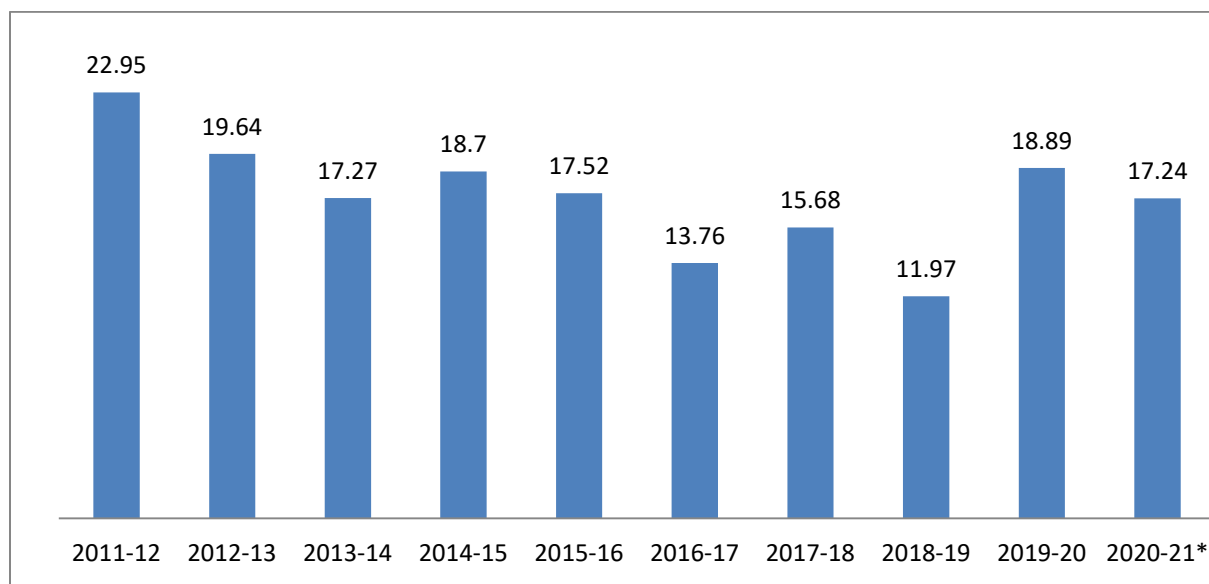


Castor Outlook – January 2021

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 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)

	2019-20	2020-21
Opening Stocks	2.30	6.69
Production	18.89	17.24
Imports	0.00	0.00
Total Supply	21.19	23.93
Consumption	14.50	15.00
Exports	0.00	0.00
Total Demand	14.50	15.00
Ending Stocks	6.69	8.93

Source: www.agriwatch.com

In Telangana state, Wanaparthy 2,812 ha (6,949 acres), Mahabubnagar 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 December, 2020

State	Prices December, 2020	Prices November, 2020	Prices December, 2019	% Change (Over Previous Month)	% Change (Over Previous Year)
Andhra Pradesh	3833.24	4101.09	3683.94	-6.53	4.05
Gujarat	4374.02	4494	4069.64	-2.67	7.48
Karnataka	3653.57	3907.22	4402.63	-6.49	-17.01
Maharashtra		3500		—	—
Rajasthan	4166.68	4092.9	4079.43	1.8	2.14
Tamil Nadu	4022.14	3857.2		4.28	—
Telangana			3849.75	0	—
Average	4009.93	3992.07	4017.08		

Source: www.agriwatch.com

Table 3: Prices and arrivals of Castor in Devarakadra market during December 2020

Date	Arrival (Tonnes)	Maximum price (Rs/quintal)	Minimum price (Rs/quintal)	Modal price (Rs/quintal)
2	5	4259	4259	4259
9	24	4209	4209	4209
10	25	4222	4222	4222
15	8	4209	4179	4194
16	51	4232	4189	4211
17	38	4232	4209	4221
21	14	4163	4111	4137
23	9	4123	4089	4106
28	5	4103	4103	4103

Source: www.tsmarketing.in

Due to strong prices of edible oils, the prices of castor oil are expected to stay strong. Crushing meals have enough commitment from the side of DSO's. So millers are looking forward purchasing castor seeds. In the year 2020 between April to November the castor oil export was increased to 4.43 lakh tonnes as against 3.70 lakh tonnes in the same period last year.

Under these circumstances, Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre, PJTSAU expect that Castor is likely to trade in price range between Rs. 4000 - 4200 per quintal in the month of January 2021.