

Peer Review

Review of: "Scaling up Food Processing in India by Tapping Houesholds' Potential"

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1. Independent researcher

References :

1. India's food processing sector is one of the largest in the world and its output is expected to reach \$ 535 Bn by 2025-26. It lies at the heart of the Government of India's Make in India initiative and resonates with Prime Minister Modi's call for 'vocal for local'. (<https://www.investindia.gov.in/siru/indian-food-processing-sector-untapped-growth-opportunity>)
2. Food Processing (FP) sector emerged as an important segment of the Indian economy in terms of its contribution to GDP, employment and exports. During the last seven years ending 2021-22, FP sector has been growing at an Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of around 7.26%. Gross Value Added (GVA) in FP sector has also increased from 1.30 lakh crore in 2013-14 to 2.08 lakh crore in 2021-22.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) through implementation of the Central Sector Scheme, namely, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) across the country helps in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet for promotion, overall development and growth of Food Processing Industries, through creation of employment opportunities, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing export of the processed foods.

MoFPI is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme- PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME) for providing technical, financial and business support for setting up/upgradation of 2 lakh Micro Food Processing Enterprises. (<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?>)

Support and Suggestions:

1. Considering the above two references and your article, I completely agree with the point that a lot of attention is being given on developing food processing industry but lack the empathy for household and traditional food processing ways.

Thus, I would like to add to your 9th section (Way forward),

- I. When we are talking about technologically aiding the household sector, it shouldn't pose a threat to the originality of the food product i.e. the degree of processing should not change. (a very controlled and supervised scaling up is required)
- II. Financial support is one of the best measure to scale them up. It will help them to overcome the hindrances in running the food processing unit like expenses of registration, procurement of raw material and modern equipment .
- III. Hygiene is in factor which goes unchecked in household enterprises. A big chunk of Indian population consume food from this sector. Thus, if the household enterprise gets registered, it will be a boon for consumers, as, concurrently, a public health issue of food safety will be achieved.
- IV. In context to 6th section (Regulatory Constraint), I agree to all the point as a hurdle for registration of household enterprises, but a bit of attention is needed on FSSAI rules regarding qualification (*FSSAI regulations, every registered establishment requires the presence of a "technically qualified person in charge of operations as required under regulations.*). not necessarily a high qualification, but they should be trained or given regular consultation for maintaining food hygiene standards. this is necessary in view of Public Health.

Contradictions:

1. In respect to above two references, I feel the first line of the Abstract to be contradictory.
2. In respect to above two references and all other references in the text of 1st section (Importance of Food Processing (FP), *Deloitte study* (mentioned in the last 3rd line of the section) is contradictory.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.