

Current Problems and Its Resolutions in Vegetable Exports from India

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Introduction:

Production of vegetable crops is important to India's agriculture industry and national economy. The population of India is expanding rapidly, which increased the need for fresh veggies. The demand for vegetables is likely to rise as they are a crucial component of the Indian diet. Vegetables are a great source of fibre, vitamins, and minerals. They are a crucial component of a balanced diet and aid in the prevention of several diseases. It offers a lot of people in rural areas employment opportunities. Around 50% of the people of the nation is thought to be employed in agriculture.

Status of exports in India:

The potential for exporting these crops to other nations is enormous given that they are the top vegetable growers in the world. This may aid in generating foreign cash and advancing the economy of the nation. Talking about exports, crops like onion (2.5 mMT), potato (1.7 mMT), tomato (0.3 mMT), green chillies (0.2 mMT), peas (0.2 mMT), okra (0.16 mMT), eggplant (0.12 mMT), cucumber (0.07 mMT), cauliflower (0.05 mMT) and cabbage (0.03 mMT) gained magnificent trade with countries like UAE, Nepal, UK, USA, etc. Besides this benefit, India only accounts for 1.7% of the world's vegetable trade, a negligible portion of the market.

The export of fruits and vegetables makes the horticulture industry a leading candidate for the future of agriculture. Due to the country's farmers' dependency on regional markets and industries, economic and political risks are the main areas of worry when implementing policies. Because of a few challenges, India exports very little fresh vegetables, therefore finding a solution will enable the country to achieve its goal of increasing exports soon. The report identifies the challenges experienced by the producers and exporters of the main vegetables in India due to these persistent issues in the industry. Vegetable exporters

and producers face several issues, which are grouped below as production and trade-related issues.

Constraints faced by producer/farmer:

- Post-harvest management of vegetable crops are first and important step for ensuring shelf life, quality and eventually price. Lack of storage and transport facilities become limiting factor for achieving this objective.
- Poor handling of crop produces cause reduction in quality which leads to inability to meet quality requirements of importing countries.
- High dependency on agro chemicals for production cause health concerns to consumers.
- Lack of information about post-harvest handling and value addition of farm produces.
- Narrow base of crop varieties. Only specific kinds of vegetables grown and exported. Crops like minor vegetables still far from spotlight.

Constraints faced by exporters:

- Poor research on identification of crop which he/she wants to exports (based on market)
- Tedious and hectic documentation processes for exporters.
- Lack of knowledge about international trades.
- Language barriers against foreign buyers.
- Unaware of government benefits for exporting crop products.
- Maintaining quality of produce during transport because most of the vegetables are perishable in nature.

For overcome those constraints:

- Sustainable vegetable production which is achieved by minimum use of agricultural chemicals and produce healthy yield compared to conventional farming. This is important for reducing the residues found in quality assessment.
- Transferring farming towards organic vegetable production and residue free farming (which is achieved by hydroponics or aeroponics).
- Educate farmers for minimal processing and post-harvest handling of vegetable crops like removal of field heat by zero energy cooling chamber, drying of onion on field after harvesting, etc.

- Providing better the transportation facilities like cold chain.
- Providing subsidies and better price of organic produces.
- Improving the storage facilities.
- Providing guidance for exporting agriculture commodities by government institutions like IIFT or enrolling the courses in agriculture universities to encourage next generation exporters.
- Knowledge of facilities provided by government for exports.
- Knowledge of specific market for specific products.
- Value addition of vegetable crops which leads to higher price in national and international markets.
- Improving facilities of logistics houses and documentation process at port.
- Adapting right way for transporting the crop produce to other countries either by road, by sea or by air.
- Constant monitoring and participation in international trade fare and seminars for analysis of current trends of international markets.

Vegetables	Processed Products
Green tomato, Cucumber, etc.	Pickle
Pumpkin	Yerusseri
Taro	Poi
Cassava	Sago
Sweet Potato	Weikang and Jam
Bottle Gourd	Tuty-fruity
Tomato	Juice, Soup, Puree, Ketchup and Sauce
Cabbage	Sauerkraut
Black Carrot	Kanji

Table-1: vegetable with their respected processed product for value addition.

Conclusion:

As farmers and traders are contributing the exports of crops still many of the problems are seems to be unsolved. With support of government facilities and scientific temperament for vegetable production we will achieve more in recent years.

Reference:

Thulasiram, R. (2020). Status and constraints in Indian fruits and vegetable exports. *Agri Mirror: Future India*. 1(4): 33-35.

