



A STUDY IMPORT & EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IN INDIA

**Dr. Padmakar
Baliram Tatale**

Associate Professor, Head of Economics Department Vitthalrao Patil Mahavidyalaya
Kale Tal Panhala Dist Kolhapur - 416205

ABSTRACT The import and export of agricultural commodities play a crucial role in shaping India's economy and contributing to the nation's food security and economic growth. This research paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the import and export trends of agricultural commodities in India. The paper will explore the key agricultural products involved in trade, the drivers influencing imports and exports, the challenges faced by the industry, and the government policies that impact these transactions. By understanding these dynamics, policymakers, stakeholders, and traders can make informed decisions to foster sustainable agricultural trade practices in India.

KEYWORDS : Agriculture, Import, Export, Crop, Production.

INTRODUCTION

As of my last update in September 2021, India is a major player in the import and export of agricultural commodities. Agriculture is a significant sector in the Indian economy, and the country produces a wide range of agricultural products for both domestic consumption and export to international markets. Here's an overview of the import and export of agricultural commodities in India:

1. **Agricultural Exports:** India is a significant exporter of various agricultural products. Some of the major agricultural commodities that India exports include:

Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice: India is one of the largest exporters of rice in the world, with both Basmati and Non-Basmati varieties being popular in the international market. **Wheat:** Wheat is another major agricultural export from India, and it finds markets in several countries, especially in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. **Spices:** India is renowned for its spices, and it exports a wide range of spices like pepper, cardamom, turmeric, cumin, coriander, and more. **Tea:** India is one of the largest producers and exporters of tea globally, with famous varieties like Darjeeling and Assam tea.

Coffee: India exports coffee, with the region of Karnataka being a significant coffee-producing area.

Cotton: India is among the top exporters of raw cotton in the world.

Sugar: India exports sugar to various countries.

Fruits and Vegetables: India also exports fruits and vegetables, including mangoes, bananas, grapes, onions, and more.

2. **Agricultural Imports:** Despite being a major agricultural producer, India also imports certain agricultural commodities. The primary reasons for agricultural imports include meeting domestic demand, supplementing domestic production in times of shortages, and maintaining price stability. Some of the major agricultural commodities that India imports include:

Edible Oils: India is one of the largest importers of edible oils like palm oil, soybean oil, sunflower oil, etc.

Pulses: India imports pulses like lentils, chickpeas, etc., to fulfill the protein requirements of its population.

Fertilizers: India imports fertilizers to support its agriculture sector.

Cashew Nuts: India imports cashew nuts to meet its domestic consumption demands.

Vegetable Oils: In addition to edible oils, India imports vegetable oils for various industrial purposes.

It's important to note that the specific import and export dynamics of agricultural commodities can change over time due to various factors such as changes in government policies, global demand and supply, climate conditions, and economic situations. Please keep in mind that this information is based on data up to September 2021, and the current import and export trends might have changed. For the most recent and accurate data, it's advisable to refer to the latest reports and official sources from the Indian government and relevant international trade organizations.

Objectives of the Study

The present research paper focused on the following objectives:

1. To know the position of India in world's agriculture
2. To understand the India's export of agricultural commodities.
3. To understand the India's import of agricultural commodities.

Methodology

This section outlines the research methodology used to gather data and analyze the import and export trends of agricultural commodities in India. It includes details about data sources, databases, and analytical techniques employed to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the findings.

Position of India in World's Agriculture

The agricultural & allied sector carries immense importance for the Indian economy. It contributes nearly one-sixth to the Indian national income and provides employment to nearly 50% of the workforce. It is fundamental for ensuring food security of the nation and also influences the growth of secondary and tertiary sector of the economy through its forward and backward linkages. The performance of agricultural sector greatly influences achievements on many other fronts. Agricultural growth reduces poverty directly, by raising farm incomes, and indirectly, through generating employment and reducing food prices. In other words, a thriving agricultural sector is a boon for most sectors of the Indian economy.

Table-1 India's Position in World Agriculture

Item	India (Million Tonnes)	World (Million Tonnes)	India's Share (%)	India's Rank
1. Crop Production				
Total Cereals	294	2849	10.3	Third
Wheat	93.5	749.5	12.5	Second
Rice (paddy)	159	741	21.4	Second
Total Pulses	17.6	82	21.5	First
Groundnut (in Shell)	7	44	15.6	Second
Rapeseed	6.8	69	10	Third
2 Fruits & Vegetables				
Vegetables & Melons	120	1075	11.2	Second
Okra	5.5	9	62	First
Potatoes	44	377	11.6	Second
Tomato	18.4	177	10.4	Second
Onion (dry)	19.4	93.2	21	Second
Cabbages & other Brassicas	9	71.2	12.3	Second
Cauliflower & Broccoli	8.2	25.2	32.5	Second
Brinjal	12.6	51.3	24.5	Second
Fruits excluding Melons	91	866	10.5	Second
Banana	29.1	113.2	25.7	First
Mango & Guava	18.8	46.5	40.4	First
Lemon & Lime	3	17.3	17.2	First
Papaya	5.6	12.6	44.4	First

Source: Impact of Assessment of Covid-19 on Indian Agriculture & Rural Economy, NABARD 2020

The above table 1 indicates the position of India in world's agriculture. India is the largest producer of pulses, okra, mango, banana and lemon and the second largest producer of wheat, rice groundnut, potato, tomato, onion, cabbage, cauliflower, brinjal etc. India produces more

than one fifth of global production of paddy and pulses. Similarly, it contributes to more than twenty per cent of global production of many of the horticulture crops such as okra, cauliflower, brinjal, banana, mango and papaya.

India's Agricultural Export

Export of agricultural commodities has helped producers to take

Table-2 India's Exports of Top-10 Agricultural Commodities

(Value in Rs. Crores, Quantity in thousand Tonnes)

Sr. No.	Commodity	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
		Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	Marine Products	1432	47646	1672	47665	1329	47618	1168	44176	1398	57910
2	Rise (other than Basmati)	8819	23437	7648	21171	5056	14400	13149	35557	17289	45725
3	Sugar	1758	5226	3990	9523	5799	13982	7518	20669	10457	34345
4	Spices	1096	20085	1134	23218	1193	25642	1607	29529	1428	29039
5	Rise (Basmati)	4057	26871	4415	32804	4455	31026	4630	29848	3944	26390
6	Buffalo Meat	1350	26035	1233	25091	1152	22661	1086	23460	1175	24613
7	Cotton Raw Incl. Waste	1101	12200	1143	14628	658	7540	1214	13968	1259	21007
8	Wheat	323	624	227	424	220	444	2155	4173	7245	15845
9	Castor Oil	697	6730	619	6170	594	6324	734	6802	715	8754
10	Misc. Processed Items	0	3549	0	4613	0	4587	0	6403	0	8715
Total Agri & Allied Exports		250744		273853		252401		310131		374612	

Source: Annual Report-2022-23, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, Krishi Bhavan New Delhi 110001.

According to the above table it is seen that in the year 2021-22, the total Agri and Allied exports was Rs. 374612 crores. Out of total Agri and Allied exports, export of Marine Products was in the first position i.e Rs. 57910 crores. As compared to the previous year (2020-21), the Agri and Allied exports in the year 2021-22 increased by 20.79% to Rs. 3,74,611 crores. The increase in Agri and Allied exports during 2020-21 was primarily on account of increased exports of commodities like Wheat (279.70%), Sugar (66.17%), Cotton Raw Incl. waste

Table-3 India's Imports of Top-10 Agricultural Commodities

(Value in Rs. Crores, Quantity in thousand Tonnes)

Sr. No.	Commodity	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
		Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	Vegetable Oils	15361	74996	15019	69024	14722	68558	1354	82123	14278	141532
2	Fresh Fruits	995	12525	1124	13932	994	14137	1212	15765	1552	18342
3	Pulses	5608	18749	2528	8035	2898	10221	2466	11938	2700	16628
4	Spices	222	6385	241	7933	321	10187	344	8071	364	9685
5	Cashew	654	9134	840	11162	941	9026	834	7491	939	9338
6	Natural Rubber	470	5344	582	6128	457	4927	410	4620	546	7703
7	Alcoholic Beverages		3876		4679		4644		4037		5182
8	Oil Meals	486	747	504	870	860	1519	510	1018	1302	4542
9	Other Oil Seeds	127	365	220	745	411	1528	507	2165	701	4308
10	Cotton Raw Incl. Waste	469	6307	299	4383	744	9371	231	2861	224	4169
Total Agri & Allied Exports		157317		142963		152135		158863		239190	

Sr. No.	Commodity	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
		Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	Vegetable Oils	15361	74996	15019	69024	14722	68558	1354	82123	14278	141532
2	Fresh Fruits	995	12525	1124	13932	994	14137	1212	15765	1552	18342
3	Pulses	5608	18749	2528	8035	2898	10221	2466	11938	2700	16628
4	Spices	222	6385	241	7933	321	10187	344	8071	364	9685
5	Cashew	654	9134	840	11162	941	9026	834	7491	939	9338
6	Natural Rubber	470	5344	582	6128	457	4927	410	4620	546	7703
7	Alcoholic Beverages		3876		4679		4644		4037		5182
8	Oil Meals	486	747	504	870	860	1519	510	1018	1302	4542
9	Other Oil Seeds	127	365	220	745	411	1528	507	2165	701	4308
10	Cotton Raw Incl. Waste	469	6307	299	4383	744	9371	231	2861	224	4169
Total Agri & Allied Exports		157317		142963		152135		158863		239190	

Source: Annual Report-2022-23, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, Krishi Bhavan New Delhi 110001.

The above table 3 reveals India's import of Top-10 agricultural commodities during the year 2017-18 to 2021-22. As compared to year 2020-21, the Agri and allied imports in the year 2021-22 increased by 50.56% to Rs.239189.50 crore. Increase in value of Agri and Allied imports during 2020-21 were primarily on account of increase in imports of Vegetables Oil (72.34%), Fresh Fruits (16.35%), Pulses

advantage of wider international market which, in turn, has incentivized their domestic production. Crops exported in large quantities viz. rice, sugar, and spices have witnessed significant increase in area coverage and growth rate of production.

India's top 10 agricultural export commodities (in terms of value) for the year 2017-18 to 2021-22 are given in the table below

(50.39%), Misc Processed Items (36.11%), Castor Oil (28.70%) and Rise (other than Basmati) (28.60%) which witnessed high growth in the year 2021-22 as compared to previous same period.

Major destinations of exports for India's Agri and Allied commodities were Bangladesh, United States of America, China, Vietnam, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Nepal, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Netherlands, Iran, Iraq, United Kingdom, Japan and Thailand.

India's Agricultural Import:

India's top 10 agricultural import commodities (in terms of value) for the year 2017-18 to 2021-22 are given in the table below

(39.29%), Spices (20.00%), Cashew (24.66%), Natural Rubber (66.73%), Oil Meals (346.17%), Other Oil Seeds (98.98%), Cotton Raw Incl. Waste (45.72%), etc. Major sources of import of India's Agri and Allied commodities are Indonesia, Malaysia, Argentina, Ukraine, United States of America, Brazil, Nepal, Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore, Afghanistan, Tanzania, Vietnam, United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, China, Canada, Netherlands, Sri Lanka and Australia.

Challenges and Opportunities

Identifying the challenges faced by the agricultural import and export

sector is crucial for devising effective solutions. This section discusses the obstacles related to infrastructure, logistics, market access, quality standards, and international competition. Moreover, it explores the emerging opportunities for growth and expansion in the agricultural trade domain.

Sustainability and Future Prospects

The sustainable development of the agricultural trade sector is essential for ensuring long-term benefits to farmers, consumers, and the environment. This section addresses the importance of sustainable agricultural practices, reducing post-harvest losses, promoting organic farming, and integrating technology for enhancing the overall efficiency of the trade.

CONCLUSION

The concluding section summarizes the key findings of the research and presents actionable recommendations for enhancing India's agricultural imports and exports. By understanding the dynamics of the agricultural trade sector, stakeholders can devise strategies to bolster India's position in the global agricultural marketplace while ensuring food security and sustainable growth.

REFERENCES

1. Economic Survey 2022-23, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Govt. of India.
2. Global Economic Effects of COVID-19, Congressional Research Service Report, Nov.2021.
3. Impact of Assessment of Covid-19 on Indian Agriculture & Rural Economy, Department of Economic Analysis & Research, NABARD -2020.
4. Annual Report-2022-23, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, Krishi Bhavan New Delhi 110001.
5. Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2022, Government of India Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Economics & Statistics Division.
6. <https://agriexchange.apeda.gov.in>
7. <https://agricoop.nic.in>