

## DBT-BIRAC supports a new solar dehydrator for fruits & vegetables

New Delhi, Aug 19: Millions of tons of fresh fruits and vegetables are wasted every year. Preservation of fruits and vegetables is a common problem that farmers face and they lose a lot of their produce due to lack of post-harvest handling and storage facilities.

A Maharashtra based start-up S4S Technologies has devised a simple yet innovative technology that uses solar energy to dry food, reducing spoilage and alleviating rural poverty. The food dehydrator can help farmers preserve their produce from 6 months to 1 year. This enables them to protect themselves from price fluctuation and ensure adequate availability of agri-animal products. It also ensures a stable nutrition supply for the entire family as the dryer retains the nutrients in the produce. Thus, it gives scope to overcome under-nutrition and creates a low-cost solution to improve dietary diversity.



### Unique Features:

Electricity- free solution  
2-3 times cheaper than  
other solar dryers  
Zero operating cost  
Retains more nutrition  
Better colour,  
flavour and hygiene than  
open sun drying

Sun-drying has been used by women since ages. The company has decided to empower and make women farmers their target audience. These women farmers cum entrepreneurs produce dehydrated vegetables with the use of the solar conduction dryer technology. S4S provides solar dryers to farmers to process vegetables and buys back processed foods from them.

It helps to:

- Reduce post-harvest loss
- Produce preservative-free nutrition-rich products for improved nutrition for rural families
- Provides assured income via-buy back to farmers
- Promotes gender equality and livelihoods

S4S aggregates the produce, does quality check and secondary processing and further sells them to a range of B2B and B2C consumers. This start-up assumes importance as it steps up to solve several problems at once as it reduces food spoilage, extends food shelf life and

allows nutritional value retention, helping the largely agriculture-dependent population to earn more.

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