

Mr K S Jayaram Bhat, CMD, TMPL Machines, India

This is a transcript of the exclusive interview of Mr K S Jayaram Bhat, CMD, TMPL Machines, India taken on the occasion of World Cashew Convention & Exhibition 2018

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Brief about your company TMPL Machines

TMPL Machines is an equipment manufacturer; we started with manufacturing equipments for electronic and automatic industries since 1984. From 2013, we have been manufacturing for food industries also. Our latest equipments are the pasteurization equipments using infra-red and ultra-violet and also in-line inspection conveyors, metal detectors etc.

One of the most common problems faced by the buyers after the introduction of food safety is with regards to live infestation; how to eliminate the same without the usage of chemicals?

For that reason only we are supplying conveyerized infra-red equipment where in the cashews are treated with infra-red light, it is the sun's energy generated artificially and when it is highly concentrated, the infestation dies in less than 2 minutes. After treating with infra-red, we have to cool the cashews, by passing through the cooling unit. Once again we have conveyerized in-line equipment, which also has ultra-violet light when it is exposed to ultra-violet light as in the case of water filter; as ultra-violet light is generated and the water is exposed to the final stage. So the bacteria's like salmonella, listeria, e-coli etc as all will be dead. We are getting more than 4, 5 or 6 log ratio depending on the reduction/settings.

How are you going to address some of the other problems faced by the buyers such as presence of foreign matters like hair, glass pieces and other dusts?

For that purpose, in the berth itself we have inspection conveyor with metal detector. After metal detector you can employ in-line and can have hair and dust remover using the cyclone generator and vacuum and thereafter you can feed it to the hopper and then to the packing line.

What is new in cashew processing technology?

In the pre-packing line, we have already given a new technology, a modular technology where you can add or delete depending on the advancement in the technology. We also want to percolate down the line and use infra-red technology for walnuts drying. Also, we want to develop equipment for replacing the borma for testa peeling (as we know that quick heating leads to loss of nutrients) and you can do it faster, we want to incorporate this new technology in the cashew industry. In the pre-packing line, we have to go down the line and do it in each stage, by replacing the borma, all the sun drying which is done in the yards and want to reduce the time, which eventually led to less infestation, less bacteria and less storage.

Considering higher cost of machineries is there enough financing available for installing new cashew processing plant with modern technologies?

The basic purpose of indigenization which has undertaken in India was to reduce the cost of the equipment. Our equipments are a fraction of the cost and with better technology then what we would get it from the West or USA. The technology is more modern, it can be further upgraded and operating costs are also very low with our equipment compared to chemical fumigation, borma etc.

What more needs to be done for the manufacturing industries?

We need more support for all the industries; with suppliers, customer's symbiosis we were able to develop this line with pre-packing section. I feel lots more need to be done, percolate down the line by giving the same kind of support for developing new conveyerized equipment. The change is required, anything that is dynamic and not static will keeps things moving and that is what needs to be done, for that we need support of the processing industries as well as their customers. So that we can incorporate latest technologies, as we are using sun's energy artificially as this is more traditional way of doing.

What is the basic difference between Vietnam and Indians processors? Vietnamese processors competitions are much better rate than India; in what way Vietnam fared better than us?

In Vietnam, the basic operations for cutting, they are having a lot of automation which was incorporated many years back but still Indian's are talking about traditional; however lot of processors are changing with that kind of latest technologies available for various operations but this has to be done at a much faster pace so as to compete with Vietnam.