



FOOD PROCESSING

COUNTRY PROFILE

BELGIUM





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1 GLOBAL FOOD & BEVERAGES MARKET

1.1 MARKET OVERVIEW

The food processing sector is involved in transforming raw agricultural products into processed food items that are suitable for consumption. It encompasses a wide range of activities, including harvesting, sorting, cleaning, deweeding, preserving, and transforming food products. Food processing involves various techniques and technologies to enhance the quality, safety, and shelf life of food. Some common processes include cutting, grinding, cooking, pasteurization, canning, freezing, and fermentation. These processes often involve the use of machinery, equipment, additives, and other ingredients to modify the characteristics of the raw materials. The food processing sector plays a crucial role in meeting the global demand for safe, convenient, and nutritious food products. It not only helps to extend the availability of seasonal produce but also caters to the development of a wide variety of food options. This sector covers a broad range of products, including fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy products, meat, poultry, seafood, bakery items, beverages, and prepared meals. Food processing companies may operate at different scales, from small-scale local businesses to large multinational corporations. They must adhere to strict quality control and safety standards to ensure that the processed foods meet regulatory requirements and consumer expectations. Overall, the food processing sector contributes significantly to the economy, employment, and food security by adding value to raw agricultural products and making them suitable for consumption on a mass scale.

In the year 2022, the global food and beverages market exhibited an impressive valuation of \$6,735.8 billion¹. This impressive market displayed an intriguing prospectivity after witnessing from the standpoint of per capita consumption, amounting to \$262.82² annually. Innovation in the cost expense of the global GDP, the market holds a significant share of 6.32%³.

¹—2022

²—2022

After analysing the various segments within the food and beverages market, it becomes evident that the demands of meat, poultry, and seafood retained the top position, leading to substantial market share of 20-26%. Following closely behind, the dairy food sector made a remarkable showing of 14-16%, while the realm of bakery and confectionery holds its own at a surprising 11-13%.

The global food & beverages market grew from US \$1,838.04 Bn in 2017 to US \$2,044.84 Bn in 2022*

The market grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.03%*



1.2 EMERGING TRENDS

The food and beverages market are being influenced by several significant trends, which are as follows:

- ✓ Functional drinks for hydration & nutritional benefits
- ✓ High pressure pasteurisation of fruits & vegetables
- ✓ Increasing demand for clean label products
- ✓ Individual quick freezing (IQF) technology
- ✓ Robotics and automation in meat processing
- ✓ Personalisation of pet foods

*Statista, "Global Food and Beverage Market Size, by Region, 2017-2022", <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1101117/global-food-and-beverage-market-size/>

**Ibid.

**Ibid.

2 INDIAN FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR

2.1 OVERVIEW

In the year 2022, the food and beverages market of India Pacific emerged as the dominant region, accounting a substantial valuation of \$2,745.3 billion. This impressive figure accounted for a noteworthy 44.7% share of the global food and beverages market. Trailing behind, Western Europe retained the second position with a respective share of 20.3%, and North America followed closely at 14.8%.

Figure 2
Country-wise split
of Asia Pacific Food
& Beverages Market,
2022



** Global Market Insights (GMI) - The Global Food & Beverage Market, 2022

Within the Asia-Pacific region, India's food and beverage market holds the position of being the third largest, following the likes of China and Japan. In the year 2022, the market revenue reached an impressive sum of US\$ 177 billion, thus commanding a significant 16.6% market share within the vast expanse of the Asia-Pacific market.¹⁴

India's food and beverage market grew at a CAGR of 6.92% between 2017 - 22.

India's food and beverage market is forecasted to grow at a CAGR of 9.94% from 2022 - 27.

The Indian food processing sector has experienced rapid growth, exhibiting an impressive average annual growth rate of over 9 percent since the fiscal year 2014-15¹⁵. This sector plays a pivotal role in establishing strong connections between the industry and the agriculture sector through a comprehensive range of activities that encompass farming, aggregation, processing, packaging, storage, and distribution.

In India, the food processing sector extends its support to a wide array of products, encompassing traditional food items such as food grains, spices, fruits, and vegetables, as well as modern processed foods like baked goods, dairy products, seafoods, instant products, instant soups, and convenience foods. Its contributions to the economy are substantial, with a multiple effect on employment, as it employs 13.2% of the total workforce in the Indian registered manufacturing sector in the fiscal year 2019-20, the remarkable contribution of processed foods to India's total export Food Exports reached an astonishing 27.8%. The percentage share of food processing contribution to the overall Indian manufacturing GDP rose to 10% of 2.37 with a CAGR of 10.41% in 2020-21.¹⁶

¹⁴ Global Market Insights, "Asia-Pacific 2022: The Food and Beverage Industry Overview 2022"

¹⁵ ITC

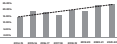
¹⁶ ITC

¹⁷ ITC, 2020-21

¹⁸ ITC

Annexure 1

Percentage share of processed food's exports
in aprl - food's exports



India's aprl - food's exports grew from
US \$38,771.92 Mn in 2014 - 15 to
US \$ 46,113.3 Mn in 2021 - 22.

India's processed food's exports grew from
US \$4959.44 Mn in 2014 - 15 to
US \$10,420 Mn in 2021 - 22.



2.2

KEY GROWTH DRIVERS

The food and beverage market holds substantial significance as a contributor to the Indian economy. Research indicates that the Indian processed food market is poised for robust, sustainable growth, with expectations of reaching a valuation of USD 87.6 billion by the year 2029. This projection signifies a substantial increase from its previous valuation of USD 26.3 billion in the base year 2020. The key growth drivers for the growth prospect of the sector are:

- Demographic growth
- Increased disposable income
- Demand for higher-quality products and premiumisation
- Improvements in logistic infrastructure
- Modernisation of cold chain infrastructure
- COVID-19 pandemic accelerating demand towards healthier and more hygienic products
- Industrial automation
- Manufacturing process improvement

This upward trajectory is expected to trigger a substantial surge of opportunities across the entire value chain of processed foods.

2.3 KEY OPPORTUNITIES

The following are the high-potential opportunities in the food processing sector of India:

FOOD PROCESSING MACHINERY

The machinery sector for food and beverage processing in India experienced a growth rate of 6.0% in the year 2023. Regionally (Asia Pacific), it stood as the fourth largest in terms of production value. Looking ahead, the industry's turnover is projected to witness a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.0% during the period of 2024-2028. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the industry will regain pre-pandemic levels by the year 2026.

The machinery sector for food and beverage processing relies primarily on the expansion of domestic markets for its growth. In the year 2023, exports constituted 7.0% of the overall production output, indicating that the industry's focus is predominantly on satisfying domestic demand.



Insights

Regional Comparison of Machinery Production Value, 2023

India's is the fourth largest producer
in terms of production value in Asia Pacific.

India represents a significant 9.0% share
of the total production value in the Asia Pacific region.

OILS & FATS

During the period from 2021 to 2024, the Indian oils and fats market exhibited robust growth. The key drivers behind this growth were rapid urbanization, an expanding middle-class population, increasing income levels, and enhanced purchasing power among consumers. In 2023, the Indian oils and fats market generated total revenues of ₹2,516.3 billion, showcasing a noteworthy compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.3% over the period from 2021 to 2024. Moreover, the market witnessed a steady increase in consumption volume, with a CAGR of 6% during the same timeframe, culminating in a total volume of 61,434.3 million kilograms in 2024. By the end of 2024, the market's volume is projected to reach 62,000 million kilograms.

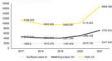
Among the segments within the market, the vegetable oil segment emerged as the most lucrative in 2024, amassing total revenues of ₹8.8 billion, accounting for a significant 35% of the market's overall sales. The soybean oil segment also made a substantial contribution, generating revenues of ₹2.6 billion in 2024, which equates to 10% of the market's total revenues.

Market

**Oils & Fats market volume forecast,
2021 - 26, million kilograms.**



India's vegetable imports are dominated by three primary commodities: Palm Oil, Soybean oil, and Rapeseed seed oil. Collectively, these imports accounted for a significant sum of ₹4,744,767.33 million in 2023.

Insights
India's top agricultural imports in 2023, USD million
India imports in USD million


COLD CHAIN INFRASTRUCTURE

India currently holds the position of the global leader in milk production, owing largely to the production of fruits and vegetables. It also has a significant output of marine, meat, and poultry products. The majority of these commodities are highly susceptible to temperature variations, necessitating precise storage and transportation conditions. The cold chain market in India demonstrated a revenue of USD 26.8 billion in 2022 and is projected to attain USD 57.5 billion by 2032. This indicates a robust compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 14.20% between the years 2022 and 2032.

The surge in demand for cold chain infrastructure stems from multiple factors, including heightened requirements from the healthcare industry, expansion of organized food retail, growth in the processed food sector, and a shift towards increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a positive impact on the overall cold chain market, leading to an increased need for cold storage and temperature-controlled logistics across various sectors. Over the past few years, the government has actively engaged in numerous cold chain development initiatives. Moreover, regional players have prioritized the expansion of cold storage capacities to accommodate the storage and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and medications.

Market Size & Growth Forecast

Market Size & Growth Forecast – India Cold Storage Market, in USD Billion



- The implementation of a proficient and reliable cold-chain storage infrastructure enhances the transportation and storage of products sensitive to temperature fluctuations, resulting in extended shelf life and minimized spoilage risks from the point of origin to the point of consumption.
- Numerous stakeholders from various industries are actively engaging in the development of a dynamic and seamless cold-chain storage system that adheres to the necessary standards and regulations.
- Anticipated growth in this segment is projected in the coming years, driven by a growing interest from start-ups, regional providers and institutional levels. This increased attention highlights the potential for significant expansion and underscores the attractiveness of the cold-chain storage market.

3 BELGIUM - COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Belgium is a country located in Western Europe. It is known for its rich history, diverse culture, and contributions to international peace and institutions. It shares borders with France, Germany (encompassing the Netherlands), and the North Sea. Belgium is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government. The country is divided into three main regions: Flanders in the north, Wallonia in the south, and the Brussels-Capital Region. It is a founding and permanent member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

CAPITAL

BRUSSELS

HEAD OF STATE

KING PHILIPPE

AREA

30,528 SQ KM

PRIME MINISTER

ALEXANDER DE GROOT

POPULATION

11,588,000

CURRENCY

EURO

GLOBAL POPULATION INDEX

80

LANGUAGES

DUTCH,
FRENCH AND
GERMAN

LIFE EXPECTANCY

79.8 YEARS
80.6 YEARS
83.8 YEARS
(M/F/O/C)

4 BELGIUM - ECONOMY OVERVIEW

Belgium has a diversified economic system. After agricultural and mining had been vital components during WWII, it transitioned to its strong industrial and services sectors, as well as its strategic location in Europe. Some of the key facts and figures concerning its economy is listed below:

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT*

(PPP ADJUSTED) IN US\$ (BY YEAR)

USD 49,582.8

GDP PER CAPITA**

USD 578.6 BILLION

RETAIL PRICE CONSUMER EXPENDITURE
(% OF GDP)

74.8 %

HOUSEHOLD SAVING RATE

16%

UNEMPLOYMENT

9.6%

(OECD & ILO) (MOST RECENT)

ECONOMIC GROWTH

3.2%

*Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators

**Source: World Bank

BELGIUM - FOOD PROCESSING

5 SECTOR OVERVIEW

5.1 OVERVIEW

In 2023, the food market in Belgium is projected to reach a revenue of €58.6 billion, demonstrating a steady annual growth rate of 1.7% from 2023 to 2028. Within this market, the organic segment is robust, accounting for a substantial market volume of €9.8 billion in 2023. On a per capita basis, the projected revenue amounts to €58.6 in 2023, reflecting the economic significance of the food sector in relation to the total population figure⁽¹⁾.

Notably, online sales are expected to contribute 10.5% of the total revenue within the Food market by 2028, highlighting the increasing digital presence and changing consumer preferences in the industry. Looking ahead, the volume within the Food market is anticipated to reach 7,426.66 million kilograms by 2028, with a projected growth of 1.7% in 2024. This growth underscores the sector's resilience and adaptability⁽²⁾.

In terms of consumption patterns, the average volume per person in the Belgian Food market is forecasted to be around 65.66 kilograms in 2026. This figure reflects the diverse and substantial appetite for various food products among the population. As the market continues to evolve, driven by changing consumer behaviours and technological advancements, Belgium's food sector remains a dynamic and essential component of its economy⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾Market Insights Europe

⁽²⁾IBIS

5.2 KEY SUB-SECTORS

5.2.1

Chocolates

Out of a total of 4,768 raw food products searched in Belgium between January 2018 and April 2019, related ingredients found in these raw cocoa products were as follows:

Cocoa fat (14,445), cocoa liquor (14,327), cocoa powder (1000) or full reduced cocoa powder (258), cocoa butter (1,444), cocoa paste (244), cocoa beans (16), cocoa nibs (16), unsweetened chocolate (186/274), white chocolate (20), dark chocolate (27), and flavanols (mg-poly) (4).

The parent companies searching cocoa products in Belgium from January 2018 to April 2019 were Mondelez International (17), Aron-Delma Group (1), Gagne Europe (1), Carrefour (1), and Albert Heijn (1). The brands included Carrefour (1), Not (1), Albert Heijn (1), Happonoff/Heppner Happonoff/Heppner Happonoff (1), Not (1), and Happonoff/Delma Chocolate Spreading Happonoff/Delma Fine (1). New brands recently introduced into the Belgian market were Ferrero Eggs (cocoa eggs), Honey French (cocoa ice cream), Bitter-Cheese (cocoa daily power powder), and Bitter (cocoa salt).





In Belgium, the fastest growing flavors within conno products were lemon (17.00%), Apricot/peach (17.00%), orange/peach (17.00%), pistachio (17.00%), dark/chocolate (17.00%), and raspberry (17.00%) between 01-2019 and 01-2020. The ingredients included in conno products include cocoa, milk, sugar, white sugar, white sugar, very sweet, Apparentness, white sugar, jamun seed protein, liquid chocolate, and double extract. The ingredients used in conno products were chocolate (17.00%), jamun seed (17.00%), jamun seed protein (17.00%), and white sugar (17.00%) with darkening agents by 17.00%. Other ingredients included cocoa, white sugar, liquid chocolate, and liquid chocolate protein.

The largest category for conno (conno food product) in the Belgium market was chocolate confectionery with 764 products (28.4%) over the 12-year period. The bakery category followed with 681 conno products (26.7%), and the desserts and ice cream category with 333 conno products (13.0%). The growing category was breakfast cereals (17.00%), with darkening categories included dairy (17.00%), desserts and ice cream (17.00%), and chocolate confectionery (17.00%) between 01-2008 and 01-2020.



5.2.2 Seafood

Belgium has a diverse supply network for fish and seafood products, with the top three suppliers being the Netherlands (25.4% market value share, 400,000 t million, 26.7 million kilograms), India (1.9% market value share, 400,000.2 million, 20.6 million kilograms), and Vietnam (1.9% market value share, 400,070.6 million, 20.6 million kilograms) in 2022. Canada was the fifth-largest supplier, with a 1.7% market value share, providing 400,077.4 million and 1.6 million kilograms in 2022.

The top imported fish and seafood products in Belgium were frozen skinless and boneless, value at 400,000.7 million (49.2 million kilograms), followed by frozen or chilled fillets of Pacific salmon, value at 400,000.6 million (20.2 million kilograms), and smoked Pacific salmon, value at 400,000.1 million (17.7 million kilograms) in 2022.

The processed seafood retail market in Belgium was dominated by private labels, representing 42/4% of the market share in 2022, compared to import brands with 10.5% market share. Private labelers (such as Carrefour, Aldi, Lidl, and Carrefour) continue to dominate processed meat and seafood. Brand players are responding to consumer health concerns related to processed meat by introducing products with reduced salt content or varieties to attract consumers.

¹ <https://www.fishbase.org/summary/species/seafood>



5.2.3 Organic Packaged Food

Belgium is a diverse consumer market of 11.6 million located at the heart of Europe with approximately 93% living in urban areas. It has one of the highest per capita incomes in Europe with a gross domestic product (GDP) of €428.14 billion in 2021.

Belgium is one of the world's largest organic packaged food markets, valued at €683.1 million in 2021. Demand for organic packaged food has grown in Belgium as consumers make healthier choices in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health and wellness (H&W) packaged food saw growth during the 2016 to 2021 period, at a CAGR of 3.6% and is expected to show similar growth over 2022-2026, at a CAGR of 3.5% along the organic and free from subcategories growth factor. The organic packaged food market in Belgium is one of the smallest H&W categories, valued at €68.1 million in 2021. Organic packaged food sales increased by a CAGR of 6.3% over 2016-2021 and are expected to increase by a CAGR of 6.1% over 2022-2026.

Top three organic packaged food categories were organic dairy, accounting for 54.8% of Belgium's total organic packaged food market, organic bread (21.8%) and organic seafood (14.8%). The fastest growing categories were organic ready meals, which grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.8%, followed by organic ice cream (CAGR 6.7%), and organic confectionery (CAGR 5.8%).

6

FOOD PROCESSING: KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN BELGIUM

The food processing sector in the Belgium is governed and regulated by various institutions, which is crucial for strengthening and supporting the industry. Some of the key stakeholders in the sector are as follows:

6.1 GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

NAME

OBJECTIVE

The Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FAFSC)

The FAFSC is responsible for ensuring the safety of food, both domestically produced and imported. It does this by monitoring importers of food products, testing food for contaminants, and issuing permits for food production and distribution.

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

EFSA is an independent scientific body that provides advice to the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Member States on all matters relating to food safety.

6.2

MAJOR INDUSTRY PLAYERS

| Commodity | Sector | Value Contribution |
|------------|-------------------------|---|
| Milk/curry | Dairy/Beverage | Food |
| Fruit/veg. | Bakery & Confectionery | Breads, fillings, fillings and nut pastes |
| Seafood | Processed Meat Products | Sausages, Pates |
| Nuts | Specialty | Chocolates, drinks, RTE products |
| Grain | Fruit & vegetable | Processed/vegetables, fruits and fruit |



7

BELGIUM: TRADE OVERVIEW

Belgium has historically been a significant trading power due to its strategic location in Europe, well-developed infrastructure, and strong industrial and services sectors. Considering the overall trade of Belgium, the following sections indicate key export and import products along with Belgium's trading partners.

7.1

KEY EXPORT PRODUCTS & PARTNERS

The following products are top exported items and destinations in the Belgium in 2023.

Table 1

Belgium exports all goods to the top 5 countries, main commodity and total value, March 2023¹⁾

| Partner country | Total value (USD) | Main commodity | Commodity value (USD) |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Germany | 105,000,000,000 | Transportation equipment | 10,000,000,000 |
| France | 90,000,000,000 | Iron ores and concentrates | 10,000,000,000 |
| Spain | 80,000,000,000 | Iron ores and concentrates | 10,000,000,000 |
| USA | 70,000,000,000 | Iron ores and concentrates | 10,000,000,000 |
| Italy | 60,000,000,000 | Iron ores and concentrates | 10,000,000,000 |

¹⁾ <https://www.cit.be/en/press-releases/2023-03-20-01>

Belgium's export data as highlighted in the table indicates that Germany, USA, France, Netherlands, Italy form the top 5 destinations of exports from the Belgium. The main exported products include Natural gas, Vehicles, Medicaments, Wheat/Wheat (all) and grapes.

7.2 KEY IMPORT PRODUCTS & PARTNERS

Belgium's top 5 source imports and their corresponding trading partners available in the table below.

Table

Belgium imports of goods by the top 5 countries, main commodity and total value, 2022*

| Partner country | Total value (USD) | Main commodity | Commodity value (USD) |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Germany | 8,34,79,49,71,000 | Medicaments (excl) | 81,00,00,00,000 |
| France | 7,00,00,00,000 | Wheat | 6,00,00,00,000 |
| China | 1,00,00,00,000 | Medicaments | 95,00,00,00,000 |
| USA | 90,00,00,000 | Medicaments | 85,00,00,00,000 |
| Italy | 80,00,00,000 | Medicaments (excl) | 75,00,00,00,000 |

Belgium's import data as shown in the table above indicates that the major imported products to Belgium were Natural gas, Vehicles, Medicaments, Medicaments and Medicaments with Netherlands, Germany, France, China and USA forming the top 5 importers.

* - BELGIUM'S EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND BALANCE OF TRADE

8 BELGIUM - INDIA TRADE

Belgium and India share robust trade relations, encompassing various sectors, such as machinery, chemicals, and textiles etc. Bilateral trade has steadily grown, with both countries being important trade partners for each other. Efforts to enhance cooperation through trade agreements and investment opportunities continue to strengthen their economic ties.

8.1 BELGIUM EXPORTS TO INDIA

In 2022, the total Belgium exports to India amounted to USD 2.1 billion (an increase of 20.6%, compared to 2021). The table below provides top 5 Belgium exports to India over the last three years reported at Bridge PM Code in USD Thousands.

Top 5 Belgium Exports to India over the last three years

| Top 5 Belgium Exports to India (USD THOUS) | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| HS CODE | Product Code | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | % Change | Share of total exports (2022) |
| 840991 | Internal piston (single) | 10000 | 10000 | 11000 | 10.00% | 0.00% |
| 190191 | Groundnut and products | 10000 | 10000 | 10000 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| 190200 | Chocolate and cocoa | 10000 | 10000 | 10000 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| 840999 | Other and parts of other pistons | 10000 | 10000 | 10000 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| 840990 | Reciprocating piston | 10000 | 10000 | 10000 | 0.00% | 0.00% |

**Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India (2020-2022)

High growth rates of trade were seen in commodities such as Sugar/Cat food, Milk and chocolate and cereals

Positive trade growth was registered for all the commodities in this time phase

8.2

BELGIUM IMPORTS FROM INDIA

Total Belgium imports from India in processed food and agro-based products amounted to USD 2022.6 million in 2022 (an increase of 26.18% compared to 2021). The table below indicates Belgium's top 5 imports from India over the last three years expressed as a % of total imports in 2022 (USD thousand).

Belgium imports from India over the last three years

| Belgium's imports from INDIA over the last three years | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Year | Product name | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | % of total | Share in total imports in 2022 |
| 20207 | Sugar (Straps and Blocks) | 100000 | 107000 | 125000 | 176.80% | 61.80% |
| 100000 | Milk | 10000 | 10000 | 20000 | 200.00% | 10.00% |
| 100000 | Cereals | 1000 | 10000 | 10000 | 1000.00% | 50.00% |
| 1000000 | Chocolate | 0 | 10000 | 10000 | 100.00% | 0.5% |
| 1000000 | Cat food, animal feed (other) | 10000 | 10000 | 10000 | 100.00% | 0.5% |

High growth rates were seen in almost all major commodities of trade besides alcohol which declined from 2021 to 2022.

Sugar (straps and blocks) maintains a high share on a global trade level between the 2 countries with change contributing to 27% and volume almost 12%.



9 AREAS OF COLLABORATION

9.1 TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER & INNOVATION

Collaborations could focus on the exchange of technological expertise and innovative practices in food processing, creating knowledge on food safety, preservation techniques, and quality control on behalf of both countries.

9.2 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Joint research projects between Indian and Belgian research institutions could lead to advancements in food processing techniques, ingredient innovation, and sustainable packaging solutions.

9.3 SUPPLY CHAIN EFFICIENCY

Collaboration could involve optimizing supply chains, reducing wastage, and improving distribution networks. This would be particularly important in India, where minimizing post-harvest losses is a challenge.

¹¹ <https://www.fao.org/news/story/en/detail/20230227001>

9.4

COLD CHAIN INFRASTRUCTURE

Belgium has expertise in cold chain logistics, which is crucial for preserving the quality and safety of perishable foods. Collaboration efforts could focus on improving India's cold chain infrastructure to minimize spoilage and extend shelf life.

9.5

VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS

Collaboration might center on creating value-added products from agricultural produce. This could involve developing new food products or improving existing ones to meet international quality standards.

9.6

FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY STANDARDS

Belgium has stringent food safety and quality standards. Collaboration could involve training programs and capacity building to help Indian food processors meet these standards, enhancing their access to global markets.

9.7

TRADE AND EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Joint efforts could be made to facilitate the export of processed foods from India to Belgium and vice versa. This could involve addressing trade barriers, regulations, and market access issues.

9.8

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Training and skill development programs could be established to enhance the capabilities of the workforce in the food processing sector. This could include technical training, quality control, and entrepreneurship.

9.9

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INVESTMENT

Promoting entrepreneurship and investment in the food processing sector through student initiatives and partnerships could encourage the growth of innovative startup and institutional businesses.

9.10

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Collaborative projects could focus on promoting sustainable practices in food processing, including waste reduction, energy efficiency, and eco-friendly packaging solutions.

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