

## 6. World Food India 2025 – Economy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 4th edition of World Food India (WFI) 2025 on 25 September 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The flagship event, aims to position India as the “Food Hub of the World.”

### Background of World Food India (WFI)

**Launch** – First held in 2017 by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India.

**Previous Editions** – Followed by events in 2023 and 2024, creating momentum for India’s food processing sector.

**Nature of Event** – A global investment and networking platform that connects government, industry, investors, entrepreneurs, and researchers across the food value chain.

### Theme & Focus of WFI 2025

**Theme** – “Processing for Prosperity” → emphasizes the role of food processing in creating value, reducing waste, boosting farmer incomes, and driving economic growth.

**Partner Countries** – New Zealand and Saudi Arabia → signify strong cooperation in dairy, processed food trade, and agri-investments.

**Focus Countries** – Japan, UAE, Vietnam, and Russia → markets with high demand for Indian food exports and investment partners in processing and logistics.

### Key Features of the Event

**Knowledge Sessions & Panel Discussions** – Policy reforms, global food security, sustainability, innovation in food tech, and investment opportunities. Involves global leaders, CEOs, policymakers, and experts.

**Sectoral Exhibitions** – Showcases cutting-edge technology in processing, packaging, cold chain, logistics, and machinery. Provides a stage for startups and MSMEs to demonstrate innovations.

#### Networking Opportunities –

1. **B2B (Business-to-Business)** meetings for partnerships in trade and investment.
2. **B2G (Business-to-Government)** interactions for policy support, MoUs, and foreign collaborations.

**Culinary Events** – Demonstrates India’s diverse food culture, linking heritage with modern sustainable food trends. Chef-led events highlight India’s potential in food tourism and branding.

### Significance of WFI 2025

**Economic Dimension** – Attracts global FDI and technology in food processing and allied industries. Expands export potential for processed foods, helping India improve its trade balance. Promotes India as a hub for value addition in global supply chains.

**Diplomatic Dimension** – Serves as an instrument of “food diplomacy”, enhancing India’s soft power. Strengthens India’s credibility as a trusted food supplier, especially amid climate change, conflicts, and pandemic-induced disruptions.

#### Social Dimension

1. **Farmer Empowerment** – By boosting demand for raw produce and reducing post-harvest losses, it enhances farmer incomes.
2. **Entrepreneurship & Startups** – Encourages innovation in food-tech, packaging, and agri-business, creating jobs.

**Strategic Dimension** – Establishes India as a global food processing hub. Aligns with India’s role in ensuring global food security by offering reliable supply chains.

### Food Processing Industry in India – Performance Snapshot

**Growth** – Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of **5.35%** (2015–16 to 2022–23).

**Gross Value Added (GVA)** – Increased from ₹1.61 lakh crore (2015–16) to ₹1.92 lakh crore (2022–23).

**Employment** – Expanded from 17.73 lakh (2014–15) to 20.68 lakh (2021–22).

**Exports** – Share of processed foods in agri-food exports rose from 13.7% (2014–15) to 23.4% (2023–24).

### India’s Comparative Advantages

1. Largest global producer of milk, pulses, and spices.
2. Second-largest producer of fruits, vegetables, and cereals.
3. Large domestic market with growing urban demand for packaged and processed foods.
4. Strategic geography for export supply chains across Asia, Middle East, and Africa.

### Key Government Schemes Driving the Sector

#### **Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY)**

Focus – Creating modern infrastructure and efficient supply chains (farm gate to retail).

Support – Capital subsidy and grants-in-aid for processing units, cold chains, and mega food parks.

#### **PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)**

Focus – Formalisation of micro units, financial support, training, and technical assistance.

Encourages cluster-based approach (One District, One Product – ODOP).

#### **Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)**

Aims to create global food manufacturing champions.

Provides support for branding, marketing abroad, and enhancing Indian food brands globally.

### Challenges in India's Food Processing Sector

**Low Processing Levels** – <10% of agri-produce processed, compared to >60% in developed nations.

**Cold Chain Gaps** – Lack of storage, refrigeration, and transport facilities leads to high wastage.

**Fragmented Supply Chains** – Smallholder farmers face difficulty in connecting to large-scale processors.

**Food Safety & Standardisation Issues** – Quality and compliance challenges hinder exports.

**Infrastructure Deficits** – Limited logistics, packaging facilities, and modern retail linkages.

