

Tur price to remain firm

India is the largest producer and consumer of tur contributing about 70 per cent in the world production. From last two years due to poor monsoon the tur production in the country was estimated to decline about 26 lakh tonnes in 2015-16 (Third Advance Estimates dt. 9-5-2016), as against 28.1 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 and 31.74 lakh tonnes in 2013-14. The production of total pulses in India was estimated to be 170.6 lakh tonnes in 2015-16, which was about 192.5 lakh tonnes in two years back. This led to sharp increase in tur prices from Rs. 800 per 20 kg in March, 2014 to Rs. 1100 per 20 kg in March, 2015 and further to Rs. 1600 per 20 kg in May, 2016 in various markets in Gujarat. Hence, 5.75 and 4.63 lakh tonnes tur was imported in 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively. The total pulses import increased from 36.55 lakh tonnes in 2013-14 to 45.85 in 2014-15 and further to 57.90 lakh tonnes in 2015-16.

In Gujarat, tur is mainly grown in South Gujarat region, occupied an area of about 2.28 lakh ha and production might be about 2.38 lakh tonnes in 2015-16 as against 2.14 lakh ha areas and 2.35 lakh tonnes production in previous year.

For the *kharif* season of 2016-17, the Government has increased MSP of tur to Rs. 1010 per 20 kg (*i.e.* Rs. 5050 per quintal) which is Rs. 85 more than the last year, to give strong price signal to farmers to increase acreage. Food Corporation of India (FCI) will be the designated central nodal agency for price support operations for cereals, pulses and oilseeds. Besides, this year the possibility of normal to good monsoon and higher price in current month may induce the farmers to increase tur acreage in the country including Gujarat.

Taking all these in view, the research team of Department of Agricultural Economics, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, analysed the historical monthly price data of tur collected from Dahod Regulated Market. The econometric analysis of tur prices revealed that the **prices of tur during February - March, 2017 (*i.e.*, at harvesting) may remain in the range of Rs. 1100 to 1200 per 20 Kg (5500 – 6000 Rs/qlt).** Hence, farmers are suggested to take their own decision keeping above price level in view and decide the area under tur as per their convenience.

The farmers may also adopt relay cropping of tur in groundnut (groundnut - pigeonpea relay cropping in 2:1 row ratio) for risk minimization and to increase revenue.