

## **FOOD PRODUCTS**

Food Processing Industry is one of the largest and fast growing industries of Kerala. Kerala is a large and growing market for food products. Food products are the single largest component of private (household) expenditure. With significant shift in Kerala's demographic profile in favour of younger population, increasing surplus incomes and changing socio-economic environment, food consumption patterns are set to change in favour of processed foods which are convenient, hygienic and of consistent quality.

Given the size of the industry and nascent development stage, the food processing sector is a key focus area of the State. The Government is focussing on commercialization and value addition of agricultural produce, minimizing pre and post-harvest losses, generate employment and export growth through a number of regulatory and fiscal incentives.

Kerala with its indigenous shades of biodiversity has always been a food basket of global interest. The pulse of the land gets carried over through the diversity of Kerala's food products of cashews, seafood and spices, Coconut, cocoa, tea, banana and pineapple add to the lore the richness of our taste buds. The pioneering and persistent efforts of Government of Kerala have been instrumental in bridging the local varieties of taste to an international populace.

The State already has a robust industrial infrastructure with five fully functional Food Parks exclusively for Food Processing sector. The infrastructural facilities provided by Government of Kerala in food processing sector include:

1. KINFRA Food Processing Park at Kakkancherry in Malappuram District
2. The Food Zone in KINFRA Small Industries Park at Mazhuvannoor in Ernakulum District
3. KINFRA Food Park at Adoor in Pathanamthitta District
4. Seafood Park at Aroor in Alappuzha District
5. Exclusive Special Economic Zone (Agro Based Food Processing) at Kakkancherry in Malappuram District
6. Mega Food Park by KINFRA at Palakkad District

These Food Parks have been set up by Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)

In order to facilitate the adoption of Food Safety Management System, Govt. of Kerala has set up 'National Centre for HACCP Certification' (NCHC) in Kerala for the audit and certification of HACCP System to Food Processing & Allied Units and the same is established in Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (KBIP) under the Industries Department.

Agro based raw materials available for the Food and Agro based industry in Kerala are Jackfruit, Mango, Papaya, Plantain, Coconut, Cashew fruit, Spices, Pineapple, Rice, Tapioca etc. The growth of the industries based on these agro based raw materials will also encourage the farmers of these agro products which will further enhance the employment opportunities and economy of the state. With this background Department is organizing state wide exhibition named "Kerala Agro Food Pro" in every year. MSME units in Agro-Food processing industries, potential entrepreneurs, and other stake holders participate in the programme. The meet include the exhibition of the product of Food and Agro based industrial units, B2B meet with the manufacturers and prominent buyers within Kerala, State Level Food & Agro based Technology meet by involving the Major Technical Research Institutions inside and outside Kerala and the entrepreneurs get familiar with different aspects involved in the food processing industry.

Department has been Participating in AAHAR International Exhibition which is exclusively for Food Processing sector for the upliftment and promotion of food processing sector of the State and to identify suitable National & International markets for the products manufactured in Kerala. 10 to 15 Food processing industries are participating in the exhibition through the Department free of cost.

Directorate of Industries and Commerce is conducting Technology and Management Development Programmes through District Industries Centres for providing technical and managerial training to youth so as to enhance proficiency for setting up enterprises or equipping them to become entrepreneurs. In this programme more emphasis was give to Food Processing sector.