

Research Paper

# Trends and Economic Dynamics of Guar in India

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## ABSTRACT

Guar was once a low-value crop, but recent changes in global markets have made guar crops that fetch large profits. The value of exports of Indian guar products increased at a galloping pace from 602.95 to 21287.01 crores during 2000–2013, making guar products the largest agricultural export in those years. However, the value of exports later declined to 1949.07 crores in 2020–21. The proportion of guar gum powder in total guar products exported from India has remained high, ranging between 61-66 % (in terms of quantity) and 75 % (in terms of value) for the last five years. The study focused on the global production and trade of guar products, the composition of guar products exported from India, trends and variations in guar production, trends in prices, major aspects of demand and supply, uses of guar products, and their derivatives. The guar area, production, and productivity in India showed a positive trend in the last 20 years (2000-2020). Monthly and seasonal fluctuations in guar prices have been observed over time. As for the long-term trend, guar prices in Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Haryana increased gradually from January 2003 to June 2010 and, after that, continued to drop sharply. The supply of guar is greatly dependent on the amount and pattern of precipitation as its cultivation is restricted to dry regions of the country. Globally, oil drilling and mining is the primary consumer industry of guar gum. Farmers and industrialists confront significant obstacles, i.e., price instability, low productivity, unpredictable guar output, low investment in R&D, etc.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ① The proportion of guar gum powder in total guar products exported from India has remained high, ranging between 61-66 % (in terms of quantity) and 75 % (in terms of value) for the last five years.
- ② The guar area, production and productivity in India showed a positive trend in last 20 years (2000-2020).
- ③ Monthly and seasonal fluctuations in guar prices have been observed over time.

**Keywords:** Area, Demand, Exports, Price, Production, Supply

Guar, also known as the cluster bean (*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*), is a native of India and has long been grown in the country. It has traditionally been used in agriculture as a green manure crop, a vegetable, and food source for cattle. Guar gum is the most significant guar seed product commercially and is used in many different industries, including food processing, oil and gas, paper, textile, cosmetics, mining, and explosives (Bhupender and Amalendu Kumar. 2020). India contributes around 80% of the world's guar production, making it the top producer in the world (Dhaka *et al.* 2019). Guar seed

production is estimated to range between 1.0 to 1.6 million tonnes annually. Major export destinations of guar in the world are United States, China, Germany, Japan, Russia, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands etc. (Rai, 2015).

The word "guar" originated from the word "gowahaar," which is used most frequently in India as cattle feed (*Gow* means cow, and *Ahaar* means

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