

BACKGROUND ...

DIRECTIONAL EMPHASIS OF SECTOR ...

In 1980, Everbloom Biotech, a local company was successful in establishing a unique cultivation method of the shitake and abalone mushroom. It is presently engaged in the production and sale of mushroom technology. Another company, Plantek International, a partnership of companies from the US, India and Japan, is involved in researching tissue culture to discover new breeds of plants.

A specific area in the Science Park, which can accommodate about 60 firms, has been set aside for R&D purposes, including agrotechnology research.

In the area of food manufacturing, the thrust is towards export oriented industries. The local seafood processing industry is one sector of the food industry which has grown from supplying the local market to supplying foreign markets like Japan, US and Europe only in the last five years.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The food industry in Singapore includes the following categories :

- meat products
- dairy products
- fish and marine products
- vegetables and fruits
- beverages

In view of the range and diversity of food products, only retailed packed products as opposed to bulk commodities are included in this analysis.

Retail-packed products refer to products in processed or packaged states such as those that are fresh, chilled, frozen, canned, or preserved (dried, smoked, brined, etc.) Bulk commodities refer to unprocessed and unpackaged items such as soya bean, grain, barley and others.

Demand for food products is expected to increase because of the growth in private expenditure patterns of the population as well as the influx of tourists into Singapore. Other major determinants of food consumption are the number of ship and airplane arrivals and the number of food and beverage outlets.