

- With greater thrust on proper sorting and grading close to the farm gate, and diverting extra produce to FPI, this wastage could also be reduced, leading to better price realisation for farmers.
- Boosts trade and earns foreign exchange: Earning through exports also adds to the Foreign Exchange Reserve of the nation. For e.g. Indian Basmati rice is in great demand in Middle Eastern countries.
- **Curbing migration:** Food Processing being a labour intensive industry provides localized employment opportunities and thus reduces the push factor in source regions of migration.
- Curbing food inflation: Processing increases the shelf life of the food thus keeping supplies in tune with the demand thereby controlling food-inflation. For e.g. Frozen Safal peas are available throughout the year.
- Crop-diversification: Food processing will require different types of inputs thus creating an incentive for the farmer to grow and diversify crops.
- Increased consumer choice: Apart from enhancing the quality and taste of food, the food processing allows food from other parts of the world to be transported to our local market and vice versa thereby bringing more choices in food basket.

Scope of Food Processing Industries (FPI) in India

- The processed food market is expected to grow to USD543 billion by 2020 from USD322 billion in 2016, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 14.6%.
- India's strong 1.2 billion consumer base provides a well-established domestic market for the food processing industry in the country. As the consumers in the country are becoming more health- conscious, the demand for nutritious food is growing proportionately.
- In addition, the rising number of working women and nuclear families is resulting in high demand for ready-to-eat and frozen food. Thus, overall India's food value chain is poised to create multiple opportunities for investment and employment in storage infrastructure, farming, retail and quality control.
- Further, India is endowed with a strong raw material base to stimulate the growth of the food processing industry. The country is first in terms of milk production and second in terms of fruits and vegetables in the world.

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Indian Economy

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| Schemes/Policies/ Statutes | Institution | Components |
|--|---|---|
| The 12 th Five Year Plan | Planning Commission | Recommended that following three schemes should be continued as centrally sponsored schemes: Infrastructure Development Scheme Mega Food Parks. Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure. Setting up and Modernization of Abattoirs as approved in the 11th five year plan. Strengthening of Institutions The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and management. Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology. National Grape Processing Board. National Meat and Poultry Processing Board. Quality Assurance Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), ISO standards, GHP and GNP. |
| Make in India Scheme | | Food processing has been identified as one of the 25 sectors that will drive the growth of the manufacturing sector in the country. The government has permitted 100% FDI in this sector under the automatic route and 100% FDI through the approval route for trading, including through e-commerce in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India. Tax SoPs such as reduced service tax, excise duty and custom duty on food processing products and machinery. |
| National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) | Ministry of Food Processing Industries | The NMFP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme started in 2012. The basic objective of the Mission is decentralization in the implementation of food processing schemes. |
| National Horticulture Mission (NHM) | Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare | As part of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) targets commercial horticulture through entrepreneurs using institutional financing. It is a cluster based approach for developing potential horticultural crops; and ensuring backward and forward linkages have been adopted. Districts are selected on the basis of comparative advantage of crops based on agro climatic conditions and potential for developing marketing opportunities. |
| Mega Food Parks | Ministry of Food Processing Industries | The Mega Food Parks scheme aims to provide a mechanism to link agricultural production to market. This is being done by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers and this approach of working in unison will ensure value addition, minimization of wastage, increment in farmers' income and the creation of employment opportunities in rural India. Hub and spoke model is adopted, as per which there will be a strong Central Processing Unit, which will cater needs of surrounding areas. In surrounding areas, there will be smaller, 'primary processing centers' which will be fed from numerous 'collection centers'. These collection centers will have direct interface with the farmer, farmer groups, or self-help groups. This will lead to vertical integration (backward and forward integration) in activities of that particular area. |