

# Agro-Processing Industries – a Boon in Rural Production Catchment Areas

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## ABSTRACT

Agro-processing, is considered as Sunrise sector of the Indian economy due to its large potential for growth owing to income and employment generation. In India only 3% of work force engaged in this sector whereas 14% work force engaged in developed countries. Primary and secondary processing of agricultural produce at village level help providing rural entrepreneurship the scope of the Agro-processing industry, thus, encompasses all operations from the stage of harvest till it reaches the end users in the desired form. In late nineties a few Agro-processing industries were established with small capacity processing equipment matching to the local crops grown, thus to train farmers to become producer-cum-processor to earn more returns.

**Keywords:** Agro processing, income generation, value-addition, post-harvest loss prevention

To adapt and develop improved post-harvest processes and equipment for value addition to food grains and other produce at rural threshold for higher income and generation of rural employment. To develop processes and equipment for economic utilization on bio-wastes and by products. To conduct operational research and multi-location trials on developed technologies to identify technical, financial, managerial and social constraints for better market acceptability to technologies. To establish need based Agro-Processing Centres (APC) to assure better economic returns to the farmers from their marketable surpluses. The unit operations which involves – cleaning, grading, drying, storage, milling, transportation, marketing and packaging. Value is added to the product at the end of each operation.

## Role of Post-harvest Technology/ Agricultural Processing

Post-harvest technology deals with value addition,

loss prevention, employment and income generation. There are various ways of increasing per capita food and fibre availability but most effective ways method is minimizing post-harvest losses.

## Processing and value addition

The major goals of PHT are value addition and loss prevention. Through primary and secondary/ tertiary processing in India the value addition of raw food materials are 75% and 25% respectively. It implies that primary processing is important to the farmers.

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