

VANAKALAM (KHARIF) 2023-24 PRE-HARVESTING PRICE FORECAST OF RAGI
Ragi Price per Quintal will be around Rs 2390 – 2760 at the Time of Harvesting
(October to November 2023)

It is the most important small millet in the tropics covering 12% of global millet area. It is cultivated in more than 25 countries in Africa (Eastern and Southern) and Asia (from Near East to Far East), predominantly as a staple food grain. The major producers are Uganda, India, Nepal, and China. The specialty of these tiny deep red pearls is the abundance of nutrients present in them. Finger millet is a rich source of calcium, iron, protein, fiber and other minerals and is a gluten-free food. The cereal has low fat content and contains mainly unsaturated fat. It is easy to digest and does not contain gluten; people who are sensitive to gluten can easily consume finger millet. It is considered as one of the most nutritious cereals.

Ragi crop in India has covered 8.85 lakh ha (21.87 lakh acres) during kharif 2023-24. The major ragi producing states in India are Karnataka 4.37 lakh ha (10.80 lakh acres), Orissa 1.64 lakh ha (4.06 lakh acres), Uttarakhand 0.87 lakh ha (2.14 lakh acres), Maharashtra 0.72 lakh ha (1.77 lakh acres). Tamil Nadu 0.26 lakh ha (0.66 lakh acres) and Andhra Pradesh 0.22 lakh ha (0.54 lakh acres). According to 3rd Advance Estimates of Production of Food grains for 2022-23, all india ragi production estimate was 1.59 million tonnes as against 1.7 million tonnes in 2021-22.

The area covered under ragi in Telangana during vanakalam (kharif) 2023-24 was 156 ha (386 acres) as against 269 ha (666 acres) in 2022-23. The major producing districts of ragi crop in Telangana are Mahabubnagar 55 ha (138 acres), Vikarabad 35 ha (88 acres), Nagarkurnool 19.42 ha (48 acres), Rangareddy 18.61 ha (46 acres), Sangareddy 8.9 ha (22 acres) and Wanaparthy 5.26 ha (13 acres). According to 3rd Advance Estimates of food grains for 2021-22 in Telangana, ragi production estimate was 0.01 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 as against 0.03 lakh tonnes in 2021-22.

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-harvesting price forecast of ragi. Under good rainfall, normal crop area coverage and its condition, it is expected that the ragi price per quintal will be around **Rs.2390 - 2760** at the time of harvesting (Oct to Nov 2023). This price forecast is based on the monthly modal price of ragi obtained for 21 years from Mahabubnagar regulated market using econometric models like ARIMA, ARIMAX, SARIMA, ARCH, GARCH and ANN 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.