

Article 1

Indian grape export at record 215,000 tons

Indian grapes seem to have hit the sweet spot in the world markets, with the country's exports in 2018-19 (Apr-Mar) likely to top the 200,000-ton mark for the first time and touch a record high of around 215,000 tons.

The Chinese, too, have taken a liking to Indian grapes, as is evident from the surge in exports to 2,250 tons so far this financial year from 607 tons in 2017-18. The previous record high was 198,471 tons in 2016-17. Last year India exported 188,221 tons of grapes, as per Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority data.

China has emerged as a new destination as it is likely to import large quantities of Indian table grapes, a source in the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority said.

"Demand from China is likely to rise further as their market reopened from over a week-long new year holidays earlier this month," said an office bearer of Nashik-based farmer producer company. China and Australia have agreed to import Indian grapes in the last couple of years, which has boosted India's exports.

So far this year, exports have risen over 11% to 31,182 tons compared to the corresponding period a year ago, data on the farm export monitoring agency's website showed. Meanwhile, exports to China have surged to 2,250 tons, while it exported 607 tons grapes to China in 2017-18.

According to cogencis.com, the Netherlands is the largest importer of Indian grapes followed by Russia, the UK, Germany and United Arab



Emirates, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority data showed.

Article 2

Indian table grapes hit by major delays entering Russia access over “technical issues”

Exports of Indian table grapes to Russian and Sri Lanka are facing market access challenges and delays midway through the season over stronger pest control requirements from the destination countries, local media reports.

Vilas Shinde, chairman of the Nashik-based Sahyadri Farms, said plant quarantine issues have been raised by both countries.

“Both the countries have asked for declaration of the entire area as pest-free,” was quoted as saying by Indian Express. “Sri Lanka’s requirements have been met and we are waiting for them to revert, however, in the case of Russia, the work is yet to be done.”

The development comes during what is expected to be a record-volume season for Indian table grape exports. The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority said around 215,000 metric tons (MT) could be exported, compared to the previous record of 198,000MT in the 2016-17 season.

Russia is one of India’s largest table grape markets, last year receiving over 27,000 metric tons (MT) of the fruit. Exporters focus more heavily on Russia in the opening stages of the season, and so far this campaign around 550 containers of grapes have left for the country, which Shinde said was at least 60% of last year’s volume.



Jagannath Khapre, president of the Grapes Exporters Association, said to date 35,000MT of grapes have been exported to the U.K and Europe this season.

“Technical issues have halted exports to Russia and Sri Lanka,” he was quoted as saying. “We hope the issue will be resolved soon.

Asked about the weak prices seen this year in export markets like Europe, both Shinde and Khapre said it was the result of increased production and limited demand.

Khapre said other than export markets, demand from the local markets has also weakened due to the cold wave in the northern parts of the country.

“In some cases, there has been early picking, which has resulted in low sugar content in grapes. This has given a bad name to the produce and hampered market access,” Khapre was quoted as saying.

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<https://www.freshfruitportal.com/news/2019/02/18/russia-suspends-indian-table-grape-access-over-technical-issues/>

