



International Year  
of Cooperatives

# FOOD PROCESSING STARTUP GRAND CHALLENGE 3.0

Organized by  
**National Institute of Food Technology,  
Entrepreneurship and Management - Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T)**

## Participate to Win

**4 Lakhs Cash Prize  
&  
2.5 Lakhs Incubation Acceleration Support**



## Preamble

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has launched the Food Processing Startup Grand Challenge 3.0. Through this National-level Grand Challenge, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries aims to Facilitate the Generation of Disruptive Ideas Fueled by fresh Perspective and Leading Research. NIFTEM-T shall assist the Ministry in various activities with this initiative.

## Eligible Participants:

- It is open to all Indian nationals only.
- Startups and Individual Entrepreneurs / Innovators, Students Studying at any Indian University / Institute, Professionals / Employed Individuals.

## Objectives

- Stimulating innovation and encouraging Startups to develop novel technologies, processes, and solutions to address challenges in the food processing and allied sectors.
- Provide a common platform to Startups, Innovators, and Industry to connect and interact with various key stakeholders of the food ecosystem.
- Learn from industry experts and collaborate with them to build solutions that will change the industrial business and technology landscape.
- Promoting entrepreneurship through fostering creation and growth of new ventures in the food industry, driving economic development and job creation.

## Start-Up Mission Problem Statement

1. Sustainable / Smart Packaging Solution
2. AI-based Automation / Sensors in MSME Sector
3. Alternate Protein with Amino Acid Profile
4. Food Safety and Traceability System Application in the Food Industry

## Participation of Relevant Stakeholders

- Ideation Stage Startup
- Validation Stage Startup
- Early Traction Stage Startup
- Scaling Stage Startup



## Guidelines

**1. Call for Applications:** The Grand Challenge applications will be hosted on the NIFTEM -T website- <https://niftem-t.ac.in/> - for 4-6 weeks. Rigorous Marketing and Outreach Efforts will be Undertaken during this time through Emailers and MoFPI, NIFTEM-T Accounts on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, to Ensure Participation from across the Country.

**2. Preliminary Evaluation:** Information Completeness and Essential Documents will be checked for all Applicants by the NIFTEM -T team, to shortlist them for the next round-attending Knowledge Series.

**3. Masterclass Series:** A series of sessions will be conducted by MoFPI and NIFTEM-T along with sector experts, Investors, and other key Stakeholders. These would be closed-door sessions where industry experts would interact with the selected participants, mentor them on various Opportunities and address their queries. The series will deep-dive into the Ecosystem and Equip the Participants with required skills and Knowledge.

**4. Announcement of Finalists:** The proposed solutions and accompanying business plans will be analysed by the Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC), and a shortlist of finalists will be announced, post the analysis by the TEC.

**5. Grand Finale:** Finalists will pitch their solutions to the Technical Evaluation Committee via video presentations. The Top 06 innovative and resilient ideas/solutions will be awarded a cash prize and incubation support to convert their ideas into tangible solutions.

**6. Incubation Support:** Top 06 winning solutions will be provided with 6- months Incubation support with NIFTEM-T, the Incubation partner. The Incubator would be Responsible for virtual/ physical Incubation of the selected Participants, Mentor Matchmaking, Conducting Business and Investor Workshops, and tracking the progress of the selected applicants for up to 3 months after the completion of the program. The cost of Incubation shall be Rs 2.5 lakhs each.

**7. Pilot Opportunities:** At the end of the Incubation, selected Participants will have the Opportunity for field trial and pilot their Product in the Market. They will have access to Validate their Technology from the Relevant Ministry / Department's Network of Institutions.

**8. Composition & Terms of Reference of Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC):** A Committee is set up by MOFPI for evaluating all the applications, providing mentorship and feedback to applicants, and selecting the winners.

## Incentives for Winners:

- The top 06 ideas will be provided with a cash prize of Rs. 4 lakhs per Start-up by MoFPI. The NIFTEM-Thanjavur will hand hold and provide a complete road map to the winning Startups
- The Winners will get up to Rs. 2.5 Lakhs for incubation/ acceleration of monetary.

Commencement of Registration	16.07.2025 onwards
Closure date	16.08.2025
Results of Preliminary Evaluation	20.08.2025
Masterclass Series	25.08.2025
Result Declaration	02.09.2025

**Apply Now**

<https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/ams-application/challenge.html?applicationId=687656cbe4b074eae6d24fbe>



For further details  
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