The Pharma Innovation Journal 2023; SP-12(6): 344-346

www.ThePharmaJournal.com

The Pharma Innovation

ISSN (E): 2277-7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2023; SP-12(6): 344-346

www.thepharmajournal.com
Received: 02-03-2023
Accepted: 08-04-2023

Payal Dewangan
Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, College of Agriculture, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

Dr. R. S. Sengar
Professor,
Department of Agricultural Extension, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, College of Agriculture, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

Dr. P. Mooventhan
Senior Scientist,
Department of Agricultural Extension, National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Baronda, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

Corresponding Author:
Payal Dewangan
Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, College of Agriculture, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

Constraints faced by tribal farmers in the adoption of agro-processing centres (APCs) practices and their feedback to improve the extent of adoption in Balodabazar-Bhatapara district of Chhattisgarh

Payal Dewangan, Dr. R. S. Sengar and Dr. P. Mooventhan

Abstract
The main goal of establishing Agro processing centres is to reduce post-harvest losses by establishing the processing unit in the production catchment itself as well as to generate income and employment in rural areas through the adoption of tried-and-true technologies and machinery. The action plan for Agro processing centres (APC) basically entails primary and secondary processing of the surplus agricultural produce in production catchment by rural entrepreneur. The study was conducted in the Kasdol block of Balodabazar - Bhatapara district of Chhattisgarh state, area as per Farmer's FIRST project. Total 30 stakeholder tribal farmers from villages covered under Farmer's FIRST Programmne were selected for the study. For adoption of Agro-Processing Centres (APCs) majority of stakeholders mentioned the problem of high electricity bill and frequent power cut in APCs. To improve extent of adoption of Agro-Processing Centres (APCs) practices, majority of stakeholders suggested for alternate arrangements have to be made to tackle frequent power cuts.

Keywords: Agro-processing centers (APC), farmer first programme, constraints, tribal farmers

Introduction
Being an agrarian nation, India must have Agro processing facilities that utilise agricultural products both directly and indirectly in order to maintain inclusive economic growth. Agro processing is a group of techno-economic processes used to handle and preserve agricultural products so they can be used as food, feed, fibre, fuel, or industrial raw materials. As a result, the scope of the Agro-processing sector includes all processes up until the point at which the material is delivered to the final consumer in the required shape, packaging, quantity, quality, and price. The post-harvest and processing procedures for preserving and processing agricultural produce for food and medicinal uses are vividly described in ancient Indian texts. In order to take advantage of these new prospects in the rural sector, Indian corporations are carefully examining the current situation. Additionally, it makes sure that raw materials that are locally accessible are consumed and that the rural population has access to everyday necessities. This industry has the potential to absorb a sizable percentage of the rural labour shortage and prevent rural residents from migrating to urban centres and other far-flung locales. Promoting rural entrepreneurship oriented, less capital intensive agro-processing and value addition is one method to open up opportunities for farm income and employment production. By placing the processing facility inside the producing catchment itself, agro processing centres aim to reduce post-harvest losses while simultaneously generating revenue and employment in rural regions through the use of tried-and-true methods and tools.

Operational definitions
Agro processing is a group of technologically advanced economic activities used to handle and preserve agricultural products so they can be used as food, feed, fibre, fuel, or industrial raw materials.
The term "Agro Processing Centre" (APC) refers to a business that provides rural residents with the necessary facilities for primary and secondary processing, such as storage, handling, and drying of grains, pulses, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables, and spices, on a rental or fee basis. The institution also prepares and markets processed foods and value-added agricultural goods. Individuals, co-operatives, communities, organisations, and volunteer groups all administer this type of centre.

Review of Literature

Parmar (2012) [1] found that Major constraints faced by the farmers in acceptance of agro-processing are divided into component: (I) technological constraints like, lack of training/technical guidance, non-availability of improved machineries, unavailability of inputs in time and at local level, lack of knowledge regarding agro processing, irregular supply of electricity and less skilled labour, (II) Farming related constraints like, lack of space for storage/drying, lack of good floor for processing and undulated land.(III) Marketing related constraints like, inability to find market for value added product, lack of transportation, inadequate knowledge about marketing policy, no export related knowledge, lack of awareness regarding marketing channel, high rate of labour charges and uncertainty of price. (IV) Financial constraints like, lack of financial support, lack of information about sources of loan and subsidy and non-availability of credits in time. (IV) Extension related constraints like, lack of motivation from extension agents, insufficient liaison with processors/farmers and lack of group meeting or discussion. She also listed Major suggestions given by the farmers to overcome the constraints associated with acceptance of agro-processing were arranged in descending order according to rank: adequate training should be imparted in time (Rank-I), prompt and timely availabilities of the credit from government or banks at cheaper rate (Rank-II), production inputs should be provided at local level with subsidized rates (Rank-III), all the critical inputs should be given well in advance (Rank-IV), good transportation facility should be provided (Rank-V) and technical guidance should be provided (Rank-VI).

Kumar (2016) [2] featured emerging problems and perspectives of development of agro processing in agriculture, he concluded that 'Inadequacy in the supply of raw material from different sources and poorly developed marketing facilities, lacking financial facilities for running the units, irregular supply of power, access to only poor quality of raw materials, shortage of skilled labour were the important factor limiting the scope of development of agro-based industries.' He observed 86 per cent entrepreneurs recommended for making regularity in power supply in industrial areas, 66 per cent entrepreneurs recommended for minimizing the cost of various machines though providing incentives in its purchases, and providing financial support in capital investment, procurement of raw material and transportation of goods at selling, initiating protection policy to reduce competition in selling goods, reduction in the rate of various taxes especially VAT and development of efficient marketing channels and proper marketing arrangements for selling industrial produces were the remaining recommendations of the entrepreneurs of Agro-Processing. He also inferred that 40 per cent entrepreneurs were planning for undertaking expansion in their unit by one matter or the other. Financial investment in such expansion would be carried out mainly through borrowings from the commercial banks and friends/ relatives. Initiating measures for timely supply of raw material has been noted as the second most factor for achieving increasing growth of this sector by 60 per cent entrepreneurs.

Ramya (2016) [3] identified constraints encountered by the women members in managing agro-processing centre. She found that all the members expressed various problems encountered by them. The problems such as lack of training, old equipment, frequent power cuts, lack of skills were the common problems faced. 73 per cent of them felt that income derived out of APC is not sufficient, and 36 per cent of members opined that loans are not sufficient. Followed by 27 per cent of members had no formal education. She also documented detail of suggestions for effective functioning of APC. The results indicated that as the equipment are old and the components are broken, it has to be replaced at the first place, secondly technical person to be identified from university side for effective functioning of APC and refresher training to be given to update the technical skills to handle the processing machines of APC, expansion of the existing building and up-gradation of machines with higher capacity to process is necessary and rotational period must be reduced to 3 to 6 months in order to give chance to all the members in a short time instead of 1 year. These are the main concerns of members of SHG.

Methodology

The study was conducted in the Balodabazar - Bhatapara district of Chhattisgarh state, area as per Farmer's FIRST project. From Balodabazar - Bhatapara district, Kasdol block were selected based on having majority of tribal population. Five villages namely Kharaha, Bamhani, Kurraha, Kharri and Bakla were selected from Kasdol block. The selection is based on the selection criteria of the Farmers First Programme. Total 30 stakeholder tribal farmers from villages covered under Farmer's FIRST Programmne were selected for the study. The responses were taken out with the help of developed structured interview schedule. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage, and ranking.

Result and Discussion

Table 1: Findings related to problem faced by stakeholders in Agro-Processing Centres (APCs) practices are compiled

S. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percent	Ranking
1.	High electricity bill and frequent power cut	17	56.67	I
2.	Problem of transportation of produce to APCs	12	40.00	II
3.	High maintenance cost in machinery	11	36.67	III
4.	Lack of technical skills in using machinery of APCs	09	30.00	IV
5.	Lack of support of stakeholder in farmer group to maintain APCs	07	23.33	V

*Data are based on multiple responses

Findings related to problem faced by stakeholders in Agro-Processing Centres (APCs) practices are compiled in Table 1. Table shows that majority of stakeholders (56.67%) mentioned the problem of high electricity bill and frequent power cut in APCs followed by, problem of transportation of produce at APCs (40.00%) and problem of high maintenance cost in machinery (36.67%). More than one fourth of stakeholders (30.00%) stated the problem of lack of technical skills in using machinery of APCs and 23.33 per cent of stakeholders stated the problem of lack of support of other

stakeholder in maintaining APCs.

Table 2: Regarding, suggestions to improve extent of adoption of Agro-Processing Centres (APCs) practices

S. No.	Feedback	Frequency	Percent
1.	Alternate arrangements have to be made to tackle frequent power cuts	13	43.33
2.	More trainings provision on activities of APCs	08	26.67
3.	Provision of trainings focused on technical skills required for handling machineries	05	16.67

*Data are based on multiple responses

Regarding, suggestions to improve extent of adoption of Agro-Processing Centres (APCs) practices (Table 2) it was noticed that majority of stakeholders (43.33%) suggested for alternate arrangements have to be made to tackle frequent power cuts followed by suggestions of, provision of trainings focused on pit management (46.67%) and provision of azolla mother culture at specific intervals (23.33%).

Summary and Conclusion

For adoption of Agro-Processing Centres (APCs) majority of stakeholders mentioned the problem of high electricity bill and frequent power cut in APCs followed by, problem of transportation of produce at APCs and high maintenance cost in machinery. To improve extent of adoption of Agro-Processing Centres (APCs) practices, majority of stakeholders suggested for alternate arrangements have to be made to tackle frequent power cuts.

References

1. Parmar Priyanka M. Development of Scale to Measure Attitude of the farmers towards Agro-Processing". Master of Science (Agricultural Extension), Department of Extension Education, B. A. College Of Agriculture, Anand Agricultural University, Anand - 388 110; c2012
2. Kumar Pramod. Agro-Processing Industry in Uttar Pradesh Growth, Status, Opportunities and Challenges. Master of Agribusiness Management. Department of Agricultural Economics Institute of Agricultural Sciences Banaras Hindu University Varanasi-221005 U.P. India; c2016.
3. Ramya LG. Evaluation of Agro Processing Centre established By UAS (B) in Tumkur District. Master of Science (Agriculture) in Agricultural Marketing and Co-operation. Department of Agricultural Marketing, Co-Operation and Business Management University of Agricultural Sciences Bengaluru-560 065; c2016.