

Govt undertook many reforms for food processing sector growth: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Thursday that the government has implemented numerous reforms over the past decade to promote growth in India's food processing sector. The aim, he stated, is for India to set global benchmarks in innovation, sustainability, and safety in the food industry. His message was delivered at the third edition of World Food India 2024, held in New Delhi from September 19 to 22, which will feature participation from over 90 countries.

“In the modern era, through advanced agricultural practices, strong administrative frameworks, and cutting-edge technologies, our goal is to ensure that India leads the way in innovation, sustainability, and food safety,” Modi said.

Over the last 10 years, he noted, the government has introduced transformative reforms in the food processing sector.

“Our initiatives are multi-dimensional, including 100% FDI in food processing, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, formalizing micro food processing enterprises, and the Production Linked Incentive scheme for food processing industries. These efforts are creating a strong ecosystem of modern infrastructure, robust supply chains, and employment generation across the country,” the Prime Minister added.

Modi highlighted that the participation of many nations in the event positions World Food India 2024 as a dynamic platform for the global food industry's brightest minds, academia, and research institutions to capitalize on growing opportunities.

“India boasts a vibrant and diverse food culture, and at the heart of it is the farmer. Our farmers are the backbone of this ecosystem, responsible for nurturing a tradition of nutritious and delicious culinary excellence. We support their efforts through innovative policies and focused implementation,” he said.

Modi emphasized that the government's vision is to empower small enterprises, particularly MSMEs, and integrate them into the global value chain, while also encouraging women to become micro-entrepreneurs.

“At this crucial time, World Food India serves as an ideal platform for India to collaborate with the world through B2B interactions, exhibitions, reverse Buyer-Seller meets, and sessions focusing on countries, states, and specific sectors,” he remarked.

The Prime Minister also commended the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for organizing the Global Food Regulators Summit, which brings together global regulators, including representatives from the WHO, FAO, and renowned domestic institutions, to address critical issues such as food safety, quality standards, and best practices.

“Key topics like food irradiation to enhance safety and reduce wastage, plant-based proteins for nutrition and sustainability, and the circular economy will be highlighted during the summit,” Modi said, urging all to work towards building a sustainable, safe, inclusive, and nutritious world.