

Cumin Price Forecast at Harvest- 2022

India is the largest producer and consumer of cumin. It contributes around 70% in total world production. India has benefit of supply gap in international market, as harvesting time in rest of the major producing countries like Syria, Iran, Turkey, China and Latin America is June-July, while it is March-April in India.

During 2020-21, cumin cultivation in India was 12.41 lakh ha and production was 8.57 lakh tons, while the same was 12.76 lakh ha and 9.12 lakh tons during 2019-20.

India is the largest exporter of cumin in the international market accounting for 81% of the total world export. Cumin export from India has increased from 2.14 lakh tons in 2019-20 to 2.99 lakh tons in 2020-21. China is the major importer of the Indian cumin. Demand of cumin in the global market particularly in china has picked up after easing the issues with china regarding pesticide residue. This may also lead to increase in cumin prices during 2022.

Gujarat and Rajasthan are major cumin growing states in India and contribution of Gujarat is around 50% in total production of the country. During 2021-22 in Gujarat, the estimated area under cumin is reported about 2.89 lakh ha, while it was 4.74 lakh ha last year (2020-21). Production was estimated to be 2.37 lakh tons in year 2021-22 as against 3.99 lakh tons in 2020-21.

During 2021-22, there is 39% decrease in sowing area of cumin in Gujarat as compared to the last year. This is because, cumin prices remained stable throughout 2021 as well as large number of farmers have shifted to mustard crop during this *rabi* season, as mustard oil prices touched record high.

Cumin price which was around Rs 2882 per 20 kg in March 2019 in Gujarat, decreased to Rs 2568 in March 2020 and further decreased to Rs 2452 in March 2021. This could be attributed to negative impact of COVID-19. During January- February 2022, cumin prices were observed between Rs. 3000-3300 per 20 kg due to high demand and low supply. Hence, lower acreage leading lower production seems to keep the prices of cumin high in short to medium term.

Considering available information and traders view, the research team of NAHEP-CAAST, IABMI, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, analyzed the monthly price data of 17 years of cumin collected from Unjha market of Gujarat. The econometric analysis revealed that the **prices of cumin during March-April 2022 may remain in the range of Rs 3120 to 3600 per 20 kg (Rs 15600 to 18000 per quintal)**. Hence, farmers can take their own decision accordingly to sell or store cumin for better prices.

Note: There may be deviation of the actual prices from the predicted prices due to new developments in the commodity markets such as change in international prices, export or import restrictions, etc. And these price forecasts are based on past market price data & different econometric models and that actual market price may not remain to be the same as forecasted.