

## ESTABLISHMENT OF MICRO MULTI-FRUITS PROCESSING UNIT

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### ABSTRACT

Small and marginal farmers produce about 80% of global tropical fruits. In India, the major tropical fruits are pineapple, papaya, banana, litchi, mango, watermelon, avocado, guava, jamun, and jackfruit. Despite the increasing fruit production at the global level, there are still losses and wastage occurring at the post-harvest and marketing stages. Processing of fruits is necessary to convert them into value-added products. The processing operations may include cleaning, sorting, grading, washing, crushing, mixing, concentration, drying, dehydration, pasteurization, and packaging. The processing units are located mostly in urban settings, far away from production areas, resulting in increased costs of transportation and storage requirement, and high post-harvest losses. Thus, establishment of primary and/or secondary micro processing units for fruits in the production area will help reduce the processing costs, and generate rural entrepreneurship with additional income to producers. Micro multi-fruits processing unit (MMFPU) is a venture where horticultural produce is converted into products in the vicinity of production area that likely enhance the income of the producers. Establishing MMFPU in production areas will definitely change rural economy through women empowerment, avoiding distress sale, reducing post-harvest losses, and creating rural employment. Thus, the MMFPU establishments have the capability to open remunerative pathways for farmers, entrepreneurs and traders. Further, the impact of agro-industry on rural development establishes credible effect at both personal and community levels.

Keywords: Micro multi-fruits processing unit, tropical fruits, processing operations, post-harvest losses, production catchment