



Centre for Environment & Agriculture



India's Export of Dried Chili. Phenomenal Growth!

Year	India total export of dried chili	Of this, export to China
2017-18	4,402	98
2025-26	9,699	3,171
Growth Rate	120%	3147%

Source: Ministry of Commerce Database (Accessed on 3rd July 2026)
HS Codes for dried chili: 090421 and 090422

Unit: Rs Cr

India's export of dried chili has registered a phenomenal **growth of 120%** in recent years.

Export to China registered a record growth of over 3000%.

Data from WTO-ITC shows that in the year **2025**, **China imported 3.34 lakh tons of dried chili**. In this, **India had a lion's share of 98%** (3.27 lakh tons).

The perception that India's export of dried chili suffers on account of pesticides use/residues is not empirically supported.



Has China rejected dried chili exported from India?

Data accessed from General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China show that **between January 2026 and May 2026, not a single consignment of dried chili from India was rejected by China.**

During this period, however **China rejected 76 consignments** of various other agricultural/food products **exported from India**. But **nothing on account of pesticide residues**.



Countries that faced maximum rejections from China during this period were:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Ecuador (12%) | 2. Brazil (10%) | 3. USA (10%) |
| 4. Argentina (6%) | 5. Japan (6%) | |

Key Takeaways

- ✚ The narrative in the Indian media is completely different from the reality. India's dried chilli export has posted a record growth and remains robust.
- ✚ While pesticide residues often make headlines, *labelling non-compliance, documentation errors, filth and microbial contamination* are among the major reasons triggering export rejections for India's agricultural products in general.
- ✚ Biased narratives misguide both the general public and policymakers by distorting reality.
- ✚ The biased narratives need to be set right – in the interest of Indian farmers and India's export.
- ✚ Finally, we need to be loud against misinformation and fake news.

Centre for Environment and Agriculture (CENTEGRO) is a Mumbai based thinktank in India. We actively work, among others, on matters that concern agriculture, trade, economy, health, and the environment.

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