Post-harvest management and processing of agricultural products in Haryana

Based on the secondary data collected from published sources and primary data collected from the 10 each of flour mills, oil mills, dal mills, cotton mill and rice mills, operating in Karnal and Fatehabad district by conducting personal interview, it was observed that Haryana state is surplus in wheat, rice, cotton and rapeseed and mustard. The production of rice and wheat has increased manifold owing to shift in area under these crops, evolution of high yielding varieties, adoption of new production technology, lesser production and price risk and assured market. The production of gram has declined mainly due to shifting out area, lack of suitable technology support and high risk involved in producing this crop. The cotton production has declined mainly due to heavy infestation of insect-pests and diseases especially during the last decade.

The growth rates of area production and yield were also found higher in case of wheat, rice and rapeseed and mustard but the rates have receded during the last decade.

The increase in market arrivals of paddy and wheat may also be attributed to assured purchase of 90 per cent of total market arrivals as well as assured minimum support prices and larger productions.

The growth rates of production of fibre, fruit preservations and khadi industries were found positive while that of cereals and pulses, village oil ghani industry and gur and khandsari industries was found negative. Similarly the employment growth rates in gur and khandsari, village oil ghani and fruit preservation industries were found negative. But the growth rates of employment were found positive in case of cereals and pulses processing, fibre and khadi industries.

All the five industries (rice mills, dal mills, cotton ginning mills, flour mills and rapeseed and mustard oil mills) were found economically viable as benefit cost ratios were found more than one, but due to lack of adequate power supply, obsolete machinery and out dated technology all the industries were operating even below 50 percent of their installed capacity.

Keeping in view large quantity of surplus agricultural products there is vast potential for the agro-industries in the state. The demand for value added and ready to eat food chains is bound to increase due to change in life style, tastes and habits as well as due to globalization of agricultural trade. Haryana is lacking in the required infrastructure of value addition to main products as well as processing of by-products to convert variable high priced products. Thus, there is a need for integrated approach for diversification, value addition and export of agricultural products. The selected industry operators/owners highlighted that inadequate and irregular power supply, difficulties in getting adequate and cheaper loans, difficulties is getting license, high and multiplicity of taxes, lack of trained technical personnel’s, lower financial limit fixed for working capital in comparison to ever rising prices of raw materials, difficulty in getting power connection, difficulty in land acquisition and high price of land, high rate of interest, lack of grants and subsidies advanced by government, higher marketing charges as compared to neighboring states, lack of quality control, irregular supply of raw material, higher fluctuation in rates of raw material, higher taxation on raw material purchased from market, lack of cold chain, under utilillation of installed capacity of unit, high rate of charges of power and fuels, high cost of the transportation, non availability of railway transport, higher govt.intervention, lack of marketing liason with other states, high rate of sale tax on processed material, lower prices of processed material, as major problems faced in operations and further development of agro-industries. Thus, there is a need to bring improvement in power supply, reduction in taxes, single window facility, adequate and cheaper bank finance, proper development of infrastructural facilities, developing greater linkages between farm and industry, permission for village sale should be given to avoid 2-3 loading, unloading, transportation, etc., technical trainings to workers should be given, co-operative system should be adopted by small units in order to compete with large units, government intervention
should be reduced, cheaper transportation facilities, tax holidays and other incentives for installation of agro-processing units in rural area, special incentive for exporting of value added agri-products units needs to be emphasised for proper operations and development of agro industries in the state.