

Opportunities and empowerment among rural youth through Small Scale Soya Processing Unit of paneer (*Tofu*)

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■ **ABSTRACT :** In agriculture food processing contributes its major role in economy of India. According to Birdar and Bhawani 2015, in India it is found that beside largest producer of grain, cereals, pulses of many varieties only 14 per cent of total work force is engaged in agro processing sector directly. The processing of food commodities at village level will not only controls post harvest losses but also provide additional employment to the local people. Kota district is considered as soybean rich area of Rajasthan, comprising 822000 hectare area (GRAM, 2017). Food processing is the major sector for economic upliftment of nation (Tiwari *et al.*, 2016) Hence the main objective of the study was to strengthen the livelihood security of rural youth, providing opportunities in establishing soya processing unit through RKVY project of food processing unit of Agriculture University, Kota. Youth gets opportunities to become and entrepreneur. The research was conducted on 12 groups of food processing training who were introduced soya processing machineries and further giving technical support for establishing soya milk and paneer plants. After establishing and efficiently running this plant the economic and social empowerment was judged by their success stories. It was found that each individual was earning on an average Rs. 20,000-80,000 per month and got social recognition, confidence leadership ability, cooperation, satisfaction through such entrepreneurship.

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