



Spices Sector in India

For Prelims: Major Spice Producing States, Key Statistics for Spices Sector

For Mains: Spices Production in India, Initiative Taken for the Spices Sector

Why in News

Recently, the **Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has released the book '**Spices Statistics at a Glance 2021**'.

- The book highlights the growth achieved in the **production of spices and increase in area** during the last seven years from **2014-15 to 2020-21** in the country.

Key Points

▪ About Spices:

- Spices are **aromatic flavorings from seeds, fruits, bark, rhizomes, and other plant parts**.
- They are used to **season and preserve food**, and as **medicines, dyes, and perfumes**.
- Spices have been highly valued as **trade goods for thousands of years**.
 - The word spice comes from the **Latin species, which means merchandise, or wares**.
- The demand of spices has tremendously increased due to the **recognition of spices as a health supplement especially during the pandemic period**.
 - This can be clearly seen from the growing export of spices like **turmeric, ginger, cumin, chilli etc.**

▪ Spices Production In India:

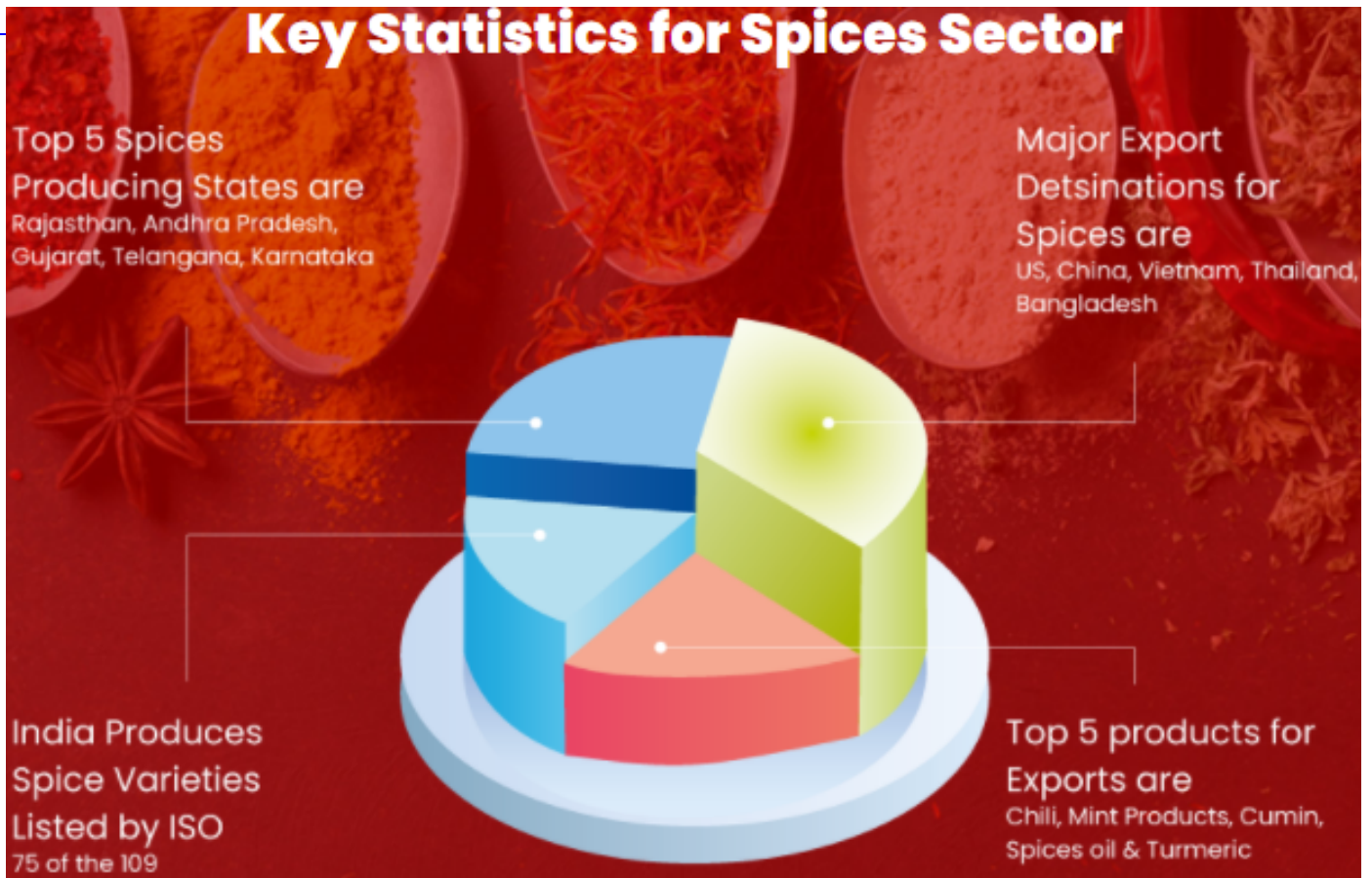
- India is the world's **largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices**.
- Due to the varying climates - **from tropical to subtropical to temperate-almost all spices grow splendidly in India**.
- In reality almost **all the states and union territories of India** grow one or the other spices.
- Under the act of Parliament, a total of **52 spices are brought under the purview of the Spices Board**.
 - Spices Board (**Ministry of Commerce and Industry**) is the flagship organization for the development and worldwide promotion of Indian spices.
 - It was established by the **Spices Board Act, 1986**.
- In India, there are some states which grow the spices that have **very high value in both national and international markets**.
 - The best example is **Kashmiri saffron** which is the world's best saffron.
 - The Kashmir saffron has got **[Geographical Indication \(GI\) tag status](#)**.

▪ Spices Trade:

- The export of spices contributes **41% of the total export earnings** from all **horticulture crops** in the country.

- It ranks **fourth** among agricultural commodities, **falling behind only the marine products, non basmati rice and basmati rice.**

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▪ **Related Government Initiative:**

- Recently, the [Food Safety and Standards Authority of India \(FSSAI\)](#) inaugurated the **fifth session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)** established under [Codex Alimentarius Commission \(CAC\)](#).
- About the **Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)**:
 - **Establishment:** It was formed in 2013.
 - **Terms of Reference:**
 - To elaborate worldwide standards for spices and culinary herbs in their dried and dehydrated state in whole, ground, and cracked or crushed form.
 - To consult, as necessary, with other international organizations in the standards development process to avoid duplication.

Source: PIB

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