
EXPORT OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS - AN EVALUATION OF TREND AND GROWTH

Celestine P.F (Research Scholar, Research and Post Graduate Department of Economics,P.M Govt.College Chalakudy)

Dr Sinitha Xavier Assistant Professor and Research Guide,Research and Post Graduate,Department of Economics,P.M Govt College Chalakudy,Potta.P.O,Thrissur,Kerala 680722. Email - siniyhajoy@gmail.com

Abstract

Indian fishing industry consists of unique and diversified array of resources, from the pristine Himalayan waterways to the vast Indian Ocean. The fishing biodiversity of India includes a broad range of physical and biological components which sustain the livelihood of millions. Fisheries resources are established in various ecosystems. The necessity for a sustainable development of aquatic resources is now more felt than ever, given the rising population and the increasing demand for fish protein. In order to meet compelling demands of the present times and to ensure a growth path that meets today's requirements, export growth of the fishery industry has to be maintained. The fishery resources of India have had great demand from European countries and the middle East. The fishery industry which is an allied industry of the agricultural industry has been in forefront in bringing huge foreign exchange to the national exchequer. Over the years the export of the fishery resources has undergone drastic changes. The introduction of new trade agreements opened the gates for wider network of trade between the nations. The fishery industry of India has been the main beneficiary of this trade agreements. The paper attempts to analyse the export pattern of our country over a decade. It attempts to analyse the present trend and prospects for a future growth.

Key Words : Fisheries, Fishing industry, Fishers, National Policy, export, prawns, frozen

INTRODUCTION

In India, fishing is a significant source of food, nourishment, employment and money. Fish resources are inexpensive and abundant source of animal protein and serve as one of the best ways of mitigating hunger and malnutrition. The industry has an enormous potential for generating income for the nation in general and for the stake holders in particular. The export potential of the fishing industry is enormous. The fishing industry has transformed itself from traditional sector to multi - million-dollar industry. India has varied and abundant fisheries resources spanning from deep sea to lakes, ponds and rivers. In terms of fish and seafood species, more than 10% of the world's biodiversity exists in India. Marine fishing resources are distributed across the country's extensive coastline, with an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2.02 million square km and a 0.53 million sq. km continental shelf. Its inland resources include rivers and canals (1,95 lakh kilometres), flood plain lakes (8,12 lakh hectares), lakes and tanks (24,1 lakh hectares), reservoirs (31,5 lakh hectares), brackish waters (12,4 lakh hectares), salinity and alkaline (12 lakh hectares) and afflicted regions. The unused and under spent inland resources provide tremendous possibilities for livelihoods and economic growth in the future. The contribution of the sector to total GDP (at current prices) rose from 0.40 per cent in 1950-51 to 1.03 per cent in 2017-18, an increase of 157 per cent. During FY 2017-18 the sector contributed Rs. 1,75,573 (at current prices) to GDP (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2020). The industry has shown consistent increase in the total gross added value and contributes for approximately 6.58 per cent of Agricultural GDP. The paper attempts to assess the present status and composition of India's fish and fishery products' export and enquire to find whether there is any notable shift in its pattern over the years. The major underlying factors that govern the dynamics of fishery export from India are discussed at length towards the end