

Foreword

Bihar occupies prominent place in the agriculturally potential states in the country as the state is blessed with large tracts of fertile land and suitable climate which can support a variety of crops. A vast majority of population in the state depend on agriculture for their livelihood. However, in spite of being one of the leading producers of many crops, fruits and vegetables, the post harvesting network and processing is quite inadequate in the state. Considering the importance of the agro processing sector, this study titled **UNDERSTANDING THE GROWTH AND PROSPECTS OF AGRO PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN BIHAR** was entrusted by the Ministry of agriculture, Government of India to the Agro-Economic Research Centre for Bihar & Jharkhand, T M Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur - 812 007.

The analysis reveals that the agro processing industry has a great potential in the state. If developed properly, it will generate additional employment.

Small scale agro-based industries are playing an important role in serving the market. The potential of these industries to expand can further be improved if they are provided with good quality infrastructure. Then, the potential market for 'value added agro products' will have to be developed on local, regional, state and national levels also.

These measures will, undoubtedly, bring a qualitative change in the economic scenario of Bihar by creating large number of additional employment opportunities on sustainable basis.

Prof. Balkrishna Jha

Hon. Director

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