

Cumin price to remain firm at harvest in 2016-17

India is the largest producer and consumer of cumin seed in the world and Gujarat is the leading state contributing more than 60 per cent in cumin production followed by Rajasthan. India was the primary exporter of cumin seeds and cumin oil in the world since few years, but comparatively new entrants in the market like Turkey and Iran are now providing stiff competition to India.

In Gujarat, during 2015-16, cumin area was increased to 2.86 lakh ha as against 2.54 lakh ha in 2014-15 due to sufficient rainfall in North Gujarat. The production also increased to about 2.38 lakh tonnes as against 1.97 lakh tonnes in previous year. But due to shortage of irrigation water and unfavorable weather in some parts of Rajasthan its yield remained low. Hence the production of cumin in India increased marginally from 3.18 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 3.74 lakh tonnes in 2015-16. This was slight less to meet the domestic consumption and export demand, and previous year's stock was negligible. Hence, Cumin price which was ruling around Rs. 2600 per 20 kg in February, 2016 increased to Rs. 3000 per 20 kg in June, 2016 and further to around Rs. 3400 per 20 kg in August, 2016.

The export of cumin from India was decreased from 1.55 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 0.99 lakh tonnes during 2015-16 due to higher domestic price than world market. The average export price was obtained Rs. 3160 per 20kg. This year having normal monsoon in Gujarat and Rajasthan the area under cumin is expected increase in both the states, but not much higher as competent crops also fetches good prices. Hence, this year also the price is expected to remain Rs. 2850 per 20kg in ensuing harvesting season.

Considering overall prospects of cumin sowing in the state, the research team of Department of Agricultural Economics, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, analysed the historical monthly price data of cumin collected from Unjha APMC. The econometric analysis revealed that the **prices of cumin during February to March, 2017 i. e. at harvest may remain in the range of Rs. 2700 to 3000 per 20 kg (13500 - 15000 Rs/qtl)**. This may be taken note by the farmers to take their own decision to allocate the acreage under cumin, keeping the above price level in view.