

## Agricultural Exports

8.67 Except for some restrictions on export of wheat and wheat products, coarse grains, sugar and pulses in bulk, almost all other agricultural products are freely exported. Agricultural products which are presently being exported include rice, spices, tobacco, cashew, oilmeals, sesame and niger seeds, groundnut, spirit and beverages, guar gum meal oil seed extractions, shellac, sugar and molasses, horticulture and floriculture products, processed fruits and juices, meat and meat preparations.

8.68 The total exports of agriculture and allied products and also share of agriculture exports to total export of the country is listed in Table 8.27. In 1998-99, India emerged as a major exporter of basmati and non-basmati rice. The international trade in agricultural products is increasingly being dominated by concerns of quality to safeguard human health. Importing countries are setting higher standards of quality for food products. It is therefore very important that agro-food-processing industry improves its functioning and pays attention to hygiene and processors/ manufacturers are made aware of the high international standards for quality. There is also a need to harmonise domestic standards with international standards, lay down standards for products where there are none

Year	India's total Exports	Agriculture and Allied Exports	Per cent Share of Agricultural Exports in total export
1994-95	82.7	13.7	16.6
1995-96	106.4	21.1	19.8
1996-97	118.8	24.2	20.4
1997-98	130.1	25.4	19.5
1998-99*	141.6	26.2	18.5
<b>1999-2000*</b>	<b>104.6**</b>	<b>15.1**</b>	-
*Provisional.		** April-November.	

but are necessary, and revise the current standards to meet the changing requirements. Towards this end revision of standards for spices and basmati rice is underway. Keeping the potential of this sector in view, there is considerable scope for increasing the share of agricultural and food products in the total export basket. The Government is giving special attention to this area by providing thrust to agricultural exports through enhanced public investments and by building up a conducive policy environment.