



## Prospects of India's Vegetable Exports

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Export is a medium for economic growth and development of any country. It helps to build foreign exchange reserves, aids in expansion of market and allows for efficient use of resources of a nation. With India's diverse climatic conditions and endowment of natural resources, there are varieties of fruits and vegetables produced in the country, which can be exported and its' benefits can improve the farmers welfare and boost the agricultural growth. Vegetables hold a crucial role in human health due to high nutrition and play a significant role in nutritional security of a country. Also, vegetables are vital in growth of agriculture industry as they provide farmers with high yield, income, better employment and reduces risk through diversification. India stands second globally in production of fruits and vegetables after China and is the leading producer of ginger and okra vegetables. During the year 2022-23, the production of horticultural crops in the country was around 351 MT (million tonnes) of which the vegetables production was 212 MT which accounts for 60 per cent of the total horticultural production. The huge production base itself provides India a remarkable opportunity for export.

### Vegetable trade over the years

During the year 2022, the volume of vegetables exported from India was 34,73,274.87 tonnes with worth of 15,69,759'000 USD and imported 49363 tonnes of produce amounting to 51172 '000 USD. Over the years, there is gradual increase in export of vegetables in India. But until, 2022 the exports remained more or less the same wherein there is need for thrust to capture the potentiality in the international market. The imports are also increasing over time but volume of exports always remained higher comparatively. However, after 2020 the imports have decreased due to Covid-19 outbreak in the country (Table 1).

**Table 1: Total export - import of vegetable from India**

Year	Export		Import	
	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value ('000 US \$)	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value('000 US \$)
2012	2448630.00	869332.00	28510.00	30301.00
2013	2492211.00	1268147.00	38435.00	35535.00
2014	2539348.09	1174968.00	25139.49	26097.00
2015	1993243.26	1166765.00	112838.65	54308.00
2016	2901927.06	1158554.00	22729.81	21930.00
2017	2641358.13	1175707.00	25336.31	25980.00
2018	2764019.13	1215355.00	31866.44	32745.00
2019	2575747.80	1178494.00	122371.06	84569.00
2020	2671695.05	1299689.00	167044.22	101240.00
2021	2774516.11	1436563.00	66336.72	49864.00
2022	3473274.87	1569759.00	49363.10	51172.00

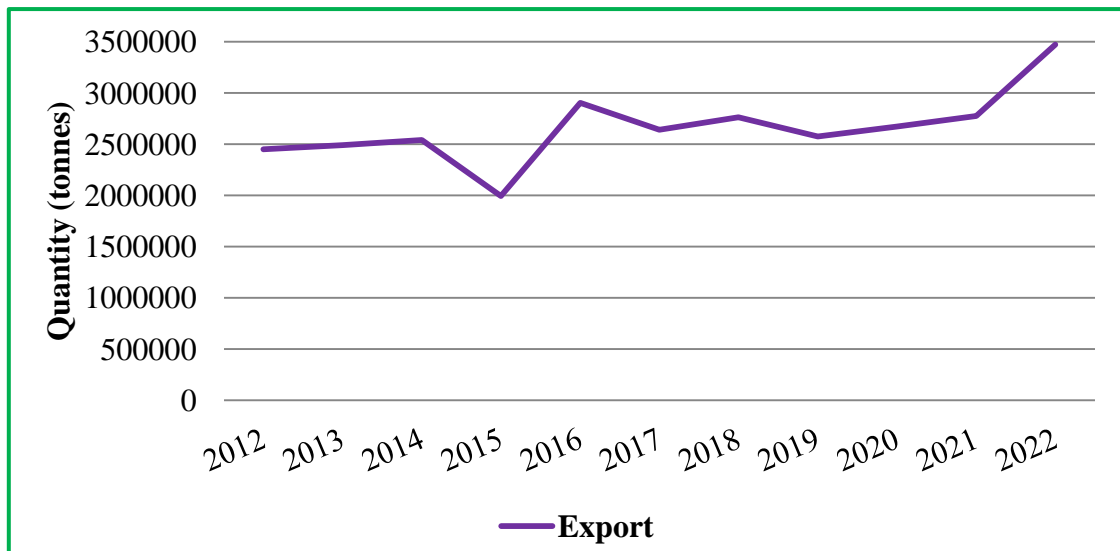


Fig. 1: Trend in export of vegetables from India

### Major destination for Indian vegetables

Bangladesh, Nepal, UAE, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Singapore are the top 10 export destinations for Indian vegetables in 2020-21. Bangladesh imports 28 per cent of India's vegetables followed by Nepal (19.25 %), UAE (10.74%) and Malaysia (9.28 %). These four countries together account for more than 65 per cent of the total vegetables exported from India.

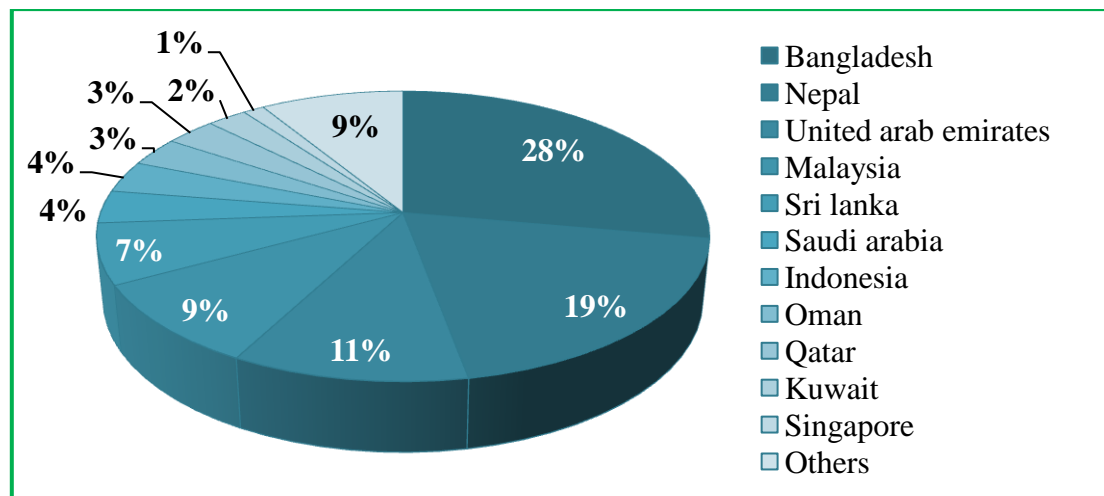


Fig. 2: Major importers of Indian vegetables

### Export pattern of vegetables

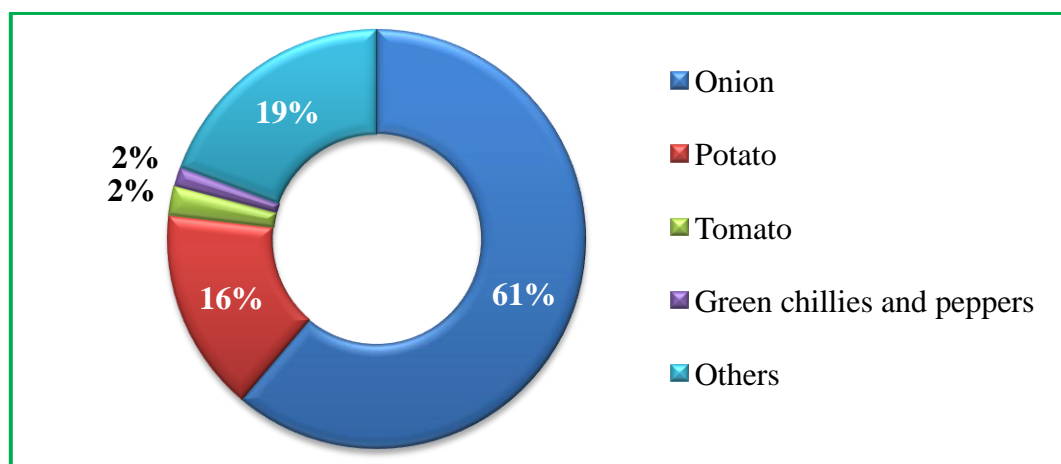
The vegetables are exported in different forms listed below;

- Vegetables preserved by vinegar or acetic acid
- Vegetables, dehydrated
- Vegetables, fresh
- Vegetables, fresh or dried products
- Vegetables, frozen
- Vegetables, homogenized preparations
- Vegetables, preserved
- Vegetables, preserved, frozen
- Vegetables, temporarily preserved
- Waxes vegetable

The vegetables exported from India are mostly in the form of fresh vegetables. Majorly they are exported by preserving in vinegar or acetic acid i.e. around 28 per cent of vegetables exports. Around 24 per cent of vegetables are exported in dehydrated form and 17 per cent is exported in the form of completely fresh vegetables. There is potentiality to increase the export of processed vegetables through strengthening the cold chain infrastructure and better processing i.e. drying, preservation, freezing, dehydration etc.

### Product-wise export of major vegetables

During 2022 onion was the most exported vegetable with export of 21,24,581 tonnes worth of 5,24,591 USD. The onion exports account for 61 per cent of the total vegetable exports which is followed by potato, tomato and green chillies and peppers. The other major commodities exported along with these vegetables include garlic, sweet corn, pumpkin squash and gourds, cabbage, chicory roots, cucumber and gherkins, green peas etc.



**Fig. 3: Share of major vegetables in exports**

The vegetable exported in India are majorly in the form of fresh vegetables, which fetch low price than value added products. Only two per cent of vegetable produced get cold storage facility in India Due to lack of cold storage and processing facility post-harvest losses are increasing which is around 30 per cent during storage and 40 per cent in case of natural calamities (Sujoy, 2015). With respect to major vegetables such as tomato and onion are highly sensitive to price fluctuation and they both are essential in every dish in India. Extreme fluctuation in prices of these two vegetables brings food inflation at higher level. So, balanced export of these vegetables is very much necessary in the country to maintain the retail prices.

India's export accounts only one per cent of its total production of vegetables. Because of huge population residing in India, most of the vegetable produced are used to meet the domestic demand. The lack of knowledge of farmer/producer regarding quality specification for exports and standard cultivation practices followed, India observed lot of rejection of its vegetable consignments due to higher pesticide / chemical residual content. So, there is a need to increase the awareness among farmers/producers, processors and exporters. Although India's share is less, the growth can be achieved by improving the infrastructure, quality and providing more emphasis on processing and value addition.

### References

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