

VANAKALAM (KHARIF) 2022-23 PRE-HARVEST PRICE FORECAST OF BAJRA

Bajra Price per Quintal will be around Rs 1600 – 1950 at the Time of Harvesting (September to October 2022)

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 2022-23 about 69.48 lakh ha (171.70 lakh acres) area was covered under bajra. The states of Rajasthan 45.12 lakh ha (111.49 lakh acres), Uttar Pradesh 9.84 lakh ha (24.31 lakh acres), Maharashtra 4.03 lakh ha (9.95 lakh acres), Haryana 4.37 lakh ha (10.79 lakh acres), Madhya Pradesh 2.52 lakh ha (6.22 lakh acres), Karnataka 1.25 lakh ha (3.08 lakh acres) and Gujarat 1.82 lakh ha (4.51 lakh acres) are the major growers of bajra in India. According to the 4th advance estimates for 2021-22 bajra production estimate was 9.62 million tonnes as against 10.86 million tonnes in 2020-21.

The area covered under bajra in Telangana during 2022-23 was 303.11 ha (749 acres). The major districts growing this crop include Asifabad 221.77 ha (548 acres), Sangareddy 19.42 ha (48 acres), Gadwal 34.40 ha (85 acres), Nalgonda 6.07 ha (15 acres) and Nagarkurnool 5.67 ha (14 acres). According to the 4th advance estimates of government of Telangana for 2021-22 bajra production estimates was 0.04 lakh tonnes from 0.98 lakh acres.

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 2022-23 kharif pre-harvest price forecast of bajra. Considering the present crop coverage and its condition, it is estimated that the bajra price per quintal will be around **Rs.1600-1950** at the time of harvesting (Sep to Oct 2022). This price forecast is based on the monthly modal price of bajra obtained for 20 years from Nizamabad regulated market using econometric models like ARIMA, ARIMAX, SARIMA, ARCH, GARCH and also the market survey. Government of India has increased MSP of bajra by Rs.100 for 2022-23 marketing season i.e., Rs 2350/q as compared to previous year MSP of Rs 2250/q.

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.