



Food and beverage manufacturing in uncertain times

9 tips for increasing agility while safeguarding people,
production and profits during disruption

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An action plan for unprecedented times

“Shift from CapEx to OpEx and focus on keeping the plants running!”

Food and Beverage is often referred to as the “Fast Moving Consumer Goods Industry.” And that was before the worldwide health crisis created an economic disruption on a scale unseen for generations. Now, agility has taken on a whole new meaning as we navigate highly-unusual working conditions, unprecedented market dynamics, and disrupted supply chains.

You may be asking yourself some of the same questions we are:



How...

can we do a better job operating remotely when facility access is restricted?



Where...

should we adjust systems to reduce downtime and optimize efficiency and throughput?



What...

can we do to become more resilient and immune to global disruptions in the future?



We're in this together

Collaboration during crisis helps us all weather the storm. This guide gives practical steps you can take right now to increase resiliency and agility. If you need help, we are ready to share best practices, experiences, and tools and techniques to rise to these unprecedented challenges together.

9 tips for thriving or re-starting operations



Tip 1: Protect health and safety

We know your first concern is to secure the health and safety of your employees and customers. While your workforce is scrambling to react to dynamic conditions, you'll need to continually assess and respond to changes in health and government authority rules and guidelines.



Tip 2: Remotely manage operations

Take advantage of [remote management](#) software solutions trial periods so your operators can continue to adjust processes, conduct maintenance and make operational decisions to [drive efficiency](#) even when access to the physical plant is restricted or not desired.



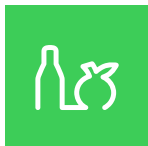
Tip 3: Empower your workforce

Join [Schneider Electric Exchange](#) to learn and share best practices with your food and beverage peers and industry experts. Empower your workforce to make fast, informed decisions with [digital technologies](#) that put real-time plant operating information in a form they can readily use to improve productivity and operational profitability.



Tip 4: Practice good cybersecurity hygiene

Unfortunately, would be cyber-attackers ramp up activity in times of crisis. Food safety and cleaning processes continue to be cyber-targets for disruption. Conduct a comprehensive [cybersecurity assessment and analysis](#) and visit the [Schneider Electric Cybersecurity Virtual Academy](#) to learn what you can do to secure your operations.



Tip 5: Deploy OEE quick wins

Now more than ever, you need to make sure assets are always available for production when needed, avoid unplanned downtime, and use maintenance resources efficiently. [Asset management](#) solutions and [modernization](#) services can improve the overall equipment effectiveness (OEE) of your plant and extend asset lifecycles. [Analytics](#), which can be installed without stopping the plant, increase OEE, reduce operating costs, and shorten the time required for maintenance operations.



Up to 25% reduced
unplanned downtime



Up to 50% reduced
maintenance time



Tip 6: Improve agility

As market dynamics and consumer behavior undergo drastic changes, you may need to adjust your product mix to accommodate shifts in demand. You may even have to suspend normal production in favor of making high-demand essential products. Use [recipe and batch management](#) to improve agility and reduce set up and changeover time. Digitizing formula management and recipe execution can help you successfully manage flexible, multi-stream and multi-production operations.



Tip 7: Safeguard profitability

To offset revenue loss, look for places to reduce energy consumption, waste, and labor costs. You'll need to understand the intricacies of your operations like never before to eek out every bit of production efficiency while you also streamline maintenance efforts. This will protect cash flow for financial continuity and resilience so you can [positively impact profitability](#) when economic and world conditions return to more predicable levels.



Up to 50%
energy cost savings



Tip 8: Increase supply chain flexibility and visibility

New digital technologies are available to help your supply chain more easily pivot to where it's needed. If you don't have it already, now is the time to look at [end-to-end traceability and transparency](#) across your supply chain. Transparency ensures full visibility on all information related to a product, proving their origin and highlighting information about ingredients, allergens, physical characteristics and other key attributes.



Tip 9: Future proof operations to increase resiliency and agility

If these recent events have exposed problems — aging equipment, outdated processes, lack of digital talent, the need for real-time data to increase flexibility and make better decisions — the good news is that it has also uncovered opportunities. Create a prioritized list for where you need to make automation and digitization improvements to become future-ready. We see [digitization](#) as the path forward for F&B manufacturers to better align with modern customer needs and expectations.

What Comes Next?

No one can predict what tomorrow will bring but many of us agree that recent events will *fundamentally change how we think about and conduct business.*

Each plant has its unique qualities. Whether you are producing dairy, confectionaries, cereals, meat, brewed beverages or any of the other myriad of products in today's marketplace, [trained experts](#) in industrial automation for food and beverage manufacturing can help you.



Unsure about getting this work done yourself? We can help.

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