

Onion Value Chain Analysis in Gujarat

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India is the second-largest onion-growing country in the world. Indian onions are famous for their pungency and are available throughout the year. Onions are the most important commercial spice crop grown in India and exported. It is used for raw consumption. It is mixed in with other vegetables and soups as a spice and flavouring agent. It contains vitamin B and vitamin C, and the minerals calcium and iron. It has medicinal properties and is used for earaches, colic pain, etc. Onions are used in making sauces, ketchup, and chutney. Dried onion chips and powder have great demand for export. The history of the onion can be traced back to at least 5000 years. Onions were used as medicine and religious objects during the first Egyptian dynasty. It is believed that Egyptians fed them to workers who assisted in the construction of the pyramids. Onions were also mentioned as a food in the Bible and the Kuran (APEDA, 2021)

Onion Production in India

There are more than 12 lakh hectares of land under agriculture. About 25 percent of the world's supply of onions, or 26.83 million MT, is produced in the nation. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh are the top onion-producing states in the nation. Nearly 90 percent of the nation's total onion production is produced in these three states, (Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, 2019).

Gujarat Scenario

More than 57260 hectares are under cultivation, and Gujarat produces 1.422 million tonnes overall (2019- 20). After Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra, Gujarat comes fifth in terms of production. Bhavnagar, Amreli, Rajkot, Junagadh, Jamnagar, Kutch, Porbandar, Dahod, Surendranagar, Anand, and Mehsana are the principal onion-growing regions of Gujarat. At the state level, the GWO-1 variety was released in 2000, (Director of Horticulture, 2020-21).

Varieties Popular in Gujarat are

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gujarat White Onion - 1 (GWO-1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bhima Shubhra
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talaja Local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junagadh Local
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri Found Light Red 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri Found Dark Red
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bhima Super 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bhima Shweta
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gujarat Junagadh White Onion – 3(GWO-3) 	

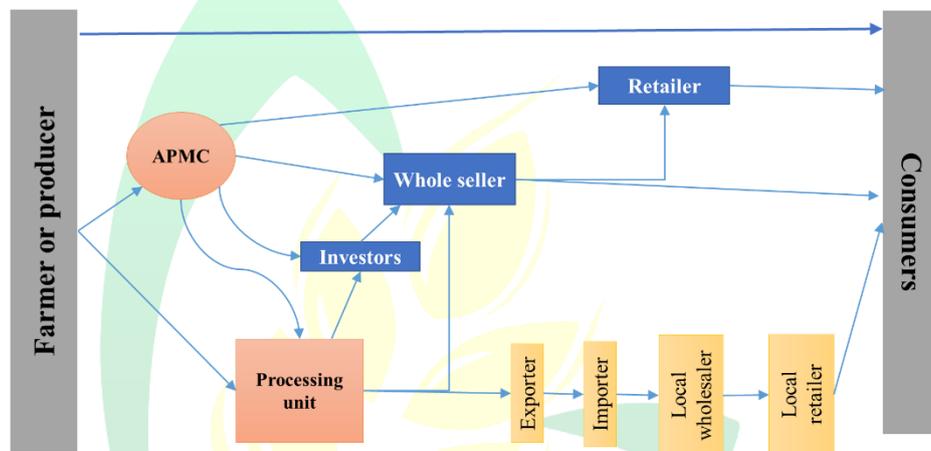


Figure 1. Onion Marketing Chain

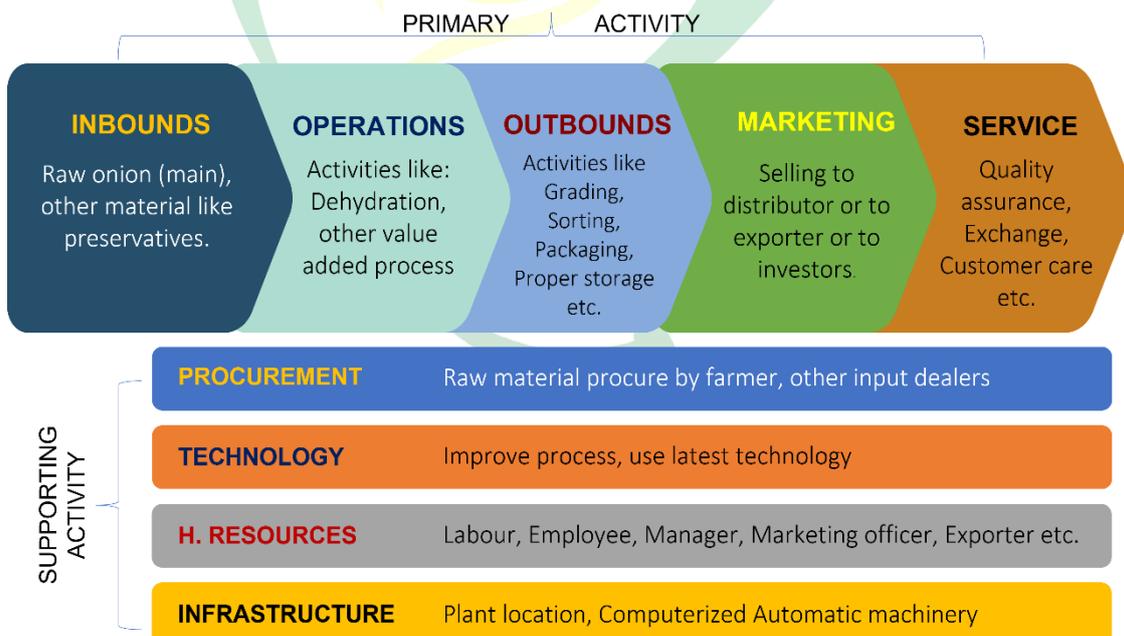


Figure 2. Onion Value Chain

Swot Analysis

- **Strength** is the availability of appropriate inputs, the availability of water for irrigation, and the Availability of appropriate production technologies.
- **Weaknesses** like lack of knowledge or use of grades and standards for onions, Lack of effective communication among value chain actors and other stakeholders low prices to farmers due to over-supply, poor organization of farmers, and limited production season for local onions.
- **Opportunities** are the Adoption of improved technology for onion production and post-harvest can improve yields and marketable production; the potential to significantly increase local production to supply the market; enforce existing regulations and standards.
- **Threats** are they are low wholesale prices during the harvest season; contraband onions threaten the viability of local production; adverse weather conditions (FAQ, 2016).

Reason for the price volatility of onion is Delay in monsoon, Drought, Excessive Rainfall and Delay in the harvesting period, and Government effort like the Import of onion, Restriction the exporters, and Maintaining buffer stock

In India, Maharashtra produces more than a third of the total production. Whereas in Gujarat, Bhavnagar contributes almost half of the total production. After harvesting, proper curing and grading are the keys to getting a better price for onions in the market, and proper packaging and handling can reduce the loss of onions in storage. In the months of April and May, the production of onions is high, which leads to a decrease in the price of onions and increased exports in that period. The major exporting countries require small-sized onions, so we suggest to farmers the growing of Agri Found Rose and Arka Bindu variety of onion.