

How Significant is Indo-Emirate Partnership for Food Security & Agriculture?

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The food processing sector in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is thriving, driven by robust economic growth and elevated domestic consumption levels. The UAE hosts 568 primarily small and medium-sized food and beverage manufacturers, comprising more than 2,000 companies in this sector that together produce an annual revenue of \$7.63 billion. These expanding Gulf companies can create synergies with India, leveraging India's burgeoning food processing industry, which emphasizes value-added products fulfilling global demand like millet-based formulations, ready-to-eat meals, fortified foods, and plant-based meat that offer health advantages. India can pursue technology-driven research to create products and flavours that resonate with emerging consumer trends, thus boosting the competitiveness of the Indian food processing industry in the Emirates.

The ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) unveiled at the G20 meeting, has been referred to as a game changing, historic, and digital bridge connecting continents and civilisations, supplementing the existing goal of developingÂ Indo-Gulf trade and economic relationsÂ through improvement inÂ infrastructure and connectivity in terms of diversification of theÂ trade basketÂ between India andÂ United Arab Emirates (UAE)Â focussing uponÂ the growth of non-oil trade in the country.

Energy-driven trade has long dominated India-UAE relations. However, during the last decade, the relationship has altered dramatically as the focus has shifted to newer areas of collaboration and diplomacy. The two governments acknowledge that the security of the Gulf and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) are mutually advantageous and demand an integrated and collaborative approach. As a result, the UAE and other Gulf states have turned to the East in general, and India in particular, for better cooperation.

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