



A Review

Production and export of chillies from India

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ABSTRACT : Chilli (*Capsicum annum* L.) is one of the important commercial crops of India. It is a crop of tropical and sub-tropical regions and requires a warm humid climate. Though, One of the key areas of agricultural exports is the spices sector. In this sector 25 per cent of India's share in the world trade is in spices. Over the years, the chilli is being cultivated in an area of seven to nine lakh hectares but the production has increased from 5.20 lakh tonnes to 13.53 lakh tonnes with the increased productivity levels during 1970- 71 to 2008-09. Chillies exports from India are mostly to Sri Lanka, USA, Nepal, Mexico and Bangladesh. Among these countries, USA, Sri Lanka and Mexico are the major buyers for Indian chillies. It is worth noting that the growth rates in export of chilli are increasing over a period on one hand and export competitive on the other. The quantity of chilli exports grew annually by 14.32 per cent, export value by 23.16 per cent and unit value by 8.41 per cent. Thus, country has a comparative advantage in the export of chili and this can be achieved with the concerted efforts of government by developing transport facilities to export the chilli.

KEY WORDS : Chili, Production, Export, Growth rate, Trade

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India has wide diversity of climate and soils on which large number of horticultural crops such as fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, medicinal and aromatic crops, plantation crops, spices etc. are grown. So far as the contribution of horticultural crops to Indian economy is concerned, fruits and vegetables are grown only on 7-8 per cent of gross cropped area but contribute more than 18.8 per cent to the gross value of agricultural output and they share 52 per cent of export earnings of total agricultural produce. Besides providing nutritional and livelihood security and helping poverty alleviation and employment generation, this sub-sector sustains a large number of agro-industries, which generate huge additional non-farming employment opportunities.

India is called as spice wealthy nation as its total production of spices is around 40 lakh tonnes from an area of about 25 lakh hectares. In the world, nearly 45 per cent of supply of spices in volume and 25 per cent in value is from India (Anonymous, 2005). Indian export is only 10 per cent of its production to over 130 countries.

Chilli (*Capsicum annum* L.) is a tropical and sub tropical spice crop. India is the largest producer and consumer of chillies in the world contributing 25 per cent of the total world

production. Chilli is also known as Capsicum, Red pepper, Paprika depending upon the species and variety and also the manner in which it is prepared and used. Chilli is used as an essential condiment in foods for its pungency and red colour. Besides these properties, chilli is a rich source of vitamin A, C, E and P and has certain medicinal properties. It is used in homeopathy. A non-conventional use of chilli is in the self-defense sprays, which is gaining popularity in USA. The spray consists of capsicum oleoresin at ultra high emission rate which temporarily immobilizes the attacker. In recent years, chillies export earned more share in total spices export from India. With this background in the present paper, an effort has been made to study the export of chilli from India with the following objectives to study the area, production, productivity and export of chillies and to assess the share of export in production of chillies.

The study utilizes the secondary data gathered from the various publications (Spices Statistics and Spice India) of Spices Board. The data gathered pertained to area, production, yield, export quantity, export value and export unit value of chillies for the pre-liberalization period (1970-71 to 1990-91) and post-liberalization period (1991-92 to 2008-09). Percentage,