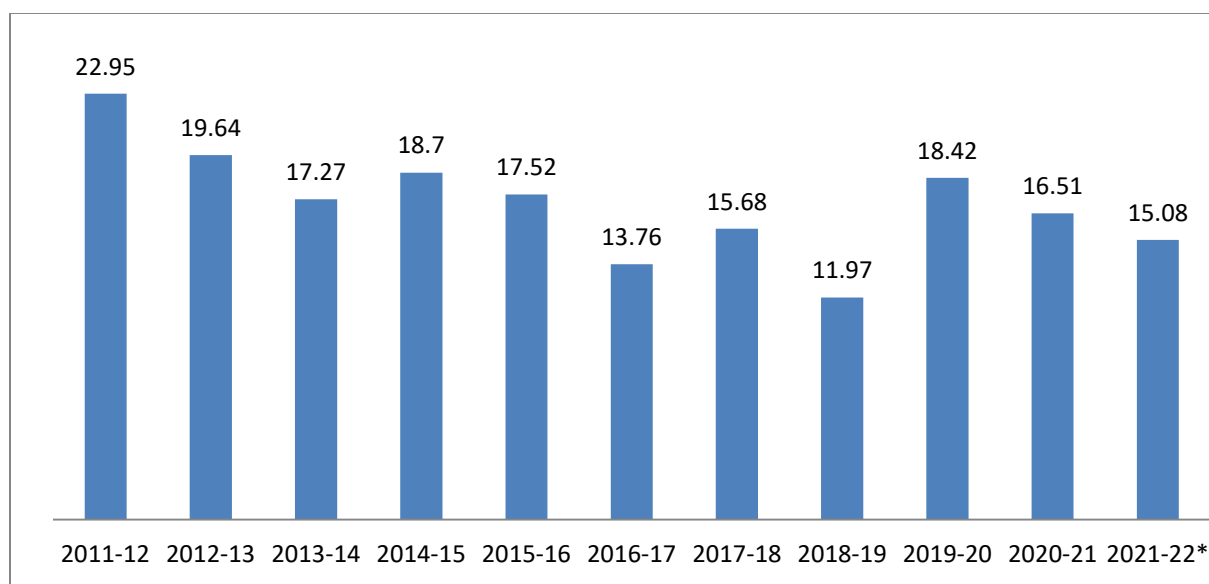


Castor Outlook – March 2022

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 (18.42 lakh tonnes), Mozambique (0.85 lakh tonnes), China (0.27 lakh tonnes), Brazil (0.14 lakh tonnes) and Myanmar (0.12 lakh tonnes).



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

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

Area under castor reported during 2021-22 was 6.960 lakh ha (17.199 lakh acres) as against 7.336 lakh ha (18.128 lakh acres) during the same period in 2020-21. Among states, Gujarat is leading with 5.389 lakh ha (13.316 lakh acres) under castor followed by Rajasthan 1.200 lakh ha (2.965 lakh acres), Andhra Pradesh 0.177 lakh ha (0.437 lakh acres) and Telangana 0.022 lakh ha (0.54 lakh acres). According to Government 2nd advance estimates, all India castor production in 2021-22 is at 15.08 lakh tonnes

Table 1: State wise area under castor in India

State	2020-21			2021-22		
	Area (lakh ha)	Area (lakh acres)	% to total area	Area (lakh ha)	Area (lakh acres)	% to total area
Gujarat	5.448	13.462	74.26	5.389	13.316	77.43
Rajasthan	1.396	3.450	19.03	1.200	2.965	17.24
Andhra Pradesh	0.180	0.445	2.45	0.177	0.437	2.54
Telangana	0.095	0.234	1.34	0.022	0.054	0.78
Others	0.214	0.529	2.92	0.140	0.346	2.01
All India	7.336	18.128	100.00	6.960	17.199	100.00

Source: www.agricoop.nic.in

Table 2: Castor Domestic Supply & Demand (in lakh tonnes)

	2020-21	2021-22
Opening Stocks	6.22	7.73
Production	16.51	15.08
Imports	0.00	0.00
Total Supply	22.73	22.81
Exports	0.00	0.00
Consumption	15.00	15.50
Total Demand	15.00	15.50
Ending Stocks	7.73	7.31

Source: www.agriwatch.com

Table 3: District wise area under castor in Telangana

District	2020-21			2021-22		
	Area (ha)	Area (acres)	% to total area	Area (ha)	Area (acres)	% to total area
Narayanpet	1681	4154	17.72	602	1487	27.58
Mahabubnagar	2361	5834	24.88	494	1221	22.65
Gadwal	2811	6947	29.63	435	1076	19.96
Wanaparthy	1087	2686	11.46	404	998	18.51
Others	1548	3825	16.31	246	609	11.30
Telangana State	9488	23446	100	2182	5391	100

Source: www.agri.telangana.gov.in

In Telangana state, Narayanpet 602 ha (1,487 acres), Mahabubnagar 494 ha (1,221 acres), Gadwal 435 ha (998 acres) and Wanaparthy 404 ha (998 acres) are major castor growing districts. According to Telangana State Government 4th advance estimates, castor production in 2020-21 is at 0.03 lakh tonnes with productivity of 355 Kg/ha (144 Kg/acre).

Table 4: State wise wholesale prices of Castor during February 2022

State	Prices February, 2022	Prices January, 2022	Prices February, 2021	% Change (Over Previous Month)	% Change (Over Previous Year)
Andhra Pradesh	6119.44	5629.27	4154.9	8.71	47.28
Gujarat	6736.96	6143.63	4317.1	9.66	56.05
Karnataka	5095.5	5151.18	4038.98	-1.08	26.16
Madhya Pradesh	5679.57		4078.21	—	39.27
Maharashtra	5546.92	5318.75	3900	4.29	42.23
Rajasthan	6421.16	5642.86	4166.4	13.79	54.12
Tamil Nadu	6618.3	5376.92	4323.18	23.09	53.09
Telangana	6101.08	5280.47		15.54	—
Average	6039.87	5506.15	4139.82		

Source: www.agriwatch.com

Table 5: Prices and arrivals of Castor in Gadwal market during February 2022

Date	Arrival (Quintal)	Maximum price (Rs/quintal)	Minimum price (Rs/quintal)	Modal price (Rs/quintal)
4	1	5,862	5,862	5,862
5	3	5,910	5,830	5,910
7	5	5,980	5,980	5,980
8	2	3,020	3,020	3,020
11	3	6,010	5,632	6,010
14	48	6,290	6,012	6,156
15	3	6,220	6,220	6,220
16	4	6,302	6,242	6,302
19	18	6,460	6,310	6,410
21	3	6,460	5,901	6,460
24	1	6,060	6,060	6,060
25	1	5,960	5,960	5,960

Source: www.tsmarketing.in

The export numbers to China has remained substantially good. Though during the Lunar New Year the demand for Castor might slow down, but once that gets over the demand would again pick up. The price of Castor seeds would go down is very unlikely. Apparently there would be a strong international demand.

Under these circumstances, Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre, PJTSAU expects that Castor may trade in price range between Rs. 5800 - 6000 per quintal in the month of March 2022.