



Trading Aromas: The Rise of the Spice Economy

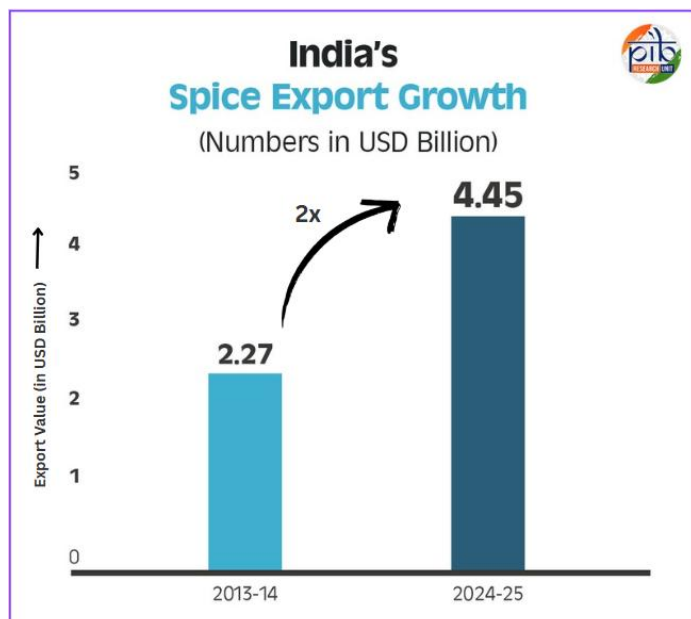
May 1, 2025

Introduction

India, known as the '*Land of Spices*', is the world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter of spices. Of the 109 spices recognized by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), India cultivates over 60 varieties. The spice sector contributes approximately **9% to India's total agricultural exports** and **over 40% of horticultural exports**. With a global footprint spanning over **200 countries**, India exports **225+ unique spice products**, reinforcing its position as a trusted global supplier of both raw and value-added spices. Historically valued for their medicinal properties, spices remain integral to both Indian heritage and global health-conscious markets.

Exports Trends

India is the largest exporter of spice and spice items. It retained its position as the leading global exporter, with exports reaching **USD 4.45 billion** in **FY 2024–25**. Between **2013–14** and **2024–25**, spice exports increased by **88% in volume**, and **97% in value (USD)**—reflecting India's expanding presence in the global spice market. Gujarat led with 23.53% of total exports, followed by Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. In comparison, during **2013–14**, spice exports stood at 817,250 MT, valued at **USD 2,267.67 million** showcasing a significant growth trajectory over the years.

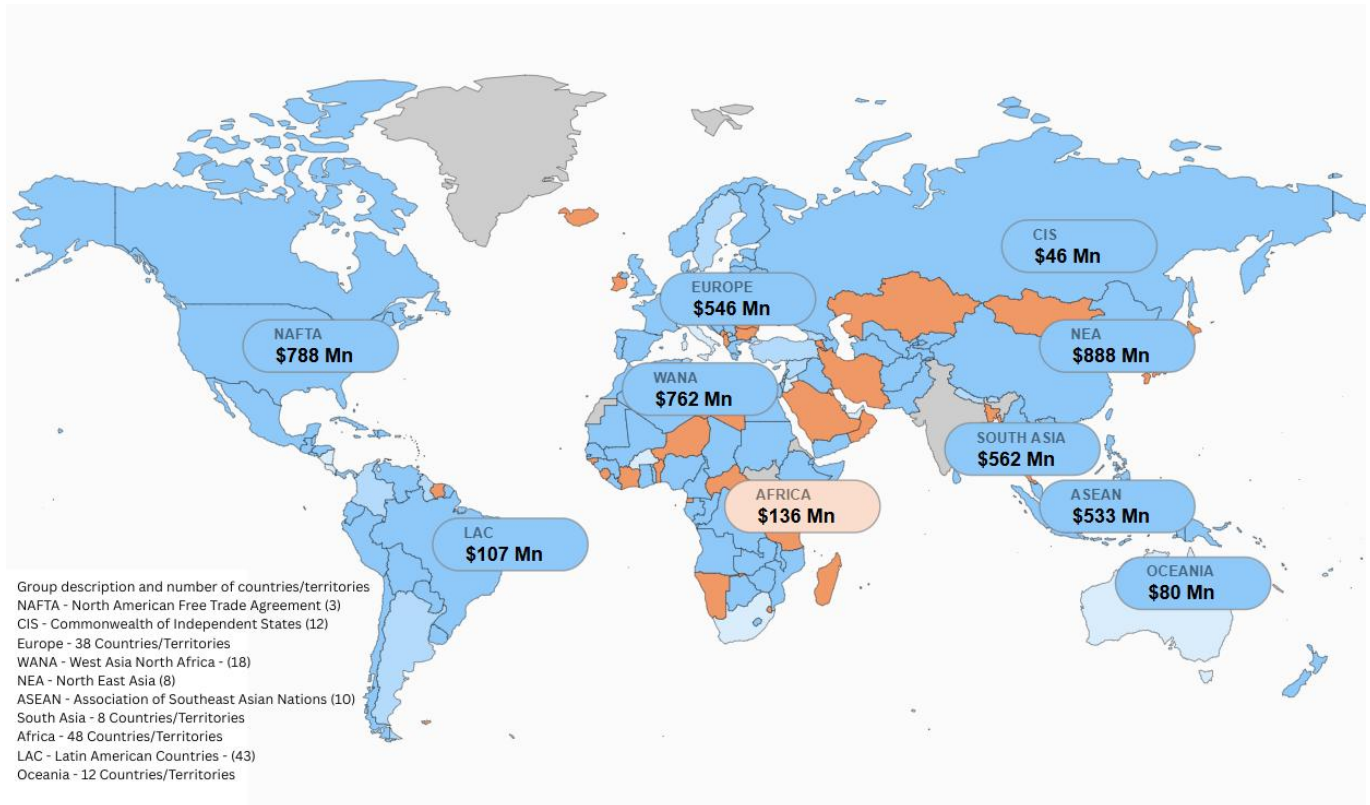


Major Export Destinations

India exported spices and spice products to **200 destinations worldwide** as of FY25 (up to December 2024). The **top 10 destinations**—China, USA, UAE, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, UK, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Germany—collectively accounted for **over 60% of total export earnings** in FY25 (until February 2025).

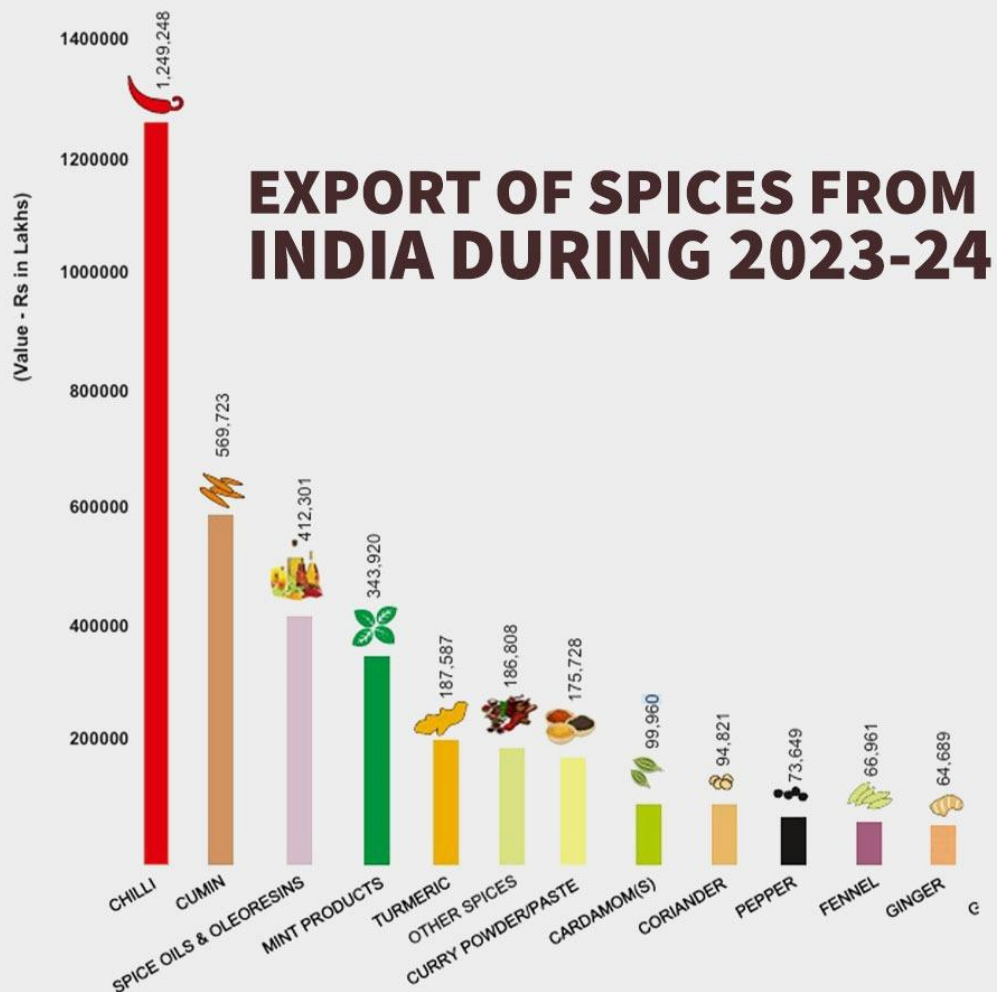
The USA's major imports from India included celery, cumin, curry powder, fennel, fenugreek, garlic, chilli, and mint products.

Region wise total export From India



India's Most Exported Spices by Value

During the financial year 2023–24, **chilli** emerged as the leading spice exported from India, with a total export value of **USD 1,508.94 million**. It was followed by **cumin** and **spice oils and oleoresins**, which recorded export values of **USD 700.23 million** and **USD 498.01 million** respectively. Other notable exports included **mint products**, **turmeric**, and **curry powders/paste**, each contributing significantly to the overall export volume.

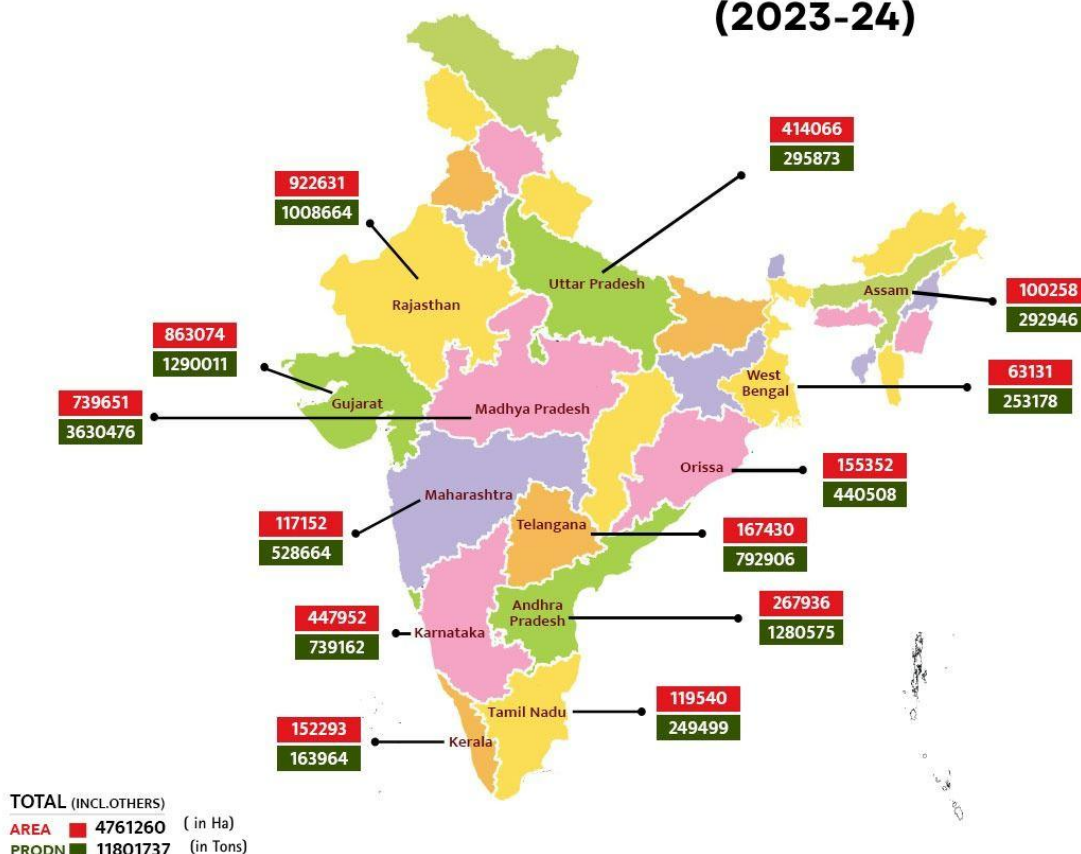


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Leading States in India's Spice Production

In 2023–24, **Madhya Pradesh** led India's spice production with **3.63 million tonnes**, followed by **Gujarat** with **1.29 million tonnes** and **Andhra Pradesh** with **1.28 million tonnes**. **Rajasthan** and **Telangana** also made significant contributions, producing **over 1 million tonnes** and **793,000 tonnes**, respectively. These top five states play a crucial role in sustaining India's leadership in the global spice market.

MAJOR STATE-WISE AREA AND PRODUCTION OF SPICES IN INDIA (2023-24)



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Government Initiatives

Spices Board of India

It was established in **1987** to **develop, promote** and **regulate** export of **52 spices** and spice products that fall under its purview. It also engages in the promotion of production, processing, domestic marketing and export of cardamom (both small and large).

Vision-To sustain the leadership in global trade of spices & value-added spice products, thereby contributing to the growth of agricultural exports from India.

Mission-To become the international processing hub and premier supplier of clean, safe and value-added spices & spices products to the industrial and retail segments of the global spices market.

1.Export Development and Promotion of Spices

The **SPICED**¹ (Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative, and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development) scheme, launched by the **Spices Board**

¹ <https://piB.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=2056737>

of India, aims to enhance the **export of spices**, improve **cardamom productivity**, and upgrade the **post-harvest quality of spices**. With a total outlay of **Rs. 422.30 crore**, the scheme will be implemented for the **15th Finance Commission cycle** until **FY 2025-26**.

Key components of the scheme include promoting **value addition in spices**, supporting **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)**, **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**, and **SC/ST communities**, and introducing programs like the **Mission Value Addition**, **Mission Clean and Safe Spices**, and promotion of **GI-tagged spices**. The scheme focuses on empowering **farmer groups**, improving productivity in **cardamom cultivation**, and enhancing **post-harvest practices**.

It also aims to strengthen India's competitiveness in the global spice market by providing **technological support**, **market development**, and funding for **Spice Incubation Centres** to foster innovation.

2.Setting up and maintenance of infrastructure for common processing (Spices Parks)

The **Spices Board** has established **eight crop-specific Spices Parks** across India to enhance spice processing, value addition, and export opportunities. These parks provide common facilities for **cleaning, sorting, grading, grinding, oil extraction**, and **packaging** of spices, benefiting **local farmers, traders, exporters**, and other stakeholders.

Name of the Spices Park	State	Spices covered
Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh	Garlic and Chilli
Guna	Madhya Pradesh	Coriander
Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	Chillies
Jodhpur	Rajasthan	Cumin
Ramganjmandi	Rajasthan	Coriander
Puttady	Kerala	Cardamom and Pepper
Raebareli	Uttar Pradesh	Mint
Sivaganga	Tamil Nadu	Chillies and Turmeric

The parks also provide plots to exporters, traders, and **farmer producer organizations (FPOs)** for setting up their own processing units. The establishment of these parks aims to create significant **job opportunities** and drive the **growth of the spice industry**, promoting both **direct and indirect employment** while boosting the country's spice export potential.

Conclusion:

India's spice sector is at a powerful turning point, combining **centuries-old heritage** with **surging global demand** for natural health and wellness. Post-COVID, the world is embracing **spices like turmeric, ginger, and garlic** for their immunity-boosting and anti-inflammatory benefits.

Backed by initiatives like **SPICED** and modern **Spices Parks**, India is moving towards **cleaner, value-added, globally competitive** spice exports. With a presence in **200+ countries** and production of **60+ varieties**, India is not just growing—it's **leading the global spice movement**.

References

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Santosh Kumar/ Sarla Meena/ Anchal Patiyal