

## **NIGERIA IN WORLD GINGER TRADE: AN ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE FROM 2008 – 2012**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study assessed the performance of Nigeria in the world ginger trade using available secondary data from the United Nations commodity trade statistics. The trade performance of Nigeria was based on world ginger export characteristics, value of trade and quantity traded from 2008 to 2012 assessed on yearly and cumulative bases. The result indicates that during the five year period, Nigeria recorded an annual growth of 39%. But in the year 2011-2012, Nigeria lost in terms of price during this period by 24% despite the fact that the unit price for Nigeria ginger was higher (\$2,463/ton) than the world average (\$727). In terms of share in world exports, Nigeria contributed only 3.6% and listed on 6th position for ginger export. The world is paying prime price for Germany's (\$3,758), UK's (\$3,450) and Nigerian (\$2,463) Ginger. Nigeria ginger during the period under review contributed a total of \$115.564m on the basis of value to the world ginger value of \$2401.756m representing a share of 4.81%. Cumulatively, a total of 51,483 tons of ginger was contributed by Nigeria to the world ginger market which is 1.35% of the world total (3,800,098 tons) during the period under review. This study revealed that Nigeria has over the years been an active participant in the world ginger trade and has contributed significantly to its growth. On the overall, the performance of Nigeria in the world ginger trade during the period under review cannot be described as blazing because the country has the largest area under ginger cultivation in the world and her ginger is one of the world's best and highly valued in terms of unit price. It is therefore recommended that the ginger transformation program be sustained so as to boost local production and activate the ginger value chain for greater production, processing and marketing efficiency.

**Key words:** Ginger, export, trade, value, quantity, period, market.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Ginger is an herbaceous perennial plant, its flavouring type is classified as *zingiber officinale* which belongs to the order; *scitamineae* and the family; *zingiberaceae*. It is a tropical herb extensively grown for its pungently aromatic underground stem or rhizome which is an important export crop valued for its powder, oil and oleoresin (NEPC 1999). Ginger has been used as spices in most countries of the world. Research has proved that ginger could be used to cure certain ailments. Al-Achi (2007) reported that ginger is contraindicated in people

suffering from gallstones as the herb promotes the release of bile from the gall bladder. Also, Chen *et al* (2007) noted that ginger compounds are active against a form of diarrhea which is the leading cause of infant death in developing countries. Ginger had been found effective by multiple studies for treating nausea caused by seasickness, morning sickness and chemotherapy (Ernst and Pittler 2000).

Ginger is an important cash crop in Nigeria, which is one of the major world producers and exporters of the crop (Ojiako *et al* 2007). In the global market, Nigeria's ginger is highly valued for its aroma, pungency; high oil (and less fibre) contents (Ikwelle *et al* 2003). Njoku *et al* (1995) reported that among the spices, (pepper, ginger, onion and chillies) ginger is the only one that is grown on a commercial scale for export. During 1999-2000, Nigeria occupied the fifth position in ginger export, after China, Thailand, Brazil and Taiwan. However, the country's contribution to the world ginger market was only 1.75% whereas China's contribution was 61.59%. New world encyclopedia (2008) recorded that in 2005, Nigeria occupied the fourth position in terms of ginger production (with an annual output of 110,000 MT) behind China (275,000 MT), India (230,000MT) and Indonesia (151,000MT). This data clearly indicates the importance of Nigeria in the world ginger export. Madan (2005) had earlier recorded that the world production of ginger stood at approximately 0.75 to 0.8 million tons from an area around 0.3 million hectares. The export was around 20% of total world production valued at 105.73 million (US dollars). During this period, ginger export from Nigeria was low if compared with countries like China and Brazil. This was attributed to the quality of Nigerian ginger as reported by Yiljep *et al* (2005) that the processing of Nigerian ginger was not standardized with the result that microbiological, organoleptic and chemical properties of the product often fall short of importers' specifications. This was supported by Okwuowulu (2005) who reiterated that Nigerian ginger was valued as mere raw material for distillation and extraction, hence attracts drastically low price. Ebewelle and Jimoh (1981) traced the low quality of Nigerian ginger at that time to the traditional drying methods used by farmers to dry ginger, which according to them are varied, haphazard and risky, resulting to mould growth, loss of some volatile oil by evaporation and destruction of some heat sensitive pungent properties.

Nigeria currently has the world's largest area under ginger cultivation and is one of the largest producers and exporters of the crop; especially the split-dried form. Large scale production of ginger started in 1927 (Anonymous 1970; Arene *et al* 1986) in Southern Kaduna. Between 1927 and 1982, the production for export fluctuated and ultimately declined due to poor prices in the export markets and because of the economic boom of mineral oil during the 1970's. This situation, led to the neglect of crops that have great potentials to attract foreign currency to Nigeria. One of such neglected crops is ginger. The effect of this is that the area under ginger cultivation declined between 1999 and 2003, after which it recorded a steady increase, though marginally. However the production of ginger has been on the increase except in 1999 when there was a drop from 1998 figures.

Furthermore, in 2007, the land area under ginger cultivation was estimated to be 195000ha with a production of 138000mt of ginger. This shows a productivity of 0.71 implying that 1ha of land area cultivated, produced less than 1mt of ginger in Nigeria. On the average, a productivity value of 0.65 was estimated for Nigeria during that period.

The world scenario is shown in Table 3. The table shows that the land area under ginger cultivation followed the same trend as that of Nigeria.

As shown in Table 3, a reduction in the area under ginger cultivation was recorded between 1999 and 2001, after which there was a steady increase. The world in 2007 recorded a cultivated land area of 429,481ha of ginger, with a production of 1,387,445mt. On the average, a productivity of 3.18mt/ha of ginger was recorded during the period under review. To contrast both world and Nigeria scenario during the period under review, a critical analysis was carried out and presented in Table 4.

Estimates in Table 4 indicate that Nigeria, over the years had contributed between 45.40 percent and 53.2 percent to the total land area under ginger cultivation in the world. On the production side, Nigeria had contributed 9.66 percent to 10.51 percent of world ginger production. The implication of this result is that Nigeria requires a production increase of between 450-500 percent to proportionately account for its large land area under ginger production.

The world trade in ginger is estimated at \$190m per year. The main competitors in ginger export are China, Nigeria and Thailand. In 2004, Nigeria's ginger export stood at 28,323mt valued at over \$21.8m (Ewuziem *et al* 2009). This indicates that Nigeria occupies a very important position in world ginger cultivation and export. However, since available records show that Nigeria has the world's largest area under ginger cultivation, it has become necessary to relate this to the world's total area under ginger cultivation and productivity in order to assess Nigeria's performance in ginger production. The information above shows that Nigeria is a very active participant in the world ginger trade. However it is necessary to assess the performance of Nigeria in the world ginger trade using available data. This paper therefore seeks to analyze the performance of Nigeria in the world ginger trade.

## **Methodology**

Secondary data collected from international trade commodities (ITC) calculations based on United Nations Commodity trade (UN COMTRADE) statistics at [www.gointernational.org.np](http://www.gointernational.org.np) (2015) were used for the study. The data series covered a period of five years (2008 to 2012). The national time series data, like those from central bank of Nigeria (CBN) or any relevant agency such as FAO could alternatively have been used, but it is a common fact to find differences in such data series from different sources (Manyong and Nokoe 2003; Ojiako *et al* 2007; Ewuziem *et al* 2009). This explains the reliance on UN COMTRADE data. The analysis considered export characteristics of Nigeria ginger based on quantity and value of export, unit value of export, annual growths in quantity and value and

percentage share in world export to assess the performance of Nigeria in the world ginger trade.

## Results and discussion

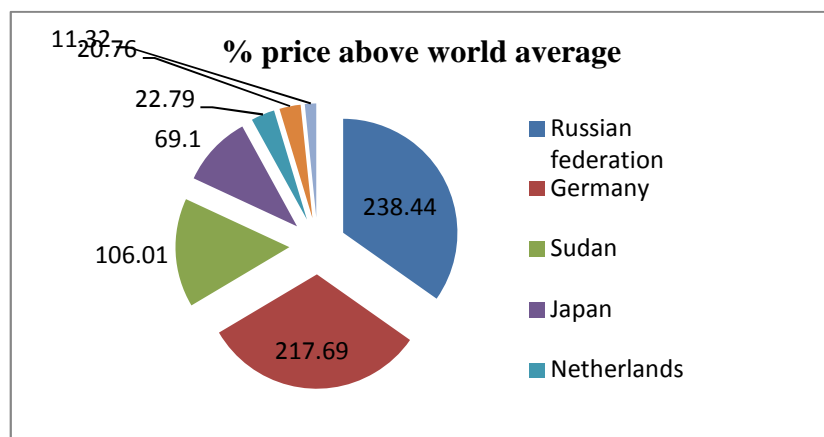
### Global Trade Overview:

#### World ginger import characteristics:

It has been reported that in 2012, the world ginger trade stood at 609,137ton worth \$516,745 showing that there is a growth of 11% on the value of ginger and 8% growth in the quantity during the five-year trade, though there was a decline in the value by 24% in 2011-2012 year trade ([www.gointernational.org.np](http://www.gointernational.org.np) 2015).

Data derived from ITC calculations based on UN COMTRADE statistics shows that Japan was the largest importer in 2012 with 19.9% import share. USA, Netherlands, Germany, Bangladesh, Pakistan were other major importer of Ginger. India was listed on 12th position with 2.8% import share. Most of the major importers of ginger recorded a decline in ginger value with Pakistan having the highest decline of 57%.

Meanwhile, Russian Federation, Germany, Sudan, Japan, Netherlands, UK and USA are the countries who are paying prime price for Ginger, offering prices above the world average price for ginger as shown in Figure 1. This implies that major exporters like Nigeria, should target these countries if they want to earn more money for their produce.



**Figure 1: Countries that offer prices above the world average.**

Indonesia is the most growing market for Ginger in terms of price and quantity. India paid (\$302) much than that of world (\$848) and its market was reduced by 4% during 2008-2012 and the price did not changed; in 2011-2012 the price appreciated by 3%.

### World ginger export Characteristics

There are altogether 131 ginger exporting countries in the world with Nigeria ranking among the top ten. The world Ginger market grew at a speed of 10% annually during 2008-2012 in terms of quantity. The price of Ginger also grew at 12% per annum. Nigeria recorded an annual growth of 39%, but in the period 2011-2012 the world price fell by 29%. Price of ginger in this period decreased. Nigeria lost in terms of price during this period by 24% despite the fact that the unit price for Nigeria ginger was higher (\$2,463/ton) than the world average (\$727). In terms of share in world exports, Nigeria contributed only 3.6%. India contributed the largest share of 56.9% to the world ginger exports. Lithuania, India, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Peru are some countries that gained the market in terms of quantity; however, they all lost in terms of price. In the trade Indicator of ITC (2013), Nigeria was listed in the 6th position for ginger export. The world is paying prime price for Germany's (\$3,758), UK's (\$3,450) and Nigerian Ginger (\$2,463).

### Performance of Nigeria ginger in terms of value

Nigeria ginger during the period under review contributed a total of \$115.564m on the basis of value to the world ginger value of \$2401.756m representing a share of 4.81% of the value of trade on ginger during the five-year period. The highest value recorded for Nigeria ginger was in 2010 with a value of \$48.420m and a world share of 7.33%. On the average, the value of the world traded ginger during the five year period was \$480.351m whereas the Nigeria average for the same period stood at \$23.113m with an average share of 4.39%. This implies that Nigeria, despite having the largest area under ginger cultivation, coupled with having one of the best priced gingers, is contributing less than 5% to the value of traded ginger in the world. Actually, not much of the ginger from Nigeria is seen in the world ginger trade, establishing a supply gap which ginger farmers are expected to exploit.



Figure 2: distribution of Nigeria ginger export values (\$m)

As shown in Table 8, in terms of the value received by the exporting country, India is the largest exporter in the world. In year 2012, India exported ginger worth \$ 42.91 Million. Ethiopia and Nepal are listed thereafter. Nigeria exported ginger worth only \$2.83 Million in 2012 as against \$48.42 Million in 2010 and \$40.03 Million in 2011. A closer look at the Table 8 indicates that in 2009 and 2010, Nigeria ginger export attracted higher values. However, the export value in 2010 doubled the export value of ginger from any other country in that year. There was a remarkable reduction in 2011 which suddenly nosedived in 2012 to the least export value recorded in the five years of analysis.

If we consider the total values of ginger exports among the top six exporting countries for the five year period under review, Nigeria is placed second with ginger valued at \$115,564 behind India with ginger worth \$144,060 (Figure 3). Ethiopia was placed a distant third with \$73,804 worth of ginger. This implies that the competition is between Nigeria and India in terms of value of the cumulative values of ginger during this period.

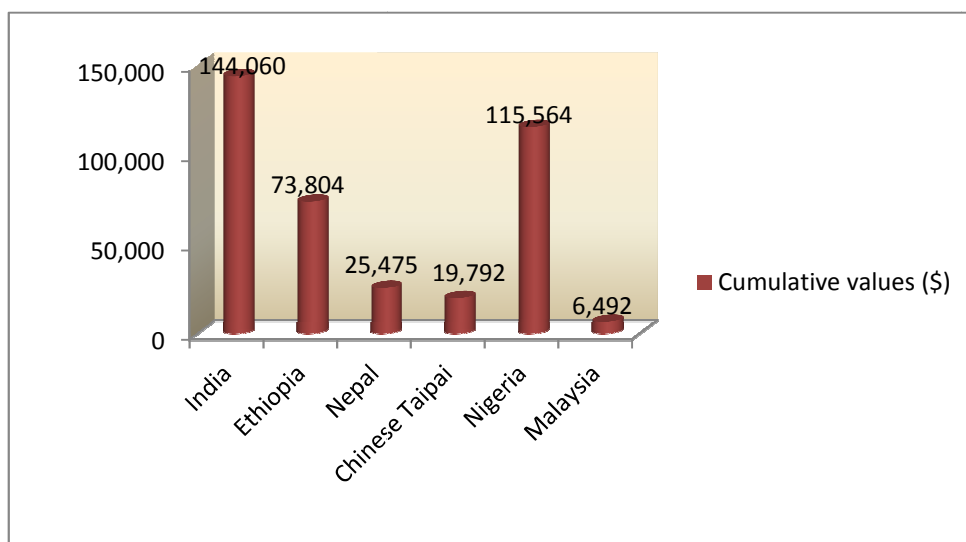


Figure 3: cumulative values of ginger among the top six exporting countries (2008-2012)

### **Performance of Nigeria ginger on the basis of Quantity**

Nigeria ginger export on the basis of quantity shows a marginal increase in 2009 from that of 2008. However, in 2010 the country traded 23563 tons of ginger which was the highest for that year, but in terms of the percentage contribution to the world total, this figure represented only 5.14%. Cumulatively, a total of 51,483 tons of ginger was contributed by Nigeria to the world ginger market which is 1.35% of the world total (3,800,098 tons) during the period under review.

Furthermore; Nigeria ginger export is placed in fourth position with 1.95 thousand tons in the year 2012. This is lower than the country's previous performances. Nigeria's best performance was recorded in 2010 when it was placed in the first position with 23.56

thousand tons, followed by third position in 2011 with 11.28 thousand tons. Other top contenders in terms quantity were; Nepal, India and Ethiopia.

If we consider the total quantities of ginger exported by seven major ginger exporting countries in the world during the Five year period, Nigeria is placed in third position with 15.57%, supplying 51,483 tons of ginger; this is shown in the figure below.

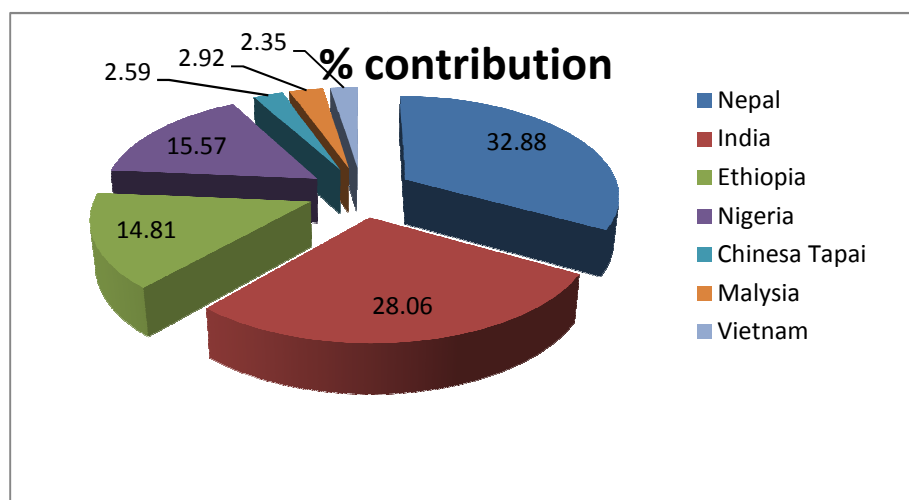


Figure 4: Quantities of ginger contributed by seven major ginger exporting countries (2008-2012)

Although Nepal had the highest contribution of 32.88% (108,734 tons), followed by India with 28.06% (92,774 tons), Nigeria ginger was better valued than those of these countries. Nigeria recorded a sharp drop in quantity contributed to the world ginger market in 2011 and 2012. The record of 2012 was worse due to a drop of over 91% of her contribution in 2010. This contributed greatly to the dwindling performance of Nigeria during this period.

## Conclusion

This study revealed that Nigeria has over the years been an active participant in the world ginger trade and has contributed significantly to its growth. In both value of trade and quantity contributed to the ginger trade, Nigeria has been placed among the top five ginger exporting countries in the world. The competition is between India, Nigeria, Nepal and Ethiopia. However, Nigeria's performance was best in both value of trade and quantity contributed in 2010. The overall performance of Nigeria in the world ginger trade during the period under review cannot be described as satisfactory. It is expected that Nigeria will top the list of ginger producing and exporting countries, having the largest area under ginger cultivation in the world and her ginger being one of the world's best and highly valued in terms of unit price. Nigeria is among countries that receive prime prices for their ginger.

In order to sustain the excellent performance of Nigeria in the ginger trade of 2010, it is recommended that the ginger transformation program in Nigeria be sustained so as to boost local production of ginger and activate the ginger value chain for greater efficiency.



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## APPENDIX

**Table 1: Quantity and value of Ginger export from Nigeria from 1989-2004)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Quality (MT)</b>	<b>Values ('000 US \$)</b>	<b>Unit price (US \$)</b>
1989	1422	628	442
1990	1799	1343	749
1991	1239	805	650
1992	2278	1038	456
1993	0	0	0
1994	0	0	0
1995	0	0	0
1996	0	0	0
1997	3800	890	234
1999	4436	3915	883
2000	4326	3116	767
2001	2310	1900	823
2002	0	0	0
2003	1860	2110	1134
2004	4853	6114	1260

**Source: FAO Statistical division**

**Table 2: Area, Production and Productivity of Ginger in Nigeria**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AREA(HA)</b>	<b>PRODUCTION(MT)</b>	<b>PRODUCTIVITY</b>
1998	166000	88100	0.53
1999	153000	92000	0.60
2000	158000	98000	0.62

2001	160000	104000	0.65
2002	162000	105000	0.65
2003	167000	110000	0.66
2004	170000	117000	0.69
2005	181000	125000	0.69
2006	191000	134000	0.70
2007	195000	138000	0.71
<b>Average</b>	<b>170300</b>	<b>111110</b>	<b>0.65</b>

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**Source: Ewuziem et al, 2009**

**Table 3: Area, Production and Productivity of Ginger in the World**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AREA(HA)</b>	<b>PRODUCTION(MT)</b>	<b>PRODUCTIVITY(MT)</b>
1998	312108	864760	2.77
1999	308631	952222	3.08
2000	305696	953152	3.12
2001	310923	988951	3.18
2002	317099	1007503	3.17
2003	341360	1109833	3.25
2004	341829	1141319	3.39
2005	372271	1264891	3.40
2006	414183	1337188	3.23
2007	429481	1387445	3.23
<b>Average</b>	<b>345358.1</b>	<b>1100726.4</b>	<b>3.18</b>

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**Source; FAO estimates 2009**

**Table 4: Nigeria's share of world Area and Production of Ginger**

YEAR	AREA(HA)		NIGERIA'S SHARE OF WORLD (%)	PRODUCTION(MT)		
	NIGERIA	WORLD		NIGERIA	WORLD	NIGERIA'S SHARE OF WORLD (%)
1998	166000	312108	<b>53.2</b>	88100	864760	<b>10.19</b>
1999	153000	308631	<b>49.57</b>	92000	952222	<b>9.66</b>
2000	158000	305696	<b>51.68</b>	98000	953152	<b>10.28</b>
2001	160000	310923	<b>51.46</b>	104000	988951	<b>10.51</b>
2002	162000	317099	<b>51.09</b>	105000	1007503	<b>10.42</b>
2003	167000	341460	<b>48.91</b>	110000	1109833	<b>9.91</b>
2004	170000	341829	<b>49.73</b>	117000	1141319	<b>10.25</b>
2005	181000	372271	<b>48.62</b>	125000	1264891	<b>9.88</b>
2006	191000	414183	<b>46.11</b>	134000	1337188	<b>10.02</b>
2007	195000	429481	<b>45.40</b>	138000	1387445	<b>9.94</b>

Source; FAO estimates 2009

**Table 5: World ginger import characteristics:**

List of importers for the Ginger product in 2012							
Product : 091010 Ginger							
Importers	Trade Indicators						
	Value imported in 2012 (USD thousand)	Quantity imported in 2012 (Tons)	Unit value (USD/unit)	Annual growth in value (2008-2012) (%)	Annual growth in quantity (2008-2012) (%)	Annual growth in value (2011-2012) (%)	Share in world imports (%)

World	516745	609137	848	11	8	-24	100
Japan	102832	71721	1434	4	-4	-17	19.9
USA	53025	56162	944	8	8	-22	10.3
Netherlands	36331	34900	1041	17	19	-20	7
Germany	32689	12134	2694	29	24	-14	6.3
Bangladesh	23244	62851	370	11	28	-32	4.5
Pakistan	22042	47193	467	-2	-5	-57	4.3
UK	19709	19252	1024	0	1	-31	3.8
Malaysia	19116	44128	433	6	11	-29	3.7
Indonesia	16704	22885	730	278	278	1	3.2
UAE	16393	30360	540	8	8	-41	3.2
Russian Federation	15309	5334	2870	60	45	73	3
India	14699	48715	302	0	-4	3	2.8
Saudi Arabia	13811	27641	500	8	10	-43	2.7
Sudan	11285	6461	1747	43	0	-35	2.2
Canada	10334	12757	810	3	6	-23	2

Sources: ITC calculations based on UN COMTRADE statistics.

[www.gointernational.org.np](http://www.gointernational.org.np)

**Table 6: World ginger export Characteristics**

List of exporters for the selected product in 2012							
Product : 091010 Ginger							
Exporters	Trade Indicators						
	Value exported in 2012	Quantity exported in 2012	Unit value (USD/unit)	Annual growth in	Annual growth in quantity	Annual growth in value	Share in world

	(USD thousand)	(Tons)		value (2008-2012) (%)	(2008-2012) (%)	(2011-2012) (%)	exports (%)
World	460020	632693	727	12	10	-29	100
China	261603	448001	584	8	13	-36	56.9
India	42919	32822	1308	55	49	-22	9.3
Netherlands	37722	30095	1253	15	23	-2	8.2
Thailand	21882	27655	791	-3	-13	-18	4.8
Ethiopia	16738	10354	1617	38	-4	-29	3.6
Nigeria	16522	6708	2463	39	4	-24	3.6
Nepal	10832	46533	233	4	-1	84	2.4
Germany	6279	1671	3758	25	23	-15	1.4
Viet Nam	4679	3003	1558	23	9	-3	1
Lithuania	4039	3317	1218	57	72	-6	0.9

Sources: ITC calculations based on UN COMTRADE statistics. [www.gointernational.org.np](http://www.gointernational.org.np)

**Table 7: Value characteristics of Nigeria ginger**

Years	Value of Nigeria ginger (\$ million)	Value of world ginger (\$ million)	Nigeria's share of world value (%)
2008	11.420	553.544	1.96
2009	12.861	411.951	3.12
2010	48.420	660.561	7.33
2011	40.031	665.359	6.02
2012	2.832	80.341	3.52
Total	115.564	2401.756	4.81
Average	23.113	480.351	4.39

**Table 8: List of Ginger exporters as expressed by value of export:**

<b>List of exporters for Ginger on the basis of Value</b>						
Product : 091010 Ginger						
<b>Exporters</b>	<b>Exported value in 2008</b>	<b>Exported value in 2009</b>	<b>Exported value in 2010</b>	<b>Exported value in 2011</b>	<b>Exported value in 2012</b>	<b>Total value of Exports (2008-2012)</b>
World	583544	411951	660561	665359	80341	2401756
India	10520	11499	23876	55246	42919	144060
Ethiopia	6237	6599	20581	23647	16738	73802
Nepal		5211	4593	4839	10832	25475
China	4574	2823	3266	5373	3756	19792
Nigeria	11420	12861	48420	40031	2832	115564
Malaysia	1611	1434	1255	1467	1175	6942
Unit : US Dollar thousand						
Sources: ITC calculations based on UN COMTRADE statistics. <a href="http://www.gointernational.org.np">www.gointernational.org.np</a>						

**Table 9: Performance of Nigeria ginger on the basis of Quantity**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Quantity of Nigeria ginger (Tons)</b>	<b>Quantity of world ginger (Tons)</b>	<b>Nigeria's share of world Quantity (%)</b>
2008	7322	2194652	0.33
2009	7364	494536	1.49
2010	23563	458628	5.14
2011	11280	554959	2.03
2012	1954	97323	2.00
Total	51483	3800098	1.35
Average	10296.6	760019.6	1.35



**Table 10: List of Ginger exporters on the basis of Quantity:**

<b>List of Ginger exporters on the basis of Quantity</b>					
Product : 091010 Ginger					
<b>Exporters</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>Exported quantity, Tons</b>	<b>Exported quantity, Tons</b>	<b>Exported quantity, Tons</b>	<b>Exported quantity, Tons</b>	<b>Exported quantity, Tons</b>
World	2194652	494563	458628	554959	97323
Nepal		26724	18262	17215	46533
India	8308	8342	13555	29747	32822
Ethiopia	10396	10752	10268	7220	10354
Nigeria	7322	7364	23563	11280	1954
China	2022	1333	1523	2103	1580
Malaysia	2159	2257	1646	2012	1578
Vietnam	1486	1357	1877	2196	869

Sources: ITC calculations based on UN COMTRADE statistics. [www.gointernational.org.np](http://www.gointernational.org.np)