



Full Length Research Article

THE STUDY OF TRENDS IN EXPORTS OF ONION FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Onion (*Allium cepa*) is one of the important commercial vegetable crops grown in India. Annual production of onion is estimated to be about 74.50 Lakh tonnes. This quantity is enough to meet the present domestic requirement as well as export of onions. India is a traditional exporter of onion in the world. Present study is trying to have a glance at the trends in export of this onion from India.

Key words:

Onion (*Allium cepa*),
Commercial vegetable crops,
Domestic requirement, Export,
MT (Metric Tonnes),
NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative
Marketing Federation)

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INTRODUCTION

Product Information and its Importance

Onion (*Allium cepa*) is one of the important commercial vegetable crops grown in India. It is widely grown in different parts of the country mainly by small and marginal farmers. It is used as salad or cooked in various ways in all curries, fried, boiled or baked. It is also used in processed forms e.g. flakes, powder paste, pickles etc. It has very good medicinal value. Nutritive value of onion varies from variety to variety. Small sized onions are more nutritive than big ones. Its major value is in its flavour. Onion ranks medium in calorific value, low in protein and very low in vitamins. The perpetual demand of onions within the country and for the export has made it essential to supply onions round the year either from fresh harvest or from stocks. In the "Garuda Puran", the Sanskrit word palandu which means onion, has been mentioned and great sages like Maharshi Atreya and Lord Dhanwantri have described the use of onions in detail. There is also a description of kandarpavarishyavati, in which onions along with nutmeg, mace, cinnamon, clove and cardamom are

combined with the seeds of *Mucunapruriens* (Kaunchabeeja), taken daily in the morning and at bed time, it is good toner for the body as a whole. Onions are carminative, melt the phlegm and oil extracted from them is volatile. When a patient's condition is serious, particularly when the feet become cold, fresh onion juice is rubbed over the body, or is given orally. It brings stamina, vim, vigour and vitality. If a person suddenly becomes unconscious, the fumes of a crushed onion make him return to consciousness. For people suffering from earache, a couple of drops of fresh onion juice poured into ear have a beneficial effect. Even today people from the villages eat onions and jaggery (gur) with water to overcome fatigue and exhaustion after a long walking.

Production, Domestic Use and Export of Onion

Annual production of onion is estimated to be about 74.50 Lakh tonnes. This quantity is enough to meet the present domestic requirement as well as export of onions. It is also necessary to have proper planning for production, post-harvest handling, storage as well as marketing so as to maintain the stability in prices and supplies. It is, however, necessary to make efforts for increasing production and minimizing post-harvest losses for meeting increasing demand both in domestic as well as export market. About the trend of export of onion it

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can be said that there are many ups and downs recorded in export quantity and value which is due to fluctuation in production and prices, and sometimes due to ban imposed on export to safeguard the interest of consumers in the country.

Varieties

A number of onion varieties have been developed in India by SAUs and ICAR Institutes for cultivation in different regions. About 35 improved varieties have been classified into 2 groups - common onions and multiplier onion. The common onions have been grouped into 3 sub-groups based on colour of skin, i.e. red, yellow and white.

Onions of four sizes are exported

Big size - 4 to 6 cm. Diameter
 Medium - 3 to 4 cm. Diameter
 Small - 2 to 3 cm. Diameter
 Podisu - 2.5 to 3.5 cm. Diameter

The varieties of different sizes exported are

Big - Pusa Red, Agrifound Light Red, N-2-4-1 Agrifound Dark Red, N-53, Nasik Local, Bellary Red, etc.

Small – Agrifound Rose, Bangalore Rose, Podisa, Multore, Nattu etc.

Nearly 90-92% of onion exported is of big size.

Objectives

- To study Onion Export from the year 2008-09 to 2013-14.
- To compare Trends in exports & understand the deviation

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Scope of the study: The product selected for the study is onion only and the study is done only about the export of onion from India, in terms of annual quantity & value.

Type of Research: Problem Oriented Applied Research

Type of research Design: Descriptive Research Design

Nature of Study: Quantitative

Method of Data Collection

Secondary data is used to find out the historical and recent trends of onion production and yield of the onion in India, Secondary data is collected through

- Books
- Websites

Sampling

Sample frame: Onion being exported from India.

Sampling method: Convenient

Data Analysis

Trends in Exports of Onion from India

India is a traditional exporter of onion in the world. Onion exports increased in recent years after onion was removed from the official list of essential commodities and onion

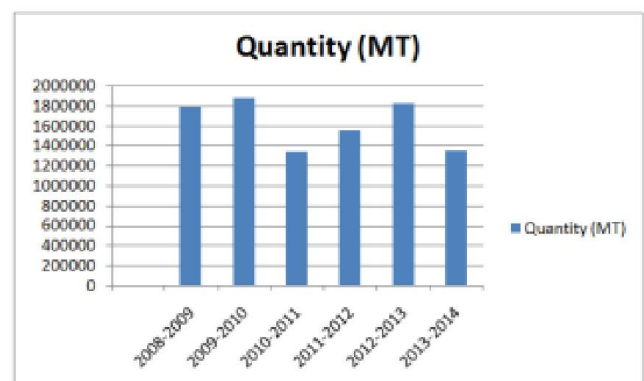
exports were progressively deregulated. Prior to this, exports were periodically banned or restricted, which prevented the growth in export of onion. In India, no onion production is undertaken specifically for export; however, there is a greater demand for onion grown in India. During TE ending 1953-54 the India was exporting 39848 MT of onion valued at Rs 1.06 crores. The spurt in export of onion was observed during the 1960s wherein, the quantum of export reached a high of 106875 thousand MT during TE-1962-63 During recent decades, there is a tremendous growth in export of onion. India exported 11.61 lakh tonnes of onions during 2006-07 which is a record quantity after the export was channelized through NAFED. There are many ups and downs recorded in export quantity and value which is due to fluctuation in production and prices, and sometimes due to ban imposed on export to safeguard the interest of consumers in the country. Big onions having, light red to dark red coloured bulbs are grown in most of the parts. Small onions, known as rose onion, and Krishnapuram onions are grown in Kolar district in Karnataka and Cudappah district in Andhra Pradesh. Multiplier onion, known as Podisu and Shallots, are grown in Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh. Big onions produced in Maharashtra, Gujrat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are exported from Mumbai, Chennai, Tuticorin, Kandla and Kolkata ports to Dubai, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Middle East, Malaysia, Singapore, Seychelles and Bangladesh. Onions grown in India are very much in demand in Gulf Countries and Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh because of strong pungency. Small onions produced in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are exported from Chennai port to Singapore and Malaysia, and multiplier onions to Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka etc. Maharashtra has maximum share in onion export.

Trends in export of onion from India

In the year 1953-54 the India exported 39848 MT of onion valued at Rs 1.06 crores. During the 1960s wherein, the quantum of export reached a high of 106875 thousand MT India exported 11.61 lakh tonnes of onions during 2006-07

Table 1. Year wise data of Onion export in terms of Quantity and Value

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs Lakhs)
2008-2009	1,783,820.00	224,312.30
2009-2010	1,873,002.00	283,428.50
2010-2011	1,340,771.00	215,905.50
2011-2012	1,552,904.00	214,142.90
2012-2013	1,822,760.00	229,490.94
2013-2014	1,358,193.00	287,713.00



Graph: Year Vs. Quantity

Table 2. Export Destinations of Onion from India (2010-11)

Country	Quantity(MT)
Bahrain	13,141.00
Bangladesh	916,118.00
Doha/Qatar	19,099.00
Dubai	149,761.00
Indonesia	8,678.00
Kuwait	13,762.00
Malaysia	320,616.00
Maldives	6,103.00
Mauritius	13,782.00
Muscat	8,387.00
Nepal	37,562.00
Oman	8,047.00
Pakistan	104,637.00
Philippines	16,241.00
Singapore	27,153.00
Sri Lanka	137,618.00
U.A.E	9,533.00
Dammam	14,497.00

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

1. The study shows that the export of onion in the year 2008-09 was 1,783,820.00MT having worth of rupees 224,312.30
2. It is observed that the export of onion in the year 2009-10 was 1,873,002.00MT having worth of rupees 283,428.50
3. The study shows that the export of onion in the year 2010-2011 was 1,340,771.00MT having worth of rupees 215,905.50
4. The study shows that the export of onion in the year 2011-2012 was 1,552,904.00 MT having worth of rupees 214,142.90

5. It is observed that the export of onion in the year 2012-2013 was 1,822,760.00 MT having worth of rupees 229,490.94
6. The study shows that the export of onion in the year 2013-2014 was 1,358,193.00 MT having worth of rupees 287,713.00
7. About the Trends & deviations in the export of onion is observed that the data shows the trend of High-Low-Close bars (HLC) nature.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

1. During the last 6 years, from 2008-09 to 2011-12, onion production has increased with some ups and down. Onion production is known for its fluctuations for some reasons. It can be concluded that the export data of onion shows the trend of High-Low-Close bars (HLC) nature. Showing its pick in the year 2011-12 with quantity of 1,873,002.00MT having worth of rupees 283,428.50 & Lowest in the year 2010-11 with quantity of 1,340,771.00MT having worth of rupees 215,905.50.
2. Periodical ban or restriction on onion export by the Government of India is the major reason for the slowdown of the growth in export of onion.

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