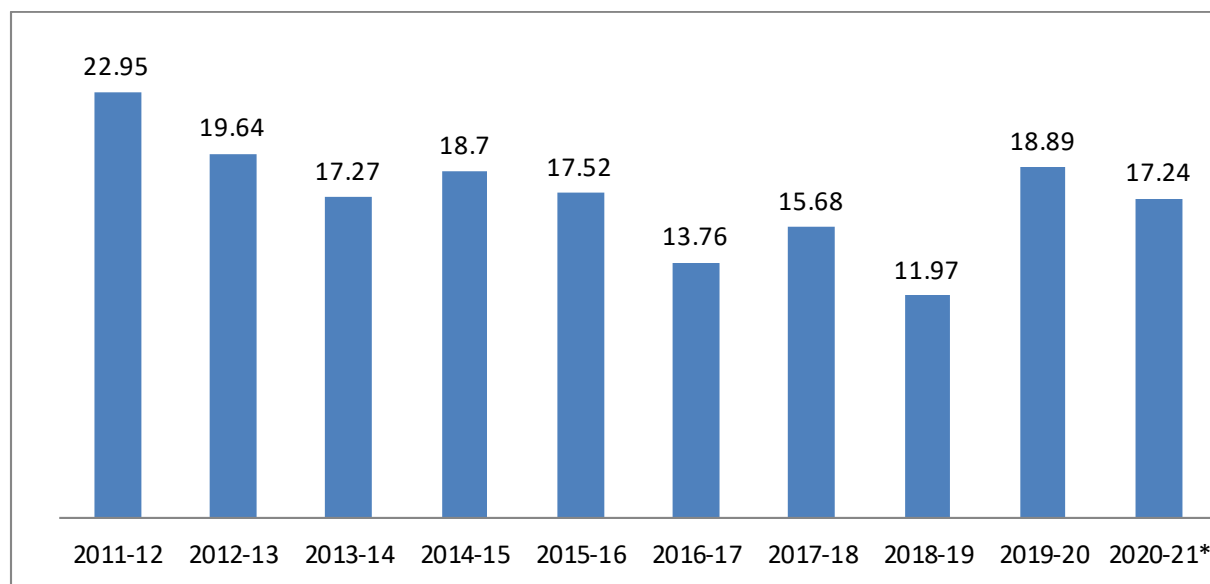


Castor Outlook – October 2020

Castor is one of the oldest cultivated crops; however, it contributes to only 0.15% of the vegetable oil produced in the world. The oil produced from this crop is considered to be of importance to the global specialty chemical industry because it is the only commercial source of a hydroxylate fatty acid. Castor plant is grown in arid and semi-arid regions. In 2018-19, World major producing countries are India (11.97 lakh tonnes), Mozambique (0.85 lakh tonnes), China (0.27 lakh tonnes), Brazil (0.14 lakh tonnes) and Myanmar (0.12 lakh tonnes).

Area under castor reported during 2020-21 was 7.743 lakh ha (19.133 lakh acres) as against 9.101 lakh ha (22.489 lakh acres) during the same period in 2019-20. Among states, Gujarat is leading with 5.799 lakh ha (14.330 lakh acres) under castor followed by Rajasthan 1.390 lakh ha (3.435 lakh acres), Andhra Pradesh 0.180 lakh ha (0.445 lakh acres) and Telangana 0.093 lakh ha (0.231 lakh acres). According to Government 1st advance estimates, all India castor production in 2020-21 is at 17.24 lakh tonnes.



Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES). * 1st Advance estimates

Figure 1: Production of Castor in India (in lakh tonnes)

Table 1: Castor Domestic Supply & Demand (in lakh tonnes)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Carry in	4.29	6.72	4.69
Production	15.68	11.97	18.49
Imports	0	0	0
Total Availability	19.97	18.69	23.18
Consumption (crushing)	13.25	14	14.5
Exports	0	0	0
Total Usage	13.25	14	14.5
Carry out	6.72	4.69	8.68

Source: www.agriwatch.com

In Telangana state, Wanaparthy 2,732 ha (6,750 acres), Mahabubnagar 2,358 ha (5,826 acres), Narayanpet 1,677 ha (4,143 acres), Gadwal 1,067 ha (2,637 acres) and Nagarkurnool 686 ha (1,694 acres) are major castor growing districts. According to Telangana State Government 1st advance estimates, castor production in 2020-21 is at 0.13 lakh tonnes with productivity of 1483 Kg/ha (600 Kg/acre).

Table 2: Prices and arrivals of Castor in Devarakadra market during September 2020

Date	Arrival (Tonnes)	Maximum price (Rs/quintal)	Minimum price (Rs/quintal)	Modal price (Rs/quintal)
5	4	3801	3821	3811
7	42	3829	3608	3719
8	2	3676	3676	3676
9	50	3769	3619	3694
11	58	3859	3659	3759
14	6	3762	3709	3735
18	14	3832	3659	3746
19	40	3811	3600	3706
21	54	3824	3709	3766
24	61	3862	3569	3716
25	80	3864	3529	3697
26	6	3811	3811	3811
28	92	3943	3639	3791
29	35	3859	3689	3774
30	89	3919	3713	3816

Source: www.tsmarketing.in

During January - August 2020 castor oil exports increased to around 4.15 lakh tons as against 3.89 lakh tons during corresponding period of last year. Due to slowdown in automobile, lubricant, paint and other related industries demand for Castor oil has gone down.

Under these circumstances, Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre, PJTSAU expect that Castor is likely to trade in price range between Rs. 3700 - 3825 per quintal in the month of October 2020.