

“AI-based analytics, predictive maintenance, IoT-enabled equipment, and high-efficiency process control are shaping the industry”

- ABHISHEK DAS, Head of Business Grains, Bühler India



Bühler India is known for its technological innovation and sustainability within the Bühler Group's global operations since its inception in 1993. With a robust presence in India, catering to customers across India, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives, Bühler India's over 800-strong workforce is the driving force behind a range of solutions in grains and food processing and advanced materials. Headquartered in Attibele, Bengaluru, Bühler India's principal office and factory are the nerve centres where a plethora of machinery and plants are crafted for diverse applications - ranging from rice milling and flour milling to the precision engineering required for cocoa, chocolate, and coffee processing. In an exclusive interaction with AgroSpectrum, Abhishek Das, Head of Business Grains, Bühler India maintains that with annual food grain production exceeding 350 million metric tonne, there is rising demand for scalable, high-performance, and digitally enabled processing infrastructure. While opportunities in exports, particularly in rice and ethnic foods, are expanding, to tap into this potential, the industry must prioritise efficiency, quality, and traceability. Edited excerpts:

How is Bühler solving the complex issues across the grains and food processing supply chains from process optimisation to hardware support, installation, maintenance, upgrades, and training programmes?

We have a holistic approach to addressing challenges in the grains and food processing value chain. Our solutions span the entire lifecycle of customer operations – from hardware and commissioning to process optimisation, digital upgrades, and long-term services.

In India, our network includes over 200 mobile service engineers and a 24/7 Customer Operations Center (COPC), ensuring prompt assistance across more than 7,000 customer sites. We help maximise uptime through predictive maintenance, remote diagnostics, parts availability, and tailored service programmes.

Beyond equipment, our Research and Training Centre in Bengaluru enables customers to trial raw materials, fine-tune recipes, and upskill their teams with hands-on learning. We also offer structured training modules across

areas such as plant automation, food safety, and digital services, empowering processors to achieve long-term efficiency and resilience.

We further drive impact through sustainable solutions, digital platforms such as Bühler Insights, and localised innovations, ensuring efficiency, traceability, and reduced environmental footprint across every stage of the value chain.

How do you envisage the future of the grain processing industry in India?

India's grain processing sector is poised for strong growth, driven by record food grain production, urbanisation, evolving consumption patterns, and favourable government programmes such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme and Mega Food Parks.

With annual food grain production exceeding 350 million metric tonne, there is rising demand for scalable, high-performance, and digitally enabled processing infrastructure. Opportunities in exports, particularly in rice and ethnic foods, are expanding, but to tap into this potential, the industry must prioritise efficiency, quality, and

traceability. We foresee a transformation towards data-driven, energy-efficient operations that meet both domestic and global benchmarks.

How are you contributing to the digital transformation of the grain and food processing industry?

Digitalisation is at the heart of Bühler's transformation strategy. Our platforms, such as myBühler, Bühler Insights, and ProPlant, provide real-time data and analytics to enable predictive maintenance, process optimization, and enhanced transparency.

Through integrated sensors, sorters, and scales, we help customers monitor energy consumption, yield, and product quality. These insights support smarter decisions, lower downtime, and better traceability. Whether it's a flour mill or a rice processing line, digital tools empower our customers to make operations more resilient and future-ready.

What are the latest innovations and technologies which are driving the growth of the grain processing industry?

Key technologies shaping the sector include AI-based analytics, predictive maintenance, IoT enabled equipment, and high-efficiency process control. For example, our Yield Management System (YMS) uses real-time analytics to optimize flour production, helping boost yield and product consistency.

We are also addressing scalability and nutrition challenges through initiatives such as the Millet Ecosystem Support Program at our Bengaluru centre. This programme gives start-ups and processors access to trial infrastructure, technical expertise, and solutions to scale millet-based food products.

What's your approach towards operational efficiency and sustainability?

Our Services & Sales model ensures customers benefit from proactive, reliable support that enhances plant uptime, efficiency, and sustainability. From preventive and predictive maintenance to digital services and retrofit upgrades, we help customers extend equipment life and reduce operating costs.

We also support sustainability goals through

services such as energy audits and process improvements. These interventions have helped reduce broken grain percentages in rice mills, lower power consumption in feed plants, and improve product quality in flour mills. By aligning services with energy, waste, and water reduction targets, we support customers in building more sustainable businesses.

How is Bühler executing product development and innovation through Application and Training centres?

Bühler's Application and Training Center in Bengaluru is a dynamic hub for customer collaboration, product development, and operator training. Clients bring their raw materials, conduct trials, and leave with optimized recipes and skilled personnel.

We conduct over 20 training programs each year in areas such as milling, rice, spices, coffee, automation, Sortex, food safety, and energy efficiency. When specialized facilities are required, customers benefit from access to our 26 global Research and Training centers. Innovations such as millet processing and biscuit line development are examples of India-led solutions now delivering global impact.

The centres serve as co-innovation hubs, facilitating the rapid development of market-ready products through expert collaboration and alignment with emerging consumer trends.

Any expansion plans into other regions?

Bühler India operates as part of our South Asia organisation, covering India, Nepal, Maldives, and Bhutan. The APAC region is managed through a dedicated Southeast Asia organization headquartered in Singapore, which has its own complete sales and service structure for that market.

Given this setup, our India operations are focused on deepening our presence and impact within South Asia, where we see significant headroom for growth, rather than extending reach into APAC from here. Both organisations work in close coordination globally, ensuring customers across all markets have access to Bühler's full portfolio of solutions and expertise. 

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