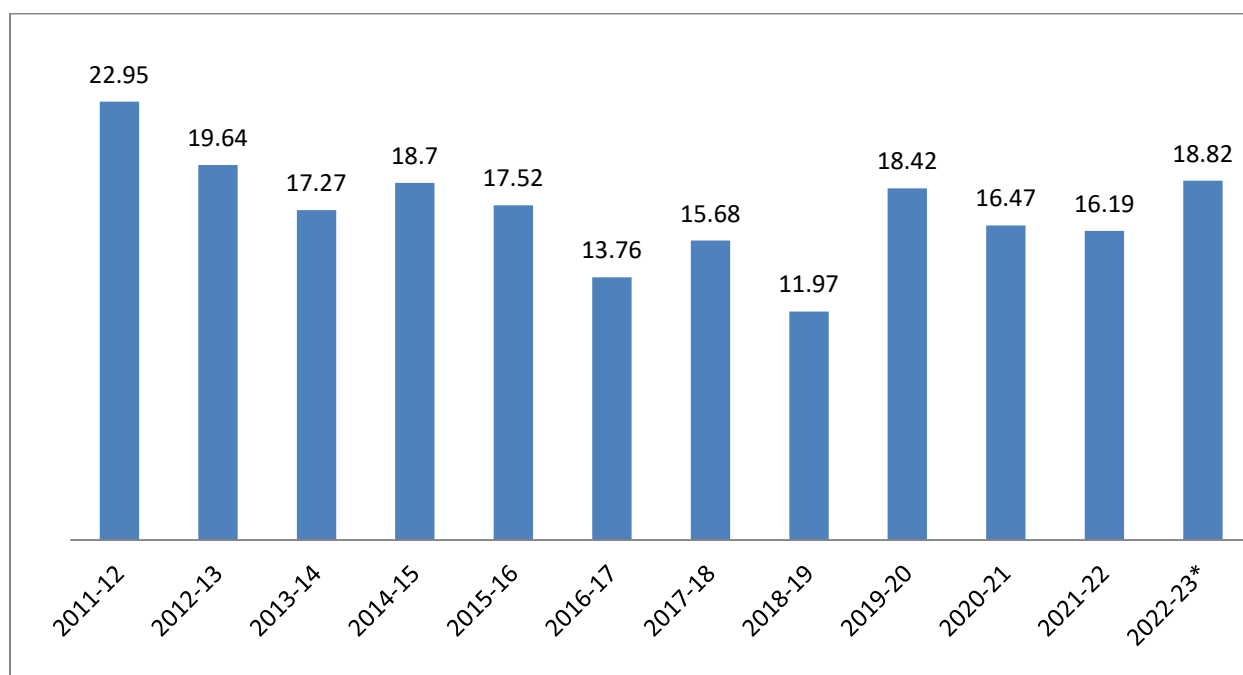


Castor Outlook – March 2023

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 2020-21, World major producing countries are India (16.51 lakh tonnes), Mozambique (0.72 lakh tonnes), China (0.17 lakh tonnes), Thailand (0.12 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 2022-23 was 8.917 lakh ha (22.030 lakh acres) as against 7.547 lakh ha (18.65 lakh acres) during the same period in 2020-21. Among states, Gujarat is leading with 6.992 lakh ha (17.10 lakh acres) under castor followed by Rajasthan 1.491 lakh ha (3.684 lakh acres), Andhra Pradesh 0.351 lakh ha (0.870 lakh acres), Odisha 0.042 lakh ha (0.100 lakh acres) and Telangana 0.019 lakh ha (0.048 lakh acres). According to Government 2nd advance estimates, all India castor production in 2022-23 is at 18.82 lakh tonnes.

Table 1: State wise area under castor in India

State	2021-22			2022-23		
	Area (lakh ha)	Area (lakh acres)	% to total area	Area (lakh ha)	Area (lakh acres)	% to total area
Gujarat	6.133	15.150	81.26	6.922	17.10	77.63
Rajasthan	1.027	2.540	13.61	1.491	3.684	16.72
Andhra Pradesh	0.179	0.440	2.37	0.351	0.870	3.94
Odisha	0.05	0.120	0.66	0.042	0.100	0.47
Karnataka	0.064	0.160	0.85	0.034	0.080	0.38
Telangana	0.021	0.054	0.49	0.02	0.048	0.22
Others	0.057	0.140	0.76	0.057	0.140	0.64
All India	7.547	18.650	100.00	8.917	22.030	100.00

Source: www.agricoop.nic.in

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

	2021-22	2022-23
Opening Stocks	7.73	8.34
Production	16.2	18.82
Imports	0	0
Total Supply	23.9	27.2
Exports	0	0
Consumption	15.5	15.5
Total Demand	15.5	15.5
Ending Stocks	8.34	11.66

Source: www.agriwatch.com

In Telangana state, Narayanpet 515 ha (1273 acres), Gadwal 498 ha (1230 acres), Mahabubnagar 405 ha (1000 acres), Wanaparthy 355 ha (878 acres) and Nagarkurnool 74 ha (184 acres) are major castor growing districts. According to Telangana State Government 2nd advance estimates, castor production in 2022-23 is at 0.02 lakh tonnes from 0.03 lakh ha (0.07 lakh acres) with productivity of 667 Kg/ha (270 Kg/acre).

Table 3: District wise area under castor in Telangana

District	2021-22			2022-23		
	Area (ha)	Area (acres)	% to total area	Area (ha)	Area (acres)	% to total area
Narayanpet	607	1499	27.74	515	1273	26.25
Gadwal	405	1000	18.51	498	1230	25.36
Mahabubnagar	495	1223	22.64	405	1000	20.62
Wanaparthi	432	1068	19.77	355	878	18.10
Nagarkurnool	80	198	3.66	74	184	3.79
Siddipet	41	101	1.87	32	80	1.65
Others	127	314	5.81	83	205	4.23
Telangana State	2187	5403	100.00	1963	4850	100.00

Source: www.agri.telangana.gov.in**Table 4: State wise wholesale prices of Castor during February 2023**

State	Prices February, 2023	Prices January, 2023	Prices February, 2022	% Change (Over Previous Month)	% Change (Over Previous Year)
Andhra Pradesh	6280.36	6011.05	6138.04	4.48	2.32
Gujarat	6786.80	7000.31	6756.64	-3.05	0.45
Karnataka	6243.50	6133.38	5095.50	1.8	22.53
Madhya Pradesh	6332.32	6476.61	5679.57	-2.23	11.49
Maharashtra	5830.00	5104.17	5546.92	14.22	5.1
Rajasthan	6657.39	6890.53	6421.57	-3.38	3.67
Tamil Nadu	7387.24	7061.94	6607.53	4.61	11.8
Telangana	6391.22	6126.03	6164.01	4.33	3.69
Average	6488.6	6350.5	6051.22		

Source: www.agmarknet.com

Table 5: Prices and arrivals of Castor in Gadwal market during February 2023

Date	Arrival (Quintal)	Maximum price (Rs/quintal)	Minimum price (Rs/quintal)	Modal price (Rs/quintal)
1	17	6,409	6,331	6,339
2	4	6,157	6,057	6,052
3	14	6,410	6,330	6,410
6	16	6,420	6,250	6,420
6	24	6,422	6,020	6,342
8	32	6,431	5,836	6,431
9	16	6,439	5,916	6,439
10	12	6,241	5,861	5,861
13	36	6,462	6,320	6,320
14	10	6,440	6,310	6,310
15	35	6,490	5,857	6,490
16	12	6,502	6,320	6,502
17	11	6,410	6,410	6,410
21	51	6,520	3,000	6,490
22	71	6,502	5,510	6,470
24	15	6,492	6,140	6,380
25	24	6,500	4,120	6,460
27	147	6,519	5,269	6,509
28	69	6,419	5,019	6,409

Source: <http://tsmarketing.in>

Last year between April to January the castor seed meal export was 3.18 lakh tonnes, which during the current year in the same period increased to 3.22 lakh tonnes. 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. 6200 - 6400 per quintal in the month of March 2023.