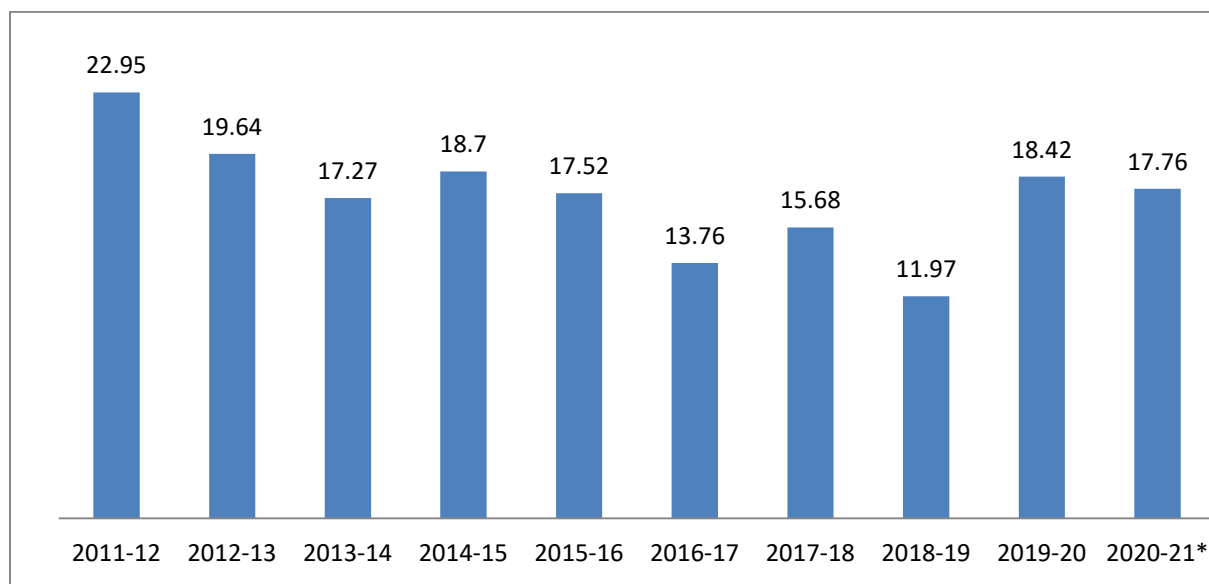


Castor Outlook – March 2021

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 *Estimated as per the second advance estimates of GoI

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

State	Prices February, 2021	Prices January, 2021	Prices February, 2020	% Change (Over Previous Month)	% Change (Over Previous Year)
Andhra Pradesh	4153.79	3821.69	3388.76	8.69	22.58
Gujarat	4316.98	4359.43	3791.28	-0.97	13.87
Karnataka	4038.98	3897.55	3868.39	3.63	4.41
Madhya Pradesh	4078.21			—	—
Maharashtra		3612.5		—	—
Rajasthan	4163.41	3820.96	3733.9	8.96	11.5
Tamil Nadu	4323.18	4050		6.75	—
Average	4179.09	3927.02	3695.58		

Source: www.agriwatch.com

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

Date	Arrival (Tonnes)	Maximum price (Rs/quintal)	Minimum price (Rs/quintal)	Modal price (Rs/quintal)
3	20	4112	4079	4096
5	2	4089	4089	4089
8	5	4109	4109	4109
9	4	4090	4090	4090
10	11	4114	4114	4114
12	25	4101	4029	4065
15	4	4050	4050	4050
17	6	4222	4222	4222
22	4	4211	4211	4211

Source: www.tsmarketing.in

Export numbers to China has remained substantially good. During the Lunar New Year the demand for Castor might slow down, but once that gets over the demand would again pick up. Going down of prices of castor seeds is very unlikely. There would be a strong international demand.

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