

Sell tur upon harvest: price to remain slight below MSP

In India arhar is mainly grown in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. Though, India is the largest producer of tur in the world, but its domestic consumption demand is quite high, needs to import every year. As like last year, In current year of 2021-22 the *rabi* crops prospects are very good, but due to unseasonal rainfall in October-November, 2021 there were large crop damage *kharif* crops, particularly to tur in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and South Indian states.

The tur production in India was increased to 42.80 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 as against 38.92 lakh tonnes in 2019-20. Also the total pulses production increased from 230.25 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 to 257.20 lakh tonnes in 2020-21. However, tur price which was ruling around Rs. 1120 per 20 kg in January, 2021 in various markets of Gujarat increased to Rs. 1200 in March, 2021 and remained at this level still January, 2022, and likely to remain stable at this level at harvest with slight ups and downs. Government of India has fixed the Minimum Support Price of (MSP) of tur for the *kharif* season of 2021-22 to Rs. 1260 per 20 kg (Rs. 6300 per quintal) as against Rs. 1200 in last year. In 2020-21 a total of 10900 tonnes of tur was procured by NAFED in country including 555 tonnes from Gujarat.

At country level in the current year of 2021-22 tur occupied about 50 lakh ha (as against 48 lakh ha in 2020-21) and production may be about 44 lakh tonnes, which is about 1.2 lakh tonnes higher than the last year. The total pulses production may be slight higher than the last year (257 lakh tonnes). The import of arhar in India was 4.43 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 and total pulses 25.05 lakh tonnes. In current year from April to November, 2021 about 4.78 lakh tonnes tur and about 18.59 lakh tonnes total pulses has been imported.

In Gujarat, in current year, the tur acreage is estimated same as last year about 2.42 lakh ha and production about 2.77 lakh tonnes (Second Advance Estimate dt. 10-1-2022), which is also almost same as last year, as the crop condition remained good.

Taking into consideration the production and market reports, 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 with the aim to provide reliable market intelligence to farmers in taking their appropriate selling decision. The econometric analysis revealed that **the prices of tur during February - March, 2022 (i.e. during harvesting) may remain in the range of Rs. 1160 to 1260 per 20 Kg (Rs. 5800 - 6300 per quintal)**. Hence, farmers are suggested to take note of the above situation and take their own decision to sell tur upon harvest (at MSP centres in APMCs), without going for storage.

As in current year, domestic production of pulses including tur would be higher than the last year and also the Government has allowed more import to curb inflation, which left little chance for price to go up in near future. However, MSP will provide good support to market.