

Tur price to remain firm, slight above MSP

Tur is the second largest pulse crop in India accounting for about 18 per cent of total pulse production. It is mainly grown in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. However, India is the largest producer of tur in the world, but its domestic consumption demand is quite high, needs to import every year.

At country level in the current year of 2022-23 tur occupied about 46 lakh ha area as against 48 lakh ha in 2021-22 and production may be about 39 lakh tonnes, *i.e.* about 4 lakh tonnes less than the last year. The total pulses production may be slight less than the last year (277 lakh tonnes).

In Gujarat, in current year, the tur acreage is estimated 2.47 lakh ha as against 2.51 lakh ha in last year and production about 2.91 lakh tonnes (Second Advance Estimate dt. 7-1-2023), same as last year, as the crop condition remained good.

The tur price which was ruling around Rs. 1150 per 20 kg in February, 2022 in various markets of Gujarat remained at same level with slight ups and downs still June, 2022. Then started increase in current year of 2022-23, owing to lower production estimates compared to the last year, propelled by the erratic rainfall distribution in the key producing states like Maharashtra and Karnataka, and lower crop area this year as farmers shifted to competitive crops. Currently, in January, 2023 the tur price is ruling about Rs. 1340 per 20 kg in various markets of Gujarat is expected to remain firm at this level with slight ups and downs. Government of India has fixed the Minimum Support Price of (MSP) of tur for the *khari* season of 2022-23 to Rs. 1320 per 20 kg (Rs. 6600 per quintal) as against Rs. 1260 in last year.

The import of tur in India was 8.40 lakh tonnes in 2021-22 and total pulses 25.20 lakh tonnes. In current year from April to November, 2022 about 4.33 lakh tonnes tur and about 13 lakh tonnes total pulses has been imported.

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, 2023 (*i.e.* during harvesting) may remain in the range of Rs. 1300 to 1400 per 20 Kg (Rs. 6500 - 7000 per quintal).** Hence, farmers are suggested to take note of the above situation and take their own decision to store tur and sell after March, 2023. Those farmers who are not afforded to store tur, may sell at MSP, in APMC's centers for the same, if fall below MSP.

If Government policy of restricted quota of pulses import will be continued, there is some chance that tur prices may go up above MSP after the harvesting season is over.