

Store cumin and sell after April, 2020

Cumin is mainly cultivated in India, Syria, Iran, Turkey, China and Latin America. In all these countries, India is the largest producer and consumer of cumin. India has also benefit of supply gap in international market, as harvesting time in rest of the producers is June- July while it is February-March in India.

During 2018-19 in India, cumin occupied about 10.28 lakh ha area and production was estimated about 6.07 lakh tonnes against 6.9 lakh tonnes in 2017-18. Export has increased from 1.44 lakh tonnes in 2017-18 to 1.80 lakh tonnes in 2018-19. Hence, cumin price which was prevailing around Rs. 2526 per 20 kg in March, 2017 in Gujarat, increased to about Rs. 2837 per 20 kg in March, 2018 and further increased to about Rs. 3494 per 20 kg in November, 2019 as both export and domestic demand improved considerably. About 1.20 lakh tonnes of cumin was exported from April to September, 2019.

In current year of 2019-20, in Gujarat, the area under cumin is reported about 4.74 lakh ha (Second Advance Estimate, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat) as against 3.50 lakh ha as in last year 2018-19 (Revised Final Advance Estimate, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat). Production is estimated higher about 3.12 lakh tonnes as against 2.00 lakh tonnes in 2018-19. In 2019-20, Rajasthan has come up with some new area under cumin, however in Gujarat, it reported lower due to unavailability of water. Currently, conditions are good of standing crop in major growing regions due to extended winter. Hence, cumin production in current year in the country is expected higher as compared to the last year and due to COVID-19 conditions as well as lower cultivation of cumin seeds in Turkey and Syria, demand of Indian cumin in international market will open soon. Hence, prices are likely to remain firm in this season. Currently, cumin price is ruling around Rs. 2568 per 20 kg likely to decline during April-May and then may improve marginally after June-July, 2020.

Considering these all and reviewing the traders' reports, the research team of NAHEP-CAAST, IABMI, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, analyzed the historical monthly price data of cumin collected from Unjha APMC. The econometric analysis revealed that the **prices of cumin during April-May, 2020 i.e. at harvest may remain in the range of Rs. 2300 to 2700 per 20 kg (11500 - 13500 Rs/qtl)**. However, due to COVID-19 lockdown in the country, there is price uncertainty. Hence, farmers are suggested to take their own decision to store cumin and sell after April, 2020. Since, there is chance that if export goes up, the cumin price may go up in future.