

Agro Processing: how employable, and how future-proof, is this trade?

The Agro Processing CTS trade sits at the intersection of India's fastest-growing food sector and genuine questions about automation exposure. Routine sorting, grading and packaging tasks are increasingly targeted by robotic systems, yet the sector's sheer scale expansion and a documented skilled-worker shortage create demand that outpaces displacement. The honest answer on job security is mixed: growth is real, but so is the pressure to upskill quickly.

55.0_{/100}

COURSE EMPLOYABILITY SCORE (CES V2)

Uncertain outcomes, scored across all four CES pillars (\$02).

US\$535B¹

India food processing sector projected size by FY26 (IBEF, 2026)

7.04M²

Workers in India's food processing sector, registered and unregistered (MoFPI, 2022)

8.38%³

CAGR of Indian food processing market 2025-2033 (IMARC Group, 2024)

NSQF 3⁴

Level of the NTC credential awarded on passing the AITT for this trade (DGT/MSDE)

Subject: the "Agro Processing" CTS trade · Compiled from NSQF program spec + independent third-party research (see Sources).

Can AI or automation replace this job? The honest answer.

Automation is advancing inside Indian food processing, but its reach is uneven. High-volume, uniform-product lines are automating fastest, while the heterogeneous raw materials, sensory judgment and machine-maintenance demands of small-to-mid scale agro processing remain largely human-dependent. The question is not whether automation will arrive, but at what pace and in which facilities first.

The risk, stated plainly

Frey and Osborne's foundational 2013 study identifies food processing machine operators as occupations with moderate-to-high automation probability, estimating that manufacturing and food services occupations face meaningful displacement risk over a 10-20 year horizon ⁴. The ILO notes that 68.9% of jobs in India are at high risk using a broad definition, falling to 42.6% when adjusted for the slower pace of technology adoption in Indian industry ⁵. For agro processing specifically, robotic systems for sorting, colour-grading and primary packaging are commercially available and are being adopted in larger Indian food processing plants: the India food robotics market reached USD 88.6 million in 2024 and is forecast to reach USD 198 million by 2033 at a CAGR of 9.4% ⁶. Repetitive, line-based tasks are the clearest target.

What automates vs what stays human

THE TASKS AUTOMATION IS TAKING

- Optical sorting and colour grading of pulses, grains and spices using machine-vision cameras ⁶
- Primary packaging and sealing on high-volume uniform-product lines via collaborative robots (cobots) ⁶
- Weighing and portioning of homogeneous products with load-cell and conveyor automation ⁶
- Basic quality-check pass/fail decisions based on pre-set dimensional or colour parameters ⁷
- Data entry and batch traceability logging via ERP/MES systems replacing manual record-keeping ⁷
- Repetitive labelling and date-coding on standardised containers ⁶

THE WORK THAT STAYS HUMAN

- Sensory evaluation of raw agricultural inputs (moisture, odour, texture, infestation) where variability between batches defeats fixed thresholds ^{7/P}
- Setup, changeover, calibration and first-line troubleshooting of processing machinery across diverse product runs ^P
- Handling irregular or damaged raw material (bent stalks, undersized produce, mixed-variety lots) that jams automated lines ⁶
- Food safety decision-making and GMP compliance checks that carry legal and regulatory responsibility ^P
- Coordination with farmers, vendors and dispatch teams requiring local language fluency and relationship management ^P
- Entrepreneurial operation of small agro-processing micro-enterprises under PMFME and PMKSY schemes where capital intensity remains low ⁸

The resilient anchors

78million⁹

Net new jobs WEF projects globally by 2030; agriculture and food processing workers are cited among the highest absolute-volume growth roles ⁹

9.4% CAGR⁶

Growth rate of India food robotics market 2025-2033 - automation is expanding but from a tiny base (USD 88.6M in 2024), leaving most mid-size plants manual ⁶

80%²

Share of India food processing workforce with below-10th-standard education, creating demand for NTC-certified workers who can operate machinery safely ²

Moderate automation risk, but sector growth and a certified-worker shortage provide real near-term demand.

Routine, machine-paced tasks on large uniform-product lines carry genuine automation risk within this decade. Workers who remain purely on repetitive sorting or packaging without broadening their skills face real displacement risk in organised facilities ^{4,6}. The ILO's adjusted estimate of 42.6% high-risk jobs in India is a sobering benchmark ⁵.

However, the Agro Processing trade as defined by DGT is broader than line work: it covers machinery operation, quality control, pre-processing of diverse commodities (pulses, cereals, spices, oilseeds, rice, soya), and entrepreneurship ^P. Workers who develop machinery maintenance competency, food-safety knowledge and the ability to switch between product types are substantially harder to displace. The WEF explicitly lists agricultural and food processing workers among the top absolute-growth roles to 2030 ⁹, and India's own sector is growing at over 8% CAGR ³. The risk is real but manageable for those who keep upskilling.

Automation exposure by task

Task in this trade	Automation risk	How this trade / program is positioned
Optical/visual sorting of pulses and grains	High	Machine-vision sorters are commercially deployed in large Indian mills; manual sorting remains common at smaller units ⁶
Primary packaging and sealing	High	Cobots handle this in organised facilities; unstructured small-pack formats still require human dexterity ^{6/P}
Operating and adjusting processing machinery	Moderate	Requires changeover skill and mechanical troubleshooting that current automation cannot self-manage ^P
Quality control and sensory evaluation	Moderate	AI sensors handle uniform defects; human judgment required for novel contamination, odour and texture variation ⁷
Raw material receipt and pre-processing	Lower	High variability of agricultural inputs (moisture, variety, damage) limits full automation at reception stage ^P
Food safety, GMP compliance and documentation	Lowest	Regulatory accountability requires human sign-off; NTC-certified workers are valued for traceability compliance ^P

How to read these numbers. Automation risk figures (47% in Frey-Osborne, 42-69% in ILO's India estimates) are probability scores for entire occupational categories, not certainties for individual workers ^{4,5}. They describe what is technically feasible over a long horizon, not what will be deployed in all plants within five years. India's 2,627 industrial robots sold in 2016 compared to China's 87,000 illustrates the adoption lag in developing markets ⁵. Workers in small and mid-size agro-processing firms - which dominate India's sector - face considerably lower near-term displacement than workers in large, capital-intensive food MNCs.

02 THE COURSE EMPLOYABILITY SCORE (CES)

How this trade scores on Lakshya's employability metric

The Lakshya Capital Employability Score (CES) for the Agro Processing CTS trade is 55 out of 100, placing it in the Uncertain Outcomes band. This reflects a sector with genuine growth and meaningful government support, but constrained by thin live-hiring signals, the absence of reliable salary evidence in the open job market, and a training-quality pillar that has not yet attracted a green-list signal from employers or NCVT audit outcomes. The score flags real uncertainty, not sector failure. Scored on the evidence in this report, this role earns a **CES of 55.0 / 100, "Uncertain outcomes."**

CES Pillar (CES v2)	Weight	What it measures
Training Quality	0.30	Regulatory recognition and licensure of the qualification
Market Dynamics	0.30	Demand, salary band, sector trajectory, automation possibility and displacement risk
Placement Outcome	0.25	Whether the market actually hires this role: live employers, openings, pay and recency
Government Support	0.15	Migration pathways, federal frameworks and policy backing the role

Score bands: ≥80 High employability (full financing exposure) · ≥60 Moderate · ≥40 Uncertain outcomes · below that Weak job linkage. Framework: CES v2.

Market Dynamics, by sub-signal

Sub-signal	Score/100	Sub-weight	Conf
Demand	46	0.40	0.65
Salary (vs country floor)	0	0.30	0.20
Sector trajectory	80	0.15	0.88
Automation possibility	50	0.10	0.30
Displacement risk	50	0.05	0.30
Market Dynamics composite	38	n/a	0.50

The four pillars, scored

CES pillar	Score	Conf	Weight	Evidence
Training Quality	65	0.95	0.300	DGT's one-year CTS programme at NSQF Level 3 covers machinery operation, pre-processing, quality control and food safety, assessed through the national AITT for the NTC credential ^P .
Market Dynamics	38	0.50	0.300	Market dynamics score of 37.75 reflects a sector sub-score of 80 (strong) offset by zero salary evidence from open listings and neutral automation priors due to sparse data [data file].
Placement Outcome	55	0.44	0.250	Live market hiring of the role: 11 openings · 9 employers · 0 with pay · 18 recent postings
Government Support	70	0.90	0.150	Government support pillar scores 70 of 100, anchored by PLISFPI (Rs.10,900 crore), PMKSY (1,608 approved projects), PMFME and 76 Agro-processing Clusters ⁸¹⁰ .

Composite (applied weights, renormalised over scored pillars): **65×0.30 + 38×0.30 + 55×0.25 + 70×0.15 = 55.0**. Confidence 1.00 · evidence 18 clean / 19 rejected · 6 sources.

COURSE EMPLOYABILITY SCORE (CES V2)

55.0 / 100, "Uncertain outcomes"

The trade scores well on government support (70/100) and adequately on training quality (65/100), reflecting genuine policy commitment and a standardised national qualification. Market dynamics (37.75/100) drag the overall score because no live listings disclosed salaries and only 11 active postings were found across 9 employers, limiting confidence in wage realisation. The placement pillar (54.7/100) is penalised for missing outcome-sample data, not for confirmed poor placement. The net CES of 55 signals that outcomes are plausible but unverified at scale.

A graduate can raise their personal employment probability by targeting PMFME-funded micro-enterprises and MoFPI-backed Agro-processing Clusters for placement, obtaining a FICSI-linked certification above NTC level, and building maintenance and food-safety skills that command a wage premium over pure line workers ^{P8}.

Pillar scores map cited evidence to the published CES v2 rubric; the live figure refreshes as cohort outcomes feed Lakshya's engine.

03 EMPLOYABILITY & DEMAND

A sector growing faster than it can train workers.

India's food processing industry is one of the fastest-growing manufacturing segments in the country, and the gap between certified workers available and those needed is widening. For Agro Processing graduates, that gap is an opportunity.

India processed less than 10% of its total food output as of 2024 despite being the world's second-largest producer of fruits and vegetables, the largest producer of milk (25% of global output), and the largest producer of spices (11.8 million tonnes annually) ¹. The sector reached US\$354.5 billion in market value in 2024 and is projected to hit US\$535 billion by FY26, with a CAGR of 8.38% through 2033 ¹³. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has approved 41 Mega Food Parks, 399 Cold Chain projects, and 76 Agro-processing Clusters, creating physical infrastructure for processing employment at scale ⁸. Employment in the registered sector is projected to grow from 1.46 million in 2020 to 2.8 million by 2030, while the net skilled human resource requirement across food processing sub-sectors for 2021-2030 is estimated at 1.34 million individuals ². The WEF's Future of Jobs Report

2025 explicitly names agricultural and food processing workers among the highest absolute-volume job-growth categories to 2030 globally ⁹.

8.38% CAGR³

Projected growth of India food processing market 2025-2033 (IMARC Group)

1.34M²

Net new skilled workers needed in Indian food processing sub-sectors by 2030 (MoFPI/NSDC estimate)

76⁸

Government-approved Agro-processing Clusters under PMKSY creating processing employment hubs across India

04 LIVE HIRING EVIDENCE (2025/26)

What employers are actually posting

Captured from live job boards (Indeed, LinkedIn, Naukri) in the current scrape window: **11** openings across **9** employers, **0** with disclosed pay, **18** recent. These are real postings.

Live job aggregation found 11 active listings from 9 distinct employers, with 0 disclosing salary and 18 postings flagged as recent. This is a thin signal: the Agro Processing NTC is a broad entry-level credential and most hiring in this sector happens through direct factory recruitment, informal networks and placement via ITIs rather than through online job boards where the data was collected.

Employer (live posting)	Posts	Disclosed pay	What they want
Asuman Nutritech Agro Pvt Ltd	3	n/a	**About Company: Asuman Nutritech Agro Pvt Ltd** is an active agricultural and food processing company based in Khanna, Punjab. the company specialize
International School Unicent	2	n/a	**Job Description-Personal Assistant (PA) to Managing Director** **Company:** Pattabhi Agro Foods Pvt. Ltd. **Designation:** Personal Assistant (PA) t
Vinayaka personnel services	2	n/a	**Greetings from Vinayaka Personnel Services !!!** **Location:** Nadiad, Gujarat **Department:** Plant Operations Reports To: Plant Head / Operations
Fanidhar Mega Food Park Private Limited	1	n/a	Urgently Hiring Shift In-Charge for Frozen Vegetables Manufacturing Unit Designation: Shift In-Charge Department: Production Experience Required: Mini
Hatsun Agro Product Ltd	1	n/a	Job Purpose: The role holder is responsible to plan and to carry out the quality of the product by testing the samples and To Estimating or evaluating
Pigeon Foods Pvt Ltd	1	n/a	**Job Summary:** The Production Manager will oversee day-to-day manufacturing operations, processing, and packaging for dry fruits and pulses. This le
Prorich Agro Private Limited	1	n/a	Job Summary We are looking for a detail-oriented and proactive **Junior Export Documentation Executive** to support our export operations by preparing

Employer names and counts are from live job boards in the current window; counts fluctuate daily and are date-stamped in the engine. This sample is smaller than a mature occupation's; the scraper is being scaled to widen coverage.

THE SIGNAL IN THE DATA

- 9 distinct employers found, spanning dairy (Hatsun Agro), frozen vegetables (Fanidhar Mega Food Park), dry-fruit and pulse processing (Pigeon Foods), and agro-commodity operations (Vinayaka Personnel) - confirming multi-sub-sector demand [data file]
- All 18 recent postings suggest the listings are live and active, not stale inventory - the channel is thin but not dormant [data file]
- Zero salary disclosures on open listings is consistent with the broader informal hiring pattern for entry-level processing roles in India, not evidence of poor pay [data file]

WHY THIS MATTERS

- FICSI (the sector skill council for food processing) has certified and trained over 2.72 lakh candidates, with 2.60 lakh under PMKVY - indicating placement channels exist outside open job boards ²
- PMFME scheme approved 92,549 micro-enterprise projects with Rs.2,000 crore budget in FY26, providing a self-employment pathway for graduates who cannot find salaried roles immediately ⁸
- ITI Agro Processing graduates are reported to find employment in Gulf countries, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, providing an international demand buffer on top of domestic hiring ¹¹

Bottom line: Eleven live online listings understates real demand considerably; the honest picture is modest but real hiring across a diverse employer set, with self-employment and international channels providing meaningful fallback.

What the trade leads to, and what it pays

The NTC in Agro Processing is an entry credential, not a ceiling. Graduates who add certifications, sector experience and technical depth can move into supervision, quality assurance and entrepreneurship within three to five years.

Role this prepares for	Indicative pay in India	Automation resilience
Production/Processing Operator	Rs.16,000-34,000/month ^{12 13}	Resilient at mid-to-large plants; at risk on pure sorting lines at automated facilities
Quality Control / Quality Analyst	Rs.25,000-50,000/month ¹³	Resilient - sensory and compliance judgment limits full automation ⁷
Shift Supervisor / Production In-charge	Rs.35,000-70,000/month ¹³	Resilient - team coordination and operational decision-making remain human ¹¹
Packaging Supervisor	Rs.28,000-55,000/month ¹³	Moderate - line automation targets packaging; supervisory role less exposed
Agro-Processing Micro-Entrepreneur (PMFME)	Variable; subsidy of up to Rs.10 lakh available ⁸	Resilient - self-employment pathway independent of hiring market

PHASE 1

Foundations (Year 1 - CTS Programme)

Complete the one-year ITI Agro Processing CTS programme: pre-processing of pulses, cereals, spices, oilseeds, rice and soya products; machinery operation and maintenance; packaging; and basic quality checks. Sit the AITT to earn the NTC at NSQF Level 3 ^P.

PHASE 2

Certification Stack (Years 1-3)

Obtain a FICSI (Food Industry Capacity and Skill Initiative) certification in food safety or food quality control. Pursue FSSAI Basic/Advance Food Safety training to add regulatory value. Consider the NSQF Level 4 or 5 courses under the Craftsmen Instructor Training Scheme or advanced diploma in food technology if moving toward quality assurance roles ²⁸.

PHASE 3

Practical Execution (Years 3-5+)

Target placement in MoFPI-backed Agro-processing Clusters or Mega Food Park tenant companies for structured employment with growth paths. Alternatively, apply for PMFME credit-linked subsidy (up to Rs.10 lakh for micro-enterprises) to set up own processing unit ⁸. Experienced workers can progress to shift supervisor roles at Rs.35,000-70,000/month with three to five years of industry experience ¹³.

Trained for the floor, not just the test

WHAT CANDIDATES ACTUALLY WORK ON

- Machinery operation, changeover and first-line maintenance for diverse agro-processing equipment (dehullers, grinders, oil expellers, packaging lines) ^P
- Quality inspection techniques: moisture testing, sieve analysis, colour grading, contamination detection, and sensory evaluation of raw and finished goods ^P
- Food safety and GMP compliance - FSSAI regulations, hygiene protocols, batch traceability documentation ^P
- Pre-processing operations: cleaning, soaking, dehulling, drying, milling, roasting for pulses, cereals, spices and oilseeds ^P
- Packaging operations: weighing, filling, sealing, labelling, storage and dispatch procedures for food products ^P

WHY THESE RESIST AUTOMATION

- Sensory judgment on heterogeneous raw materials (aroma, texture, infestation, moisture by feel) that machine sensors handle poorly across varied batches ⁷
- Mechanical troubleshooting and changeover - setting machinery for new product types or correcting jams requires human dexterity and contextual knowledge ^P
- Regulatory compliance and sign-off - legal accountability for food safety decisions requires a named human operator under FSSAI framework ^P
- Cross-functional coordination with farmers, vendors, logistics and retail partners using local-language relationship management ⁹
- Entrepreneurial operation of small processing units where capital cost of automation exceeds viable investment ⁸

The positioning in one line: A certified Agro Processing worker with food-safety credentials and machinery maintenance skills is a quality-assured, regulatory-compliant operator that automated lines cannot yet self-manage.

07 THE CREDENTIAL & QUALITY LAYER

The NTC is a nationally recognised, globally portable credential - and a food-safety signal employers pay attention to.

Graduates of the DGT Agro Processing CTS programme who pass the All India Trade Test (AITT) receive the National Trade Certificate (NTC), issued by the Directorate General of Training under MSDE and recognised under NSQF Level 3 ^P. The NTC is accepted by employers across India and, per ITI directories, in several Gulf states, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand ¹¹. It signals that the holder has been assessed against a national standard - a meaningful differentiator in a sector where 80% of workers lack 10th-standard education ².

Stackable credentials above the NTC - particularly FICSI certifications in food safety, quality control and HACCP, and FSSAI food safety supervisor training - materially raise the wage premium and reduce displacement risk by moving the worker from line operator to quality-assurance and compliance roles that carry legal accountability ²⁸. Employers in organised food processing increasingly require documented food-safety credentials due to FSSAI audit obligations, creating a direct link between the NTC plus FICSI stack and job security.

08 THE INDIA TALENT CONTEXT

Abundant graduates, scarce job-readiness

India's overall graduate employability stands at 54.81% as of the India Skills Report 2025, up from 51.2% the prior year, with vocational and technical training graduates generally faring better in hands-on manufacturing and processing roles than general arts graduates ¹⁴. The food processing sector faces a documented skill gap: the NSDC estimates 1.34 million net new skilled workers are needed in food processing sub-sectors by 2030, yet 80% of the current workforce has below-10th-standard education ². This creates a structural advantage for NTC-certified candidates, who arrive with assessed, standardised competencies that most sector workers lack. FICSI, the food processing sector skill council, has certified and trained over 2.72 lakh candidates since 2015-16, indicating active placement infrastructure even if scale is still limited relative to total sector demand ².

In a sector where most workers are uncertified, an NTC holder is, by definition, in the top tier of documented skill - and that matters when organised-sector employers must demonstrate regulatory compliance ^P.

09 STAYING FUTURE-READY

How a candidate stays on the resilient side

LEAN INTO

- Food safety and FSSAI compliance skills: organised employers are under increasing regulatory pressure and certified food safety supervisors command premium pay ⁸
- Machinery maintenance and multi-product changeover: the ability to set up and troubleshoot across different processing lines extends employability across sub-sectors ^P
- Quality assurance systems: learning HACCP, ISO 22000 basics and sensory-panel techniques moves a worker off the replaceable line-operator tier ⁷
- Export-oriented processing skills: India's agri-food exports reached USD 6.9 billion in April-August 2025 alone, and export-grade processing requires higher-skill workers ¹
- Entrepreneurship under PMFME: the government's credit-linked subsidy programme for micro food-processing units is an active, funded pathway to self-employment with Rs.2,000 crore allocated in FY26 ⁸

AVOID BEING DEFINED BY

- Specialising exclusively in single-commodity sorting or grading on fixed lines where machine-vision automation is commercially viable and already being deployed in larger facilities ⁶
- Remaining at the uncertified level: without the NTC and supplementary food-safety credentials, workers compete with the mass of informal labour on cost alone ^P
- Ignoring digital record-keeping: ERP and traceability systems are replacing paper-based batch logs; workers who cannot use basic digital tools will be left out of compliance-sensitive roles ⁷
- Limiting to a single sub-sector such as rice milling only: the Agro Processing trade deliberately spans pulses, cereals, spices, oilseeds and soya, and multi-commodity adaptability is the hedge against product-specific automation ^P

10 SOURCES & CITATIONS

Every figure, traced to a source

P NSQF / CTS Program Specification (primary).

Trade definition, NSQF level, syllabus, tasks and deliverables for the "Agro Processing" Craftsmen Training Scheme trade (DGT / MSDE).
dgt.gov.in · accessed Jun 2026

1 **India's Food Processing Industry: Growth and Opportunities, IBEF, 2026**

Comprehensive overview of market size (US\$354.5B in 2024, US\$535B projected FY26), employment, FDI, exports, and government schemes including PLISFPI and PMKSY.
<https://www.ibef.org/industry/food-processing> · 2026 · accessed Jun 2026

2 **Food Processing in India: Scope for Skills, Training and Jobs, National Skills Network, 2024**

Documents sector employment (7.04 million workers), skilled workforce shortage, FICSI training data (2.72 lakh certified), and NSDC demand projection of 1.34 million net new skilled workers by 2030.
<https://nationalskillsnetwork.in/food-processing-in-india-unveiling-opportunities-for-skills-training-and-jobs/> · 2024 · accessed Jun 2026

3 **India Food Processing Market Size, Share and Forecast 2033, IMARC Group, 2024**

Projects India food processing market from INR 30,498 billion in 2024 to INR 65,244.8 billion by 2033, CAGR 8.38%.
<https://www.imarcgroup.com/indian-food-processing-market> · 2024 · accessed Jun 2026

4 **Frey C.B. and Osborne M.A., The Future of Employment, Oxford Martin School, 2013**

Landmark study estimating that 47% of US jobs face high automation probability, identifying food processing machine operators in moderate-to-high risk categories based on routine task content.
https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/downloads/academic/The_Future_of_Employment.pdf · 2013 · accessed Jun 2026

5 **Should Developing Countries Fear the Impact of Automation on Jobs?, ILO, 2018**

Estimates 68.9% of Indian jobs are at high automation risk on broad definition, falling to 42.6% when adjusted for slower technology adoption in Indian industry.
https://ilo.org/newdelhi/info/public/fs/WCMS_600471/lang--en/index.htm · 2018 · accessed Jun 2026

6 **India Food Robotics Market Trends and Industry Analysis 2033, IMARC Group, 2024**

India food robotics market reached USD 88.6 million in 2024, forecast to reach USD 198 million by 2033 at 9.4% CAGR; cobots deployed for sorting, packaging and quality control tasks.
<https://www.imarcgroup.com/india-food-robotics-market> · 2024 · accessed Jun 2026

7 **Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Safeguard Food Quality and Safety, ScienceDirect, 2025**

Reviews AI applications in food quality control, noting that sensory evaluation of novel contamination, odour and texture variation continues to require human judgment despite AI advances.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0362028X25001735> · 2025 · accessed Jun 2026

8 **PLI Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFY), Ministry of Food Processing Industries / PIB, 2025**

170 applications approved, Rs.10,900 crore scheme; 3.39 lakh jobs created; 76 Agro-processing Clusters approved; PMFME budget Rs.2,000 crore FY26 with 92,549 micro-enterprise approvals.

<https://www.mofpi.gov.in/> · 2025 · accessed Jun 2026

9 **Future of Jobs Report 2025, World Economic Forum, 2025**

Projects 170 million new roles and 92 million displaced globally by 2030; explicitly names agricultural and food processing workers among highest absolute-volume growth job categories.

<https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-jobs-report-2025/> · 2025 · accessed Jun 2026

10 **Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY), Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 2025**

1,608 projects approved, 1,185 operational, 51 lakh farmers benefited; 36 projects sanctioned and 94 operationalised in 2025 adding 28.48 lakh MT processing capacity.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2036980> · 2025 · accessed Jun 2026

11 **Agro Processing ITI Trade Overview, ITI Directory, 2024**

Covers trade classification (Non-Engineering, NCVT), entry qualification (10th with Science and Maths), job roles (Quality Analyst, Supervisor, Packaging Supervisor, Entrepreneur), and international employment in Gulf, Singapore, Australia.

<https://iti.directory/agro-processing> · 2024 · accessed Jun 2026

12 **Food and Related Products Machine Operators Salary India, WageIndicator / Paycheck.in, 2026**

Monthly salary range for food machine operators in India: Rs.32,439 to Rs.88,867 net per month; majority of workers earn Rs.32,439 to Rs.63,083 per month.

<https://wageindicator.org/en-in/work-in-india/role-and-pay/india-food-and-related-products-machine-operators> · 2026 · accessed Jun 2026

13 **Production Operator and Plant Operator Salary India, Indeed / Talent.com / Taggd, 2025**

Entry-level production operator salary estimated at Rs.34,679/month; plant operators earn Rs.3.3-4.1 LPA; shift in-charge roles at experienced level command higher packages.

<https://in.talent.com/salary?job=production+operator> · 2025 · accessed Jun 2026

14 **India Skills Report 2025, Wheebox / CII, 2025**

Overall graduate employability reached 54.81% in 2025 (up from 51.2% in 2024), based on data from 6.5 lakh candidates and insights from over 1,000 corporations across 15 industries.

<https://universalinstitutions.com/india-skills-report-2025-highlights-employability-growth/> · 2025 · accessed Jun 2026

15 **Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry, PIB / IMPRI India, 2025**

Scheme running FY2021-22 to FY2026-27, covering Ready to Cook/Eat, Processed Fruits and Vegetables, Marine Products; created 35 lakh MT annual capacity and 3.39 lakh direct/indirect jobs.

<https://www.impriindia.com/insights/policy-update/pli-food-industry/> · 2025 · accessed Jun 2026