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PEPPER SPICES UP EXPORTS

India's exports of spices in 2007-08 grew 24.04 per cent over the previous year. Among all the spices, pepper exports increased steeply by 69.66 per cent.

India is one of the leading producers, consumers and exporters of spices. The Spices Board, under the umbrella of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, government of India, is the apex body for promoting exports of Indian spices. Established in 1987, the Board plays an important role as a developmental, regulatory and promotional agency for Indian spices. Its broad-based activities include formulation and implementation of quality improvement systems, research and development programmes, imparting education and training to farmers, processors, packers and exporters on post-harvest handling, etc. For promotion of spices, the Spices Board is regularly participating in international food fairs, assisting exporters in trade fair participation and sending business delegations to identified markets for export development.

India is known as 'the home of spices.' No Indian meal is considered complete without the tangy and delectable flavour of Indian spices, locally known as 'masala.' Indian spices are famous the world over for their high medicinal values. There is no other country in the world that produces as many kinds of spices as India. India grows over 50 different varieties of spices. The total production is around 2.7 million tonnes. Of this, about 0.25 million tonne (8-10 per cent) is exported to more than

150 countries.

Some of the most widely consumed spices in India *inter alia* include chilli (*lal mirach*), cinnamon,

cumin (*jeera*), curry leaf (*curry patta*), fennel (*saunf*), asafoetida (*hing/heeng*), basil (*pudina*), bay leaves (*tej patta*), small cardamom (*chotti elai-*

Table I
Spices Growing in Indian States

States	Spices
Andhra Pradesh	Chilli, ginger, mustard, turmeric
Arunachal Pradesh	Ginger, tejpatta, turmeric
Assam	Aniseed, turmeric
Bihar	Ajovan, garlic, mustard, turmeric
Gujarat	Chilli, cumin, dill seed, fennel, fenugreek, garlic
Haryana	Garlic
Himachal Pradesh	Ginger
Jammu & Kashmir	Ajovan, saffron
Karnataka	Cardamom (small), chilli, clove, garlic, ginger, kokam, nutmeg and mace, pepper, turmeric, vanilla
Tripura	Turmeric
Tamil Nadu	Cardamom (small), chilli, cinnamon and cassia, clove, ginger, herbal and exotic spices, nutmeg and mace, pepper, pomegranate seed, turmeric, vanilla
Kerala	Cardamom (small), cinnamon and cassia, clove, ginger, nutmeg and mace, pepper, turmeric, vanilla
Uttar Pradesh	Aniseed, celery, chilli, coriander, cumin, fennel, fenugreek, garlic, mustard, turmeric
Madhya Pradesh	Chilli, garlic, ginger
West Bengal	Cardamom (large), chilli, ginger, turmeric
Maharashtra	Chilli, garlic, pomegranate seed, turmeric
Mizoram	Ginger
Meghalaya	Ginger, turmeric
Orissa	Chilli, garlic, ginger, turmeric
Punjab	Aniseed, celery
Rajasthan	Chilli, cumin, coriander, dill seed, fennel, fenugreek, garlic
Sikkim	Cardamom (large), ginger, tejpata

Source: Spice Board of India

chi), large cardamom (*badi elaichi*), ginger (*adrak*), mustard, sishops weed (*ajwain*), cassia (*dal chini*), celery (*kala jeera*), clove, coriander (*dhania*), fenugreek (*methi*), garlic (*lahson*), kokam, mint, onion, parsley, pomegranate, turmeric (*haldi*), tamarind (*imli*), pepper (*kali mirrach*), poppy (*post dana/khaskhas*), rosemary and vanilla. The climate of the country is suitable for growing almost all kinds of spices.

India holds a prominent position in the world spice production. It commands a formidable position in the world spice trade with 48 per cent share in volume and 44 per cent in value.

India can now claim to be the monopoly supplier of spice oils and oleoresins the world over. In the case of curry powders, spice powders, spice mixtures and spices in



Various spices

Table II
Segment-wise India's Exports of Spices in 2007-08

(Rs million)

Segment	2006-07	2007-08	Per cent growth
Mint products	11,009.5	12,805.0	16.31
Chilli	8,077.5	10,975.0	35.87
Spice oils and oleoresins	5,107.9	5,630.0	11.22
Pepper	3,062.0	5,195.0	69.66
Cumin	2,015.0	2,915.0	44.67
Turmeric	1,648.0	1,570.0	-4.73
Curry powder/paste/condiments	869.3	1,110.0	27.69
Coriander	746.2	1,102.5	47.75
Other spices	428.0	500.0	16.82
Fenugreek	269.9	330.0	22.27
Other seeds	224.0	312.5	39.51
Nutmeg and mace	427.4	287.5	-32.73
Fennel	238.0	285.0	19.75
Ginger fresh/dry	397.5	280.0	-29.56
Cardamom (small)	223.6	247.5	10.69
Vanilla	199.6	177.5	-11.07
Cardamom (large)	169.5	150.0	-11.50
Celery	132.1	132.5	-3.03
Garlic	212.8	40.0	-81.20
Total (all India)	35,757.5	44,355.0	24.04

Source: Spices Board, Kochi

consumer packs too, India is in a formidable position. The consistent effort during the last one decade has improved the share of value-added products in the export basket to 60 per cent. Because of the varying climate—from tropical to sub-tropical to temperate—almost all spices are grown splendidly in India. In fact, almost all the states and union territories of India grow one or the other spices.

Types of spices

Spice production in India can be broadly categorised as follows:

1. Major spices: black pepper, cardamoms (small and large), chillies, ginger and turmeric

2. Seed spices: coriander, celery, fennel, fenugreek, dill, aniseed, caraway, mustard, poppy seed, parsley and *ajwain*

3. Tree spices: clove, nutmeg and mace, cinnamon, *tejpatta*, kokam, cambodge, tamarind, cassia, curry leaf, asafoetida and pomegranate

4. Herbal spices: thyme, mar-

Table III
**India's Exports of Spices to Major Markets
 During 2006-07 and 2007-08**

(Rs million)

Country	2006-07	2007-08	Per cent change in 2007-08 over 2006-07
USA	7,722.5	8,671.7	12.19
Malaysia	3,082.5	3,588.4	16.41
Singapore	1,430.5	2,270.2	58.70
Germany	2,160.9	2,172.6	0.54
UK	1,759.2	1,898.5	7.92
Bangladesh	1,799.4	1,864.3	3.61
UAE	1,320.8	1,805.0	36.66
Sri Lanka	1,278.1	1,602.6	25.39
Japan	1,145.7	1,266.0	10.50
Netherlands	784.7	908.6	15.79
Saudi Arabia	586.2	730.1	24.55
France	616.1	724.7	17.63
Nepal	578.9	670.2	15.77
South Africa	459.6	655.3	42.58
Canada	439.9	625.9	42.28
Total (all India)	35,757.5	44,355.0	24.04

Source: Spices Board, Kochi

a growth of 16.31 per cent over the previous year by reaching a level of Rs 12,805 million as against Rs 11,009 million in the previous year. Other spices showing a significant growth during the period included pepper (69.66 per cent), coriander (47.75 per cent), cumin (44.67 per cent), chilli (35.87 per cent), curry power, paste and condiments (27.69 per cent) and fenugreek (22.27 per cent). On the other hand, spices registering a steep fall were garlic (81.20 per cent), nutmeg and mace (32.73 per cent), and ginger fresh/dry (29.56 per cent).

Spices export registered an annual average growth rate of 11.1 per cent in value terms. During the year 2007-08, the export earnings from spices surpassed \$1 billion for the first time and registered an all-time high both in terms of quantity and value in spices export. India exported 444,250 tonnes of spices valued at \$1101.80 million registering an increase of 39 per cent in value and 19

joram, oregano, savory, basil, rosemary, horse radish, tarragon, hyssop and lovage

5. Miscellaneous spices: garlic, saffron, vanilla, juniper berry, pepper long, greater galanga, curry powder, spice oils, oleoresins and mixtures where spice content is predominant

The most popular spice products are extracts that are widely used in food, pharmaceutical and toiletry industries. India enjoys a near monopoly in spice extracts supply.

India's spices export

Segment-wise. According to the data released by the Spices Board, India's exports of spices in 2007-08 registered a growth of 24.04 per cent over the previous year when the same reached a level of Rs 44,355 million as against Rs 35,757 million in the previous year (Table II). Mint products emerged as the top-most item of exports and registered



Cardamom small plantation

Table IV
India's Exports of Spices During 2007-08
(Rs million)

Item	2007-08
Chilli	8,521.6
Black pepper garbled	3,570.1
Other cumin seeds	2,481.0
Chilli powder	2,159.4
Crushed or ground pepper	1,103.1
Other coriander seeds	874.4
Cumin black of seed quality	699.7
Turmeric powder	664.9
Cumin other than black of seed quality	601.4
Mixture of two or more products of different headings	598.1
Other powder of other spices, not exactly specified	567.3
Turmeric dry	540.9
Fenugreek seed	502.6
Other cumin black seeds	387.6
Coriander of seed quality	383.7
Turmeric fresh	331.3
Other spices, not exactly specified	271.9
Other fennel seeds	248.1
Cumin powder	246.2
Cardamom large	197.8
Dehydrated green pepper	192.1
Fennel of seek quality	181.1
Nutmeg not in shell	161.3
Other turmeric	160.4
Vanilla bean	157.0
Celery seed	153.6
Ginger powder	125.6
Ginger dried unbleached	104.2
Cassia powder	99.8
Cardamom small alleppey green	93.7
Ajwan seed	75.8
Cardamom small coorg green	70.7
Nutmeg in shell	58.0
Pepper long	54.3
Black pepper ungarbled	54.3
Ginger fresh	50.4
Fenugreek powder	44.6
Oleoresins of spices	38.6
Light black pepper	26.9
Total (all India)	44,355.0

Source: DGCI&S, Monthly Statistics of India's Foreign Trade



Chillies plantation

per cent in volume over 2006-07. The spices export also far exceeded the target fixed for the year both in volume and value terms. Against the target of 380,000 tonnes valued at Rs 36,000 million (\$875 million) fixed for the year, the achievement has been 117 per cent in volume, 123 per cent in rupee value and 126 per cent in dollar value.

Country-wise.

Table III shows India's export of spices to major markets in the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. USA continues to be the largest market for Indian spices. In 2007-08, it registered a growth of 12.19 per cent when the exports

to this market reached a level of Rs 8672 million as against Rs 7722 million in the previous year. The countries showing a significant growth during the period comprised Singapore (58.70 per cent), South Africa (42.58 per cent), Canada (42.28 per cent), UAE (36.66 per cent), Sri Lanka (25.39 per cent), Saudi Arabia (24.55 per cent), France (17.63 per cent), Malaysia (16.41 per cent), Netherlands (15.79 per cent) and Nepal (15.77 per cent).

Table IV shows India's exports of spices during the period 2007-08. India's exports of major spices to principal markets in the year 2007-08 are shown in Table V.

Global trade of spices

Imports. World imports of spices in 2006 increased to \$3288.9 million as against \$3066.7 million in the previous year registering a growth of 7.25 per cent. Imports to USA shot up to 7.94 per cent. The countries showing a steep growth comprised Malaysia (40.86 per cent), UAE (17.14 per cent), Saudi Arabia (16.67 per cent) and Singapore (14.78 per cent). On the other

Table V
**India's Product-wise Exports to Principal Markets
 During 2007-08**

(Rs million)

Item/country	2007-08	Item/country	2007-08
Chilli		Singapore	195.0
Malaysia	2,990.0	Brazil	192.7
Bangladesh	1,646.0	Nepal	190.9
Pakistan	513.7	Malaysia	176.5
Indonesia	344.9	Netherlands	133.7
USA	324.4	Saudi Arabia	126.2
Vietnam	258.3	UK	98.5
Mexico	174.5	Vietnam	89.2
Nepal	146.2	Egypt	65.8
Thailand	139.8	Mexico	61.9
Sri Lanka	134.6	Yemen Rep.	56.2
Singapore	114.6	Colombia	49.7
Total (incl. others)	8,521.6	Ecuador	44.3
Black pepper garbled		Chile	29.5
Italy	1,919.4	France	27.6
USA	1,600.9	Canada	14.6
Canada	175.4	Bangladesh	10.6
Singapore	169.9	Total (incl. others)	2,481.0
Germany	137.0	Chilli powder	
UAE	118.9	USA	930.6
Poland	116.1	UAE	205.8
Sweden	112.6	UK	194.5
Japan	84.0	Saudi Arabia	65.4
Spain	79.6	Australia	50.0
France	66.9	South Africa	48.8
South Africa	63.1	Total (incl. others)	2,159.4
Australia	59.9	Crushed or ground pepper	
UK	52.2	USA	467.2
Belgium	30.2	UK	171.4
Egypt	18.4	Australia	99.2
Austria	11.2	Belgium	63.3
Total (incl. others)	3,570.1	Canada	47.2
Other cumin seeds (other than black)		Total (incl. others)	1,103.1
USA	414.4	Total (all India)	44,355.0
UAE	200.5		

Source: Compiled from the data of DGCI&S, Monthly Statistics of India's Foreign Trade Exports and Re-exports March 2007 and 2008 issues, Kolkata

hand, the countries showing a negative growth comprised Japan (11.75 per cent), Spain (5.02 per cent), Netherlands (3.35 per cent) and India (3.16 per cent).

Exports. World exports of spices in 2006 increased to \$3562.1 million as against \$2994.5 million in the previous year registering a steep growth of 18.95 per cent. India emerged as

the largest exporter of spices in the world and registered a phenomenal growth of 66.55 per cent over the previous year when the same reached a level of \$468.0 million as against \$281.0 million. The other countries showing a significant growth included Brazil (27.84 per cent), Indonesia (23.92 per cent), Vietnam (22.10 per cent) and Germany (15.44 per cent). However, China, which was the topmost exporter of spices in 2005, showed a decline of 4.05 per cent when its exports nosedived to \$399.9 million as against \$416.8 million.

The Indian initiative

The Spice Board of India has taken a major initiative in promoting the production and export of organic spices in a big way. It supports production, processing, certification and marketing of organic spices. Assistance is provided for organic cultivation of chillies, ginger, turmeric, kokkam, cumin, fennel, fenugreek, coriander and dill in states of Maharashtra, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The Board also has programmes to encourage production of organic pepper, herbal spices, Lakadong turmeric and ginger in the North Eastern states. Research is on to develop suitable practices for organic cultivation of chilli and cardamom. ■

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