

EDITORIAL

Promoting income of agriculture through value addition

Agriculture is one of the key avenues that can be utilized to generate foreign exchange for many of the countries in the world. Value increasing of primary agricultural commodities through manufacturing or processing means to value addition in agriculture. Also, value addition is the process whereby the economic value of a particular commodity or a product is increased through specific processes. At the end, product changes its original form and raw agricultural products are transformed into something new which could make a significant contribution in foreign earnings in the international market.

Value addition in agriculture can generate several billion dollars making economic impact on a country. In fact, adding value to agricultural products beyond the farm gate usually has greater economic impact than the agricultural production alone. The value addition processes not only raise the income but also guarantees that the end product lasts for a long time in the market making the product better in terms of quality. Overall, it promotes consumer preference in purchasing agricultural items. Economic and postharvest losses of food and agricultural products can be prevented through value addition. This is crucial for countries and people who depend solely on agriculture for their survival without which wastage would result into breakdown with no outcome. Postharvest losses could vary from country to country. However, its impact is significant specially in developing countries. Industries and factories involved in value addition create employment opportunities for people. This results in easy income flow, job security and continuity in agricultural production. More job opportunities are also created as various new industries will rise up creating entrepreneurs in packaging, making industrial machinery and in other sectors such as trade, transport and distribution. The communal benefits also include infrastructural development like roads and improved standards of living for the people. It also contributes to food security by ensuring that food stays fresh and longer for future use. This helps avoid food losses and, ensures availability and quality maintenance. Finally, it will help reduce global hunger for people everywhere around the world and thus contribute to sustainable development. Therefore, value addition in agriculture should be promoted to obtain the said benefits above.

Journal of Agriculture and Value Addition expects research communications specially covering value addition in agriculture in order to communicate important findings related to value addition in agriculture to the end users of it. By communicating scientific background in value addition to agriculture will undoubtedly promote the sector for a better future.

Prof. H.M.S.K. Herath

Editor-in-Chief

<https://dx.doi.org/10.4038/java.v5i1.30>