

In current year too, groundnut price is likely to remain firm

This year also Gujarat witnessed good monsoon, as in the last three years. The monsoon was set up timely in second week of June, 2022 and groundnut sowing was completed in third week of July, 2022, occupied about 17.09 lakh ha acreage *i.e.* 2 lakh ha less as against 19.27 lakh ha in 2021-22. The distribution of rain also remained almost normal, which brightened the crop prospects. The *kharif* groundnut production in Gujarat is estimated about 39.17 lakh tonnes (First Advanced Estimate dt. 29-8-2022) as against 43.59 lakh tonnes in last year. Moreover, last rain received in third week of September, 2022 will contribute more in yield and production may be same or slight more than the last year.

The groundnut production at country level, is estimated 83.69 lakh tonnes for *kharif* seasons of 2022-23 (First Advanced Estimate dt. 21-9-2022), which is same as last year (83.75 Lt). Including *rabi*, the total production of groundnut in India was recorded about 101 lakh tonnes, from an area of 57 lakh ha in last year (2021-22).

Following good domestic demand, only 5.14 lakh tonnes groundnut was exported during 2021-22 as against 6.39 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 and in current year it may be around 7 lakh tonnes. Hence, groundnut price which was ruling around Rs. 1100 per 20 kg in October-December, 2021 steadily increased to Rs. 1200 in March, 2022, and Rs. 1250 in May and further to Rs. 1300+ in August, 2022. Currently the groundnut price on an average is ruling around Rs. 1150 per 20 kg in various markets of Gujarat, is likely to remain at this level during harvesting season. The Government has fixed the MSP of groundnut at Rs. 1170 per 20 kg (5850 Rs/qtl.) for the year 2022-23 as against 1110 per 20 kg in last year.

The total oilseed production in the country was estimated about 377 lakh tonnes in 2021-22, which was 5 per cent higher than previous year. The current *Kharif* oilseeds production is estimated 236 lakh tonnes, *i.e.* 3 lakh tonnes less than last year (239 Lt). In 2021-22 the import of edible oil in country was around 135 lakh tonnes same as last year. In current year from April to August, 2022 about 54 lakh tonnes edible oil has been imported.

Reviewing the above situation, the research team of Department of Agricultural Economics, JAU, Junagadh has analysed the historical price data of groundnut pods collected from Gondal and Rajkot APMCs. The econometric analysis revealed that, **the prices pf groundnut at harvest may remain in the range of Rs. 1140 to 1240 per 20 kg (5700 - 6200 Rs/qtl) during October to December 2022.** Hence, farmers are suggested to take note of the above situation and take their own decision to store groundnut and sell after December, 2022. Those farmers who are not afforded to store groundnut, may sell at MSP, in APMC's centers for the same.

If Government policy regarding enhancing export and keeping higher import duty on edible oils will continue, there is chance that the price of groundnut may go up in future, as per last year's trend.