



International Training on Agri-Entrepreneurship Training for Women and Youth- Small Scale Food Processing Enterprises

Date: 02-13 November 2026

Organized by **ICRISAT Center of Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA)**

Under the Aegis of **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program of Government of India**

About the course

Small-scale food processing enterprises play a vital role in strengthening rural economies, reducing post-harvest losses, and generating local employment opportunities. With increasing consumer demand for safe, nutritious, and value-added food products, there is immense potential for women and youth to become successful agri-entrepreneurs in the food processing sector.

This course is designed to equip participants with the practical knowledge, technical skills, and entrepreneurial mindset needed to establish and manage small-scale food processing enterprises. It emphasizes value addition to locally available crops, fruits, and vegetables, along with training in modern processing methods, packaging, quality control, branding, and marketing.

By building the capacity of women and youth, the course aims to promote inclusive growth, enhance income opportunities, and strengthen rural food systems. It also encourages the formation of micro-enterprises and cooperatives, helping participants to move from primary production to profitable value addition and market linkages.

The training will further develop financial literacy, business planning, and enterprise management capabilities—essential components for transforming ideas into sustainable enterprises. Community-based organizations and young innovators will be encouraged to take leadership roles in local food enterprises, fostering entrepreneurship-led rural development.

Course Impact

- Participants, including women entrepreneurs, and youth, gain a clear understanding of opportunities in the food processing sector.
- Women and youth learn the essential steps of establishing and managing small-scale food enterprises, from idea to market.
- Improved knowledge in food processing, packaging, marketing, and quality standards to ensure competitiveness and profitability.
- Strengthened linkages with key departments, technical experts, and financial institutions to facilitate enterprise growth.
- Improved livelihoods, enhanced household incomes, and empowered women and youth as change agents for sustainable rural development.

Course Topics

- Small-Scale Food Processing: Introduction, Landscape and Emerging Trends
- Women and Youth as Agri-Food Entrepreneurs: Challenges and Opportunities
- Food Processing Technologies and Value Addition for Local Crops and Millets
- Food Safety, Hygiene and Quality Standards for Small-Scale Enterprises
- New Product Development: From Farm Produce to Market-Ready Products
- Setting Up and Managing a Small-Scale Food Processing Enterprise
- Business Planning and Financial Literacy for Agri-Entrepreneurs
- Rural Enterprise Ecosystems: Institutional Support, Cooperatives and Community-Based Business Models
- Packaging, Labelling and Branding for Small-Scale Food Products
- Digital Marketing, E-Commerce and AI Tools for Food SMEs
- Cross-Border Trade for Food Products: Export-Import Basics, Certification and Market Access
- Intellectual Property Rights, Technology Transfer and Licensing
- Networking and Negotiation Skills for Food Entrepreneurs
- Entrepreneurial Journey: Interactions with Successful Small-Scale Food Processing Entrepreneurs from India
- Field Visits to Food Processing Facilities and Agri-Business Incubators in Hyderabad

Guidelines to Apply for the Course

- Create a login to apply for the course and furnish all the requisite information. Submit the application online and download the submitted application form
- Take a printout of the submitted application form, get appropriate signatures at all the signature placeholders throughout the application form including the English proficiency certificate, medical report, candidate undertaking form and the Employer nomination form;
- Scan the complete application document and submit the physical copies of the application form including the undertaking form and the employer nomination form to the Indian High commission in your country and e-mail the scanned copy of the executed application form to vishwambhar.duche@icrisat.org with copy to babu.potta@icrisat.org

Please note that we have very limited seats for the course and the eligible applications will be shortlisted by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on First Come First Serve basis. Therefore, if you are interested, **we recommend that you submit your application immediately without any delay.**

In case you face any technical difficulties in applying for the course, such as portal issues, login issues or any website related errors, please screenshot the errors and email to help@itecgoi.in with copy to vishwambhar.duche@icrisat.org and babu.potta@icrisat.org

Target Participants

Government officials, Field level functionaries in different departments - agriculture, women and child welfare, rural health ministries, agri-business, among others. Functionaries can be from countries in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Food science / food technology / business management / agriculture experts.

Educational qualifications

University degree in science, agriculture, horticulture, food processing, business management, economics, social studies, etc.

Work experience required

2 to 3 Years of experience.

Contact

Dr Padmaja Ravula

Principal Scientist & Cluster Leader
Dryland Academy and Gender and Youth Inclusion
Transforming Agrifood System
International Crops Research Institute for the
Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad, Telangana, India
Email: padmaja.ravula@icrisat.org

Dr Kavitha Kasala

Associate Scientist, Gender and Youth Inclusion
Transforming Agrifood System
International Crops Research Institute for the
Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad, Telangana, India
Email: Kavitha.Kasala@icrisat.org

Mr Srinivas Bollam

Manager – Agribusiness Incubator & BioNcube,
Transforming Agrifood Systems
International Crops Research Institute for the
Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad, Telangana, India
Email: srinivas.bollam@icrisat.org

Approach and methodology of training:

Experiential learning and field visits

Number of participants: 35 to 50

Application: The fully sponsored program is exclusive to non-Indian international participants only.

[ITEC: Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation](#)

Deadline to apply for the course:

19 October 2026