

Groundnut price likely to remain firm in current year

In Gujarat during the *kharif* season of 2021-22, the monsoon was arrived timely in third week of June, but it was isolated, hence groundnut sowing was continued still third week of July, 2021, occupied about 19.10 lakh ha acreage as against 21 lakh ha 2020-21. Normal rainfall was received in July, but August remained totally dry, caused considerable damage in some parts. However, good rain received in September, brightened the crop prospects. The *kharif* groundnut production in Gujarat is estimated about 40 lakh tonnes (First Advanced Estimate dt. 7-9-2021) same as last year.

At country level, the groundnut production is estimated 82.54 lakh tonnes for *kharif* seasons of 2021-22 (First Advanced Estimate dt. 21-9-2021), which is about 2 lakh tonnes less than last year (85.56 Lt). Including *rabi*, the total production of groundnut in India was recorded the highest of past, about 102 lakh tonnes, from an area of 60 lakh ha.

About 6.39 lakh tonnes groundnut was exported during 2020-21 as against 6.64 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 and in current year it may be around 7 lakh tonnes. Besides, in 2020-21 there was a record export of groundnut oil about 2.42 lakh tonnes, which never crossed 40 thousand tonnes in past. Hence, groundnut price which was ruling around Rs. 1000 per 20 kg in November- December, 2020 steadily increased to Rs. 1100 in February, 2021, Rs. 1200 in April and further to Rs. 1300+ in August, 2021. Currently the groundnut price is ruling around Rs. 1050 per 20 kg in various markets of Gujarat, is likely to remain at level during harvesting season. The Government has fixed the MSP of groundnut at Rs. 1110 per 20 kg (5550 Rs/qtl.) for the year 2021-22 as against 1055 per 20 kg in last year.

The total oilseed production in the country was estimated about 361 lakh tonnes in 2020-21, which was 9 per cent higher than previous year. The current *Kharif* oilseeds production is estimated 234 lakh tonnes, *i.e.* 6 lakh tonnes less than last year (240 Lt). In 2020-21 the import of edible oil in country was declined to around 134 lakh tonnes as against 147 lakh tonnes in 2019-20.

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. 1050 to 1150 per 20 kg (5250 - 5750 Rs/qtl) during October to December 2021.** Hence, farmers are suggested to take note of the above situation and take their own decision to store groundnut and sell after December, 2021. 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.