The opportunities and risks associated with processing of Asian medicinal herbs consist primarily of understanding and evaluating the different processing methods, and assessing the economic costs and benefits of various processing equipment.

Three possible tools for managing risks are:

1) The “Tradeoff Triangle”—assessing and balancing the limits or tradeoffs of categories of efficacy, efficiency, and economy.

2) Cost-Benefit analysis – an economic analysis tool. Make a list of positive and negative aspects of any given method or piece of equipment, and assign dollar amounts or values to each. Decisions are made based on whether benefits outweigh costs.

3) Distributing risks – cooperative or pooled efforts of growers to share labor, acquire machinery or equipment otherwise not affordable by individuals.