



INDUSTRY CAPABILITY REPORT



FOOD & BEVERAGE SECTOR

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1. Introduction

Food & Beverage sector is one of the important sectors due to its potential to deliver a host of benefits to the economy in terms of foreign exchange earnings, employment generation and uplifting of rural economy.

2. Type of Players

The players in this sector could be categorized as large, medium and small scale exporters. Most of the SME manufacturers who have capacity and adhere to the international standards are supplying their products to the direct exporters as well as for the local consumption. Food manufacturers and producers are scattered all over the country.

3. Key products and varieties

The product categories such as Processed vegetables, & fruits, concentrates & juices, semi cooked food, confectionery & bakery products, ready to serve food, rice & cereals, non-alcoholic beverages, animal feed, preparations of cereals & flour, processed gherkins etc., are identified to develop and promote in the overseas markets. These product categories have shown a rapid growth during the past decade.

3.1 Processed Fruit, Vegetable and Juices

Canned / Bottled products

High quality canned fruit juices especially pineapple juice in light syrup, sliced pineapples, pieces, chunks and mixed fruits packed in glass jars and in tins. The use of high processing techniques and handling leads to increase of exports from Sri Lanka.

The fruit juice industry is one of the world's most important sectors in agri-business. The packaging, labeling and presentation are very important factors when the processed food industry is intended for the export market. Passion fruit, papaya and pineapple juices shows a high potential amongst the tropical fruit juice market having the unique tropical flavours unmatched by other suppliers.

Processed Food

Processed food industry in Sri Lanka is one of the emerging and lucrative industries in terms of production, consumption, export and growth prospects. Processed food sector consists of Dehydrated Fruits & Vegetables, Processed Gherkins & Cucumber, Herbal Tea, Frozen meat, Sauces and Tomato ketchup , and prepared foods such as Ambul Thial, Katta Sambol, Dried Sprats etc.

29% of the revenue in this sector is generated by mixed processed products. These products are mainly catered to ethnic expatriates and Asians live in the develop countries. In recent past the manufacturers started producing new items such as ready-to –eat food, processed and frozen fruit & vegetables, marine & meat products, beverages etc.

Dehydration of fruits and vegetables is one of the oldest methods of food preservation techniques. Handling, transportation and “ready to use” are the advantages of dehydration. Natural fruits & vegetables are processed under strict hygienic conditions according to international standards. The use of high technology leads to preservation of the product taste, colour, texture, aroma and vitamins. Dehydrated pineapple , Mango, Papaya are some of the popular varieties exported to the UK, USA, Australia, Spain and Maldivian markets. These products are used as tropical fruit dessert supplements, in instant soup and rice mixes.

Gherkins preserved in brine and in vinegar are in high demand products. Japan is the main market for Sri Lankan Gherkins followed by Australia, the Netherlands and Thailand. Value added Gherkins are exported to Fast Food Chains, Restaurants, Hotels and Super markets in the international market.

Confectionery and Bakery Products

Confectionery and bakery products show a high export growth and an increasing demand in most of the industrialized markets. Currently, the opportunities are twisted for exports of further value added products. The technology has diverted from developed markets to countries like Sri Lanka to explore opportunities for pre-cooked bakery products namely frozen dough for bakery and confectionery industries. In line with global consumer patterns the products manufactured using nutritional natural raw material (eg. Rice) are more popular due to health concerns of consumers of all ages.

Sri Lanka exports a variety of crackers, sweet biscuits, cream biscuits and savory biscuits to India, UAE, Ghana, UK and Maldives. Manufacturers comply with food safety and food hygiene systems and use high technology in producing these food items especially aiming at the international demand. Sri Lankan Confectionery product manufacturers also specialize in producing high quality products using finest ingredients. There is a rising trend towards consumption of “sugar-free” or “light-sugar” products especially in relation with chocolates. Companies are certified with ISO 9000, ISO 14000 and ISO 22000 international standards for management practices, management of the environment and for food safety respectively.

Rice and Cereals

Rice is a staple food worldwide. Red rice and the Sri Lankan traditional health rice varieties such as

Suwandal, Alhal, Rathhal have high demand in the world market. According to Medical specialists, a newly developed “Red Basmati” is identified as the only healthy rice for diabetic patients and popular in the international markets.

Rice and Cereal exports mainly consist of Brown Rice, Rice flour, Maize Starch, Kurakkan, Black Gram Flour and Wheat Flour.

Frozen Vegetables

Okra, Drum Stick, Manioc and Polos are very popular in the Middle East and French markets.

Best quality vegetables are carefully selected and freeze without any preservatives or food additives. Exporters are well aware of the international market requirements and standards and majority have obtained ISO 22000/HACCP/GMP/BRC and Kosher Certificates and meet the international quality requirements .

Animal Feed

Animal feed is one of the important export industries and it is a growing industry in Sri Lanka. Residues of milling industry are used as animal feed. High quality animal feed are produced for exports using ingredients such as broken rice, wheat bran, flour, maize, soyabean etc. Large scale producer/exporters are engaged with this industry.

Export of animal feed comprised of 61% wheat bran and 21% rice bran. Sri Lanka has a massive opportunity to increase exports of animal feed since the global animal feed industrialists are struggling to move forward due to inadequate ingredients and main raw materials such as maize, bran etc. Sri Lanka has gifted with rice bran, wheat bran, maize and other ingredients required to manufacture animal feed. However, we export raw material and import feed for higher prices. In view of the opportunities available globally Sri Lanka needs to promote joint venture partnership to venture into animal feed manufacturing industry which adds value to main by products from wheat and rice milling. This also would provide to increase the livelihood of local maize growers.

4. Specialties associated with products

The factors such as quality, taste and flavour which are unique to Sri Lankan products are associated with the intrinsic quality of resources available in different geographical locations of the country. Sri Lankan Food producers are always working towards with “Food for Health” concept and they ensure the consumer health by supplying quality product to the market. The exporters have taken measures to closely monitor the supply and production chains to ensure the traceability and supply of a quality product to the consumers.

5. Geographical distribution across the country and known clusters if any

Basically large scale food industrialists are based in Colombo and others are spread out in all most all the areas of the Island. There are identified clusters for growing raw material for the food industry.

Mainly for the processed fruit, juice, jam and other processed food industries there are raw material collectors/suppliers linked with the industrialists. In addition the industrialists have their own orchard cultivations as well as farmer clusters for their produce.

6. Size in terms of production (Value / Quantity):

Due to various companies involved in the food sector it is hard to find the company wise production figures. However, it is observed that regional manufacturing facilities are small or medium scale (SME) in compared to branded companies established within the highly urbanized Western Province.

7. Exports of the Food Sector for last five years

Value in US\$ Mn.						
Description	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	% Avg. Growth
Rice & Cereals	80	157	104	47	51	-21.18
Processed Food	67	95	73	67	90	2.48
Animal Feed	67	58	82	59	56	-3.43
Confectionary & Bakery Products	35	45	39	33	32	-4.62
Processed Vegetables, Fruits & Juices	6	6	9	13	17	28.77
Total	255	361	307	219	246	-1.83

Source – Sri Lanka Customs

8. Total Growth in the sector







Manufacturing, distributing and exporting of Food and Beverages in Sri Lanka is dominated by few large scale companies with established brand names. The changing economic status of the country with expanding urbanization process has given opportunity to increase number of food manufacturing units especially in and around major agricultural areas. A well established company for confectionery & bakery products has commenced their business in Central Province of Sri Lanka.

With the dawn of peace many industries were started in the Northern & Eastern Districts to boost the production of various raw materials as well as finished products for the processed food industry. The land has been allocated among the war victims and the basic facilities such as fishing utensils, seed material, fertilizer, water etc. has been distributed free of charge. The exporters are Food & Beverage Sector

directly linked with the producers which will lead to enhance their production capacity of their finished product. Besides that industry training programmes have been conducted by the Government, there are various other organizations located in the area to enhance living standards of the people.

9. List of key players







Processed Vegetables, Fruits & Juices

-  SILVERMILL NATURAL BEVERAGES PVT LTD
-  S A SILVA AND SONS LANKA PVT LTD.
-  LANKA CANNERIES LTD
-  PRIPA ORGANIC COLOMBO PVT LTD
-  C B L NATURAL FOODS PVT LTD
-  GREENFIELD BIO PLANTATIONS PVT LTD






Processed Food

-  PREMIUM EXPORTS CEYLON LTD
-  H J S CONDIMENTS LTD
-  AMAZON TRADING PVT LTD
-  NESTLE LANKA PLC
-  AB MAURI LANKA PVT LTD
-  RENUKA AGRI FOODS PLC







Rice & Cereals

-  Prima Ceylon Limited
-  SERENDIB FLOUR MILLS PVT LTD
-  CONSOLIDATED BUSINESS SYSTEMS PVT LTD
-  LEELA EXPORTS AND IMPORTS
-  SYNERGY LANKA TRADING COMPANY A I
-  RABEENA FOOD PVT LTD

Confectionery & Bakery Products

-  CEYLON BISCUITS LTD
-  C B LEXPORTS PVT LTD
-  MALIBAN BISCUIT MANUFACTORIES PVT. LTD
-  NESTLE LANKA PLC
-  EDNA COCOA PRODUCTS PVT LTD

Animal Feed

-  AMINOVIT PVT LTD
-  SERENDIB FLOUR MILLS PVT LTD
-  PRIMA CEYLON PVT LTD
-  PULSES SPLITTING AND PROCESSING INDUSTRY PVT LTD
-  VAIGAI LANKA PVT LTD
-  NEW ASIA TRADERS

10. Number of people employed in the sector

Current data is not available on employment in food sector.(More than 2million)

11. Total investment in the sector in last five years

Private sector exporters have invested to develop R & D facilities, to obtain international standard certifications and to participate at international trade fairs to update their knowledge on new product technology, standards and regulations. Sri Lankan Universities are conducting advanced courses on Food Science and Technology to introduce qualified human resources to the industry. EDB is also providing assistance to obtain international certifications and coordinating with the private sector to encourage investments in this sector.

12. Government policy and support available in the sector

The government's industrial policy is to create environment to increase investments, joint venture businesses and importation for value addition and re-exports of certain products to increase most needed foreign exchange to the country. Under the guidance of newly established Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade it is proposed to encourage local and foreign investments in all possible sectors since Sri Lanka has a comparative advantage. The Board of Investment (BOI) offers various incentives for investors. Also Research Institutions conduct various programmes to develop R & D facilities and Government related institutions offer training and upgrade skills of the technical staff.

13. R&D and product development facilities available

Since the investment in R & D is very high in the food sector the Sri Lankan Universities, Research Institutions and private sector stakeholders carry out researches on product development and introduce new varieties to the sector. Eg. Introduction of Red Basmati rice as a health food.

14. Infrastructure/logistics required/ available for the sector

With the existing road development programmes it is easy to transport goods from all corners of the Island. Also, the Government pays special attention to develop logistics such as air line facilities, fumigation facilities, packaging and labeling etc. for the development of the sector.

15. Availability of Technology and Skilled Labor

The technical expertise, experienced & qualified staff currently engaged in the industry. EDB is directly in contact with the foreign Embassies in Sri Lanka to obtain services of foreign experts to develop required technology for the industry. EDB is also closely working our Missions abroad to identify suitable technical experts and organize workshops, seminars, factory visits to identify their technical requirements to facilitate exporters.

16. Main importing markets

Processed Vegetables, Fruits & Juices

Description	2014 Value in US\$ '000
United States	10,208
United Kingdom	3,516
Germany	1,145
Australia	1,143
Japan	972
Total with others	19,832

Confectionary & Bakery Products

Description	2014 Value in US\$ '000
Ghana	5,199
Maldives	3,242
UAE	2,227
India	1,043
UK	970
Total with others	23,809

Processed Food

Description	2014 Value in US\$ '000
Ireland	13,065
Maldives	7,653
Netherlands	4,962
Australia	3,934
United States	3,902
Total with others	59,462

Rice & Cereals

Description	2014 Value in US\$ '000
Thailand	6,476
Maldives	5,726
Singapore	5,347
Indonesia	3,575
Malaysia	3,277
Total with others	41,195

Animal Feed

Food & Beverage Sector

Description	2014 Value in US\$ '000
India	53,838
Viet Nam	5,951
Pakistan	993
UAE	465
Bangladesh	289
Total with others	62,271

17. Potential for expansion of the sector

- The industry has a potential for further expansion utilizing the resources available in the country and has a potential to develop/increase exports to the ethnic markets such as Middle East, Australia, United Kingdom, Canada and USA.

There is an opportunity to increase volumes of exports if the country encourage imports of raw material for certain products for value addition and re-export. Eg. Cashew

- Available skilled workforce and coaching staff to develop products to meet the international standards and demand.

18. Strengths and weaknesses of the sector

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to the International Standards such as HACCP, ISO 9000 and 22000, HALAAL, Kosher, Organic etc. Assistance to find markets Availability of skilled and cost effective labour force Development of new product varieties Create job opportunities for youngsters Close working relationships with International Food Processors Associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal of R & D facilities Over dependence of existing markets High cost of investment Lack of technology transfer programmes High cost of production Inadequate raw material against demand Limited Government involvement Difficult to obtain loans for the SME companies Non availability of proper machinery in the country. Most of the companies import machinery from Germany,

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