

Store cumin and sell after April, 2017

India is the largest producer and consumer of cumin. Besides India, it is cultivated in Syria, Iran, Turkey, China and Latin America. Cumin harvest at other origins carried out by June-July month and in February-March in India. This gap in supply has kept the Indian cumin at an advantageous position in the international market.

In India, during 2015-16 cumin occupied about 7 lakh ha area and production was estimated about 3.74 lakh tonnes as against 3.18 lakh tonnes in 2014-15. Besides, export has decreased from 1.55 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 0.99 lakh tonnes in 2015-16. Hence, cumin price which was ruling around Rs. 2650 per 20 kg in March, 2015 in Gujarat, increased marginally to about Rs. 2750 per 20 kg in March, 2016 and further increased to about Rs. 3400 per 20 kg in August, 2016 as both export and domestic demand improved considerably. About 68600 tonnes of cumin was exported from April to September, 2016.

In current year of 2016-17 in Gujarat, the area under cumin is reported about 2.79 lakh ha (Second Advanced Estimate dt. 18-1-2016, Gujarat) as against 2.86 lakh ha as in last year. Its production is estimated slight lower about 2.12 lakh tonnes as against 2.38 lakh tonnes in 2015-16. In Rajasthan cumin acreage may be same as last year. Hence, cumin production in current year in the country is expected same as last year and is just sufficient to meet domestic and current export demand. Last year's ending stock is lower; hence cumin price is likely to remain firm in ensuing season too. Currently cumin price is ruling around Rs. 3000 per 20 kg likely to remain stable during March-April and then may improve marginally after April, 2017.

Considering these all and reviewing the traders' reports, the research team of Department of Agricultural Economics, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, analysed the historical monthly price data of cumin collected from Gondal APMC. The econometric analysis revealed that the **prices of cumin during March to April, 2017 i. e. at harvest may remain in the range of Rs. 3000 to 3300 per 20 kg (15000 - 16500 Rs/qtl)**. Hence, farmers are suggested to take their own decision to store cumin and sell after April, 2017.

Since, there is some chance that if export remains firm, the cumin price may slightly go up in future.