



AGRI MAGAZINE

(International E-Magazine for Agricultural Articles)

Volume: 03, Issue: 07 (July, 2026)

Available online at <http://www.agrimagazine.in>

© Agri Magazine, ISSN: 3048-8656

Guava Production in India: Trends, Growth and India's Global Leadership

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Guava is one of India's most important fruit crops, valued for its nutritional richness, affordability and year-round availability. Rich in vitamin C, dietary fiber and antioxidants, guava contributes significantly to nutritional security while providing a stable source of income for millions of farmers. India has consistently remained the world's largest producer of guava, reflecting the country's favorable agro-climatic conditions and expanding horticultural sector. This article examines the trends in area, production and productivity of guava in India from 2013–14 to 2022–23 and highlights India's leading position in global guava production.

Growth Trends in India

Year	Area (In '000 Hectare)	Production (In '000 MT)	Productivity (In MT/Hectare)
2013-2014	268.2	3667.9	13.7
2014-2015	246	3994	16.2
2015-2016	255	4048	15.9
2016-2017	260	3826	14.7
2017-2018	265	4054	15.3
2018-2019	276	4253	15.4
2019-2020	292	4361	14.9
2020-2021	308.1	4582.3	14.9
2021-2022	353.8	5526.6	15.6
2022-2023	351.9	5364.5	15.2
CAGR	4.86***	4.33***	0.23**

Note: ***Significant @ 1% level of significance. **Significant @ 5% level of significance
(Source: Indiastat.com)

During the last decade, guava cultivation has expanded steadily across the country. The area under cultivation increased from **268.2 thousand hectares in 2013–14** to **351.9 thousand hectares in 2022–23**, representing a significant increase of over 31 percent. Production also recorded substantial growth, increasing from **3.67 million tonnes** in 2013–14 to **5.36 million tonnes** in 2022–23. The highest production was observed during **2021–22**, when output reached **5.53 million tonnes**. Productivity remained relatively stable throughout the study period, fluctuating between **13.7 and 16.2 tonnes per hectare**. The highest productivity was recorded during **2014–15 (16.2 MT/ha)**, while productivity stood at **15.2 MT/ha** in 2022–23. The significant growth in cultivated area and production suggests that expansion of guava orchards has been the primary driver of increased output. However, the relatively slow growth in productivity indicates the need for greater emphasis on technological improvements, improved planting materials, scientific orchard management and efficient irrigation practices.

India's Position in Global Guava Production

India is the world's largest producer of guava, accounting for nearly 45.22% of global production. In 2020, India produced 24.7 million metric tonnes, far exceeding every other producing nation.

Rank	Country	Per cent	Production(mMT)
1	India	45.22	24.7
2	Indonesia	6.61	3.62
3	Mexico	4.34	2.37
4	China	4.33	2.37
5	Pakistan	4.28	2.34
6	Brazil	3.9	2.14
7	Malawi	3.54	1.94
8	Thailand	3.03	1.66
9	Bangladesh	2.65	1.45
10	Egypt	2.55	1.4

State-wise Production Share of Guava in India (2022–23)

The distribution of guava production across Indian states reveals that cultivation is concentrated in a few major horticultural regions. **Uttar Pradesh** and **Madhya Pradesh** are the leading producers, each contributing **23%** of the country's total guava production. Together, these two states account for nearly **46%** of national production, highlighting their dominant role in the guava economy. **Andhra Pradesh** ranks third with an **11%** share, followed by **Bihar** with **10%**. These states have expanded guava cultivation due to favorable climatic conditions, adoption of improved varieties and increasing market demand. Southern India also makes a notable contribution, with **Tamil Nadu** accounting for **8%** of total production. **Punjab** contributes **7%**, while **West Bengal** and **Chhattisgarh** each account for **5%**. **Haryana** and **Gujarat** contribute **4%** each.

Economic Importance of Guava

Guava cultivation plays an important role in India's horticultural economy by:

- Generating employment in production, harvesting, transportation, processing and marketing.
- Providing higher returns compared to many traditional field crops.
- Supporting food and nutritional security due to its rich vitamin and mineral content.
- Creating opportunities for value addition through products such as juices, jams, jellies, nectar, pulp, candies and dehydrated fruit.
- Contributing to export earnings through fresh and processed guava products.

Challenges

Despite impressive growth, the guava sector continues to face several challenges:

- Slow improvement in productivity.
- Damage from fruit flies and wilt disease.
- Post-harvest losses due to inadequate storage facilities.
- Limited processing infrastructure in production regions.
- Price fluctuations during peak harvest seasons.

Addressing these issues through improved research, extension services, cold-chain infrastructure, and farmer training can significantly enhance profitability.

Way Forward

Future growth in guava production should focus on increasing productivity rather than merely expanding cultivated area. Adoption of high-density planting, drip irrigation, integrated nutrient management, disease-resistant varieties, precision farming and better post-harvest management can improve yields and farmers' income. Strengthening value addition and export-oriented production will further enhance the competitiveness of India's guava industry.

Conclusion

The analysis shows that India's guava sector has experienced steady expansion over the past decade, with significant increases in cultivated area and production. While productivity growth has remained modest, India continues to dominate global guava production, contributing more than 45 percent of the world's output. Continued investment in technology, infrastructure, and value-chain development will be essential to sustain growth and improve the economic well-being of guava growers.

Source: Indiatat.com and Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC) Karnataka.