Bagalkot, 587102, Karnataka*

**Corresponding author: lakshmihr017@gmail.com*

Available online: October 2017

Introduction

As per Ministry of Food Processing of India (MOFPI), the term 'food processing' is mainly defined as a process of value addition to the agricultural or horticultural produce by various methods like grading, sorting and packaging. In other words, it is a technique of manufacturing and preserving food substances in an effective manner with a view to enhance their shelf life; improve quality as well as make them functionally more useful. It covers a wide spectrum of products from sub-sectors comprising agriculture, horticulture, plantation, animal husbandry and fisheries. It also includes other industries that use agricultural inputs for manufacturing of edible products.

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 favourable 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.

India is ranked 5th in the world in terms of production, consumption and export of processed food. It is a leading producer of quite a few agriculture based and dairy based items. It is ranked 1st in the world in production of rice, milk (Fresh, Whole, Buffalo Milk), pulses, ginger, chick pea, and fruits such as banana, guava, papaya and mango. India also holds 2nd position in the world in production of wheat, potato, garlic, cashew nut, ground nut, dry onion, green pea, pumpkin, guard and cauliflower. A good agricultural and dairy produce enables India to expand its food processing industry and meet the global demand easily after satisfying the domestic needs. The

*Food processing and its importance in India
2017, Lakshmi and Hanumantharaju*

macroeconomic environment offers immense opportunities for growth and investment to the registered players in the industry and has the potential to boost the national economy. The industry employed more than 1.3 crore workers directly and about 3.5 crore indirectly in 2008-09. According to an estimate of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the sector may generate employment of 0.9 crore people days in the next ten years. The registered units in the organized sector are expected to lead the employment generation in the FPI.

A strong and dynamic food processing sector plays an important role in diversification of agricultural activities, improving value addition opportunities and creating surplus for export of agro-food products. Among various agro industries, food processing industries are more material incentive, and thus, process a greater potential to revitalize agricultural growth by strengthening forward and backward linkages with farmers, and speed up the process of commercialization and diversification of agricultural production. Food processing accounts for about 14% manufacturing GDP, i.e. Rs. 2,80,000 crore, and employs about 13 million directly and 35 million people indirectly. The food industry of India provides nearly 60% of all job opportunities by directly employing around 1.6 million workers. Also, it is the fifth largest industry in the country in terms of production, consumption, export and growth.

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 from 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.

Processed Food

Disease reduction is an important benefit of food processing. As raw food begins to rot or spoil, it becomes contaminated by molds and bacteria that may cause you to get sick. Processing methods destroy those harmful pathogens. Processing foods also makes it possible for manufacturers to provide consumers with a greater variety of foods. The people can enjoy processed food items that are out-of-season or not native to the region. Processed foods are also easy to prepare and less time consuming than making a dish from scratch.

Advances in food science and technology

Drying, canning, chemical preservation, refrigeration (chilling and freezing), and nutrient conservation and fortification were the significant advances of the 19th and 20th centuries and permitted population growth in more developed countries. Such population growth could only occur if there was sufficient food. The industrial revolution could not have occurred without a food delivery system that allowed people to leave the farms, migrate to the cities, and engage in useful production of goods and services for society. Among the important developments during the early part of the 20th century were the discovery of vitamins and the realization of the importance of other micronutrients such as iodine, iron, and calcium.

National mission on food processing

The national mission on food processing was approved by the Government of India with an outlay of ` 1600 crore during the period 2012-17. The share of the central and the state government was ` 1250 crore and 350 crore respectively. The schemes taken up under the mission included:

- Scheme for technology upgradation/ establishment/ modernization of food processing industries
- Scheme for cold chain, value addition and preservation infrastructure for nonhorticulture products
- Setting up/ modernization/ expansion of abattoirs
- Scheme for human resource development (HRD)
- Scheme for promotional activities
- Creating primary processing centres/ collection centres in rural areas
- Modernization of meat shops
- Reefer vehicles
- Old Food parks

Conclusion

Growing industrial sector is crucial to greater economic development and particularly in an emerging country like India, where growth with equity is a primary policy thrust, the optimum development of food processing sector will contribute significantly in tackling several

*Food processing and its importance in India
2017, Lakshmi and Hanumantharaju*

developmental concerns such as prevention of wastage of food, the improved nutrition etc. by serving as a bridge between agriculture and industry

References

1. FICCI (2007), A report on processed food and agribusiness: Opportunities for investment in India, Mumbai, India
2. Kachru RP (2006), Agro-processing industries in India- Growth, Status and prospects, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, New Delhi
3. Merchant A (2008), India-Food Processing Industry, OSEC Business Network, New Delhi, India.
4. Saravan S and Mohansundaram V (2013), An Analysis of FDI in Indian Food Processing Industry, Indian J. Appl.Res., 3(3), pp. 80-81.