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Research
Paper

Performance and prospects of turmeric exports in India

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ABSTRACT

Turmeric is an important crop in India both for domestic and export market. Turmeric pays more economic returns to the farmers and foreign exchange to the country through export. The study attempts to examine the export performance of turmeric in India. The results of the study indicated that export of turmeric in quantity and value were positive and significant with 6.52 per cent and 12.72 per cent per annum from 1990-91 to 2005-06, respectively. The item-wise exports of turmeric revealed that the largest share was of powdered form *i.e.* 42 per cent in global trade. Next came the dry turmeric, share of which was 33 per cent and turmeric in fresh form which contributed 23 per cent in exports and lastly oleoresins oils which accounted 2 per cent in exports. The analysis of the country wise export market of Indian turmeric indicated that UAE was the major importing country of fresh turmeric accounting for nearly 22 per cent of value of the total exports. U.K. was the major destination of powdered form of turmeric contributing 17 per cent in value of total exports. U.S.A. was the largest importer of dried turmeric and accounted for 19 per cent of the total value of exports. The major destination of oleoresins of turmeric was USA accounting for 17 per cent of the value of exports.

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Key words : Growth rate, Item-wise exports, Country-wise export market

INTRODUCTION

India is a land of spices. Indian spices are popularly known for their flavour both in the domestic and international market. They are not only indispensable for the dietary pattern but are also known for their medicinal and curative effects since immemorial. India is one of the largest producers, consumers and exporters of spices. It grows over 50 spices in different parts of the country.

Turmeric is largely consumed as a spice in India. Turmeric is an important crop in India both for domestic and export market. With its inherent qualities, Indian turmeric is considered the best in the world. Turmeric pays more economic returns to the farmers and foreign exchange to the country through export. Turmeric is grown throughout the world comprising the major turmeric producing countries like India, China, Java, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Haiti, Jamaica, Bangladesh, Taiwan and Indonesia.

According to the latest statistics, the total production of turmeric was estimated around 11-11.5 lakh tonnes. In country-wise analysis, India ranks first with 78 per cent of the total production of turmeric followed by China 8 per cent, Myanmar 4 per cent, Nigeria 3 per cent, Bangladesh 3 per cent and others 4 per cent. India

contributes about 60 per cent to the total trade (Gandhi, 2007).

India is a dominant player in the global market as far as turmeric export is concerned. Other major exporters are Thailand, Southeast Asian countries, Pacific islands, Central and Latin American countries and Taiwan. Turmeric is shipped in the form of dry turmeric, fresh turmeric, turmeric powder, curcuminoids, dehydrated turmeric powder, oils and oleoresins.

In view of increased awareness on advantages of turmeric consumption, increasing population and increased urbanization, the demand is increasing. The export requirement also is increasing, for increasing production and there by sustaining availability for meeting domestic and export market, there has been need to increase productivity and improve quality through crop management in field. Hence, an attempt has been made to examine the export performance of turmeric in India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The secondary data were collected from spices statistics and other web based sources and analysed in order to accomplish the objectives of the study. The