



INDUSTRIAL CONTRIBUTION TO EMPLOYEMENT GENERATION IN AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES OF CHHATTISGARH

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Abstract:

Chhattisgarh is popularly known as the rice bowl of India. The diverse agro-climatic conditions in the state are favorable for the agro-based industries, which mainly depend on raw materials. Rapid economic growth of industries and technical literacy brings exceptional growth and change in the demand pattern and leads to new opportunities for the market, on an average, 50% of households' expenditure depending on food industry, this sector contributes to employment generation, adding over 7.6% of state employment. This paper examines the contribution of agro-based industries to employment generation in the state, It highlights major sectors such as rice milling, forest based industries and food processing sector and analyze their impact on rural livelihoods. The study also explores challenges and policy implications for sustainable industrial development.

Key words: Agro Based Industries, Economic Growth, Technical Literacy, Household Expenditure, Employment Generation, Raw Material, Contribution, Livelihood, Rural Economy, Industrial Development.

INTRODUCTION:

50% of the workforce, however agriculture alone cannot provide year round employment due to its essential nature. Agro-based industries bridge this gap by converting raw agriculture produce into value added products, thereby creating employment opportunities.

An analysis of industrial contribution to employment generation clearly shows the relation between the industries and employment generation process. The state is enriched in natural and agricultural resources. The availability of natural agricultural resources with infrastructure facilities has attached the spread of industrial activities in agro-based sectors at different locations of the state. The transformation of the state from a resource rich agrarian state into an industrial powerhouse. Where strategic development fuels unprecedented employment generation and inclusive growth. blessed with abundant minerals, surplus power Chhattisgarh is one of the India's leading agrarian states, where agriculture supports near, and a young workforce, the state's industrial development policy 2024-30 charts an ambitious course to create 5 lakh formal jobs over five years, leveraging sectors like manufacturing, MSMEs, IT, and agro processing to propel GSDP towards 10 lakh crore.

This paper contributes to understand the roles of agro-based industries in generating employment opportunities also focus on the major challenges and their permanent solutions

STUDY AREA:

Chhattisgarh, the 26th state of India, was carved out of Madhya Pradesh on 1st November 2000, is located in the heart of India and shares its borders with the Six states Uttar Pradesh in north, Jharkhand in north, east, Odisha in east, Madhya Pradesh in west, Maharashtra in south-west, Andhra Pradesh in south-east.

It has an area of 1,35,191 km with the 9th largest state. The present administrative units of the state of 4 divisions, 18 districts, 149 tenhsils, and 146 community blocks. The northern region depends on agriculture, forests, and mines. There are emerging urban centers like Korba and Ambikapur. The central region is known as the rice bowl because of its indigenous varieties of rice, Raipur and Durg, as urban areas with large steel plants and huge amount of agro-based industries. The southern region is known for minerals and rich forests



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OBJECTIVES:

1. To analyze the contribution of major agro-based industries to job creation in the state.
2. To identify the challenges and opportunities for the agro-based industries.
3. To understand the role of government policies and innovations to create employment
4. To quantify year wise employment trends in Chhattisgarh 's agro based industries
5. To suggest measures for improving employment opportunities.

• Hypothesis

1. The industrial development has no significant impact on employment generation in Chhattisgarh.
2. Growth of industrial sector leads to increase in direct and indirect employment opportunities
3. Lack of modern technology and poor infrastructure is a major challenge limiting employment generation in agro-based industries

• OVERVIEW OF AGRO BASED INDUSTRIES OF CHHATISGARH:

Chhattisgarh hosts a vibrant agro-based industry sector, leveraging its status as a major rice producer and cultivator of sugarcane, pulses, fruits, and vegetables. District-wise contribution or distribution include rice-based units, fruits and vegetable units, food processing units, and many other units related to food processing and agro-industries

Agro-based industries are the industries process agricultural raw materials like crops, livestock, and forestry products into value-added goods such as food items, textile, and oils. These industries link farming directly to manufacturing, enhancing rural employment, and economic value chains.

Rice milling industry

RESEARCH METHEDOLOGY

Secondary Data Analysis Collect secondary data from government reports, economic surveys, MSME reports, census data, industry publications, used to test

1. Employment growth trends.
2. Contribution of agro-based industries in employment generation.
3. The impact of government policies in employment generation in agro-based industries.

Chhattisgarh's agro-based industries leverage its rich agricultural output, particularly rice, sugarcane, pulses, and fruits, with district-specific strengths tied to local crops. Comprehensive district-wise data remains limited in public sources, but key clusters emerge from state profiles and industrial reports. Below is a compiled list of top agro-based industries by district, focusing on prominent processing units and potentials.

DISTRICT WISE AGRO BASED INDUSTRIES IN CHHATISGARH

• Rice-Dominant Districts:

1. Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara: Rice milling and parboiling units, leading in paddy processing.
2. Balrampur: Rice-based products and milling.
3. Rajnandgaon: Rice milling and derivatives.
4. Janjgir-Champa: Rice processing hubs.
5. Jashpur: Rice milling with tribal agro-products.



6. Dhamtari: Large-scale rice mills and packaging.
7. Balod: Rice derivatives and small-scale milling.
- **Fruit and Speciality Crop Districts:**
 1. Bemetara: Papaya processing and pulp units.
 2. Surajpur: Turmeric processing and powdering.
 3. Dantewada (South Bastar): Mango pulp and tribal fruit products.
 4. Gurela-Pendra-Marwahi: Custard apple processing.
 5. Kabirdham (Kawardha): Sugarcane crushing and jaggery plants.
 6. Mahasamund: Milk processing and dairy products.
- **Urban and Multi-Crop Hubs**

Raipur: Bakery products, rice processing (e.g., Hanuman Agro Industries), and mega food parks. Statewide potentials include jaggery, tomato ketchup, and cold storage, with four cooperative sugar factories supporting sugarcane

• **EMPLOYEMENT GENERATION THROUGH AGRO -BASED INDUSTRIES**

Around 80% of Chhattisgarh’s population relies on agriculture, with agro industries generating jobs via mills, cold storages and SEZs policies emphasize small marginal farmers and women in processing clusters for inclusive growth

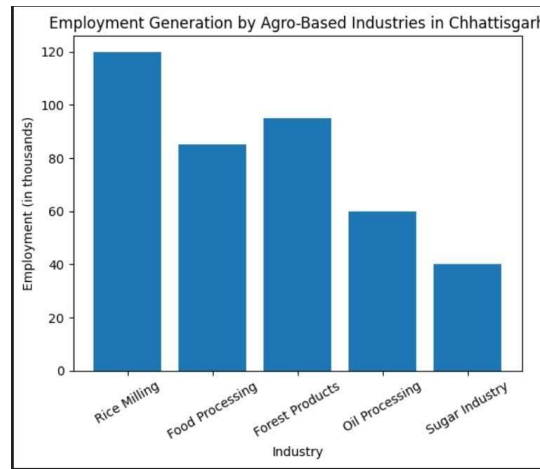
DIRECT EMPLOYMENT

- Processing units
- Packaging and transportation
- Skilled and unskilled labour

INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT

- Supply chain activities
- Marketing and distribution
- Ancillary industries
- Rural industrialization
- Agro- based industries promote
- Decentralized development
- Reduce migration to cities
- Local entrepreneurship

Industry	Employment (in thousands)
Rice Milling	120
Food Processing	85
Forest Products	95
Oil Processing	60
Sugar Industry	40



The above table and graph indicates

That rice milling is the dominant agro-based industry in terms of employment generation in Chhattisgarh, followed by forest-based and food processing industries. This reflects the state's agriculture pattern and forest resource dependency. The relatively lower employment in sugar and oil industries suggests scope for expansion and policy interventions.

• **Challenges**

1. Seasonal production
2. Lack of skilled labor
3. Inadequate infrastructure
4. Finance constraints

• **Opportunities**

1. Value Addition
2. Government Initiatives
3. Food Processing Expansion
4. financial aid

Suggestions and Recommendations

1. Improve rural infrastructure.
2. Promote technology adoptions.
3. Develop skill training programs.
4. Strengthen marketing networks and export opportunities.
5. Enhance access to credit through micro finance and banks.

• **CONCLUSION:**

Agro-based industries play a crucial role in employment generation in Chhattisgarh. They not only provide direct and indirect employment but also contribute to rural development and economic diversification.

The potential of agro-based industries in Chhattisgarh often remains overlooked due to the existing industrial structure and weak linkages with intermediate and consumer sectors of production. Although the sector faces several challenges, it also offers significant opportunities for employment generation. By addressing existing weaknesses through skill development, improved data systems, and better industrial linkages, agro-based industries can play a crucial role in providing sustainable



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and equitable employment. Strengthening this sector will not only boost rural livelihoods but also give a clear and positive direction to employment growth in Chhattisgarh.

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