

III. Agri-Trade

Agri-exports

8.47 Agricultural exports increased from \$5.9 billion in 2001-02 to \$6.7 billion in 2002-03 (Table 8.23). However, as a percentage of total merchandise exports, the share of agri-exports declined from 13.5 per cent in 2001-02 to 12.8 per cent in 2002-03. Marine products, contributing around 20 per cent of the total agri-exports, is amongst the dominant items of the agri-exports of the country. The exports of food grains (rice and wheat) have picked up considerably in recent years, accounting for around 20 per cent of the agri-exports. The Government's special efforts to encourage export of foodgrains in recent years through grant of WTO compatible subsidies has placed India as one of the leading exporters of food grains in the international market.

8.48 Exim Policy 2002-07 emphasized the importance of agricultural exports and announced the following policy measures to boost agri-exports :

- Free exportability of all agricultural products except onion and niger seed, export of which are canalized through approved agencies.
- Removal of procedural restrictions like requirement for registration, packaging, etc.
- Setting-up of Agri-export zones to enhance international market access and improve infrastructure facilities, and ensure better flow of credit.
- Assistance for reducing the marketing costs such as transportation, handling and processing of export of selected agricultural commodities.
- Financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control mechanism and modernization of processing units.
- Arranging promotion campaign such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibition.

Table 8.23 : Agricultural exports

	2001-02		2002-03		2002-03 (April-Feb.)		2003-04 (April-Feb.)	
	Million US Dollar	Percent share of agri- exports	Million US Dollar	Percent share of agri- exports	Million US Dollar	Percent share of agri- exports	Million US Dollar	Percent share of agri- exports
Tea	360.5	6.1	343.6	5.1	320.3	5.3	317.1	4.9
Coffee	229.6	3.9	205.5	3.1	180.6	3.0	201.4	3.1
Rice	665.5	11.3	1238.1	18.4	1106.0	18.2	799.7	12.3
Wheat	278.9	4.7	363.6	5.4	339.0	5.6	453.2	7.0
Sugar & Molasses	373.6	6.3	375.1	5.6	304.2	5.0	258.3	4.0
Tobacco	169.3	2.9	212.5	3.2	181.0	3.0	205.4	3.2
Spices	313.9	5.3	342.8	5.1	314.2	5.2	286.4	4.4
Cashew	375.1	6.4	424.2	6.3	396.4	6.5	331.5	5.1
Sesame and Niger Seeds	127.9	2.2	93.2	1.4	82.9	1.4	141.7	2.2
Guargum Meal	84.5	1.4	100.6	1.5	87.9	1.4	100.2	1.5
Oil meals	474.5	8.0	308.8	4.6	286.4	4.7	563.1	8.7
Fruits & Vegetables	262.8	4.5	300.2	4.5	258.2	4.2	385.1	5.9
Processed Fruits & Vegetables	107.5	1.8	118.8	1.8	109.5	1.8	66.4	1.0
Meat & Meat Preparations	250.2	4.2	284.6	4.2	263.1	4.3	310.3	4.8
Marine Products	1236.8	21.0	1431.6	21.3	1303.6	21.5	1218.8	18.7
Others	590.4	10.0	611.1	9.1	542.9	8.9	867.3	13.3
Agricultural Exports	5901.0	100.0	6734.0	100.0	6076.0	100.0	6506.0	100.0
Total Exports	43826.7		52719.4		47136.1		55716.7	
Agri Exports as per cent of Total Exports		13.5		12.8		12.9		11.7

Source : DGCI&S, Kolkata