

Empowerment of forest dwelling and local communities through promotion of forest based micro and small enterprises

India is the second largest producer of fruits in world production. Fruits serve as an important and indispensable source of vitamins and minerals such as Calcium, Phosphorus, Iron and many other constituents. Post-harvest losses of fruits are more serious in developing country like India. Therefore fruit processing is necessary in order to ensure fair returns to the processors/growers to improve their economic condition. It also helps to mitigate the problem of under employment.

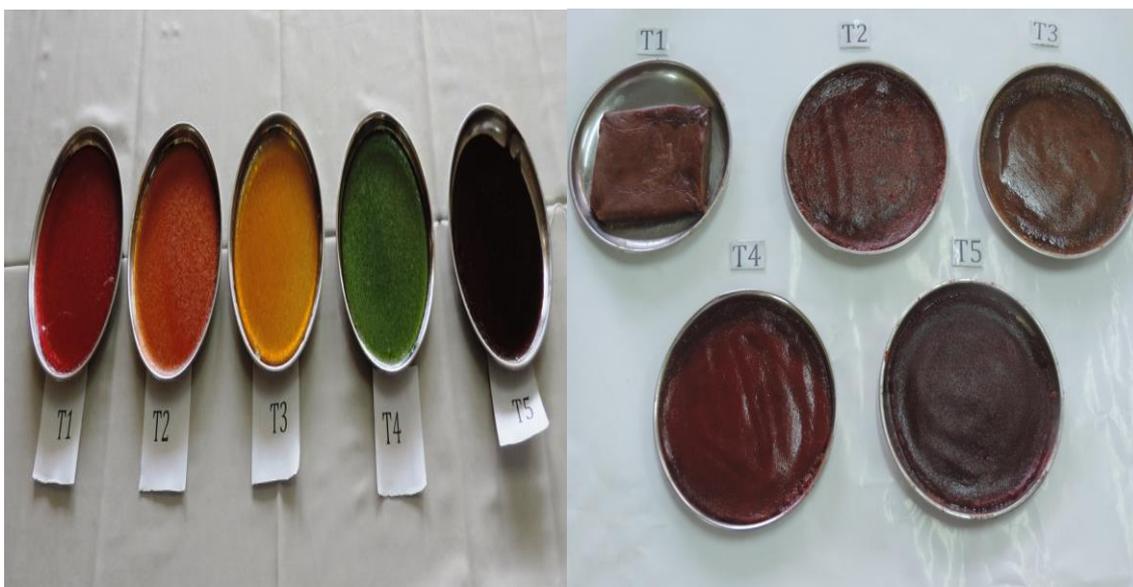
In India, less than 2% of fruits produced are processed against 65% in the United States (Patil *et al.*, 2013). Keeping these aspects in mind, forest based fruits like Biba, Karwand, Ber, etc. were selected to develop skills in local communities in Marathwada for formulations and development of various fruit products, which would promote forest based micro and small enterprises for uplifting their socioeconomic conditions.

Features of the Technology:

1. Standardized fruit processing methods like Jam, Jelly, Fruit Toffee and Fruit Bars of Ber, Biba, Umber, Karwand, Kara. Etc.
2. Standardized shelf life of value added products.
3. Cost benefit analysis of selected value added products has also been completed.
4. These standardized products may be utilized for promotion of forest based micro and small Enterprises in Marathwada.

Products Developed:

1. Ber- Mixed Jam, Jelly, Fruit Bar and Toffee
2. Karwand- Bar and Toffee
3. Umber, Biba and Kara- Jelly



Ber Jelly and Toffee

Cost-Benefit Analysis:

- The products developed using above technology can generate profit of around Rs.100 per kg.
- The above products are also economical for customers as compared to the commercially available products in the market.

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