

Senior Expert Contact – a Program of Swisscontact

POTENTIAL MEETS EXPERIENCE

The retired professionals of our Senior Expert Contact (SEC) are qualified experts on site. Through their consulting services, they provide hands-on, cost-effective support towards sustainable development of companies and institutions.

SEC Remote Assignment in Nepal, 2023

Assignment No. 4135

Location	Dhankuta Municipality, Nepal
Client	Food processing & drying
Expert	Willi Müller, Food processing engineer
Period	30.05. - 30.11.2023



Client Profile

The client is a women-led social enterprise, founded by Prakriti Gautam. They work directly with mainly smallholder horticulture farmers and specialise in cold storage, grading and advanced dehydration techniques to add value to rural products. They run an agro-processing facility in Dhankuta in East Nepal, and aim to reduce post-harvest losses. They process 150 tons of perishables annually, with 100+ jobs generated every year in rural areas. Their latest challenge is to manufacture good quality avocado powder for the food and cosmetic industries.

Tasks

Assist the client to improve the manufacturing operation and specifically the freeze-dried avocado product's colour, structure and taste:

- Advice on production methods to avoid bitterness of finished product
- Education and knowledge about freeze-drying of avocado

Results

There is increased knowledge about general freeze-drying and handling of equipment, as well as about the preparation and drying of avocado specifically. The client achieved improved quality of dried avocado colour and structure, as well as some improvement to taste and bitter after-taste. A proposal was made on how to possibly further reduce the bitter after-taste with more production trials.