Perish to Profit: Processing Ripe Tomatoes to Generate an Income Stream for the Paraguayan Food Bank

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Perish to Profit
Processing Tomatoes to Generate an Income Stream for a Paraguayan Food Bank

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Abstract
In Asunción, Paraguay, local farmers markets are left with unsold piles of tomatoes every day. Our project focuses on developing a marketable product from these surplus tomatoes that can generate income for Banco de Alimentos, which currently serves 15,000 people.¹

We propose a dehydration process to dry tomatoes and turn them into a powder. When this tomato extract mix is rehydrated, it can be sold to make a tomato paste, soup, and various dishes. The plan we created outlines how this product can be used as a profit for the Food Bank.

Background

- Go Hungry Each Day
- Adequately Fed

Hunger Rate²

Objectives
1. To reduce tomato waste in Paraguay.
2. To create a plan for processing ripe tomatoes.
3. To provide a supplementary income for Banco de Alimentos³.

Perish to Profit Plan

Manufacturing

- Identify Surplus
- Outline for Banco to produce Mezcla de Tomate

Marketing

- Marketing
- Tomato extract is a common base in many dishes

Projections

- For annual profit of 24,000 USD, investment starts at 10,000 USD.
  This requires 744 lbs. of tomatoes per day.

Social Enterprise

Inflow of Tomatoes versus Profit

Sample Product Packaging

Benefits

- Reduce Produce Waste
- Growth for the Process
- Generate Income

Acknowledgments
We would like to thank Martin Burt, Jim Monaco, Professors Frances Hoy and Yael Schwartz, and our advisors, Professor Nikitina and Angela MacLeod, for guiding us throughout our project.

Selected References

Prepare Tomatoes
Blend Tomato Chunks
Spread Purée on Dehydrator Sheet
Dehydrate for 12 hours
Pulverize Dried Tomato into Powder
Package Powder

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