

## **VANAKALAM (KHARIF) 2023-24 PRE-SOWING PRICE FORECAST OF BAJRA**

### **Bajra Price per Quintal will be around Rs 1920–2150 at the Time of Harvesting (September to October 2023)**

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 as 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 68.69 lakh ha (169.73 lakh acres) area was covered under bajra. The states of Rajasthan 44.41 lakh ha (109.73 lakh acres), Uttar Pradesh 10.1 lakh ha (24.95 lakh acres), Haryana 4.48 lakh ha (11.07 lakh acres), Maharashtra 4.06 lakh ha (10.03 lakh acres), Madhya Pradesh 2.99 lakh ha (7.38 lakh acres), Gujarat 1.84 lakh ha (4.54 lakh acres) and Karnataka 1.34 lakh ha (3.31 lakh acres) are the major growers of bajra in India. According to the 2<sup>nd</sup> advance estimates for 2022-23 all India bajra production estimate is at 97.85 million tonnes as against 97.81 million tonnes in 2021-22.

The area covered under bajra in Telangana during 2022-23 was 407 ha (1008 acres). The major districts growing this crop include Asifabad 230 ha (570 acres), Gadwal 106.43 ha (263 acres), Sangareddy 22.66 ha (56 acres), Nagarkurnool 15.78 ha (39 acres), Nalgonda 10.11 ha (25 acres) and Rangareddy 5.66 ha (14 acres). In 2022-23 as per the Telangana 3<sup>rd</sup> advance estimates bajra production is at 0.03 lakh tonnes.

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 2023-24 vanakalam (kharif) pre-sowing price forecast of bajra. Under expected normal rainfall and crop area coverage, it is estimated that the bajra price per quintal will be around **Rs.1920-2150** at the time of harvesting (Sep to Oct 2023). This price forecast is based on the monthly modal price of bajra obtained for 21 years from Nizamabad regulated market using econometric models like ARIMA, ARIMAX, SARIMA, ARCH, GARCH and also the market survey.

***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.***