

Rural youth empowerment through food processing and skill development activities

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Email: mamtatewari63@gmail.com**Abstract**

Abstract

The agro food processing industry is one of the largest in India, employs around 18% of the country's industrial work force and is ranked fifth in terms of production, consumptions, export and expected growth (Merchant, 2008). India also produces a variety of temperate to tropical fruits, vegetables and other food products. Processing of food products plays an important role in the conservation and effective utilization of fruits and vegetables. India's strong agricultural base, variety of climate zones and accelerating economic growth holds significant potential for food processing industry that provides a strong link between agriculture and consumers. Hadoti region is considered as major producer of soybean, amla, guava, rice, oranges, coriander and garlic of Rajasthan. Food processing is the major sector for economic upliftment of nation (Tiwari et.al.2016) Hence the main objective of the study was to strengthen the livelihood security of rural youth, providing opportunities in establishing food processing unit through RKVY project of food processing unit of Agriculture University, Kota. Youth gets opportunities to become and entrepreneur. The research was conducted on 85 trainees of food processing training who were introduced food processing machineries and further giving technical support for establishing food processing plants. After establishing and efficiently running this plant the economic and social empowerment was judged by their success stories. It was found that each individual was earning on an average Rs. 5,000-80,000 per month and got social recognition, confidence leadership ability, cooperation, and satisfaction through such entrepreneurship.

Key words: Production, consumptions, consumers, machineries, empowerment

Introduction

India is the world's second largest producer of food next to China and has the potential of being the biggest in the world. Food and food products are the biggest consumption category in India, with spending on food accounting for nearly 21% of India's GDP. India's agricultural base is quite strong but wastage is very high and processing of food products is very low. In agriculture food processing contributes its major role in economy of India (Singh et al, 2012). According to Birdar and Bhawani 2015, in India it is found that beside largest producer of grain, cereals, pulses of many varieties only 14 percent of total work force is engaged in agro processing sector directly. The processing of food commodities at village level will not only controls post harvest losses but also provide additional employment to the local people. In India 60 percent of population depends on agriculture and agriculture based activities? According to Perwez, 2017 the role of Agro based industries enhance from the point of view of

development of rural and backward people. Community based entrepreneurship is Considered to be an important instrument for the realization of potential among marginal and deprived communities, empowered employee improve performance largely by finding work process (Fernandez and Moldogazeiv 2013). Small scale industries needs less funds and mainly based on labor intensive technology, locally available raw material So, these industries got more success in India. (Singh 2014)

Unemployment has a large negative impact on subjective well-being of individuals (Winkelmann, 2009). Small scale food processing sector has become the second largest employment provider after agriculture. It's a agro based industry, so direct relation with agriculture and amazing feature of industry, which has better future prospects, consumption, export and growth. In a developing country like India the small scale sector occupies a special place in the industrial structure. (Modi, 2014) Small scale food processing unit can be helpful in maintaining high prices of agriculture produce although

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production in abundance, resulting into increased individual rural income and their standard of living ultimately. Considering these facts food processing unit of Agriculture University, Kota provide skills to farm youth on latest food processing technologies.

So that farm youth can start up the small scale industries of their own crops, In the present study 400 rural youth on soya processing were trained and assess the economic status of these trainees who become self employed in food processing. Processed products require less space as compared to raw produce, add value to the product and improve livelihood. Increasing income is always accompanied change into food basket (Gotait & Pradhan, 2006).

Objective of the study

The major objective of the study was: –

- (1) To find out the skills developed among rural youth in processing different crops.
- (2) To judge the extent of ability in establishing processing unit.
- (3) To assess the economic and social status after establishing food processing unit.

Methodology

In the study the three phases were planned

1. Training:

Long duration (30 and 15 days) 16 trainings were conducted from 2014-2016. In each training 25 rural youth were selected on first come first serve bases. During the training 60-80 practicals and 60-30 lectures in 30 and 15 days training respectively were given. In which Soybean, Garlic and Amla processing were taken as major subject. During training interested and ambitious trainee's skills were judged through observation and by introducing test paper.

2. Technical support:

After the training, interested trainees have taken further technical support like using machineries, project development and planning, support of master trainer, frequent visit to previous entrepreneur's units etc.

3. Economic status of entrepreneurs:

To assess the economic upliftment of trainees after becoming entrepreneur, their success stories were compiled and feedback was taken.

Results and discussion

In the training programmes processing of Soybean, Amla, Garlic were taken as priority in demonstrations. The 120 food products were learned by the trainees. For the assessment of trainees skills a written test was conducted after each training and it was found that out of 400 trainees 90% of them were highly skilled through subjective analysis only 8% were unskilled (Table 1). The results also revealed that most

of the trainees were having enough knowledge of food processing in regards to method of preparation. It was also found that during training 40% have prepared the product at their home soon after learning and very next day brought it for testing to the experts, on that basis it could be observed that 40% were highly skilled and 50% of them were skilled and confident.

Table 1: Development of skills among rural youth in processing different crops (N=400)

Categories	Subjective Analysis		Observational Results	
	Frequency	%age	Frequency	%age
Highly Skilled	360	90%	160	40%
Skill full	32	8%	200	50%
Unskilled	8	2%	40	10%

Table 2 showed that after training the interested trainees took technical support trainees (30%) again experimented the operation of machine and 18.75% refined their preparation with the help and standardized it in the supervision of master trainers. The product's, leveling packaging also done in the guidance of master trainer and Home scientist. Above 20% of the trainees took technical guidance in project formation, with approximate cost of unit establishment, machineries requirement, storage of raw material, capacity per month, labour requirement etc. Some trainers (9%) were very enthusiastic in establishing unit, So they also visited the unit of previous trainers, They also got rough idea for land, electricity, labour, water, garbage management etc.

Table 3 reveals that 85 trainees established food processing small scale units during the year 2015-17. Out of these 85 trainees, 21 of them established it on large scale and earned more than 20000 per month. The rest were also earned 5000-10000 as they run it at domestic level. The major interests of the trainees were on garlic, soya and amla processing. The earning was not insured as daily work was not available in

Table 2: Ability to start processing unit among rural youth through further Technical support

Technical support	No. of trainees	% of trainees
Operation of machineries	120	30.00%
Project development	83	20.75%
Special help from Master Trainer	75	18.75%
Frequent visit to previous entrepreneur unit	36	9%

Table 3: Economic empowerment of youth after training / technical support/establishment of unit

S. No.	Name of the Entrepreneur	Name of Unit/SHG	Average Income/month/ per person(Rs.)
1.	Mr. Vikram Singh Hada	Bhavya Soya Products, Shivpura, Kota	50000-80000
2.	Mr. Gaurav Khandelwal	Riva Soya Paneer Plant, Rangbadi, Kota	20000-35000
3.	Mr. Ramgopal Kushwaha	Pooja Soya Paneer Plant, Borkhera, Kota	40000-30000
4.	Mr. Amirsh Chaudhary	Chambal Fresh Tofu, Vivekanand Nagar, Kota	70000-80000
5.	Mr. Asaram Gurjar	Shree Krishna Soya Paneer, Gram Hingotiya, Sawai Madhopur	40000-35000
6.	Mr. Sarvesh Prajapati	Shiv Food Product, Urai, Jhansi, U.P.	20000-30000
7.	Mr. Amandeep	Sunrise Soya Products, Chhawani, Kota	40000-30000
8.	Mr. Brij Bihari	Chambal Fresh Soya Paneer, Vivekanand Nagar, Kota	50000-60000
9.	Mr. Dinesh Soni	Chambal Foods, Nanta, Kota	50000-60000
10.	Mr. Surendra Hirwani	Harniwals Tofu, Jhunjhunu	50000-60000
11.	Mr. Subhash Saini	Maa Gayatri Paneer, Chomu	20000-30000
12.	Ms. Anita Saxena	Jarkhandi Balaji Soya Product, Station, Kota	20000-30000
13.	Mrs. Hemlata Sonagara	Tanvi Food Product, Khedali Phatak, Kota	20000-30000
14.	Mrs. Rama Sharma	Amlaprash, Mokhapada	20000-30000
15.	Mrs. Anita	Shiv Food Products Rawatbhata	20000-30000
16.	Smt. Sonu Saini	Trishna Sharbat, Borkhera, Kota	20000-30000
17.	Smt. Bhanwar Kanwar	Jai Jambe Food Product, Dadabari, Kota	20000-30000
18.	Smt. Sarita Sharma	Sarita Food Products, Mahaveer Nagar-III, Kota	20000-30000
19.	Smt. Gayatri Vaishnav	Deepjyoti Amla Products, Borkhera, Kota	20000-30000
20.	Smt. Kamakshi Gautam	Kamakshi Food Products, Mahaveer Nagar-I, Kota	20000-30000
21.	Sh. Shreyansh Mehta	Naksh Food Product, Rampura, Kota	50000-60000
22.	Mr. Omprakash Suman	Hadoti Herbal Products, Bagdi Mohalla Dehita, Bundi	20000-30000

slack months like summer months, so the small scale industries change their life. These results support to the studies conducted by Singh et al. (2007). All of them established their own plant, 10 entrepreneurs got subsidy on plant and all have financed the plant from bank. Most of them had FSSAI registration No. and Shop act No. The major contribution in their daily livelihood is the upliftment of social status as 25 members were invited from AIR, Kota to described their success, 29 of them invited frequently as Master Trainer in different govt. institutes, 29 entrepreneurs, success story telecasted at National Channel DD Kisan of T.V. and local channel. Local newspaper also highlighted their success stories.

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