

KHARIF 2019-20 PRE-HARVEST PRICE FORECAST OF BAJRA

Bajra Price per Quintal will be around Rs. 1500-1700 at the Time of Harvesting (September to October 2019)

Bajra is one of the most extensively cultivated cereals in the world, after rice, wheat, and sorghum, and particularly in arid to semi-arid regions. Pearl millet is a principal food cereal cultivated in drought prone semi-arid regions of Africa and Indian sub-continent. In USA, Australia, Southern Africa, and South America, pearl millet is grown most extensively as a forage crop for animal feed. This crop has a wide adaptability to local environments. Bajra is a hardy crop and can grow in areas very hot and dry and on soils too poor for sorghum. Bajra is considered more efficient in utilization of soil moisture and has a higher level of heat tolerance than even sorghum and maize.

In India, during 2019-20 about 60.45 lakh ha area was covered under bajra. The states of Rajasthan (37.10 lakh ha), Uttar Pradesh (7.43 lakh ha), Maharashtra (5.49 lakh ha), Haryana (3.81 lakh ha), Madhya Pradesh (2.91 lakh ha), Gujarat (1.64 lakh ha) and Karnataka (1.57 lakh ha) are the major producers of bajra in India. According to the 3rd advance estimates for 2018-19 bajra production estimate was 8.51 million tonnes as against 9.08 million tonnes in 2017-18.

The area covered under bajra in Telangana during 2019-20 was 452 ha. The major districts producing this crop include Gadwal (150ha), Nagarkurnool (68 ha), Adilabad (59 ha), Sangareddy (56 ha) and Rangareddy (49 ha).

The Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre established under a research project for development of price forecasting mechanism in the Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad at Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University with the financial support of Agricultural Marketing Department, Telangana State has assessed 2019-20 kharif pre-harvest price forecast of bajra. Under uneven rainfall and less crop area coverage, it is estimated that the bajra price per quintal will be around **Rs. 1500-1700** at the time of harvesting (Sep to Oct 2019). This price forecast is based on the monthly modal price of bajra obtained for 17 years from Nizamabad regulated market using econometric models like ARIMA, ARIMAX, SARIMA, ARCH, GARCH and also the market survey.

Note: There may be any possible deviation of the actual prices from the predicted prices in light of tentative developments in the commodity markets such as change in international prices, export or import restrictions, etc. And these price forecasts are based on past market price data & different econometric models and that actual market price may not turn out to be the same as forecasted.