

Cumin price to remain firm, store and sell after April, 2021

India is the largest producer and consumer of cumin seed in the world. In India, Gujarat and Rajasthan are the leading states contributing more than 98 per cent in cumin acreage and production. It has significant demand as a spice, all over the globe, especially in the places where spicy food is preferred. Besides India, it is cultivated in Syria, Iran, Turkey, China and Latin America; but its production come late by June-July.

Last year in India, during 2019-20 cumin occupied about 9.85 lakh ha area and production was estimated about 5.88 lakh tonnes, same as previous year. The export has increased from 1.80 lakh tonnes in 2018-19 to 2.10 lakh tonnes in 2019-20. Besides, from April to December, 2020 about 2.29 lakh tonnes cumin has been exported. However, cumin price, which was ruling around Rs. 2800 per 20 kg in March, 2019 in Gujarat, decreased to about Rs. 2400 per 20 kg in March, 2020 due to lock down. Currently, in February, 2021 cumin price is also ruling around Rs. 2400 per 20 kg in various markets of Gujarat.

In current year of 2020-21 in Gujarat, the area under cumin is reported slight less about 4.64 lakh ha (2nd Advanced Estimate dt. 8-1-2021, Gujarat) as against 4.82 lakh ha as in last year. Its production is estimated about 3.74 lakh tonnes, same as last year in 2019-20. In Rajasthan cumin acreage may be slighter lower than the last year (around 5 lakh ha). Hence, cumin production in current year in the country is expected same as last year about 6 lakh tonnes, which is nearly equal to meet current domestic consumption and export demand. Last year's ending stock may be meagre; hence cumin price is likely to remain stable in current year or may slightly go up after harvesting season is completed, if export increase.

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 Rajkot APMC. The econometric analysis revealed that the **prices of cumin during March to April, 2021 (at harvesting) may remain in the range of Rs. 2340 to 2640 per 20 kg (11700 - 13200 Rs/qtl)**. Hence, farmers are suggested to take note of the above situation and take their own decision to store cumin and sell after April, 2021. If export opportunities continue to remain better, there is some chance that, cumin price may slightly go up in future.