

Agricultural Exports

36. Trade policy reforms have provided an opportunity to Indian exporters to export agriculture products to overseas markets. However with increased concern regarding health and safety of human, plant and animal life, countries are putting in place stringent legislations for quality. India has the potential of exporting at least 2 million tonnes of rice annually which of course includes nearly 5 lakh tonnes of high value long grain basmati rice. In 1998 over 2 million tonnes of rice had already been exported till November, 1998. Indian exporters are required to improve their processing and packaging facilities to meet international quality standards. Though there has been some diversification in products exported and spread of destinations, bulk of India's agricultural exports still conforms to traditional items. In 1997-98 agricultural exports were valued at 6.4 billion dollars in which crop based exports coffee, tea,

rice, oil extraction, cashew, spices, cotton etc. added up to over three fourth of all agricultural exports. Agricultural export in country's total export was 17-20 per cent annually during the period 1993-94 to 1997-98 (Table 8.15).

TABLE 8.15
Agricultural Exports
(Rs. Thousand Crore)

Year	India's total Exports	Agriculture and Allied Exports	% Share of Agricultural Exports in total export
1993-94	69.75	13.02	18.7
1994-95	82.67	13.71	16.6
1995-96	106.35	21.14	19.8
1996-97	118.81	24.24	20.4
1997-98*	126.29	23.69	18.8

*Provisional Source : DGCI &S Calcutta