

Development Interventions in Food Processing Clusters: Case of Sindhudurg Cluster in Maharashtra

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The food processing industry in India is currently facing numerous problems. Some are lack of paucity of backward and forward linkages, unorganized and small scale units, poor competitiveness, underdeveloped domestic machinery, lack of cold storages, low level of integration in the supply chain, acute shortage of skilled labour, etc. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has adopted the cluster-based approach for enhancing the competitiveness of small enterprises. In recent years, the ministry has supported area-specific agrofood clusters, establishment of common facility centres, set up quality testing and certification labs on public private partnership (PPP) basis, and provided access to finance through financial institutions. The Sindhudurg Food Processing Cluster has adopted some of these development interventions and provided entrepreneurial support to women entrepreneurs. The Konkan Nisarg Manch (KNM), a local social enterprise, is the implementing agency in the Sindhudurg cluster. Bamboo products, rural business process outsourcing (BPO), fruit processing,

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and homestays are major portfolios of KNNM. It also promotes rural tourism, agricultural business, environment, green energy, and rural services.