

Tur price to remain below MSP at harvest, store and sell after April, 2020

Tur is the largest pulse grown in the *kharif* season in India, mainly in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. India became self-sufficient in pulses production in 2017-18. Current year in 2019-20 the *rabi* crops prospects are very good, but due to water stagnation in monsoon and following unseasonal rainfall in October and November, 2019 there were massive crop damage, particularly to black gram and tur.

Last year in India the tur production was decreased to 33.2 lakh tonnes as against 42.9 lakh tonnes in 2017-18. Also the total pulses production decreased from 254.2 lakh tonnes in 2017-18 to 220.8 lakh tonnes in 2018-19. Hence, tur price which was ruling around Rs. 800 per 20 kg in March, 2018 in various markets of Gujarat jumped to Rs. 1060 in May, 2019 and prevail at this high level till November, 2019. Currently it is ruling around Rs. 1000 per 20 kg and likely to remain stable at this level at harvest, with slight ups and downs.

In the current year of 2019-20 tur occupied about 45.82 lakh ha in the country and production is estimated 36.9 lakh tonnes, which is 3.7 lakh tonnes higher than the last year, but about 6 lakh tonnes less than the 2017-18. The total pulses production is estimate about 230.2 lakh tonnes (2nd AE, dt. 18-2-2020) which is quite less than our total consumption requirement of around 240 lakh tonnes. The import of arhar in India was 5.31 lakh tonnes in 2018-19 and total pulses 25.28 lakh tonnes. In current year from April to December, 2019 about 3.62 lakh tonnes tur and about 22.84 lakh tonnes total pulses has been imported. The last year's carryover stock of total pulses is reported around 7 lakh tonnes.

In Gujarat, in current year, the tur acreage is estimated low about 2.16 lakh ha as against 2.54 lakh ha in 2018-19, however, the production is estimated about 2.86 lakh tonnes is slight lower than the last year (3.07 lakh tonnes).

Government of India has fixed the Minimum Support Price of (MSP) of tur for the *kharif* season of 2019-20 to Rs. 1160 per 20 kg (Rs. 5800 per quintal) as against Rs. 1135 in last year.

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 March - April, 2020 (i.e. during harvesting) may remain in the range of Rs. 960 to 1060 per 20 Kg (Rs. 4800 - 5300 per quintal)**. Hence, farmers are suggested to sell tur upon harvest at MSP centres in APMCs only; or they may store it till May, 2020 taking their own decision.

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