Issues and Solutions of Fresh Fruits Export in India

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India facts.....

- Largest producer of fruits in the world
- Fruit production 46 million tonnes
 - 10% of world production
 - 4% of world citrus production
 - 46% of world mango production
 - 1% of export earnings from agricultural products

India: The March Ahead

fruit production, yields and exports grew faster than the average for the world:

- production 5.33% compared to 2.2%;
- yields 2.14% compared to 0.95%; and
- exports 8.21% compared to nearly 2%.

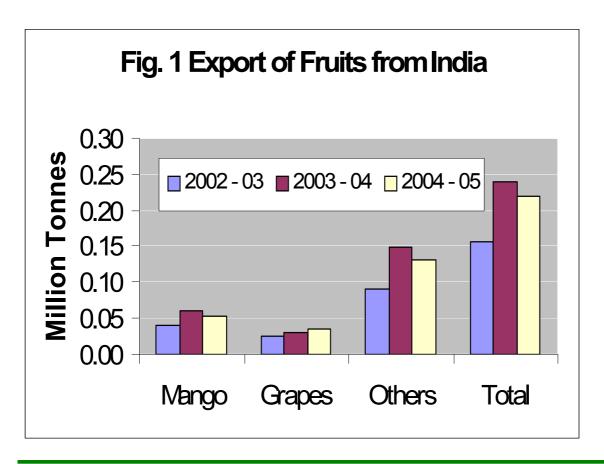
...... however, India's share in the global exports of fruits remains low.

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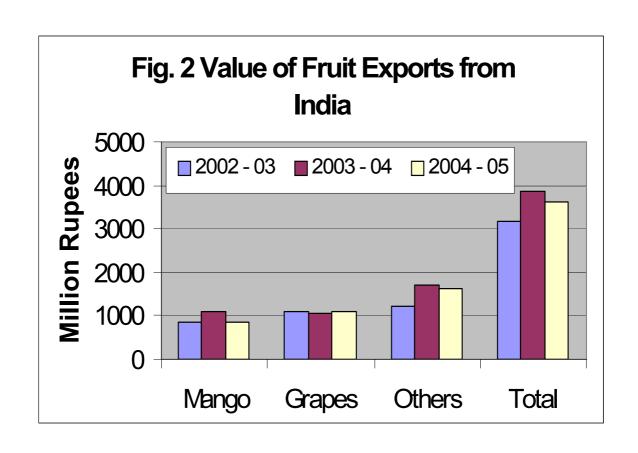
Comparison of major fruits' production in India and World

| Fruit | Production (Million Tonnes) | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-------|
| | India | World |
| Banana | 13.304 | 64 |
| Grapes | 1.250 | 68 |
| Mango | 12.733 | 25 |
| Papaya | 2.150 | 5 |
| Pineapple | 1.172 | 17 |
| Others | 14.5942 | 267 |
| Total | 45.203 | 446 |

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industries Data Sheet, 2005



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Constraints for Exports

- Lack of exportable varieties
- Lack of post-harvest infrastructure
- High cost of obtaining certification for exports

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Supply Chain Issues

- Uneconomic scale of operation
- Lack of consistency in supply and quality
- Lack of cost competitiveness
- Inadequate and inappropriate storage and distribution infrastructure
- Lack of technical support for the agroindustrial sector

Market Access Issues

- Non-Tariff Barriers
 - Import Policy Barriers
 - Standards, Testing, Labelling and Certification requirements
 - Anti-dumping & Countervailing Measures
 - Export Subsidies and Domestic Support
 - Government procurement
- Short product life cycle
- · Lack of brand image

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Technological Constraints

- Majority of holdings are small and unirrigated
- Unproductive plantations needing replacement / rejuvenation.
- Low productivity of crops due to inferior genetic stocks and poor management.

Technological Constraints

- Inadequate supply of quality planting materials of improved varieties
- High incidence of pests and diseases
- Heavy post harvest losses

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Proposed Solutions

Targeted Products

- India's production advantage (in aggregate terms or for specific varieties)
- Production should shift to demand driven rather than supply driven
- Current and likely trade volumes in the category, based on underlying demand trends
- Potential for differentiation
- Comparative cost advantage

Proposed Solutions

Improvement of market access

Market Intelligence

- Major importing markets
- India's competitiveness vis-à-vis key competitors
- Existing tariff structure and non-tariff barriers, and likely changes in the context of WTO requirements
- Current status of quality standards and food regulations in target markets for imports of defined products.

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Proposed Solutions

Improvement of market access

Harmonization with international standards/practices, certification and testing

- Substitute post arrival testing with preshipment inspection
- Encourage importing countries to set up offices in India for certification of export consignments

Harmonization with international standards/practices, certification and testing

- Encourage food testing laboratories to obtain accreditation from international agencies.
- Introduce certification zoning systems
- Promote certification of organic farming for different crops

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Proposed Solutions

- Supply chain alignment with international requirements
 - Enable direct farmer-importer linkages
 - Set-up independent world class food testing and inspection infrastructure
 - Devise an alternate system of processing grade products specifications based on internationally accepted norms

Supply chain alignment with international requirements

- Support private sector initiatives for investing in specialized transport infrastructure
- Encourage investment in infrastructure to improve product quality
- Integration of Government Schemes

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Recommendations

- Integrate all schemes offered for export promotion through various Ministries and allied agencies
- Strengthen food processing infrastructure in identified Agri Export Zones
- Encourage food testing laboratories to get accreditation from international agencies

Recommendations

- Set-up independent world class food testing and inspection infrastructure, particularly in clusters with significant presence of exporters
- Devise an alternate system of processing grade products specifications based on internationally accepted norms
- Promote aggregation of exports to meet the minimum order requirement of importers

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Recommendations

- Develop a strong market intelligence system to aid exporters
- Introduce certification zoning systems
- Promote certification of organic farming for different crops
- Build global brands on the back of India's strengths

Recommendations

 Support a responsive research and development infrastructure to provide technological upgradation

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