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## Study of the problems of food processing industries

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### Abstract

Food processing sector is the largest sector in terms of production, growth, consumption and exports. India's food processing sector includes fruits and vegetables, spices, meat and poultry, milk and milk products, alcohol, fisheries, plantation grain processing and consumer product groups such as confectionary, chocolate and cocoa products, soy-based products, mineral water, high protein Food etc. are included. At present, it is possible to develop small and cottage industries related to processing in rural areas from food processing industries, which will reduce the problem of unemployment. Along with this, due to the lack of storage, about a quarter of the grains and agricultural commodities are wasted, they will develop efficient distribution system (supply chain) and infrastructure in India through food processing industries and this will not only stop the wastage of grains but also get fair price. Apart from this, lack of capital and technology and uncertainty of post-harvest prices are among the major problems of agriculture and farmers in India. Similarly, food crisis, food wastage, food security and aging of producers are some of the problems faced by the food industry. Efforts are being made to achieve more sustainable food production, supply and consumption by using latest technologies through food processing.

Driven by advanced technologies and the demand for healthier, cheaper and safer food products, the food tech market is expected to exceed \$342 billion by 2027. Consumers today evaluate a food or beverage product not only on the basis of its quality, but also on the basis of how much nutritional value the food provides. As a result, the food and beverage industry needs to implement changes to their existing processes.

**Keywords:** Food processing industries, consumption and exports, advanced technologies

### Introduction

Food processing is a type of manufacturing in which raw materials are processed into intermediate foods or food items using scientific knowledge and technology. Under this, perishable and inedible food resources are converted into more useful, long-lasting food or beverages using various techniques. It improves the storability, taste and convenience of the finished product. The food processing sector in India is the largest sector in terms of production, growth, consumption and exports. India's food processing sector includes fruits and vegetables, spices, meat and poultry, milk and milk products, alcohol, fisheries, plantation grain processing and consumer product groups such as confectionary, chocolate and cocoa products, soy-based products, mineral water, high protein Food etc. Proposals have been received for setting up projects in various sectors since liberalization in August 1991, food and agro-processing sector. In addition, the government has approved proposals for joint ventures, foreign collaborations, industrial licenses and 100 per cent export-oriented units with a view to investment. This includes foreign investment of over Rs 10,000 crore.

India's processed food exports during the year 2020-21 were ₹ 36,946.20 crore / 4,987.76 million US dollars, which included mango pulp (714.41 crore, 96.43 million US dollars), processed vegetables (3718.65 crore, 501.56 million US dollars), cucumber and cucumber (dry and preserved) (Rs 1651.83, US\$ 223.05 million), Processed fruits, juices and nuts (Rs 3173.42, US\$ 428.39 million), Pulses (Rs 2,116.69, US\$ 284.26 million), Groundnut (Rs 5,381.61, US\$ 727.40 million), guar gum (Rs 1949.07, US\$ 262.99 million), Jaggery and confectionery (Rs 2659.57, US\$ 358.88 million), Cocoa products (Rs 1108.38, US\$ 149.78 million), Cereal products (Rs 4705.81, US\$ 635.75 million), Alcoholic beverages (Rs 2386.91, US\$ 322.12 million), Miscellaneous Manufactured Products (Rs 5866.44, US\$ 793.08 million) and Milk Products (Rs 1513.44, US\$ 204.03 million).

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### Problems of Food Processing Industries

Food processing industry in India plays a very important role in the Indian economy. Along with this, many problems come in it understanding. That is, there is a certain level of significant value addition to each product, from agriculture and harvesting to the time the product is consumed by the consumer. This value extension can be of various types. As it moves from the manufacturer to the distributor, to the retailer to the end buyer, the value of the product increases at each stage. In this value chain, value addition can occur by sorting, evaluation, bundling, branding etc. These activities not only make the product attractive but also make it more useful, give choice and attention to the customers and also improve the life span of the goods realistically. Also equally important is the service provided by the representatives to deliver the product from the manufacturer to the customer. Similarly food processing industries have to face many problems during the said process.

The bulk of rural products are not consumable in the unique setting for which they are produced. Wheat is converted into flour, sugarcane into molasses, sugar into ethanol, alcohol from paddy into rice, and so on. As a result, food processing not only enhances agricultural products, rather, it also increases their utility. We realize that the economy is largely divided into agriculture, industry and services. The food processing industry is an outgrowth of agribusiness and industry.

Like many industries, the food industry was also hit hard by the pandemic. The industry suffered a significant setback in 2020, unable to function normally and due to the prolonged lockdown and restrictions imposed by the government. As we come out of the most devastating pandemic in generations, the food industry is still facing many problems in managing its operations. Food being a basic necessity of our life, the growing world population and food demands drive the growth in the food industry. The food market is expected to grow by 6.72 percent annually from 2022 to 2027. Several problems have arisen before the food processing industry:-

- food security
- Food waste
- Rising supply chain costs
- Increased consumer demand for food traceability
- Food Fraud
- Food Manufacturing Environment
- Labor shortage
- Complying with safety standards
- Rising inflation
- Increased consumer demand is a problem facing the global food and beverage industry.
- Plastic Ban Enforcement
- Improve online visibility
- Enhanced Connectivity and Automation
- Increased demand for plant-based foods
- Balance between food service and retail
- Ensuring direct and covert surveillance in the warehouse and company vehicles to prevent cargo theft.
- Using security tools to detect suspicious activity.

### Supply Chain Pressure

- **Cargo Theft:** With cargo thieves increasingly targeting food items that can be sold on the black market, the food industry is implementing best practices to reduce food cargo theft as much as possible. Some of these best practices include:

- **Choosing the right carrier:** Auditing the distribution center to ensure that no consignment is lost. Keeping an eye on potentially unscrupulous employees and weeding them out to reduce the possibility of internal cargo theft.
- **Increased demand for vegetarian food:** Rising food-related disorders have made consumers more health conscious and towards a healthier lifestyle. Consumers seeking plant-based food, meat and other products may face a significant drop in their consumption. This is a serious challenge for the food industry as manufacturers have to maintain their reputation regarding animal treatment. Companies in the food and beverage industry may have to come up with plant-based meat-free alternatives to keep the industry afloat.
- **Stringent regulatory landscape:** Many food and beverage companies have to comply with regulatory standards to keep their businesses afloat. But the constant changes driven by increased production, food quality, waste disposal, raw materials and advanced technologies emerge as a hindrance for the F&B industry in complying with the regulations. To cope with the emerging regulatory policies and standards, companies must revamp their business operations from manufacturing to distribution.
- **Weaknesses in the regulatory environment:** There is a lack of integration and clarity. A number of laws, under the jurisdiction of various ministries and departments, regulate food safety and packaging. Multiplicity of legislation gives rise to contradictions.
- **Absence of a comprehensive policy:** Absence of a comprehensive policy addressing the various needs of the food processing industry is hindering its growth.
- **Supply-Side Constraints** – Fragmented holdings, low farm productivity, high seasonality, spoilage and arbitrage resulting in small and scattered marketable surplus resulting in distributional constraints on supply and quality, and in turn, in processing and exports Obstacles come.
- **Lack of adequate infrastructure:** Lack of cold storage facilities and road and rail connectivity in the hinterland is still a major concern.
- **Credit facilities:** Despite the creation of the Food Processing Fund a few years ago, the sector continues to face a resource crunch. Although foreign investment has increased now, it still does not match the requirements of the industry.
- **Lack of holistic approach:** This can be attributed to the absence of critical peripheral infrastructural linkages and legislation for contract and corporate farming, inadequate implementation of the APMC Act and cumbersome procedures for obtaining grants.
- Gaps exist in the supply chain infrastructure which means inadequate primary processing, storage and distribution facilities.
- Inadequate linkage between production and processing.
- Low capacity utilization in operations, for example, institutional gaps in the supply chain, dependence on APMC markets.
- Lack of focus on quality and safety standards.
- Not enough product development and innovation.

### Backward linkage problem

- Lack of contact between the farmer and the food processing industry.

- Small size of holding.
- Excess of intermediaries.
- Weathering of raw material.
- Lack of information till the farmers.

#### Forward linkage problem

- There is a problem of connectivity between the food processing industry and the market.
- Problems related to storage, road and rail transport.
- Low level of processing industries.
- Processing industry to be fragmented and unorganized.
- Not using latest information.

#### Other problems

- Excessive contradiction of laws and problem of administrative delay
- Discrepancies between international food safety standards and domestic food laws
- Agricultural Backwardness Underdeveloped Food Testing Network

#### Conclusion

At present, it is possible to develop small and cottage industries related to food processing industries in rural areas, which will reduce the problem of unemployment. Along with this, due to the lack of storage, about a quarter of the grains and agricultural commodities are wasted, they will develop efficient distribution system (supply chain) and infrastructure in India through food processing industries and this will not only stop the wastage of grains but also They will also get fair price. Apart from this, lack of capital and technology and uncertainty of post-harvest prices are among the major problems of agriculture and farmers in India. In such a situation, with the development of food processing industries, big investors will join this sector and these problems will be solved by the development of contract-based farming. In this way, we see that the food processing industry is very effective in solving the problems related to agriculture in India and there are many possibilities in the field of food processing. Driven by advanced technologies and the demand for healthier, cheaper and safer food products, the food tech market is expected to exceed \$342 billion by 2027. Today, consumers evaluate a food or beverage product not only on the basis of its quality, but also on the basis of how much nutritional value the food provides. As a result, the food and beverage industry needs to implement changes to their existing processes.

#### Suggestion

Necessary consideration is necessary to make the food processing sector the basis of the country's development.

- The food parks identified by the government will be strengthened with world-class infrastructure and research facilities, testing laboratories, development centers and transport linkages.
- Improved food safety and quality certification system, technological advancement, logistic improvement, packaging quality and easy availability of credit can bring about a lot of improvement in the food processing sector.
- To encourage export of food processed products, structural and institutional support should be provided in view of setting up global value chains.
- Looking at the size of the food processing sector and the

possibilities of growth, it is necessary to decide India's industry and trade policy accordingly.

- It would be better if the Center prepares a National Food Processing Policy after due consultation with the State Governments.
- The central and state governments should work fast in the direction of removing the problems coming in the development of the food processing sector.
- Food processing sector will be helpful in increasing the income of agricultural produce farmers as well as increasing employment in the country.

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