

An executive summary of the final report of work done on the Minor Research Project of **Ms Raziya M** entitled “IMPACT OF WTO ON SPICES; WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PEPPER AND CARDAMOM ” sanctioned by UGC, vide sanction letter No. 2104-MRP/15-16/KAMA002/UGC-SWRO, dated 31-3-2016.

Executive Summery

India is regarded as the home of spices since ancient times. Although different spices are produced in different countries of the world, India has the privilege of producing all types of spices. Black pepper, cardamom, chillies, ginger and turmeric are considered the major spices of India. Apart from the significant contribution of spices to the gross national product of the country, they are also earning substantial amount of foreign exchange.

India is the leading producer of black pepper and cardamom. Black pepper and cardamom once brought immense prosperity to the spices growers. However, with the fall in prices, production and productivity of black pepper and cardamom cultivation is not that attractive as before. Black pepper and cardamom are now facing stiff competition from other producing countries.

With this regard the government, Spices Board, individuals and organizations have made several studies on the spices trade in India. Most of these studies dealt with the conventional issues affecting the spices trade like high cost of production, poor productivity, plant diseases etc. The recent problems of spices trade such as those arising out of WTO agreements, India's Free Trade agreements, the recently emerged problem of scarcity of agricultural labour in the spices growing areas etc. have not been enquired into by any of these studies.

The present study attempts to examine the origin and growth of spices trade in India the performance of spices trade with special emphasis on black pepper and cardamom, the problems and prospects of the spices trade, the impact of World Trade Organisation agreements and India's Free Trade agreements on spices trade.