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Commerce ministry hosts Indus Foods, begins export policy consultation

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E-paper

The Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Government of India, hosted Indus Foods, an event exclusive to the food sector, and commenced consultation for the food export policy. It is expected to come up with the contours in the coming month. The event was along the lines of the inaugural World Food India Summit, which took place in New Delhi in November 2017.

That event, which was hosted by the ministry of food processing industries (MoFPI), witnessed the participation of 50 global chief executive officers representing the sector and the inking of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth \$14 billion. Surge in exports This step by the commerce ministry was not merely a speculative affair, but in the last two or three years, the country has witnessed a surge in the exports of processed foods.

Samidha Gupta, assistant general manager, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), said, "For the last two years, India is witnessing continuous growth in terms of the exports of food products." "In recent times, India is witnessing an increasing trend towards the exports of processed foods due to the awareness about profit and the benefits of processed foods," she added.

India's exports of processed foods in 2016-17 amounted to Rs 27,263.94 crore.

Product Name	2017-18 (April - December)		2016-17 (April - December)	
	Quantity in metric tonne	\$ million	Quantity in metric tonne	\$ million
Fresh fruits	3,96,408	391.08	4,87,441	402.70
Fresh vegetables	17,54,300	581.18	23,87,742	640.11
Processed fruits and juices	4,03,040.28	460.40	3,90,455.32	420.72
Processed vegetables	1,46,018.59	197.07	1,35,537.29	202.50

J P Meena, secretary, MoFPI, said, "The exports of processed foods are growing rapidly and the growth is approximately 12 per cent annually. There is an increasing demand for food products from Japan, South Korea and the Middle-East, besides the European Union (EU) and the Americas."

India's geographical location gives it an opportunity to cater to the needs of the countries to both its