

Sell cumin upon harvest

Cumin is grown as *rabi* crop in India, mainly in Gujarat and Rajasthan. India is the largest producer and consumer of cumin. It has significant demand as a spice, all over the globe, especially in the places where spicy food is preferred. Besides India, it is cultivated in Syria, Iran, Turkey, China and Latin America; but its production come late by June-July.

In India, during 2018-19 cumin occupied about 10.28 lakh ha area and production was estimated about 6.08 lakh tonnes same as last year. The export has increased from 1.44 lakh tonnes in 2017-18 to 1.80 lakh tonnes in 2018-19. Besides, from April to December, 2019 about 1.69 lakh tonnes cumin has been exported. Hence, cumin price which was ruling around Rs. 2800 per 20 kg in March, 2018 in Gujarat, increased marginally to about Rs. 3000 per 20 kg in March, 2019 and further increased to about Rs. 3100 per 20 kg in August, 2019 as both export and domestic demand improved considerably.

In current year of 2019-20 in Gujarat, the area under cumin is reported all time high about 4.74 lakh ha (2nd Advanced Estimate dt. 20-1-2020, Gujarat) as against 3.50 lakh ha as in last year. Its production is estimated quite higher about 3.12 lakh tonnes as against 2.06 lakh tonnes in 2018-19. In Rajasthan cumin acreage may be higher than the last year. Hence, cumin production in current year in the country is expected considerably higher above 6.5 lakh tonnes which is more than sufficient to meet current domestic consumption and export demand. Last year's ending stock may be more; hence cumin price is likely to remain lower side in current year. Currently cumin price is ruling around Rs. 2400 per 20 kg in various markets of Gujarat.

Considering these all and reviewing the traders' reports, the research team of Department of Agricultural Economics, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, analysed the historical monthly price data of cumin collected from Rajkot APMC. The econometric analysis revealed that the **prices of cumin during March to April, 2020 (at harvesting) may remain in the range of Rs. 2250 to 2500 per 20 kg (11250 - 12500 Rs/qtl)**. Hence, farmers are suggested to take their own decision to sell cumin upon harvest, without going for storage, keeping above situation in view.

Now a days due to Corona virus problem, may results in large scale international trade decline, which can cause more reduction in cumin price. In that situation, farmers may store cumin for few months, still revival of the market.

