India's Trade Performance of Agricultural Products among SAARC Countries: Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

The paper analyses India's trade performance in the period 2013-2023 by crumbling changes in India's share exports into the competitive and market growth effects. The analysis of trade between the countries is an interesting phenomenon in international trade. A large proportion of India's export trade was based on the agricultural products, such as cereals, jute, tea, tobacco, coffee, spices, and sugar.It helps in increasing the foreign exchange. India has protected seventh rank in terms of agricultural exports.In fiscal year 2023, India exported principal commodities worth over 36 trillion Indian rupees. This was an increase in export value over the recent years. India ranked in the position 18 among the leading export countries in the world based on value.The outcome of this research would facilitate conceiving a strategy and formulate a policy for a stabilized foreign trade and economic development of the nation.

Keywords: *Trade, Agricultural Products, SAARC Countries, Comparative Analysis.*

1. Introduction

Trade can take place through various means, including barter (direct exchange of goods and services), monetary transactions, or the use of financial instruments. The development of money as a medium of exchange has facilitated more complex and efficient trade systems. Governments often track and regulate exports through trade policies and agreements. Exported goods can include physical products like machinery, electronics, and agricultural products, as well as services such as consulting, software development, and tourism.

Governments often play a role in regulating and facilitating trade through trade policies, tariffs, and trade agreements. International organizations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), also work to establish rules and promote free and fair trade practices on a global scale.

2. Review of Literature

Ashish Jaiswal and Dr. Anup Kumar (2022) in his article **"An Analysis of India's Trade Performance with SAARC Countries in 21st Century"** In today's world no nation exists in economic isolation. Driven towards integration by the pressure of economic interest of the region, seven South Asian countries- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka formed the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 1985. The SAARC comprises eight countries of South Asia is a manifestation of the determination of their people of south Asia to work together towards finding solutions to their common problem in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding and to create an order based on mutual respect, equity and share benefits. The primary objective of the association is the acceleration of the process of economic and social development in member states, through collective action in agreed areas cooperation. The main objective of this paper is to study the trade performance of India with SAARC countries.

Sneha Chaudhry andAnoushkaGoel (2022) in her article "**AN ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S TRADE PERFORMANCE AMONG SAARC COUNTRIES**" the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was formed to promote regional prosperity. SAARC was unable to make the expected development due to little trade among its members. SAARC's intra-regional trade share has been low and stagnant for a long time. Unless and until the SAARC's major economies significantly boost their trade volume and remove barriers, the SAARC will remain a phantom for many years. This research tries to present an overview of India's SAARC trade and to examine intra-SAARC trade changes in South Asian countries.

Dr.Vipin Sharma and Dr.Vinod Kumar (2020) in his article **"A STUDY OF INDIA'S TRADE TRENDS WITH SAARC NATIONS PRE-SAFTA AND POST-SAFTA"** the SAARC nations have embarked on reforms and have undertaken measures to liberalize trade in the last three decades. As a result, these countries are far more open today than they have ever been in the past. The share of trade in GDP is increasing continuously under SAFTA. So, this paper tries to examine the trends in India's trade with other SAARC countries during Pre- SAFTA and post-SAFTA period. The yearbook "Direction of Trade Statistics" which was published by IMF, "World Development Indicators, World Bank and the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Ministry of Commerce (DGCI&S), India", has been examined to evaluate total trade of India with its neighboring member nations in the SAARC region. The empirical evidence shows that this has led to an increased trade openness of these countries. Surprisingly, though the trade between India-SAARC has not grown substantially, there has been a change in the significance of India's trading partners over time.

3. Objectives of the Study

To analyze the comparative analysis of trade performance among saarc countries with agricultural products.

4. Research Methodology

This study is descriptive and analytical study in nature. In their all the data are collected from secondary sources. The secondary sources were collected from book, journals, published and unpublished articles, various websites.

5. Analysis and Interpretation

Table – 1: Quantity based Comparative Analysis of India's Export w.r.t. SAARC Countries

Correlations								
		Afghanistan-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Bangladesh-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Bhutan-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Maldives-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Nepal-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pakistan-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Sri Lanka-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]

Afghanistan-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	1	0.271	-0.514	-.692*	-0.595	0.278	-0.337
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.45	0.129	0.026	0.069	0.437	0.341
Bangladesh-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	0.271	1	-0.054	-0.328	0.05	0.553	0.445
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.45		0.882	0.355	0.892	0.097	0.197
Bhutan-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	-0.514	-0.054	1	.658*	.821**	-0.286	0.437
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.129	0.882		0.039	0.004	0.423	0.206
Maldives-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	-.692*	-0.328	.658*	1	.868**	-0.623	0.335
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.026	0.355	0.039		0.001	0.055	0.344
Nepal-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	-0.595	0.05	.821**	.868**	1	-0.508	0.583
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.069	0.892	0.004	0.001		0.134	0.077
Pakistan-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	0.278	0.553	-0.286	-0.623	-0.508	1	-0.118
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.437	0.097	0.423	0.055	0.134		0.746
Sri Lanka-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	-0.337	0.445	0.437	0.335	0.583	-0.118	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.341	0.197	0.206	0.344	0.077	0.746	

Source: (Secondary data)

Table – 1 shows thatestimated significance value for the variables; Afghanistan-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons] and   Maldives-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons] is 0.026 which is less than 0.05, so there is a

significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is -0.692, which indicates there is a strong negative relationship between the considered variables; Afghanistan-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons] and Maldives-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's export to Afghanistan increases, India's export to the Maldives decreases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Bhutan-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons] and Maldives-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons] is 0.039 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.658, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Bhutan-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons] and Maldives-Export-Quantity [Metric Tons]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's export to Bhutan increases, India's export to the Maldives increases considerably.

Table – 2: Quantity based Comparative Analysis of India's Import w.r.t. SAARC Countries

Correlations								
		Afghanistan-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Bangladesh-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Bhutan-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Maldives-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Nepal-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pakistan-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Sri Lanka-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]
Afghanistan-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	1	-0.04	0.353	-0.312	0.311	0.513	.721*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.914	0.318	0.38	0.381	0.129	0.019
Bangladesh-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	-0.04	1	-0.499	0.321	0.618	0.251	-0.046
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.914		0.142	0.365	0.057	0.484	0.899
Bhutan-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	0.353	-0.499	1	-0.343	-0.24	0.571	0.445
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.318	0.142		0.332	0.505	0.085	0.197
Maldives-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	-0.312	0.321	-0.343	1	0.109	-0.119	-0.243
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.38	0.365	0.332		0.764	0.743	0.499
Nepal-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	0.311	0.618	-0.24	0.109	1	0.533	0.439
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.381	0.057	0.505	0.764		0.113	0.204
Pakistan-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Pearson Correlation	0.513	0.251	0.571	-0.119	0.533	1	0.472
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.129	0.484	0.085	0.743	0.113		0.169
Sri Lanka-	Pearson	.721*	-0.046	0.445	-0.243	0.439	0.472	1

Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]	Correlation						
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.019	0.899	0.197	0.499	0.204	0.169

Source: (Secondary data)

Table – 2 reveals that estimated significance value for the variables; Afghanistan-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons] and Sri Lanka-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons] is 0.019 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.721, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Afghanistan-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons] and Sri Lanka-Import-Quantity [Metric Tons]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import to Afghanistan increases, India's export to the Sri Lanka increases considerably.

Table – 3: Price based Comparative Analysis of India's Export w.r.t. SAARC Countries

Correlations								
		Afghanistan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Bangladesh-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Bhutan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Maldives-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Nepal-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pakistan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Sri Lanka-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]
Afghanistan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	1	.713*	0.433	0.415	0.414	0.014	0.413
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.021	0.211	0.233	0.234	0.969	0.235
Bangladesh-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	.713*	1	0.484	0.431	0.447	0.581	.649*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.021		0.157	0.214	0.195	0.078	0.042
Bhutan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	0.433	0.484	1	.949**	.988**	0.193	0.63
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.211	0.157		0.000	0.000	0.593	0.051
Maldives-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	0.415	0.431	.949**	1	.949**	0.151	0.561
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.233	0.214	0.000		0.000	0.677	0.092
Nepal-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	0.414	0.447	.988**	.949**	1	0.107	.653*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.234	0.195	0.000	0.000		0.769	0.041
Pakistan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	0.014	0.581	0.193	0.151	0.107	1	0.284
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.969	0.078	0.593	0.677	0.769		0.426

Sri Lanka-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	0.413	.649*	0.63	0.561	.653*	0.284	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.235	0.042	0.051	0.092	0.041	0.426	

Source: (Secondary data)

Table – 3 make known estimated significance value for the variables; Afghanistan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Bangladesh-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.021 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.713, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Afghanistan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Bangladesh-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's export to Afghanistan increases, India's export to the Bangladesh increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Bangladesh -Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Afghanistan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.021 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.713, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Bangladesh -Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Afghanistan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's export to Bangladesh increases, India's export to the Afghanistan increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Bangladesh -Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Sri Lanka-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.042 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.649, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Bangladesh -Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Sri Lanka -Export-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's export to Bangladesh increases, India's export to the Sri Lanka increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Bhutan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and   Maldives-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.000 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.949, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Bhutan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Maldives-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's export to Bhutan increases, India's export to the Maldives increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Bhutan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Nepal-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.000 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.988, which indicates there is a very strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Bhutan-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Nepal-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's export to Bhutan increases, India's export to Nepal increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Maldives-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Nepal-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.000 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significantrelationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.949, which indicates there is a very strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Maldives-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Nepal-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's export to the Maldives increases, India's export to Nepal increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Nepal-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Sri Lanka-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.041 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.653, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Nepal-Export-Price [Rs. Crore] and Sri Lanka-Export-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's export to Nepal increases, India's export to Sri Lanka increases considerably.

Table – 4: Price based Comparative Analysis of India's Import w.r.t. SAARC Countries

Correlations								
		Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Bangladesh-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Bhutan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Maldives-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Nepal-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Sri Lanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]
Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	1	0.188	.906**	-0.372	0.402	.848**	.800**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.603	0.000	0.29	0.25	0.002	0.005
Bangladesh-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	0.188	1	-0.04	-0.007	0.577	0.423	0.387
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.603		0.913	0.984	0.081	0.223	0.269
Bhutan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	.906**	-0.04	1	-0.438	0.468	.794**	.763*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	0.913		0.206	0.173	0.006	0.01
Maldives-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	-0.372	-0.007	-0.438	1	-0.197	-0.206	-0.29
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.29	0.984	0.206		0.586	0.568	0.416
Nepal-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	0.402	0.577	0.468	-0.197	1	.664*	.724*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.25	0.081	0.173	0.586		0.036	0.018
Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	.848**	0.423	.794**	-0.206	.664*	1	.709*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.002	0.223	0.006	0.568	0.036		0.022
Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]	Pearson Correlation	.800**	0.387	.763*	-0.29	.724*	.709*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.005	0.269	0.01	0.416	0.018	0.022	

Source: (Secondary data)

Table – 4 shows that estimated significance value for the variables; Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Bhutan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.000 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.906, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Bhutan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when

India's Import from the Afghanistan increases, India's Import from the Bhutan increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.002 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.848, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from the Afghanistan increases, India's Import from the Pakistan increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.005 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.800, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from the Afghanistan increases, India's Import from the Srilanka increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Bhutan -Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.000 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.906, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Bhutan -Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from Bhutan increases, India's Import from the Bhutan increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Bhutan -Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Pakistan -Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.006 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.794, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Bhutan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Pakistan -Export-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from Bhutan increases, India's Import from the Pakistan increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Bhutan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.001 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.763, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Bhutan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import to Bhutan increases, India's Import from the Srilanka increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Nepal-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.036 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.664, which indicates there is a very strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Nepal-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Nepal-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from Nepal increases, India's Import from Pakistan increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Nepal-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.018 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.724, which indicates there is a very strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Nepal-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import to the Nepal increases, India's Import from Srilanka increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.002 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.848, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Afghanistan -Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from Pakistan increases, India's Import from Afghanistan increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Bhutan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.006 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship

between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.763, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Bhutan -Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from Pakistan increases, India's Import from Bhutan increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Nepal-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.036 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.664, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Nepal-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from Pakistan increases, India's Import from Nepal increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.022 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.709, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from Pakistan increases, India's Import from Srilanka increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Afghanistan -Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.005 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.800, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Afghanistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from Srilanka increases, India's Import from Afghanistan increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Bhutan -Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.01 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.763, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Bhutan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from Srilanka increases, India's Import from Bhutan increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Nepal -Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.018 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.724, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Nepal-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from Srilanka increases, India's Import from Nepal increases considerably.

The estimated significance value for the variables; Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] is 0.022 which is less than 0.05, so there is a significant relationship between the variables. The calculated correlation [R] value is 0.709, which indicates there is a strong positive relationship between the considered variables; Srilanka-Import-Price [Rs. Crore] and Pakistan-Import-Price [Rs. Crore]. Hence, we can perceive that, when India's Import from Srilanka increases, India's Import from Pakistan increases considerably.

6. Conclusion

The proportion of trade in SAARC region increased markedly from 15.1 per cent during the 2013 to 21.8 per cent in 2023.The comparative analysis among the seven SAARC countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka is done. There are different agricultural products export from and imported to India among SAARC countries. The highest exports of price based agricultural products are comparatively 0.042 in SAARC countries. India is the largest exporter of Wheat, Non- Basmati Rice, Fresh Onions, and Pulses. The total agricultural products imports were Other Fresh Fruits, Miscellaneous Preparations and Processed Fruits, Juices and Nuts. For the last few years, India has been consistently lagging in exports of agricultural products.

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