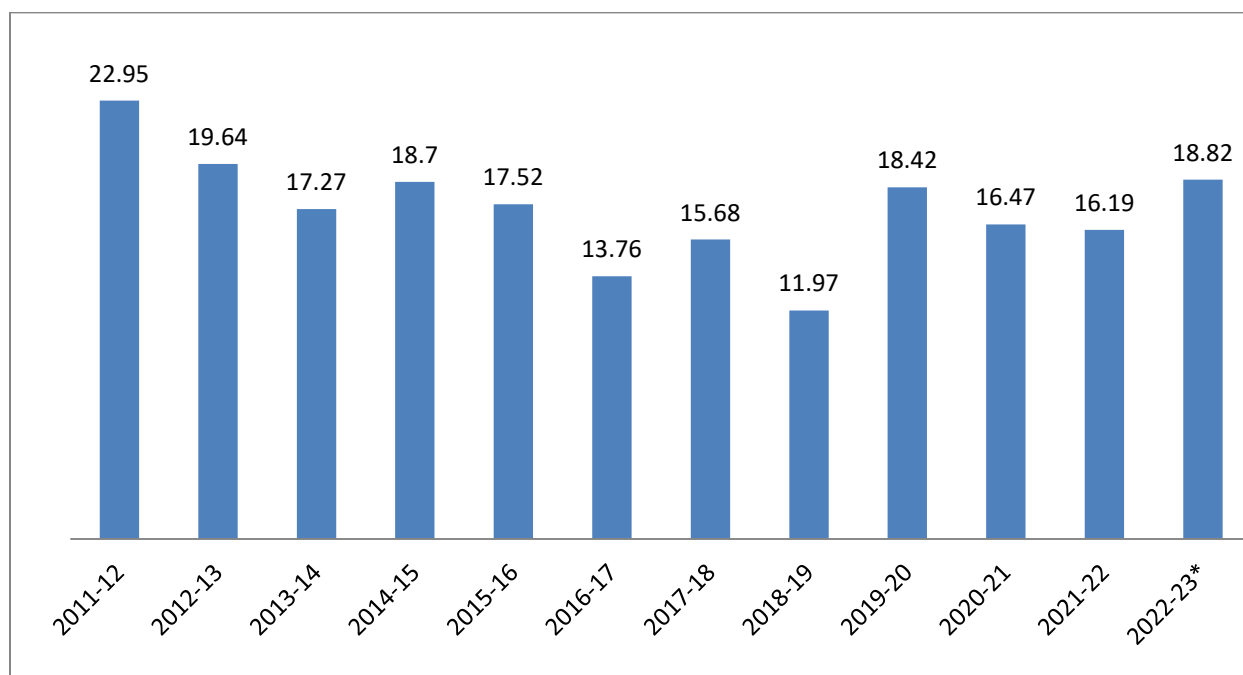


Castor Outlook – May 2023

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 3rd advance estimates, castor production in 2022-23 is at 0.03 lakh tonnes from 0.04 lakh ha (0.11 lakh acres) with productivity of 675 Kg/ha (273 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
Wanaparthy	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 April 2023**

State	Prices April, 2023	Prices March, 2023	Prices April, 2022	% Change (Over Previous Month)	% Change (Over Previous Year)
Andhra Pradesh	5242	6047	6030	-13.31	-13.07
Gujarat	6011	6293	7007	-4.48	-14.21
Karnataka	5901	6514	6353	-9.41	-7.11
Madhya Pradesh	5377	5604	6233	-4.05	-13.73
Maharashtra	5155	5256	6056	-1.92	-14.88
Rajasthan	5866	6099	6824	-3.82	-14.04
Tamil Nadu	6169	6836	6450	-9.76	-4.36
Telangana	5673	6068	6425	-6.51	-11.7
Average	5674.25	6089.62	6422.25		

Source: www.agmarknet.com

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

Date	Arrival (Quintal)	Maximum price (Rs/quintal)	Minimum price (Rs/quintal)	Modal price (Rs/quintal)
1	245	6,111	4,219	5,961
3	1,100	5,903	3,829	5,720
4	862	5,960	4,819	5,819
6	1,168	5,770	3,601	5,610
8	1,564	5,760	4,419	5,560
10	1,522	5,750	1,502	5,640
11	975	6,715	3,719	5,749
12	688	5,760	1,502	5,640
13	937	5,770	2,119	5,650
15	1,636	5,774	2,100	5,702
17	1,353	5,650	2,019	5,620
18	849	5,560	2,502	5,560
19	498	5,612	4,002	5,320
21	985	5,501	2,009	5,480
24	691	5,560	2,502	5,559
25	512	5,561	3,002	5,411
26	320	5,518	3,009	5,259
27	279	5,490	3,002	5,352

Source: <http://tsmarketing.in>

Last year between April to March the castor seed meal export was 3.91 lakh tonnes, which during the current year in the same period decreased to 3.82 lakh tonnes. Last year between April to January the castor oil export was 5.69 lakh tonnes, which during the current year in the same period decreased to 4.86 lakh tonnes. Mostly weak sentiment was observed in the markets during this month.

Under these circumstances, Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre, PJTSAU expects that Castor may trade in price range between Rs. 5400 - 5600 per quintal in the month of May 2023.