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#### **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**





#### FRUIT PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN INDIA

#### Dr. S. L. Patil

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#### **Abstract:**

India is known to be a fruit basket of the world. After China, India has been considered as the second largest producer of fruits. Due to skilled manpower deficiency, poor cold storage facilities, inefficient post harvest management and minimal technological interventions, India is the second largest producer contributes only 1% of the global market of the fruit processing industry. In India, the wastage of fresh fruit, produce has been estimated to be of a very high order, i.e. around 30-35% of the total production during harvest, storage, grading, transport, packaging and distribution because of the challenges involved in the industry. With the creation of adequate specialized cold storage facilities, logistics infrastructure, skilled manpower and modern technological interventions, post harvest losses can be minimized resulting in higher returns to the major stakeholders of the entire fruit supply chain i.e. farmers and the consumers.

#### **KEYWORDS:**

Fruit Processing Industry; Post-harvest management; Cold Storage facilities

#### INTRODUCTION

#### **Fruit Processing Industry**

Fruits comprise vitamins, proteins, minerals and dietary fibers. Fruits are perishable in nature and there is a need to process fruits in order to increase their storage or shelf-life significantly. Fruit processing is done to add value to the fresh fruits produce in a number of ways viz. canning, drying, freezing and new ingredient creation. There are various forms of processed fruits:

- Pre- prepared fresh (includes fruit salads, having a shorter storage life as they include added ingredients, such as sauces and flavorings)
- Canned (includes canned pineapple, peaches, apricots, pears and mixed fruits) Frozen (includes Frozen mangoes, berries and pineapple having a longer shelf life, convenience, easy storage)
- Dried (includes dried apricots, apples and prunes with shorter life cycles than fresh fruits)
- Juiced (includes fresh fruit juices)

Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore proposed fruit processing process layout for the production of fruit juice (as given below). It consists of four steps. In the first step, washing, cleaning, grading and peeling of matured and fully ripe fruits is done. Thereafter, juice is extracted from

fruits and then it is filtered to remove seeds, fibers, etc. This juice is then processed, sterilized and bottled after adding preservatives.

#### **History of Fruit Culture**

Fruits are undoubtedly an oldest food item. Prior to the practice of organised agriculture, prehistoric nomads lived on wild game, wild fruits and berries. There are many references to fruits in ancient literature. The earliest fruit cultivated by man seems to be the date palm, which has been mentioned in records of long ago as 7000 B. C. Pomegranate is also one of the oldest fruit brought under cultivation and records dating back to 3500 B. C. No doubt, man has been interested in fruits from very early times (R. Singh, 1998).

In India also the cultivation of fruits dates back to ancient times. Fruits have figured prominently in the life of India. In the fourth century B. C. and even in the pre Buddhist period, horticulture was an important vocation in India. A reference to land suitable for grape cultivation has been made in the Arthashastra, believed to have been written in the fourth century B. C. mango, banana, fig, grape and date were the favourite fruits of that era.

Many delicious fruits are indigenous to India, but many more have been introduced from foreign lands. Mango, banana, phalsa, jackfruit, bael, anola and some citrus fruits like lemons and citrons seem to be indigenous to India. Litchi, loquat, persimmon, peach and sweet orange have come from China. Guava, papaya, sapota, custard apple and pineapple have been introduced from the tropical parts of America. Apple, pear, plum, cherry, almond, apricot, walnut, grape, pomegranate and pista chionut have been introduced from the Central Asiatic regions. (R. Singh, 1998).

#### **Cultivation of Fruit**

Even though fruits have been cultivated in India for a very long time, their commercial cultivation as an industry is still in its infancy. In the past, fruits were cultivated as backyard plants or as border trees along fields to meet the needs of the family. Where regular plantation of fruit trees existed, their area was very small. Negligence of the fruit trees was a characteristic feature of our fruit culture. In early stage local varieties of fruits were used but without any commercial view. In the nineteenth century, several European settlers and missionaries did pioneering work in introducing new varieties from the UK, France and the East Indies and establishing commercial orchards. (R. Singh, 1998)

The development of fruit growing on commercial lines has taken place only during the past half century. The statistics on fruit culture is not very reliable in that period. After independence, from 1950 to now-a-days the data of area and production of some important fruits in India is given in Table.

| Sr.<br>No. Fruit | Area 000 Ha |        | % over | Production 000 tonnes |          | % over  |         |       |          |
|------------------|-------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|----------|---------|---------|-------|----------|
|                  | 1950        | 1985   | 2001   | 1950                  | 1950     | 1985    | 2001    | 1950  |          |
| 1                | Mango       | 943.5  | 1063.5 | 1487                  | 57.6     | 7925.4  | 9337.5  | 10504 | 32.54    |
| 2                | Banana      | 141.1  | 282.2  | 480                   | 240.18   | 1890.7  | 4364.3  | 16378 | 766.24   |
| 3                | Citrus      | 100.8  | 244.0  | 527                   | 422.82   | 685.4   | 1952.3  | 4651  | 578.58   |
| 4                | Guava       | 52.4   | 162.1  | 151                   | 188.17   | 238.2   | 1474.8  | 1710  | 617.88   |
| 5                | Grapes      | 1.2    | 12.5   | 44                    | 3566.67  | 9.8     | 275.7   | 1138  | 11512.24 |
| 6                | Pineapple   | 1.0    | 56.2   | 76                    | 7500.00  | 6.0     | 771.7   | 1025  | 16983.33 |
| 7                | Apple       | 1.7    | 168.2  | 238                   | 13900.00 | 5.1     | 1005.6  | 1047  | 20429.4  |
| 8                | Others      | 160.4  | 548.0  | 1274                  | 694.26   | 898.2   | 4583.6  | 25421 | 2730.22  |
|                  | Total       | 1402.1 | 2536.7 | 4277                  | 205.04   | 11708.8 | 23764.8 | 61874 | 428.44   |

Area and Production of Fruits in India

Source : Chadha (1986) Fruit Production in India, FAO Consultancy Report and India Info line Studies on Food Processing Industry, 2001.

#### Recent Data Of Area and Production of Fruits in India

(Area in 000HA, Production in 000MT)

|             | 2006 | -2007      | 2007-2008 |            |  |
|-------------|------|------------|-----------|------------|--|
| Fruit       | Area | Production | Area      | Production |  |
| Banana      | 604  | 20998      | 647       | 23205      |  |
| Mango       | 2154 | 13734      | 2205      | 13792      |  |
| Citrus      | 798  | 7145       | 843       | 7574       |  |
| Papaya      | 72   | 248        | 80        | 2686       |  |
| Apple       | 252  | 1624       | 264       | 2002       |  |
| Guava       | 176  | 1830       | 178       | 1975       |  |
| Grapes      | 65   | 1685       | 64        | 1677       |  |
| Sapota      | 149  | 1216       | 150       | 1238       |  |
| Pineapple   | 86   | 1382       | 80        | 1216       |  |
| Pomegranate | 117  | 840        | 122       | 868        |  |
| Litchi      | 65   | 403        | 69        | 418        |  |
| Others      | 1016 | 6244       | 1071      | 6862       |  |
| Total       | 5554 | 59563      | 5775      | 63503      |  |

Source:- NHB Data.

In the table indicates that there has been an increase of about 205 per cent in the area under fruits and about 428 per cent increase in the production from 1950 to 2001. Table No. 2.1(A) also indicates that there has been an increase in area and production of fruits in year 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 in India.

The state wise performance of area and production of fruits for 1986-87 shows that Uttar Pradesh stands first in India with 26 per cent share in total area followed by Andhra Pradesh with 11 per cent, Kerala and Karnataka stands third rank with 6 per cent, Maharashtras position was 8th with 3.26 per cent share in total area. But this picture has now shows a dramatic change during the years. During the recent past, various states have taken several measures to encourage fruit production. Exemption from the ceiling on land under the fruits, land reforms laws and there is no income tax on agricultural earnings was given greatest impetus to fruit growing industry.

#### TYPES OF FRUIT PROCESSING TECHNOLOGIES

- Traditional Processing Technology: Basically, processing technologies which are traditional in nature are implemented in the conservation of horticultural produce. Major categories of processed products produced by these technologies are fruit preserves, fruit juices. Freezing, thermal processing, dehydration, and drying technologies come under this processing type only.
- Modern Processing Technology: Modern Processing Technology is applied in the processing of trimmed and packed produce, prepared fruits. Minimal Processing and Non-Thermal Processing Technologies are used.

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