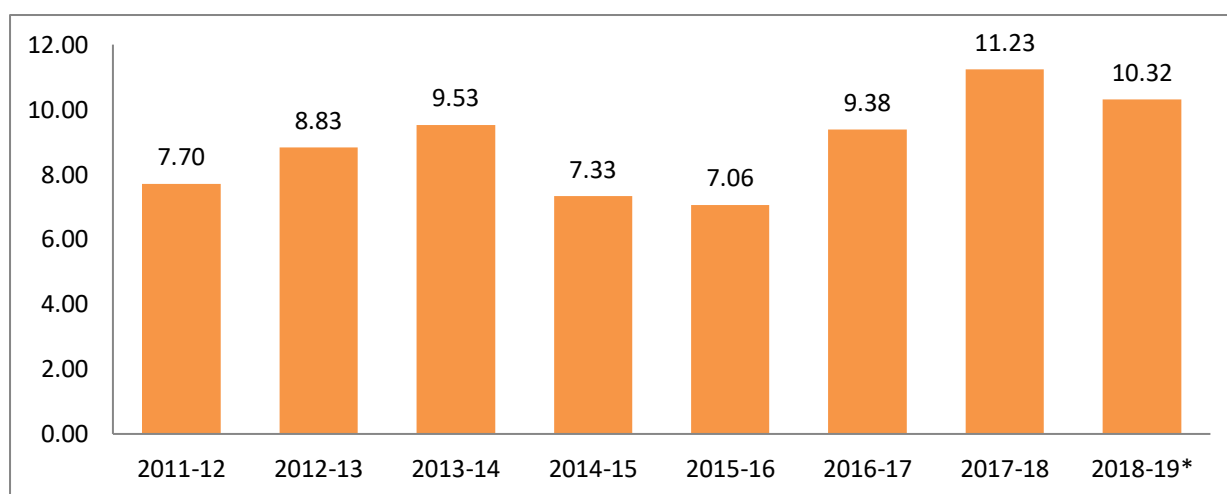


Bengalgram Outlook – March 2019

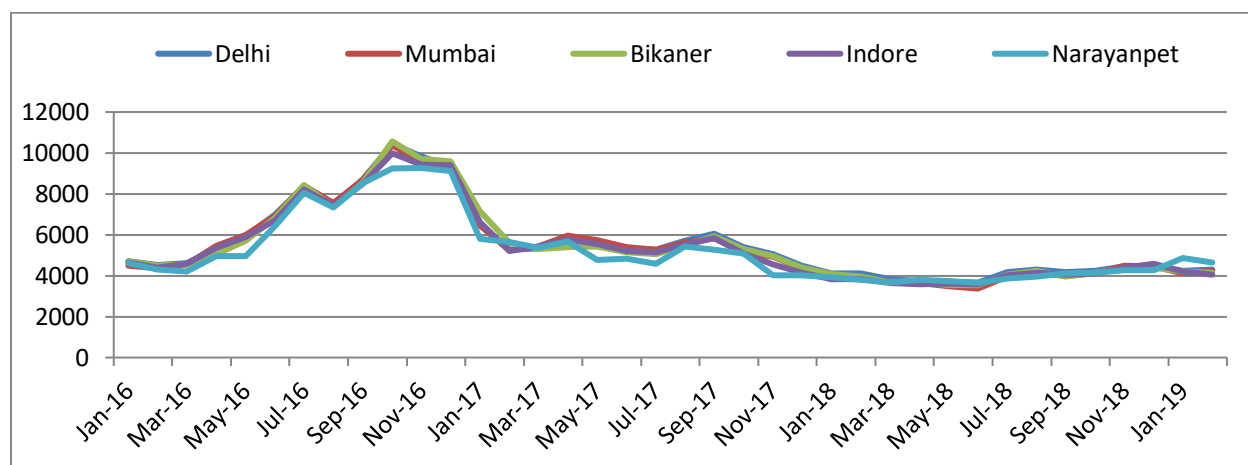
India is the largest producer of bengalgram followed by Pakistan, Turkey and Iran. India produces around 10 to 11 million tonnes and contributes around 70 percent of the total world production. Bengalgram is the most largely produced pulse crop in India accounting for a share of 40% of the total pulse production. India imports around 8-9 lakh tonnes of bengalgram annually from Canada, Australia, Iran, and Myanmar.

In India about 95.59 lakh ha area coverage was reported under bengalgram during rabi 2018-19. The states of Madhya Pradesh (34.32 lakh ha), Maharashtra (15.02 lakh ha), Rajasthan (13.14 lakh ha), Karnataka (12.38 lakh ha), Uttar Pradesh (5.83 lakh ha) and Andhra Pradesh (4.70 lakh ha) are the major producers of bengalgram in India. According to Government 2nd advance estimate, bengalgram production in 2018-19 is at 10.32 million tonnes.



Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), *2nd Advance Estimates

Figure 1: Production of Bengalgram in India (in million tonnes)



Source: www.agriwatch.com, agrimarketing.telangana.gov.in

Figure 2: Average monthly prices of Bengalgram in major markets of India (Rs/q)

All major markets of Bengalgram in the country were found to be integrated as indicated by the price movement in Figure 2. The prices which were about Rs. 5000 per quintal during April 2016 have risen to more than Rs. 9000 per quintal in October 2016 and then started declining. Currently, Bengalgram is being traded in all major markets of country at around Rs. 4200 - 4700 per quintal.

In Telangana state, rabi 2018-19 acreage covered under Bengalgram was about 1.06 lakh ha. The major districts producing this crop in Telangana are Adilabad (21,366 ha), Gadwal (17,452 ha), Nirmal (15,936 ha), Kama Reddy (14,782 ha) and Nizamabad (9,137 ha). The major markets for this crop in Telangana are Narayanpet, Adilabad, Kuber, Bainsa, Nizamabad, Sadasivpet, Zaheerabad, Parigi and Tandur.

Despite lower crop size of Bengalgram this year, pressure is likely to continue on cash market as new arrival from major growing regions like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is likely to increase from 15 March 2019. As per trader's estimate, crop size is expected to be around 85 to 88 lakh tonnes as against Government 2nd advance estimate of over 100 lakh tonnes this year. Besides NAFED has around 18 lakh tonnes stock in its custody. So, availability of Bengalgram would be higher against consumption of 90 to 92 lakh tonnes. NAFED continues to sell Bengalgram, while bulk buyers have restricted buying ahead of new arrival. Demand is weak. If NAFED stops selling and procurement starts in major states, prices may recover to a certain extent. However, any big spike in Bengalgram market is unlikely.

Table 1: Prices and arrivals of bengalgram in Narayanpet market during February 2019

Date	Arrival (Quintals)	Minimum price (Rs/quintal)	Maximum price (Rs/quintal)	Modal price (Rs/quintal)
1	7	5085	5135	5135
2	41	4750	5120	5120
5	3	5433	5433	5433
6	53	5120	5120	5120
7	60	4553	5060	5030
8	33	4700	5030	5030
12	22	4359	4762	4509
13	12	4780	4780	4780
14	44	4662	4790	4790
16	32	3331	4635	4350
19	3	4351	4511	4351
22	3.5	4000	4500	4500
25	1	4000	4000	4000
26	6	4221	4221	4221
27	2	4520	4520	4520

Source: <http://tsmarketing.in>

Under these circumstances, Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre, PJTSAU expect that Bengalgram is likely to trade in price range between Rs. 4200 - 4400 per quintal in the month of March 2019.