

Peer Review

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

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The manuscript presents a well-structured overview of Scaling up Food Processing in India.

Several sections stand out as particularly valuable:

The paper addresses an underexplored but socially and economically significant issue with relevance to food security, employment, and sustainability. It touches upon multiple dimensions—economic, regulatory, nutritional, gender, and environmental—a comprehensive coverage.

Several areas of the text reveal limitations or lack of clarity that warrant attention:

- The article lacks a clear conceptual or analytical framework that ties together informal economies, public health, gender empowerment, and decentralized systems.
- The US comparison is good, but socio-cultural and market differences and the level of the economy are different.
- The article underestimates the time, capital, hygiene, and market challenges faced by home-based food processors, particularly.
- It misses reference to successful decentralized food processing models in India such as Lijjat Papad or SHG-led enterprises. Incorporate Indian examples to ground the argument and demonstrate feasibility within the Indian context.

Suggestions for the Author:

- Develop a conceptual framework linking informal food processing, women's empowerment, and decentralized public health.
- Strengthen empirical evidence, citing recent, reliable, and context-specific data.
- Introduce Indian case studies of successful household or SHG food enterprises.
- Refine the regulatory critique with a balanced public health lens.

- Provide a realistic, phased implementation roadmap.
- Address food safety and consumer trust concerns in decentralized processing.

Conclusion:

The manuscript presents a valuable and original proposition but requires substantial improvement in structure, evidence, feasibility assessment, and regulatory balance. Addressing the limitations listed above will make it a well-rounded contribution.

Recommendation: Major Revision

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.