

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A CASE STUDY ON THE TRADE OF MANGOES IN NEPAL

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ABSTRACT

Given the country's advantageous agro-climatic conditions that promote the development of premium mango types, Nepal's mango industry has attracted a lot of interest. To examine the trade dynamics of Nepalese mangoes, this study will look at production trends, varietal diversity, post-harvest procedures, and problems with market access. The complex regulatory system that governs mango exports and the numerous difficulties that mango growers and exporters face are given special attention. These difficulties include market access difficulties, logistical bottlenecks, infrastructure constraints, and the unavoidable requirement for conformity with international quality standards. The tremendous prospects that still exist for increasing mango exports from Nepal are also highlighted by this study. These include taking advantage of nearby markets like India, broadening product lines with value-added mango products, and taking advantage of the rising demand for organic and exotic fruits around the world. The report also emphasizes how crucial government support programs and public-private partnerships have been in promoting the expansion of the mango trade.

KEYWORDS

Demand, export, fruits, import, TEPC

1. INTRODUCTION

Mango, referred as *Mangifera indica* botanically, is a tropical fruit prized for its delectable flavor, eye-catching hues, and profound cultural importance (Jahurul et al., 2015). This delicious fruit, which is a member of the Anacardiaceae family, is indigenous to South Asia, particularly India, where it has been grown for more than 4,000 years (Shah, Patel, Patel, & Parmar, 2010). Mangoes are prized worldwide for their sweet and juicy flesh, making them a favorite in many foods, desserts, and drinks. Mangoes have been used extensively in folklore, art, and traditional medicine around the world. Mango is frequently referred to as the "King of Fruits" and is linked to Hindu mythology. Its symbolism extends to various cultures, where it stands for adoration, procreation, and wealth.

In addition to their delicious flavor, mangoes have a host of health advantages. They are a great source of important vitamins and minerals, including vitamin C and vitamin A, which respectively support healthy immune systems and good vision. Mangoes are known as a superfruit with possible anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer qualities since they also contain antioxidants like beta-carotene and polyphenols. Mangoes are commercially grown in more than 103 countries across the world, and output is rising every year as a result of rising consumer demand. Mango production in Asia accounts for over 77% of global production whereas 13% and 9% of production are in the Americas, African nations, and respectively (FAOSTAT, 2007).

Mangoes are a popular fruit in Nepal, and the country's agricultural economy depends heavily on their trade. Along with litchi, Mango as well as banana is gaining popularity and grown widely in tropical and subtropical region of Nepal (Awasthi et al., 2022). In Nepal, where many additional mango types are grown, the Dasher, Langra, and Chausa varieties are the most well-liked. Along with these types "Bambai Green," "Gopal Bhog," "Sukatara," "Golabkhas," "Maldaha," "Mallika," "Aamrapali,"

"Kamaltiya," "Sipiya," and "Abehayat" are the other popular ones in Nepal. Depending on the kind, the flavor, texture, and appearance can vary. Mangoes have special cultural meaning in Nepal and are typically associated with special occasions. They are employed in religious rituals and are viewed as a symbol of prosperity. They are a popular seasonal fruit that appeals to consumers of all ages. Mangoes are cultivated all over Nepal, with the Terai plains acting as the primary producing area. Morang, Jhapa, Kapilvastu, Nawalparasi, and Rupandehi are among Nepal's major mango-producing regions, along with others like Rupandehi. Production of mango is more in Province 2 particularly in district like Siraha, Saptari. Contribution of mango to national GDP in year 2021/22 is about 2.51% (MoALD, 2023). Mango is cultivated in an area of 51,681 ha having production of 466266Mt. with a productivity of 10.67 mt./ha (MoALD, 2023). Mango is among of the popular fruit imported in Nepal with major import from India, Germany and Italy. A total of 597 supplier's supplies mangoes to 907 importer supplied (Volza, 2023).

Mangoes are traded and eaten domestically and in local markets around Nepal but the trade is not upto the point. Trade of mangoes in Nepal is seen mostly in seasonal period but in offseason the availability of mangoes in the market is limited. Many factors encounter for this problem as lack of proper storage facilities and decreasing interest of farmer's in Mango cultivation and availability of varieties that ripen at a similar time. Along with these problems mango production and trade in Nepal may be constrained for a number of reasons, including climate and altitude variations, a lack of technology and expertise, inadequate transportation and infrastructure, such as storage facilities, inappropriate market access, inadequate market facilities, a lack of research and development, an inadequate grading system, poor quarantine practices, the wide spread of pests and diseases, and tardy extension services. Numerous difficulties, including logistical issues and issues with quality control, plague Nepal's mango industry in addition to these issues.

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In order to overcome these obstacles and increase the production and trade of mangoes in Nepal, it would be crucial to fund agricultural research, give farmers assistance and training, upgrade infrastructure, and create plans for more efficient access to foreign markets. Its economic viability could also be improved by promoting the value-added sectors of the mango industry, such as the sweet and jam sectors.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To know about the status of mangoes in Nepal
- To assess the trade (import and export condition of Nepal)

3. METHODOLOGY

This case study was conducted to evaluate and understand the overall trade scenario of mangoes in Nepal. For this purpose government sites i.e. Trade and Export Promotion Center (TEPC) and FAOSTAT were used to draw the data. Obtained data were evaluated and presented in different forms of graphs for easy and timely understanding. Different secondary materials like articles from different journals, newspapers, magazines, and interviews were collaborated and relevant information was picked for fine processing of the data.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Import of Mangoes

3.1.1 Fresh Mangoes

From Figure 1, we found mangoes were regularly imported from India in a good amount. Along with India, mangoes were imported in huge amounts from Indonesia. Bangladesh being close to Nepal and residing in the Asian region has stopped the supply of mangoes to Nepal since 2018. Examining the past ten years' data, the import of mangoes showed a regular climb in the graph except for the years 2017 and 2020. The highest import was in the year 2021 with mangoes of 25164.14 tones imported [Figure 2]. The major import was from India, Thailand, and Uganda in the year 2021.

Figure 3 shows Nepal was self-sufficient in mango juice up to 2020 as there is no evidence of import of juice from other countries but Nepal has started importing mango juice from India, Korea, and Vietnam since 2021.

Import of mango is seen regularly and in huge amount from India this is due to the low tariff rate in product i.e. 10% as compared to other countries (MoICS, 2020/21). Rise in import is due to increase in consumer demand (THE KATHMANDU POST, 2018). Import in 2020 was decreased due to lockdown impacted by covid 19.

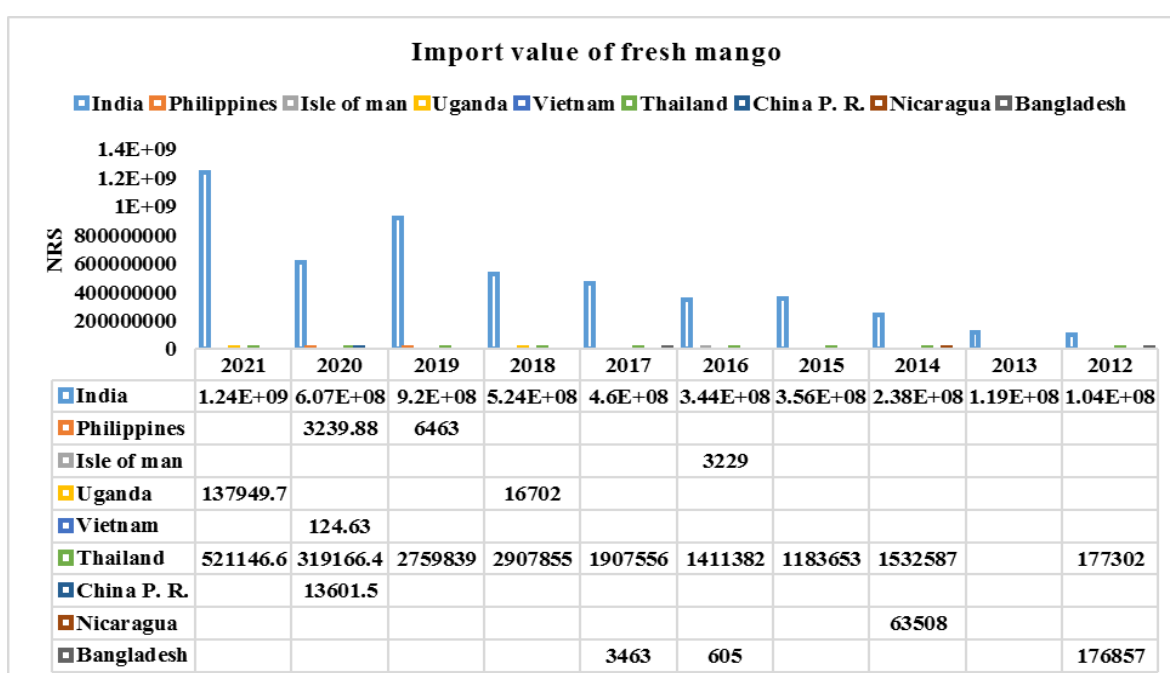


Figure 1: Import value of fresh mangoes in Nrs.

Source: (Nepal trade information portal(TEPC), 2023)

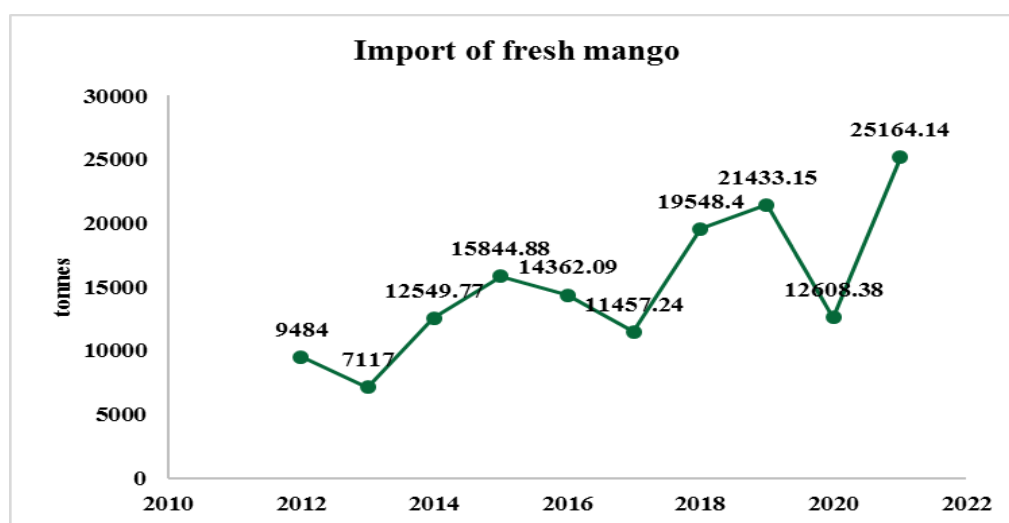


Figure 2: Import value of fresh mangoes in Nrs.

Source: (Nepal trade information portal(TEPC), 2023)

3.1.2 Mango juices

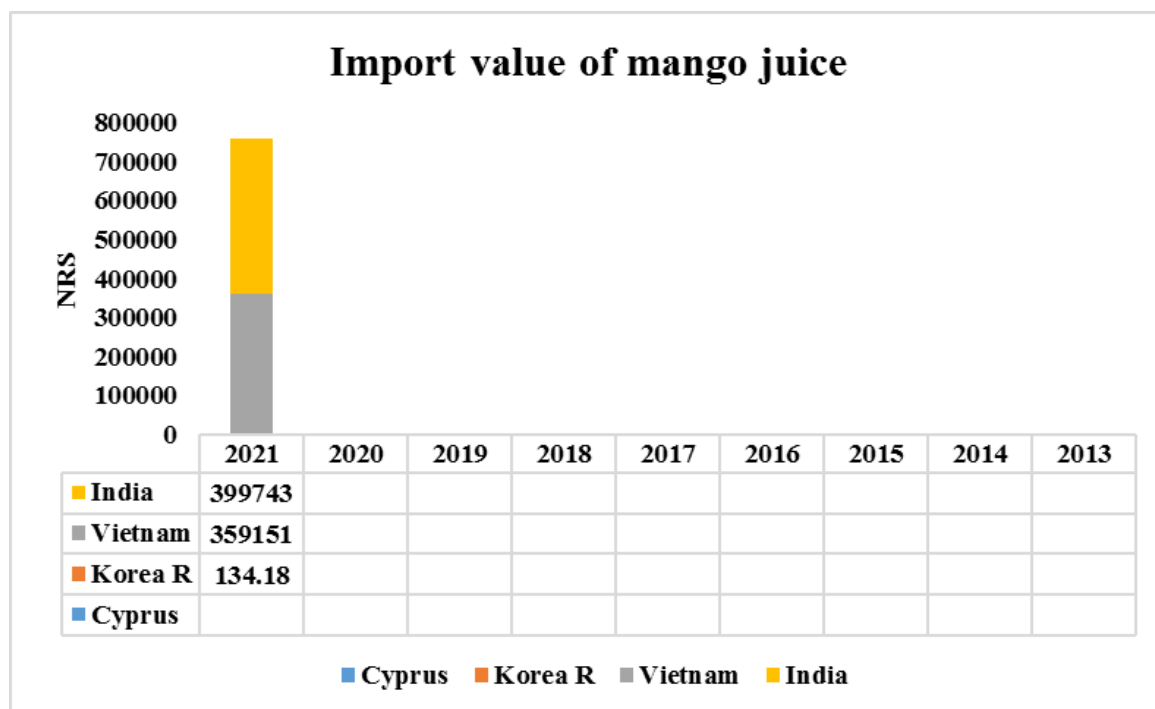


Figure 3: Import value of mango juice

Source: (Nepal trade information portal(TEPC), 2023)

3.2 Export of mangoes

Mango juice has gained popularity in terms of export in the past few years as shown in Figure 4. Nepal has been exporting mango juice to India and Bangladesh since 2020. In the year 2021, Nepal exported a huge amount of juice to Bangladesh but in 2022 the export of juice to India has risen in comparison to Bangladesh.

Nepal exported a nice amount of mango to different countries with the highest of 666.35 tons in the year 2018 whereas the export was low we can say negligible in the year 2019 i.e. 0.9 tons. [Figure 5]

Evaluating the data from the past 10 years [Figure 6] it has been found that

Nepal has an export with only two countries i.e. India and China for mango fruit. In 2014, Nepal exported mangoes valued at 5000 Nrs. to China for the rest of the period the exports to China were not seen. The export to India was seen higher in the year 2018 where mangoes of Nrs. 13,66,645 were sent to India from Nepal. The export was seen minimum in the year 2019 i.e. Nrs. 27,000 was money gained from mangoes exported to India.

Mango produced has a good demand in India as these are of good quality and India being closer to Nepal the mangoes are transported to India (Singh, 2023). According to fruit vendor in Dhangadhi the Trade in 2017 and 2019 was minimum this was due to the impact of different forms of elections in Nepal in 2017 and covid pandemic in 2019.

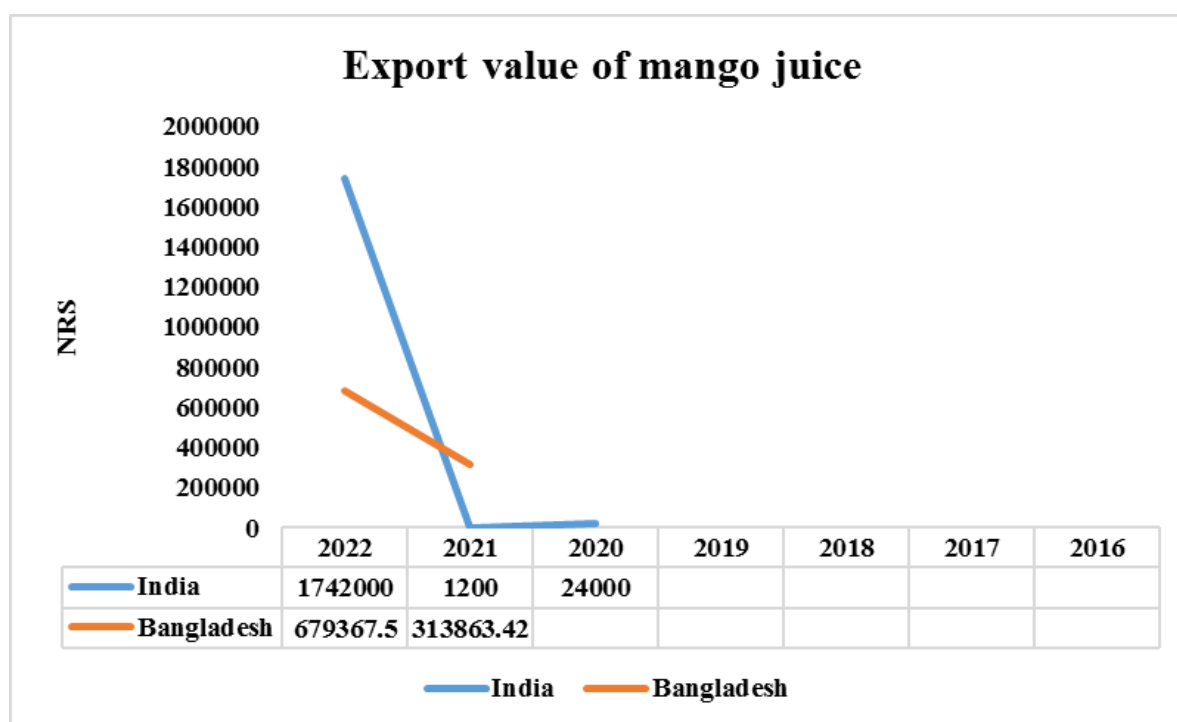


Figure 4: Export value of mango juice

Source: (Nepal trade information portal(TEPC), 2023)

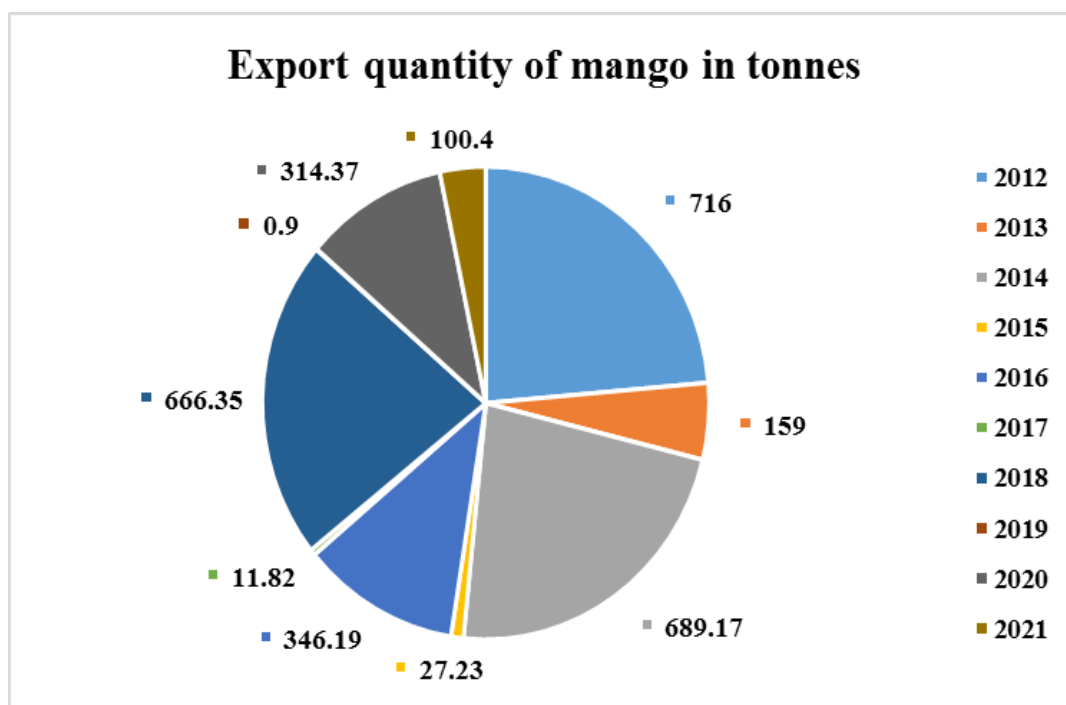


Figure 5: Export quantity of mango

Source: (Nepal trade information portal(TEPC), 2023)

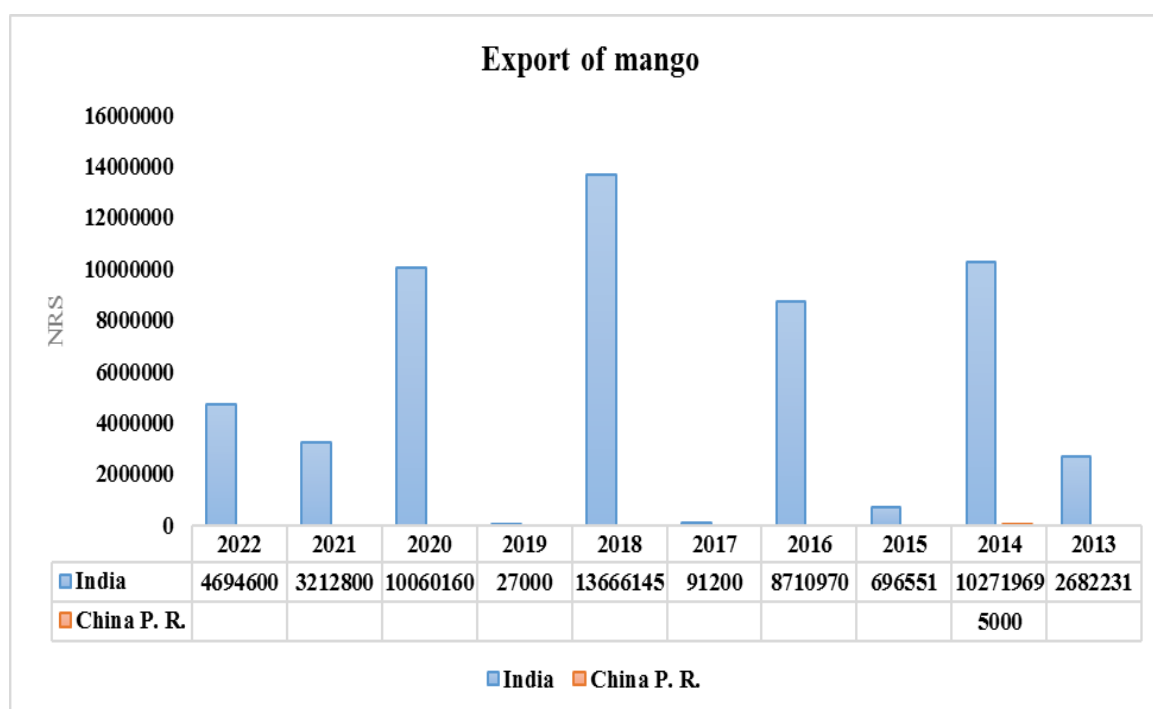


Figure 6: Export value of mangoes

Source: (Nepal trade information portal(TEPC), 2023)

4. CONCLUSION

Mango commerce has major economic and agricultural significance in Nepal. This tropical fruit has helped Nepal's export earnings in addition to providing many farmers with a means of subsistence. Mango farming has boosted local economies, created job opportunities, and improved Nepal's agricultural environment as a whole. Additionally, Nepal has been able to position itself as a competitive player on the global market because to the trade in mangoes. The nation has developed a reputation as a dependable source of this delectable fruit by exporting high-quality mangoes to neighboring nations and beyond. The mango trade in Nepal is still thriving despite the difficulties brought on by varying climatic conditions and market dynamics. To ensure sustainable growth, the government and other stakeholders must assist this business through the development of infrastructure, the use of contemporary farming methods, and export

facilitation.

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