

Promising Career Opportunities in Agro Processing and Food Technology

Introduction

Junagadh Agricultural University is one of India's leading universities, offering various employment-oriented degree and diploma programs related to agricultural sciences. Today, many vocational courses are available after 10th standard, making it essential for students to select the right course based on their interests and current demands to shape a successful career. For those involved in agriculture or wishing to build a bright future in agriculture-related industries, the State Government has, since 2009-10, launched a three-year **Diploma in Agro Processing and Food Technology** at the Junagadh campus of the university, post-10th standard.

What is Agro Processing and Food Technology?

In a developing country like India, the use of processed and fast foods is steadily increasing, just like in developed nations. Agro Processing and Food Technology involves the processing of agricultural produces - such as primary drying, cleaning, sorting, grading, etc. Furthermore, instead of directly selling raw produce in the market, secondary-level processing adds value to products based on consumer needs, preferences, and tastes.

By processing agricultural crops into value-added products, employment opportunities at both rural and national levels can be significantly increased. Selling innovative processed products can also yield high profits. These processing units also have vast opportunities for exporting delicious and nutritious food products. With the rise of food industries producing value-added items across the state and country, there is a growing demand for skilled manpower in agro processing and food technology. This diploma course is designed to meet that demand and offers abundant job opportunities in the food industry, as well as the potential for self-employment by starting one's own processing unit.

Admission Process

The diploma in Agro Processing and Food Technology is a three-year (six-semester) course, admitting 44 students each year based on merit (10th-std. percentage). The admission process for all diploma programs under agricultural universities begins after the 10th results are announced. Admission announcements are published in newspapers and on the websites: <http://www.poly.gsauca.in> and <http://www.jau.in> The entire admission process is conducted online.

Course Fee: For Boys Students: ₹1,220 (1st Semester) & For Girls Students: ₹960 (1st Semester)

Medium of Instruction: English



Curriculum

The diploma covers processing of various crops, including cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and spices. It also includes the processing of fruits and vegetables into value-added products. Additionally, primary dairy engineering courses are included, making the curriculum highly practical and relevant.

Infrastructure Facilities

The Polytechnic in Agro Processing aims to provide students with knowledge in processing cereals, pulses, oilseeds, horticultural crops, and dairy products. With government support, a modern, well-equipped polytechnic building has been established. Smart classrooms using PowerPoint presentations are used for effective teaching. To enhance students' practical skills, facilities include: Agro-Processing Lab; Food Technology Lab; Food Testing Lab; Computer Lab and a Seminar Hall. Separate modern hostels for boys and girls are located on the Motibaug agricultural campus, which also houses a library, sports ground, medical clinic, and an auditorium.

Opportunities for Higher Education

After completing the diploma, students can gain lateral entry into the second year of degree programs in Food Technology or Agricultural Engineering at agricultural universities or other state colleges. Admission is granted based on merit comprising of entrance exams and overall grade point.

Industrial Training

During the final semester, students undergo industrial training as Intern-Trainees in private companies within the state. This gives them hands-on experience in production, quality control, packaging, marketing, and more which is more helpful for securing future employment.

Job Opportunities

Upon completing the program, students have extensive job opportunities in the state's food industry. Alumni from this program are successfully employed across various companies.

Self-Employment

Students can also establish small or large-scale units for processing agricultural produce into value-added products, becoming entrepreneurs themselves.

Note: This information is provided for student guidance only and should not be treated as a legal document.



Contact for more information

Polytechnic in Agro Processing

Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh 362001

Phone: 0285-2672080/90 Ext. 474; Email: poly_ap@jau.in

