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**INDUSTRIAL SCENARIO & POSSIBILITY OF NEW INDUSTRY
IN THE DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

Being the Agri. based district, Cooch Behar produces a good quality of potato, jute, tomato, chilly, carrot, cabbage, peas, pineapple, etc. Presently we are having 10 nos. of Cold Storage (potato); 1 multi-purpose cold storage has also started its operation recently. The total rated capacity of those potato stores is 123017 MT.

1. Food processing industries like manufacturing of chips, sauce, jam, jelly etc. have a very good potential.
2. The annual production of potato of this district is near about 55,000 MT and the production of chilly is about 52,000 MT annually. These surplus productions are exported to outside the state up to U.P. & Delhi. Food processing units preparing tomato & chilly based products like sauce, peuri, paste, pickles and dust can be set up here.
3. District production of jute is about 5, 17,000 bales. At present only two manufacturing units are operating and producing various jute-based products. Since the availability of raw materials are there, many other manufacturing units can thus be set up for jute yarn dyeing & bleaching, jute mat, other jute diversified products, jute particle board etc.
4. The annual production of tobacco and potato are very high compared to the demand of the district. Hence there is scope for setting up of more multi-purpose cold storage for storing of surplus production.



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5. There is ample demand for plastic products like PVC casing, plastic sheets, plastic toys, PVC pipes, moulded plastic items, etc. The plastic-based manufacturing units have ample opportunities in this area.

6. Scope for Biodiesel: One unit namely M/s. Titagarh Biotech (P) Ltd., Kolkata has applied for 24 acres of land on long term settlement basis for starting a nursery for Jatropha plants. This plant is used for the manufacture of Biodiesel besides other things. It requires barren land and climatic environment for which this region suits best for its growth.

Policy Recommendations

- The district is basically agrarian but modern agricultural techniques have not been adopted on a large scale. Hence, this sphere needs special attention.
- Cooch Bihar is gateway to the North East. Vegetable and potato production should be increased in Cooch Bihar. Potato processing unit are suggested for Cooch Bihar. Tomatoes production in Haldibari is to be developed further.
- Agricultural marketing also needs to be improved with proper development of rail, road, cold storage, markets, etc. Keeping in mind the surplus horticultural produce of the district, activities like fruit and vegetable preservation need to be popularized.
- Although the district has a well-knit banking network with all major commercial banks operating in the district, credit facilities are not smoothly available to the MSE sector.