



Role and Relevance of Food Processing Industry in Bihar with Special reference to Litchi: A Case Study of Muzaffarpur District

• Roma • Sufra • Tanvi Sinha
• Saroj Sinha

Received : November 2012
Accepted : March 2013
Corresponding Author : Saroj Sinha

Abstract : *In this day and age, it has become imperative to process and preserve the food being produced in one particular area in order to make it available to people in other areas. This has given rise to the industry of food processing. This paper focuses not only on the role of this industry in the economic development of the country but also tries to explain its various aspects like: problems, prospects, contribution to the economy, government's vision and specifically the contribution of 'litchi' in the food processing industry. In India*

Roma

B.A. III year, Economics (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Sufra

B.A. III year, Economics (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Tanvi Sinha

B.A. III year, Economics (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Saroj Sinha

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : drsarojsinha@gmail.com

only 2% of the food is processed compared to other nations, which is an insignificant figure. The industry is the fifth largest sector in the country in terms of production, consumption, export and growth. In Bihar the levels of processing are negligible. Bihar accounts for 75% production of litchi in the country. Hardly 1% litchi is processed in the country. The Shahi variety of Muzaffarpur is famous in the international market. The litchi industry is fuelling the process of growth in the state. It provides both on-farm and off-farm employment. The government has opened up schools for the farmers and is helping the entrepreneurs establish themselves. The government has allocated an outlay of USD 20 billion for the food processing sector. Other strategic initiatives include establishment of mega food parks & cold chain facilities and approval of 51% ownership of foreign retailers in joint ventures. All these positive measures are expected to catapult the food processing sector.

Key words: Processing, litchi, government, economy.