

# GINGER



## Overview

Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) is a herbaceous perennial crop cultivated in many tropical countries of the world, including China, India, Nigeria, Australia, Jamaica, and Haiti. It is a versatile crop, utilized across the world as a spice, flavouring ingredient and herbal medicine. The crop is stated to have been introduced by the Spanish into Jamaica around 1525, in St. Ann where it was first grown and mainly produced, prior to 1740 (Lancashire n.d., 2014). However, Manchester later became the main producing parish, specifically in the Christiana area, which received recognition for the best ginger in the world at the time. For decades, Jamaican ginger was highly regarded for its high quality, unique flavour and oil content (RADA, 2020 & Lancashire n.d. 2014). Along side India and Sierra Leone, Jamaica was listed as one of the top three (3) largest global producers of ginger between the 1930's and 1960's. Regrettably, the diseases rhizome rot and bacterial wilt severely damaged Jamaica's ginger industry in the early 1990s, rendering the country into a net importer of the crop (RADA,2020 & Lancashire n.d., 2014).

In an attempt to rejuvenate the success of the crop, the Jamaican government included ginger as priority crop under the Production Incentive Programme (PIP).

## Production

Ginger production increased by 91%, from 645 metric tonnes in 2018 to 1232 MT in 2022. The largest increase recorded within the 5 year period (2018-2022) was observed in 2022, where total production increased by 25.87%, moving from 979 MT in 2021 to 1232 MT in 2022. Also, the total area reaped for ginger island wide increased by approximately 58.6% to reach 330 hectares in 2022, up from 208 hectares in 2018. The average yield per hectare (productivity) also increased, by 20.32% from 3.10 MT/HA in 2018 to 3.73 MT/HA in 2022.



Table 1. Annual Ginger Production 2018- 2022

Year	Metric Tonne (MT)	Area Reaped	MT/HA	% Change
2018	645	208	3.10	-
2019	712	233	3.06	-1.46
2020	869	268	3.24	6.11
2021	979	298	3.29	1.32
2022	1232	330	3.73	13.66

(MOAF, 2023)



## Varieties

The varieties grown in Jamaica include the Jamaica Yellow, Jamaica Blue, Chinese and Hawaiian. The local ginger varieties are in demand by high-value, agro-processing markets because of its flavour profile. Agro-processors are able to process ginger into powder, seasonings, sauces, beverages, teas and baked items.



## Profitability

In 2021, the cost of production for ginger was JM \$149.33 per kg and the farm-gate price was JM \$419.50, representing an approximate mark up of 185.37% on farm-gate price over variable cost of production for 2021.

**Table 2. Per cent mark-up of Farm-gate Price (FGP) on Cost of Production (COP)**

	C.O.P (\$/kg)	FGP (\$/KG)	% Mark up
Ginger	147	419.50	185.37

(MOAF, 2022)



The projected marketable yield (Kg) to be expected from a 1-acre ginger farm is 6,480 kg, therefore farmers, under favourable conditions can expect a gross revenue of JMD 3.1 million and a net revenue of JMD 2.3 million after harvest. A ginger farm can guarantee a Return on Investment (ROI) of 295%.

## Global Market

Tables 3 and 4 show that crushed and fresh ginger exports have both been experiencing growth in the export market. However, crushed ginger is exported in larger volumes and is the higher foreign exchange earner of the two (table 4). Therefore, ginger in its crushed state is highly demanded and is likely to be utilized for agro-processing in foreign markets.

For the past 5 years, the main supporting markets for Jamaica's exports of ginger are the United States of America, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago (STATIN,2021). These countries accounted for 42.4%, 16.63% and 6.89%, respectively, of total ginger export.

**Table 3. Fresh Ginger Export 2018- 2021**

Year	Metric Tonne (MT)	JMD
2018	8.03	5,287,169
2019	21.01	18,775,364
2020	12.13	9,820,335
2021	22.68	11,147,664
2022	3.51	1,616,472.43

(STATIN, 2022)

*\*Ginger, neither crushed nor ground*

**Table 4. Crushed Ginger Export 2018- 2021**

Year	Metric Tonne (MT)	JMD
2018	29.27	33,356,134.87
2019	54.78	76,659,819.75
2020	92.49	162,028,456.96
2021	99.28	173,969,246.60
2022	137.63	204,329,621.82

(STATIN, 2022)

*\*Ginger, crushed or ground*

## WHY INVEST IN GINGER PRODUCTION ?

- Under the Production Investment Programme (PIP), the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) have developed pathogen free plant material to increase production and export.
- Globally, Jamaican ginger is known for its high quality, uniqueness of flavours and oil content
- The local ginger varieties are preferred by agro-processing markets
- Ginger can be intercropped with coconut, coffee and orange orchards



# Ginger Value Added Goods



Ginger Tea



Ginger Pastry



Ginger Beverages



Ginger Candy



Minced Ginger



Ginger Seasoning



Ginger Snack



Ginger Extract



Ginger Sauce