Opportunities in Food Processing Sector through PM FME Scheme

PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprise Scheme (PM FME Scheme) is a new project initiated by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) for providing support to the enterprises functioning in food processing sector. The Industrial Department is the State Nodal Agency of this Scheme in Kerala. As per this scheme, various opportunities are provided to the enterprises functioning in the food processing sector. There are many manufacturing units in this sector registered as micro enterprises of Kudumbashree. So, we are moving forward with the activities to support such enterprises by making use of this opportunity.

As per PM FME scheme, all the 14 districts were directed to select the most important agricultural product in the respective district as 'One District, One Product'. Industrial Department coordinated and identified the ODOP product of all the 14 districts of Kerala. Though the enterprises related to this ODOP product are likely to get more support through the scheme, there are possibilities to extend support to the enterprises related to other food products as well.

There are 4 important components in this scheme. Seed fund for the individual micro enterprises, credit linked capital grant, support for the basic infrastructure facilities and support for branding, marketing are the four components. Support would be extended to the Individual Micro Enterprises functioning in the food processing sector, in the form of credit linked capital subsidy at 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs 10 lakhs. Seed capital up to maximum of Rs 40,000 per member of NHG would be provided as a loan. This loan should be either used as working capital or for the purchase of small tools under the scheme.

At first we are planning to coordinate the activity of compiling the details of the enterprises functioning under Kudumbashree in the food processing sector. Once survey is completed, we will hand over those details to the Industrial Department. These activities would be completed before 30 January 2021. Field survey for this is progressing. It is expected that the financial aid and other support as per this scheme will be received for improving the production and for upgrading the existing enterprises, once these details are submitted to the Industrial Department. To know more about this programme, visit the link, https://kudumbashree.org/pages/885.