

ISSN 2319-5282
Vol. IX
Number-16

MES Chavan M-R
(2020-2021)

ISSN 2319-5282
Jan.-Dec. 2020

2020-2021

Edu Care

A Multidisciplinary International
Peer Reviewed/Refereed Journal

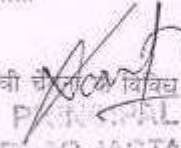
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Production, Arrival in Market and Export of Onion in India

Smt. Meena R. Chavan* and Dr. Ravindra K. Chavan**

INTRODUCTION

Onions are one of the oldest vegetables in continuous cultivation dating back to at least 4,000 BC. The ancient Egyptians are known to have cultivated this crop along the Nile river. There are no known wild ancestors but, the center of origin is believed to be Afghanistan and the surrounding region. Onions are among the most widely adapted vegetable crops. They can be grown from the tropics to subarctic regions (George & Kelley). Well drained soils are required for the onion cultivation. Shallow and deep soil is also used in onion management practices. 6 to 7 PH range is the suitable range for onion cultivation. This type of pH is useful for uptake of micronutrient and manure in the soil. Onion cultivation grows below 1900 metre altitude, 500-700 mm rainfall, and 15-30 °c temperature range. There are HYV of onion, Red Pinoy F1, Red Creole, Bombay Red, Texas early Grano Seeds are the main varieties cultivated in India. Purple Blotch, Downey mildew, Rust, fusarium rot are the main disease occurs in onion crop at various growth stages. Routine spray and preventional measures, disease resistance varieties, proper crop rotation, destruction of residual of crops after harvest, use of certified seeds are the main measures to overcome the disease free onion production.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study production of onion in India (2013-13 to 2016-17).
2. To analyse market arrival of onion (2012-13 to 2016-17).
3. To examine onion price and export of onion from India.

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STUDY REGION, DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

India as a whole with its states and union territories are taken broadly for the data analysis. The research is based on secondary data. The ranking of state wise onion production for five year is taken in consideration (2012-13 to 2016-17). States are ranked according to production and percentage of share of share of production of india. Various reports, books, research journals, websites are reviewed for the writing of the research paper.

Table-1: Onion Transplanting, Harvesting Period and Production
(Production in Lakh Tonnes)

Season	Transplanting	Harvesting Period	Five year Average Production (2012-13 to 2016-17)	Production 2016-17
Kharif	July - August	October- December.	30	34
Late Kharif	October - November	January- March	39	45

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Season	Transplanting	Harvesting Period	Five year Average Production (2012-13 to 2016-17)	Production 2016-17
Rabi	December - January	End of March to May	128	145
Total			197	224

Source: State Departments of Horticulture & Agriculture

Onion is mainly transplanted in kharif (rainy), late Kharif (late rainy) and rabi (winter) season. Kharif onion is transplanted in July-August, late Kharif in October-November and rabi in December-January. From the plantation to harvesting period onion takes 90 to 120 days i.e. 3 to 4 months depending upon the soil, climate, HYV used. In Kharif season transplanted onion is harvested in October to December, late kharif onion transplanted is harvested in January-March and Rabi season plantation is harvested in end of March to May.

From 2012-13 to 2016-17, 30 lakh tonnes average onion is produced in kharif season. In 2016-17, in kharif season 34 lakh tonnes onion is produced. At late kharif 2012-13 to 2016-17 39 lakh tonnes onion is produced and in 2016-17, production was 45 lakh tonnes. In rabbi season 2012-13 to 2016-17, onion production was 128 lakh metric tonnes. In 2016-17 145 lakh metric tonnes production of onion was in India. The total five year average production in India was 197 lakh metric tonnes and in 2016-17 it was 224 lakh metric tonnes.

Table-2: Ranking of State Wise Onion Production in India (Production in '000 Tonnes)

State/Uts	Five Year Average (2012-13 To 2016-17)		2016-17		Rank according to production
	Production	% Share	Production	% Share	
Maharashtra	5829.8	29.59	6734.7	30.03	1
Madhya Pradesh	2985.7	15.16	3721.6	16.59	2
Karnataka	2666.7	13.64	3049.5	13.6	3
Gujarat	1265.6	6.42	1290.2	5.75	4
Bihar	1231.1	6.25	1249	5.57	5
Andhra Pradesh	958.41	5.02	916.43	4.09	6
Rajasthan	945.27	4.8	1149.3	5.12	7
Haryana	661.12	3.36	682.94	3.05	8
Tamil Nadu	458.73	2.33	750.67	3.35	9
Uttar Pradesh	429.46	2.18	423.98	1.9	10
West Bengal	408.42	2.07	465.45	2.08	11
Odisha	400.86	2.03	378.64	1.69	12
Chhattisgarh	336.99	1.71	422.05	1.88	13

State/Uts	Five Year Average (2012-13 To 2016-17)		2016-17		Rank according to production
	Production	% Share	Production	% Share	
Telangana	334.62	1.7	402.37	1.79	14
Jharkhand	302.53	1.54	292.59	1.3	15
Punjab	190.69	0.97	202.55	0.9	16
Jammu & Kashmir	66.04	0.34	69.16	0.31	17
Assam	50.74	0.26	81.28	0.36	18
Himachal Pradesh	44.17	0.22	50.45	0.22	19
Uttarakhand	39.98	0.2	41.77	0.19	20
Others	17.26	0.09	17.69	0.08	21
Nagaland	7.17	0.04	7.29	0.03	22
Mizoram	6.91	0.04	8.44	0.04	23
Meghalaya	4.38	0.02	4.94	0.02	24
Manipur	4.09	0.02	6.12	0.03	25
Sikkim	1.76	0.01	1.93	0.01	26
Tripura	1.44	0.01	3.24	0.01	27
Kerala	0.09	0	0	0	28
TOTAL	19700.14	100.00	22422.42	100.00	

Source: State Departments of Horticulture & Agriculture

Table-2 reveals the ranking of state wise onion production in India (2012-13 to 2016-17). In India, in state wise production Maharashtra ranks first. The five year average (2012-13 to 2016-17) production of onion was 5829.82 thousand tonnes having 29.59 % share of total onion production. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Bihar are the top five onion producers states in India. Madhya Pradesh ranks second in onion production having 15.16 percent production share. In five year average, Karnataka ranks 3rd position, with 2586.71 thousand tonnes production & 13.64 % share of production in India. Andhra Pradesh having 988.41 thousand tonnes production with 5.02 % share and ranks sixth position in India. The north eastern States, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Sikkim & Tripura having lowest onion production. These states rank in lowest onion production. Nagaland having 7.17 thousand tonnes production, ranks 22 and 0.04% share in production. Mizoram having 6.91 thousand tonnes onion production, ranks 23 with 0.04% share in production. Meghalaya with 4.38 thousand tonnes onion production ranks 24 with 0.02 % share in all India onion production.

Table-3: All India Monthly Arrivals of Onion (Arrivals in '000' Tonnes)

Month	Five Year Average (2012-2016)	Rank
January	1244.55	1
May	1080.92	2
December	1050.4	3
February	985.71	4
April	917.04	5
March	914.3	6
June	903.44	7
November	839.04	8
October	776.01	9
July	728.57	10
September	683.14	11
August	669.79	12

Source: Agmarknet (Compiled by author)

Table 3 reveals that, five year average (2012-2016) reveals that highest arrival of onion in Month of January. In January 1244.55 thousand tonnes onion was arrived in Indian market. In August (2012-2016) monthly arrival of onion was 669.79 TMT which is lowest arrival of onion in Indian market & it has got highest price. December, January and may (2012-2016) having highest arrival of onion in Indian. Market at these period prices per quintal of onion decreases at bottom level.

Table-4: All India Monthly Average Wholesale Prices of Onion (Prices in Rs/Quintal)

Month	Year's				Average
	2014	2015	2016	2017	
January	1791.3	1685.5	1759.6	1302.1	1634.63
February	1171.5	1749.7	1142.6	1210.7	1318.63
March	1269.4	1529.1	1407.4	1114.7	1330.15
April	1283.5	1421.7	1169.2	1070.3	1231.18
May	1298.8	1707.3	1129.8	1011.7	1286.90
June	1558.1	2071.3	1235.1	1221.2	1521.43
July	2190.0	2275.8	1357.2	1225.2	1762.05
August	2183.7	3670.2	1235.0	2238.6	2331.88
September	2020.6	4459.1	1053.7	1998.4	2382.95
October	2011.2	3721.6	1179.5	2452.9	2341.30

Month	Year's				Average
	2014	2015	2016	2017	
November	1872.5	2789.2	1175.5	3173.7	2252.73
December	1673.5	1974.1	1204.2	3537.5	2097.33
Average	1692.01	2421.22	1254.07	1796.42	

Source: Agmarknet Portal (Compiled by Author)

Table 4 reveals, Monthly average wholesale prices of Onion in India. In January 2014, price of onion per quintal was 1791.30 rupees, in 2015, 1685.5 rupees, in 2016 Rs. 1759.60 In 2017 Rs. 1302.10. In January four years (2014-2017) average price of onion was Rs. 1634.63 per quintal. In February 2014, monthly average wholesale price was Rs. 1171.5, in 2015 Rs. 1749.7 in 2016, Rs. 1142.6 in 2017 Rs. 1210.7. The four year average wholesale prices of onion was 1318.63 rupees per quintal. In March 2014 average wholesale prices of onion was Rs. 1269.4, In 2015 Rs. 1529.1, In 2016 Rs. 1407.4, In 2017 1114.7 rupees per quintal. The average price of March 2014 to 2017 was 1330.15 rupees per quintal. From 2014 to 2017 Month of August September and October are the months having highest average price. The average onion price per quintal from 2014-2017 (August) was 2331.88 Rupees. The highest average price in September was 2382.95 rupees. In October 2014-2016 the average price per quintal was 2341.30 rupees. The average annual price per quintal in 2014 was 1692.01 rupees. In 2015 2421.22 rupees In 2016, 1254.07 rupees, in 2017, 1796.42 rupees.

Table-5 Export of Onion-2016-17 Source: APEDA

Month	January	February	March	April	May	June
Export	1.90	1.99	2.15	1.95	2.30	1.90
Ranking	7	2	8	9	7	6
Month	July	August	September	October	November	December
Export	1.54	1.95	1.97	2.04	1.90	2.57
Ranking	4	8	1	8	5	3

Table- 5 gives the information about export of onion from India to overseas. Top exporting destination was Bangladesh, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates and Sri Lanka. In Year 2016-17 the total onion export was 24.16 lakh metric tonnes. The highest export was in December 2016-17 (2.57 lakh MT). In January 2016-17, 1.90 lakh MT onions were exported. In February 1.99 lakh MT, March 2.15 lakh MT, April 1.95 lakh MT, May 2.30 Lakh MT, June 1.90 lakh MT, July 1.54 lakh MT, August 1.95 MT, Sept 1.97 lakh MT, October 2.04 lakh MT onion was exported.

CONCLUSION

Rabi season is the best season for the onion transplantation. In rabi season from 2012-13 to 2016-17 onion production in India was 128 lakh tonnes. Maharashtra ranks first in Onion production followed by Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Bihar. Maharashtra having 5829.82 thousand

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tonnes onion production with 29.59% production share of India. Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura and Kerala are the lowest onion producer states in India. These states are having below 8 thousand metric tonnes onion production. In September 2015, monthly average wholesale price of onion was 4459.10 rupees per quintal is the highest average price. In January highest onion arrives in Indian market which turns to price fall. In 2016-17 the total onion export was 24,16 lakh metric tonnes. Highest export was in December and lowest was in July 2016-17.

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