



INTERNATIONAL PEPPER COMMUNITY SPECIAL ISSUE

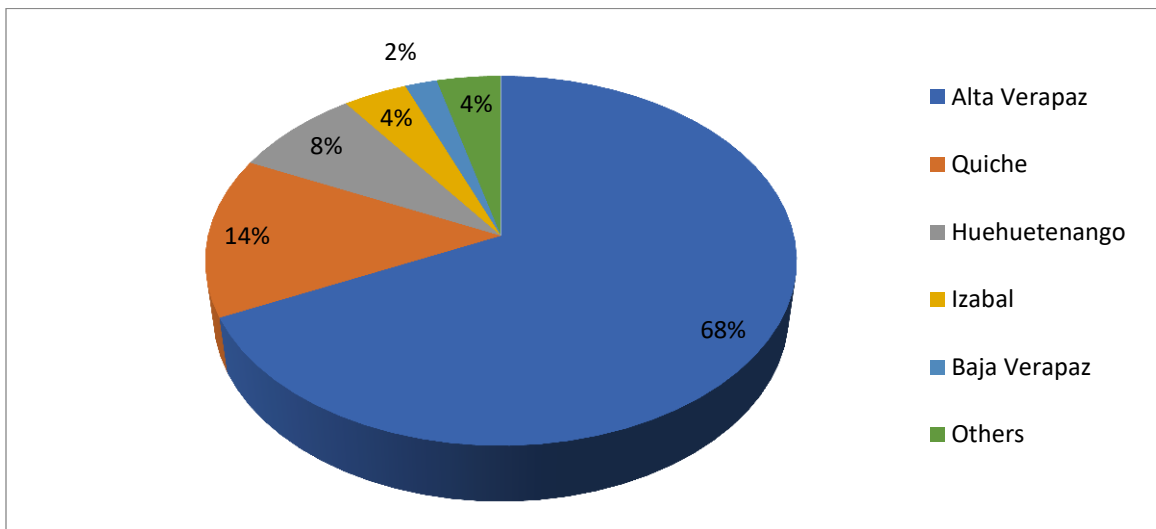


INTERNATIONAL PEPPER COMMUNITY PUBLICATION SPECIAL ISSUE ON GUATELAMA CARDAMOM July, 2020

Guatemala Cardamom Report

In Guatemala, cardamom is known as Green Gold of Guatemala as they are the world's largest exporter and producer of cardamom in the world. Since 2008 to 2019, Guatemala produced cardamom on average of 32,000 Mt annually. Furthermore, Cardamom is the fourth largest agricultural product to be exported out of Guatemala by value. The national producers of cardamom in Guatemala are distributed to several departments (regions) as follow: Alta Verapaz Department (68%), Quiché Department (14%), Huehuetenango Department (8%), Izabal Department (4%), Baja Verapaz Department (2%) and the other departments of the Republic add up to (4%) (Chart 1). Furthermore, a total of 84% of the harvested area is concentrated in 2 Departments: Alta Verapaz Department (68%) and Quiché Department (16%).

Chart. 1. Distribution of Cardamom Area in Guatemala



Source: Ministerio de Agricultura Ganaderia y Alimentacion Guatemala (MAGA)

Harvesting and processing

Cardamom plants normally start bearing two years after planting. In most of the areas in Guatemala, the seedtime for cardamom performs during the rain and summer season which occurred in May-September. The high peak period of harvest also occurred during the rain and summer season around July-October (Table 1).

Postharvest treatments for cardamom in Guatemala consist of washing, curing (drying), cleaning, polishing, sorting, grading and packing. There are several ways of drying the fruit (capsules recently harvested) to reduce moisture content which include sun-drying, solar drying and wood – fired drying.

Furthermore, cardamom in Guatemala must be harvested by hand, when ready, it can be easily detached from the stem and the colour is bright green. The following definitions refer to common Guatemalan cardamom grades:



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- Jumbo Green - extra-large green small cardamom pods
- Imperial Best Green - large green pods
- Fancy Green Extra - extra green pods
- Fancy Green - medium sized green pods
- Imperial Mixed Green - large pale green pods
- Mixed Green - pods of assorted colours
- Mixed Green Split - medium sized open green pods
- Yellow Mixed - medium/large closed yellow pods
- Mixed Yellow Quality (MYQ) -medium sized light brown cardamom for grinding
- Seeds - cardamom with the husks removed

The output of cardamom is greatly influenced by climatic conditions. The cardamom plant requires a continuous rain interspersed with periods of good sunshine. Over the past two decades, the cardamom cultivation areas in Guatemala had faced severe ecological degradation due to diminishing forest cover which was caused by the weather disturbance of El Niño and La Niña climate phenomenon. The phenomenon had adversely affected Guatemala’s 2010 production, causing the quality of cardamom to deteriorate. The plant is now abnormally susceptible from attacks by pests and diseases.

Table 1. Seedtime and Harvest Season of cardamom in Guatemala

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Winter				Rain		Summer		Rain		Winter	

Note :

seedtime

high harvest cycle

Source: Ministerio de Agricultura Ganaderia y Alimentacion Guatemala (MAGA)

Area Plantation of Cardamom in Guatemala

Cultivation of cardamom was introduced to Guatemala before World War I by Oscar Majus Kloeffer; today Guatemala is the world's biggest producer and exporter, followed by India and Sri Lanka. Over 60% of the world’s cardamom is grown in Guatemala, the crops contributes to between 0.8% and 1.5% of country’s GDP. During 2008-2015 the area under cardamom cultivation in Guatemala had shown an increasing trend, recording an increase of 19% when comparing 2008 and 2015. As from 2015, the area of cardamom cultivation in Guatemala had decreased to 2017. In 2017, Guatemala planted Cardamom on 72,593 Ha of area, recording a 2% decrease when compared to 2015. In 2018, the area under cardamom cultivation was reported with an increase of 4% as opposed to 2017 to an area of 75,399 Ha. In addition, the area of cardamom cultivation for 2019 was estimated to increase by 2% to 76,761 Ha. (Table 2). The increase of the area under cardamom cultivation could be contributed to the Guatemala government’s along with the Cardamom Exporters’ Association (ADECAR), the Guatemalan association of Exporters (AGEXPORT) and the Cardamom Producers Association of Guatemala (CARDEGUA) implementation strategies to improve the quality of cardamom and the economic condition of the farmers involved in the production. These strategies were implemented through demonstration plots as well as training on how to implement good agricultural practises (GAP). Cardamom production of Guatemala had fluctuated since 2008 with a rather positive trend. Cardamom production of Guatemala was reported to have recorded an increase of 78% in the past 11 years as it recorded



to have produced a total of 38,163 Mt in 2018. The highest production of Guatemalan Cardamom in the past 11 years was reported in 2014 with 38,465 Mt whilst the lowest occurred in 2008 with only 21,414 Mt. In addition, the production of Guatemalan Cardamom for 2019 was estimated to experience an 8% increase when compared to 2018 at 41,172 Mt as result of implementation strategies by Guatemala government to improve the quality of cardamom and the economic condition of the farmers involved in the production in the Department of Alta Verapaz which was the main cardamom producer in Guatemala.

Table 2. Area under Cardamom Cultivation and Cardamom Production in Guatemala

Year	Area Cultivation (Ha)	Production (Mt)
2008	62,300	21,414
2009	62,300	22,913
2010	62,300	22,764
2011	63,910	26,360
2012	69,370	36,241
2013	69,510	38,453
2014	72,406	38,465
2015	74,013	34,509
2016	73,664	35,475
2017	72,593	35,997
2018	75,399	38,163
2019*	76,761	41,172

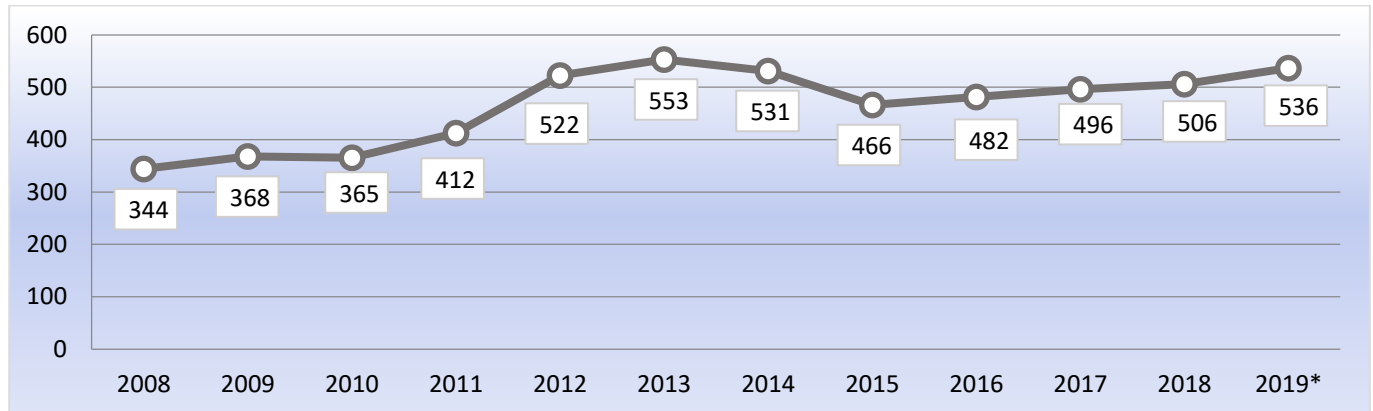
*Source: MAGA and FAO, *Figures are estimate, subject to revision*

Cardamom Productivity in Guatemala

Cardamom productivity in Guatemala for the past 11 years fluctuated with a positive trend (Chart 2). In the past 11 years cardamom productivity in Guatemala was reported to have increased by 47% to 506 Kg per Ha in 2018 and by 2019 the cardamom productivity was estimated at 536 Kg per Ha. Thus, recording an increase of 6% when compared with 2018. The highest cardamom productivity in Guatemala was reported in 2013 with 553 Kg per Ha whilst the lowest occurred in 2008 with only 344 Kg per Ha.



Chart 2. Cardamom Productivity in Cardamom (Kg per Ha)



Source: MAGA and FAO, *Figures are estimate, subject to revision

Average Export Price of Cardamom in Guatemala

During 2017-2019, the average export price both whole and ground cardamom on Guatemala saw an increasing trend. In 2017, the average exports price of cardamom by Guatemala was reported at USD 10,350 per Mt for whole cardamom and USD 9,709 per Mt for ground cardamom. The highest average exports price of whole cardamom from Guatemala in 2017 occurred in May with USD 11,271 per Mt whilst the lowest price was reported in January with USD 9,202 per Mt. Furthermore, the highest average exports price of ground cardamom from Guatemala in 2017 was reported in June with USD 18,537 per Mt whilst the lowest price was reported in February with only USD 2,947 per Mt.

In 2018, the average exports price both whole and ground cardamom by Guatemala saw an increasing trend averaging at USD 11,784 per Mt for whole cardamom and USD 12,559 per Mt for ground cardamom. Thus, recording an increase of 14% and 29% respectively as compared with 2017. The highest average exports price of whole cardamom from Guatemala in 2018 occurred in December with USD 12,587 per Mt whilst the lowest price was reported in January with USD 10,163 per Mt. Furthermore, the highest average exports price of ground cardamom from Guatemala in 2018 occurred in April with USD 15,071 per Mt whilst the lowest price was reported in June with USD 9,668 per Mt.

The average exports price both whole and ground cardamom by Guatemala in 2019 continued the increasing trend with an increase of 47% and 15% respectively as compared to the previous year averaging at USD 17,370 per Mt for whole cardamom and USD 14,481 per Mt for ground cardamom. The highest average exports price of whole cardamom from Guatemala in 2019 occurred in December with USD 23,060 per Mt whilst the lowest price was reported in January with USD 13,595 per Mt (Table 3). Furthermore, the highest average exports price of ground cardamom from Guatemala in 2019 occurred in May with USD 27,159 per Mt whilst the lowest price was reported in December with only USD 1,437 per Mt (Table 4).



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Table 3. Average Export Price of Whole Cardamom in Guatemala 2017-2019

Month	Average Prices (USD/Mt)		
	2017	2018	2019
Jan	9,202	10,163	13,595
Feb	10,199	11,270	15,336
Mar	10,730	11,538	16,341
Apr	10,881	11,622	16,401
May	11,271	12,154	17,257
Jun	10,675	11,798	18,262
Jul	9,770	12,051	18,066
Aug	10,583	12,080	17,293
Sep	9,930	11,348	14,978
Oct	11,079	12,368	17,050
Nov	10,073	12,433	20,803
Dec	9,814	12,587	23,060
Average	10,350	11,784	17,370

Source: International Trade Centre (ITC) – July 2020

Table 4. Average Export Price of Ground Cardamom in Guatemala 2017-2019

Month	Average Prices (USD/Mt)		
	2017	2018	2019
Jan	9,288	9,774	14,612
Feb	2,947	13,999	15,122
Mar	4,210	11,964	17,656
Apr	n.a	15,071	18,786
May	12,266	14,625	27,159
Jun	18,537	9,688	1,449
Jul	15,459	n.a	15,011
Aug	n.a	n.a	18,392
Sep	6,154	n.a	21,759
Oct	9,597	13,135	9,392
Nov	9,593	13,750	13,003
Dec	9,036	11,025	1,437
Average	9,709	12,559	14,481

Source: International Trade Centre (ITC) – July 2020



Export of Cardamom by Guatemala

As the top producers of cardamom in the world, Guatemala in the past 3 years actively exported cardamom to various countries with the major destination to Middle East countries. In 2017, Guatemala was reported to have exported a total of 35,814 Mt of cardamom from which 99.7% or 35,695 Mt of it comprised of whole cardamom and 0.3% or 119 Mt of it ground cardamom. Guatemala on average exported a total of 2,985 Mt per month in 2017 which peaked in December with 5,038 Mt. The total revenue of Guatemala's export of cardamom in 2017 was reported to be as high as USD 366.9 Million.

Year 2018 saw an increasing trend in term of quantity of cardamom exported by Guatemala. Guatemala was reported to have exported a total of 36,815 Mt of which 99.7% or 36,702 Mt of it comprised of whole cardamom and 0.3% or 113 Mt of it ground cardamom, recording an increase of 3% when compared with 2017. The average export of cardamom by Guatemala in 2018 was reported at 3,068 Mt per month which peaked in November with 5,220 Mt. In accordance with the increase of quantity, Guatemala's revenue from cardamom export was reported to have increased by 18% as compared to the previous year to a total of USD 433.7 Million.

2019 was reported with a decreasing trend in term of quantity of cardamom exported by Guatemala. Guatemala was reported to have exported a total of 36,323 Mt of which 99.7% or 36,209 Mt of it comprised of whole cardamom and 0.3% or 114 Mt of it ground cardamom, recording a slight decrease of 1% when compared with 2019. The average export of cardamom by Guatemala in 2019 was reported at 3,027 Mt per month which peaked in December with 5,816 Mt. Although decreasing in terms of quantity, Guatemala's revenue from cardamom export was reported to have increased by 49% as compared to the previous year to a total of USD 647.2 Million.

Cardamom from Guatemala are widely traded in Asia, Africa, Europe and America Countries (Table 7). In 2019, Guatemala's top 10 Country of destinations for its cardamom were reported to be Saudi Arabia with 10,107 Mt (an increase of 6% as compared with 2018), United Arab Emirates with 7,981 Mt (an increase of 10%), Bangladesh with 2,851 Mt (a decrease of 19%), Pakistan with 2,308 Mt (a decrease of 15%), Egypt with 1,386 Mt (a decrease of 0.3%), Jordan with 1,245 Mt (an increase of 1%), Netherlands with 1,127 Mt (an increase of 28%), Singapore 1,025 Mt (a decrease of 6%), Syrian Arab Republic with 958 Mt (a decrease of 29%) and Kuwait with 885 Mt (a decrease of 11%).



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Table 5. Export of Whole Cardamom by Guatemala

Month	2017		2018		2019	
	Quantity*	Value**	Quantity*	Value**	Quantity*	Value**
Jan	4,851	44,637	4,728	48,054	4,268	58,024
Feb	4,103	41,850	4,720	53,194	4,959	76,056
Mar	3,963	42,516	3,888	44,865	4,623	75,548
Apr	2,003	21,790	2,190	25,453	2,264	37,135
May	2,353	26,521	2,546	30,940	3,397	58,625
Jun	1,852	19,775	1,760	20,765	1,590	29,037
Jul	1,449	14,158	1,478	17,815	1,069	19,304
Aug	1,886	19,960	697	8,422	1,351	23,370
Sep	768	7,622	265	3,007	457	6,851
Oct	2,685	29,746	4,204	51,994	1,565	26,686
Nov	4,749	47,832	5,219	64,883	4,849	100,877
Dec	5,033	49,394	5,006	63,015	5,815	134,105
Total	35,695	365,801	36,702	432,407	36,209	645,618

* In Mt ** in thousand US dollar. Source: International Trade Centre (ITC) – July 2020

Table 6. Export of Ground Cardamom by Guatemala

Month	2017		2018		2019	
	Quantity*	Value**	Quantity*	Value**	Quantity*	Value**
Jan	15	139	25	240	16	235
Feb	11	33	12	170	2	23
Mar	12	49	11	133	3	61
Apr	-	-	10	156	6	104
May	36	440	8	117	2	61
Jun	3	56	11	107	5	7
Jul	10	156	-	-	5	68
Aug	-	-	-	-	11	197
Sep	0	2	-	-	14	313
Oct	1	5	3	37	26	247
Nov	27	260	1	11	23	304
Dec	5	43	32	356	1	1
Total	119	1,183	113	1,327	114	1,621

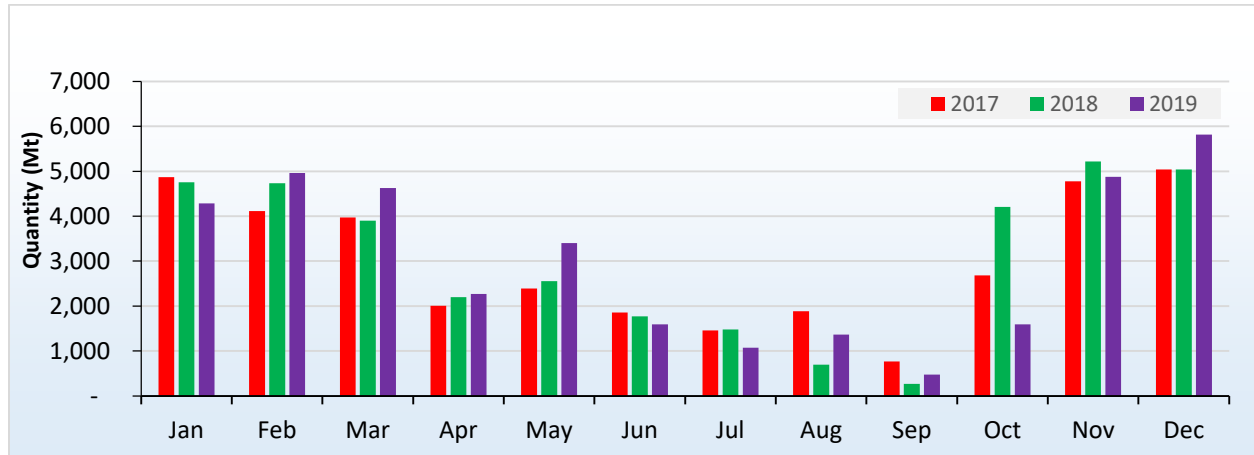
* In Mt ** in thousand US dollar. Source: International Trade Centre (ITC) – July 2020



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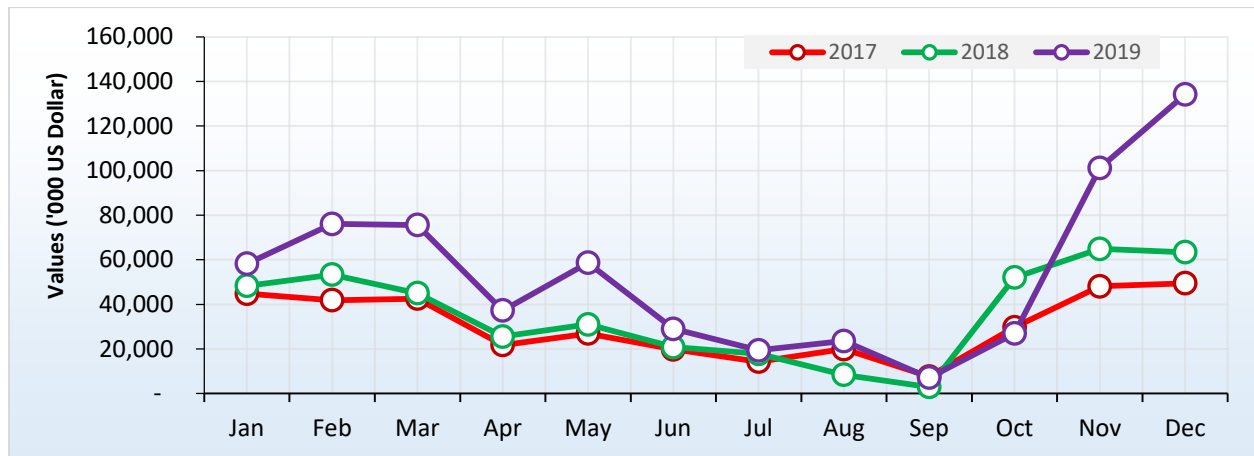


Chart. 3. Export of Cardamom by Guatemala in Mt



Source: International Trade Centre (ITC) – July 2020

Chart. 4. Export of Cardamom by Guatemala in Thousand US Dollar



Source: International Trade Centre (ITC) – July 2020



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Table 7. Top 10 Country Destination Export of Cardamom by Guatemala (2018-2019)

Country	2018		Country	2019	
	Quantity*	Value**		Quantity*	Value**
Saudi Arabia	9,514	123,170	Saudi Arabia	10,107	190,181
United Arab Emirates	7,233	83,958	United Arab Emirates	7,981	143,986
Bangladesh	3,512	37,444	Bangladesh	2,851	49,991
Pakistan	2,715	31,273	Pakistan	2,308	40,486
Egypt	1,391	16,006	Egypt	1,386	23,342
Syrian Arab Republic	1,346	12,544	Jordan	1,245	19,580
Jordan	1,231	12,924	Netherlands	1,127	16,279
Singapore	1,086	12,063	Singapore	1,025	18,037
Kuwait	996	12,464	Syrian Arab Republic	958	13,169
Netherlands	880	9,825	Kuwait	885	18,165

Source: International Trade Centre (ITC) – July 2020

Source:

- Ministerio de Agricultura Ganaderia y Alimentacion Guatemala (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Guatemala) - MAGA
- International Trade Centre (ITC) – Geneva
- Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
- US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA)

Note: Some of the data in this publication are from the IPC database. The data are obtained from official reports and correspondence between the IPC and relevant parties and have been processed based on statistical norms that can be accounted for.