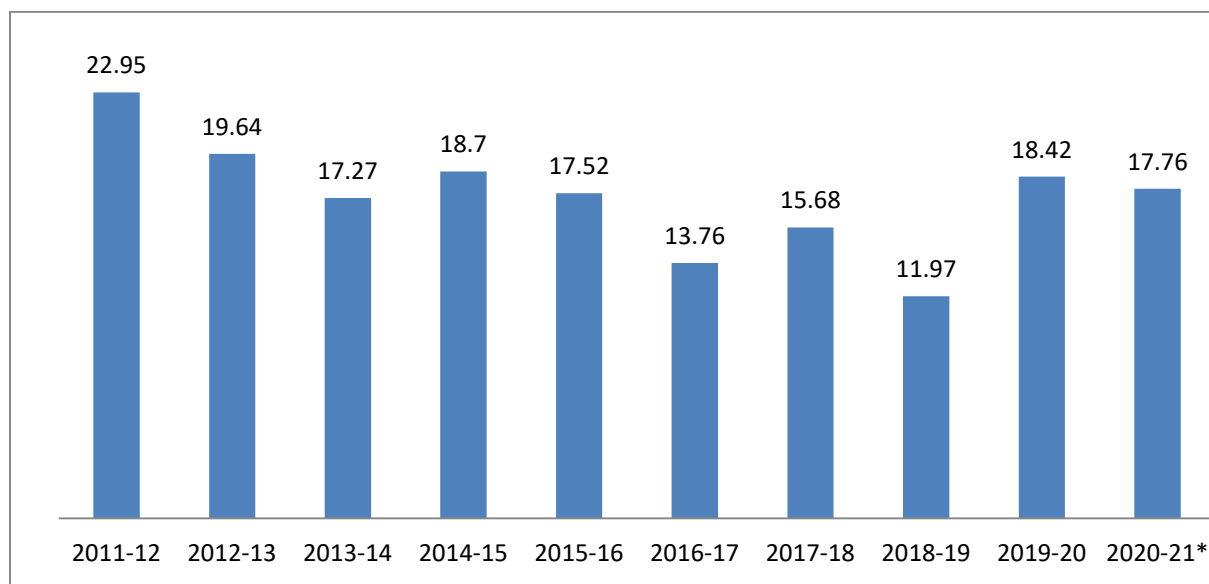


Castor Outlook – April 2021

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 0.094 lakh ha (0.234 lakh acres). According to Government 2nd advance estimates, all India castor production in 2020-21 is at 17.76 lakh tonnes.



Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES). * 2nd Advance estimates

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

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

| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Opening Stocks | 2.30 | 6.22 |
| Production | 18.42 | 17.76 |
| Imports | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Supply | 20.72 | 23.98 |
| Consumption | 14.50 | 15.00 |
| Exports | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Demand | 14.50 | 15.00 |
| Ending Stocks | 6.22 | 8.98 |

Source: www.agriwatch.com

In Telangana state, Wanaparthi 2,812 ha (6,949 acres), Mahbubnagar 2,361 ha (5,834 acres), Narayanpet 1,683 ha (4,158 acres), Gadwal 1,119 ha (2,962 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: State wise wholesale prices of Castor during March, 2021

| State | Prices March, 2021 | Prices February, 2021 | Prices March, 2020 | % Change (Over Previous Month) | % Change (Over Previous Year) |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 4508.93 | 4154.90 | | 8.52 | — |
| Gujarat | 4585.63 | 4317.10 | 3714.73 | 6.22 | 23.44 |
| Karnataka | 4398.63 | 4038.98 | 3544.86 | 8.9 | 24.08 |
| Madhya Pradesh | | 4078.21 | | — | — |
| Maharashtra | 3300.00 | 3900.00 | | -15.38 | — |
| Rajasthan | 4517.08 | 4166.40 | 3596.55 | 8.42 | 25.59 |
| Tamil Nadu | 4385.02 | 4323.18 | 3998.93 | 1.43 | 9.65 |
| Average | 4282.55 | 4139.82 | 3675.21 | | |

Source: www.agriwatch.com

Table 3: Prices and arrivals of Castor in Devarakadra market during March 2021

| Date | Arrival (Tonnes) | Maximum price (Rs/quintal) | Minimum price (Rs/quintal) | Modal price (Rs/quintal) |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8 | 7 | 4351 | 4351 | 4351 |
| 16 | 9 | 4401 | 4401 | 4401 |
| 22 | 3 | 4400 | 4400 | 4400 |
| 25 | 2 | 4522 | 4522 | 4522 |

Source: www.tsmarketing.in

This year the exports of Castor oil have grown by 15% as compared to last year. Major chunk has been exported to China. There has been no enhancement in the export of castor oil to Western Markets. Demand for Castor seeds and oil in the international market would remain strong.

Under these circumstances, Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre, PJTSAU expect that Castor is likely to trade in price range between Rs. 4300 - 4500 per quintal in the month of April 2021.