

Editorial

Export is a vehicle of growth and development. They help not only with procuring the latest machinery, equipment and technology but also the goods and services which are not available indigenously. Therefore, it occupies a very prominent place in the list of priorities of the economic set up of developing countries because they contribute largely to the foreign exchange pool. The diverse climate of India ensures the availability of all varieties of fresh fruits & vegetables. It ranks 2nd in fruit and vegetable production in the world, after China. As per the National Horticulture Database, India produced 112.62 million metric tonnes of fruits and 204.96 million metric tonnes of vegetables during 2023-24. The area under cultivation of fruits stood at 7.04 million hectares while vegetables were cultivated at 11.11 million hectares. India is the largest producer of onions, ginger and okra among vegetables and ranks 2nd in the production of potatoes, cauliflowers, brinjal, cabbages, etc. The rank of India in terms of production of bananas, mangoes and papayas is first. The vast production base offers India tremendous opportunities for export. During 2023-24, India exported fresh fruits and vegetables worth ₹ 15039.27 crores/1814.58 USD Millions, which comprised fresh fruits worth ₹ 8178.22 crores/986.32 USD millions and vegetables worth ₹ 6,861.05 crores/828.26 USD millions. The processed fruits and vegetables, including pulses, are exported for ₹ 20,623.70 crore/USD 2,488.72 million, which comprises processed vegetables including pulses at ₹ 14,339.94 crore/USD 1,730.79 million and processed fruits and juices ₹ 6,283.76 crores/USD 757.93 million in 2023-24. Grapes, pomegranates, mangoes, bananas, and oranges account for the larger portion of fruits exported from the country, while onions, mixed vegetables, potatoes, tomatoes, and green chilly contribute largely to the vegetable export basket. Major destinations for the Indian Fresh Fruits and vegetables are Bangladesh, Netherlands, Nepal, Malaysia, Iraq, U.K., Sri Lanka, Iran, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Major destinations for the Indian processed fruits and vegetables are USA, UAE, Bangladesh, U.K., Saudi Arab, China and the Netherlands. Though India's share in the global market is nearly 1 percent, there is increasing acceptance of only horticultural produce from the country. This has occurred due to concurrent developments in the areas i.e., state-of-the-art in cold chain infrastructure and quality assurance measures. Apart from large investments pumped in by the private sector, the public sector has also taken the initiative to set up several Centers for perishable cargoes and integrated post-harvest handling facilities in the country. Capacity-building initiatives at the farmers, processors and exporters levels have also contributed towards this effort.

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