

Cumin Price forecasting for 2020-2021

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 contributed around 70% in world production. India has also benefit of supply gap in international market, as harvesting time in rest of the producers is June- July while it is March-April in India.

During 2019-20 in India, cumin occupied about 8.42 lakh ha area and production was estimated about 5.47 lakh tonnes against 6.99 lakh tonnes with estimated area 10.27 lakh ha in 2018-19. Export has increased from 1.80 lakh tonnes in 2018-19 to 2.10 lakh tonnes in 2019-20. Hence, cumin price which was prevailing around Rs. 2692 per 20 kg in March, 2018 in Gujarat, increased to about Rs. 2882 per 20 kg in March, 2019 and further decreased to about Rs. 2568 per 20 kg in March, 2020, in December Rs.2386 and in January-2021, price was prevailing around Rs. 2312 which was lower than previous year prices, this because of export and domestic market both are suffers from corona pandemic and due to lower price realization farmers stock up their produces and sell stoked cumin in this year.

Gujarat and Rajasthan are major cumin growing states in India while Gujarat contributes around 61% in production. In year of 2020-21, in Gujarat, the estimated area under cumin is reported about 4.64 lakh ha (Second Advance Estimate, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat, 2020-21) as against 4.82 lakh ha as in last year 2019-20 (Final Advance Estimate, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat, 2019-20). Production is estimated about 3.74 lakh tonnes in year of 2020-21 against 3.75 lakh tonnes in 2019-20. Due to lower price realization there is reduction in area and but favorable climate results in same level of production of cumin this year, but carryover stocks of cumin are higher and will come in market during March-April 2021 along with freshly cultivated cumin. So, prices will lower down than expected.

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 major cumin markets of Gujarat state. The econometric analysis revealed that the **prices of cumin during March-April 2021 i.e. at harvest may remain in the range of Rs. 2200-2550/ 20kg. (Rs. 11000 to Rs. 12750 per quintal).**

Since there is chance that if export of cumin increases, the cumin price may go up in future.