

Roundtable Discussion on Good and Better Jobs in Food Processing Sector

Thursday, Nov 28, 2019 | 11:00 to 13:00 Hours

CUTS-Delhi Resource Centre, B-36, 1st Floor,
Sarvodaya Enclave, Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi

One of the key reasons for the prevailing demand crisis in the country is low wages for most Indians and plateauing of demand for those products that Indian economy is relatively good at producing. Exacerbating this situation is increasing footprint of automation and digitalization in the manufacturing sector. Together, these developments are not only changing the nature of production but also gradually transforming labour intensive sectors.

For a consumption economy like India, this is a serious issue and we can no longer fix it for long with short term monetary and fiscal measures. While those will be necessary to some extent, it is time we go to the root and address structural issues by deep diving into labour intensive sectors or those sectors that still have considerable potential to be labour intensive. In short deep sectoral research is important to understand how can balance be restored amongst three key elements of business i.e. employment, wages and competitiveness.

Towards this endeavour, CUTS International has already culminated field inquiry into Textile and Apparel sector and now aims to consult relevant experts to formulate an informed approach for the Food processing sector.

AGENDA

| Time | Session |
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| 11:00 – 11:30 | <p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International <p>Brief Presentation by CUTS International on the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About the project, its purpose and what it aims to achieve Reasons for focusing on Food Processing Sector and learnings from other sectors Secondary research on Food Processing Industry and tentative research approach |
| 11:30 – 12:50 | <p>Roundtable discussion on Food Processing Sector</p> <p>The main aim of the discussion is to better understand the structure of the food processing sector, its geographical spread, new developments, potential, challenges and opportunities. This will be done with the aim to have a better understanding on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach for field inquiry in food processing industry Identification of clusters, industry, policies and schemes |
| 12:50 – 13:00 | Closing Remarks and Way Forward |
| 13:00 onwards | Working Lunch |