



THEME: Building manufacturing excellence capabilities in Indian food processing operations

Day I: 28th October 2026

1200 hrs – 1550 hrs

1200 hrs – 1250 hrs: Panel Discussion – I

Proposed Topic I: Road ahead for equipment modernization of Indian snack manufacturers' operations

Proposed Discussion Points:

- A look at India's fried savoury market revolution
- How HoReCa, QSR, coffee chains, bakeries are supporting growth of snack & RTE industries
- Industry drivers impacting adoption of modern processing technologies in snacks manufacturing
- Adoption of intelligent & continuous systems to minimize energy consumption and prepare healthier snack options
- Future of continuous frying systems in plant operations – Look at key technological advancements
- Role of smart processing technologies in optimizing productivity, increasing energy efficiency, prioritising sustainability, maintaining safety, quality, & compliance standards, and boosting profitability
- Examining successful deployments in Indian settings
- Best Practices in future-ready snack factories

1300 hrs – 1400 hrs: Networking Break

1400 hrs – 1450 hrs: Panel Discussion - II

Proposed Topic II: Meeting global standards in Indian MSME food processor operations – Where we stand & where we need to go

Proposed Discussion Points:

- Spotlight on food hygiene, material & engineering standards in India – Look at regulatory bodies shaping the future of food in India
- Scale & scope of Good Manufacturing Practices for plant operations
- Examining standards from product point of entry till point of exit from facility
- Discussing Indian food processor pain points impeding GMP adoption
- Challenges impacting adoption & development of standards in Indian food processing equipment sector
- Future of standards for food equipment manufacturers – Pivoting towards strict safety, IoT-driven traceability, & sustainability
- Market drivers shaping adoption of robust global standards amongst equipment manufacturers

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1500 hrs – 1550 hrs: Panel Discussion - III

Proposed Topic III: Addressing the bugbear of working capital financing in the SME sector

Proposed Discussion Points:

- Understanding nature of SME food processors: Highly unorganised, family-run & limited by challenges in financial awareness
- SME pain points – Raising capital to cover raw material, labour, & energy costs and investment in equipment, technology, and R&D
- Addressing access to credit concerns – Stringent lending criteria of banks and sluggish & burdensome loan-approval processes
- Role of fintech companies – Providing digital lending platforms & smart supply chain finance solutions
- Rise of DTC startups & role of VC funding
- Government initiatives & schemes to promote SME sector
- Policy suggestions to improve affordability & accessibility of credit facilities
- Roadmap to augment & improve credit facilities for SME sector

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Day II: 29th October 2026

1100 hrs to 1550 hrs

1100 hrs – 1150 hrs: Panel Discussion - IV

Proposed Topic IV: Trends shaping the future of baking operations in India

Proposed Discussion Points:

- Impact assessment of clean label, high protein, reduced sugar & functional bakery ware sectors on plant operations
- How current production realities are shaping adoption of automation & digitalization in bakery operations – Managing tight labour markets, product complexity & rising inputs costs
- Why sustainability imperatives are driving bakery operations to prioritise energy efficiency, water management, zero-waste measures, and improved transparency
- Role of innovation in product development & smart manufacturing operations
- How automation & process optimisation are neutralising material, labour, & energy costs with focus on manufacturing excellence
- Examining use-case illustrations in AI & IoT integration, automation & robotics, sustainability & energy efficiency, and blockchain
- Global Best Practices of Smart Bakery operations

1200 hrs – 1250 hrs: Panel Discussion - V

Proposed Topic V: Role of innovation in sparking growth of Indian food processing industry

Proposed Discussion Points:

- Decoding the typical Indian SME food processor – How the family-led business environment operates & prioritises non-essential spends
- Impact potential of cutting-edge predictive technologies in improving plant operations & in-transit experiences
- Challenges facing cash-strapped processors in integrating technology – Initial seed cost, payback duration, and market acceptance
- Understanding implementation bottlenecks in processor operations – Lack of skilled manpower, cybersecurity risks, and compatibility of legacy equipment with new-age technologies
- Real-world advantages of technology adoption in processor operations – Food safety, quality & hygiene management; Production Process & Supply chain optimisation; waste reduction
- Industry use-cases of data science, sensor, simulation, and geospatial technologies in Indian SME operations Policy enablers as drivers for adoption of advanced technologies
- Best Practices in Indian context – Leadership narratives on early-adoption use-cases & successful integration illustrations

1300 hrs – 1400 hrs: Networking Break

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1400 hrs – 1450 hrs: Panel Discussion - VI

Proposed Topic VI: Envisioning the future of energy conservation in Indian food processing operations

Proposed Discussion Points:

- Demand analysis for HVACR in food processing operations – Examining the coming 10-year horizon
- SME sentiment on impact of innovation in HVACR solutions over coming decade
- How greater thrust on food preservation, safety, quality, hygiene, handling & movement is driving innovation in thermal processing equipment, cold storage & industrial refrigeration
- Assessing economic, energy & environmental impact of HVACR operations in food processing industry in decade ahead
- Technology trends & innovations in HVACR industry
- Promise for alternative energy technology adoption in food processor operations
- Role of tightening food safety regulatory compliance, audits, & EPR guidelines on energy management in processor operations
- Glimpsing Indian & international energy conservation Best Practices in processor operations
- Role of government subsidies & grants to drive long-term sustainability & net-zero target realization.

1500 hrs – 1550 hrs: Panel Discussion - VII

Proposed Topic VII: Where is the Indian F&V processing equipment market headed over the next decade?

Proposed Discussion Points:

- Demand drivers for F&V processing equipment market in India
- Processing-as-a-Service – Rental of modular & mobile units to access process technology minus heavy upfront investment
- Role of automation, freeze drying, & advanced preservation technologies in supporting shelf stability for domestic consumption & export growth
- Prioritising export competitiveness – Competitive edge derived from compliance-driven technology adoption & export-oriented processing
- How smart processing technologies are shaping the future of breeding, growing, distributing & marketing fresh produce
- Market opportunities for specialized equipment for niche product categories
- Government-backed infrastructure expansion & incentive schemes
- Case studies of successful technology deployments in F&V processing operations
- Global Best Practices sharing

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