

## Sell cumin upon harvest

Cumin has been a part of the human diet for thousands of years. It's grown in the Middle East, Mediterranean, India, and China. India is the largest producer and consumer of cumin in the world. Gujarat and Rajasthan are the two major cumin-producing states contributes more than 95 per cent in the total production of the nation. People across the world use cumin as a seasoning in food and extract its oil for perfumes.

In India during previous two years, cumin area and production were declined drastically due to adverse weather, resulted in historical price rise after harvesting season of 2022-23. Hence, in current year 2023-24 area under cumin increased to about 12.5 lakh ha over 7.14 lakh ha in last year, besides having favorable weather, the production will be normal to good about 7.6 lakh tonnes as against 4.63 lakh tonnes in 2022-23.

In current year of 2023-24 in Gujarat, the area under cumin is reported higher about 5.47 lakh ha as against 2.76 lakh ha in last year, while production is estimated almost double about 4.08 lakh tonnes (2<sup>nd</sup> Advance Estimate dt. 17-1-2024) as against 2.14 lakh tonnes in 2022-23. As per some agencies' report, in Rajasthan, cumin acreage increased largely than the last year and production will be normal.

The export of cumin was declined from 2.17 lakh tonnes in 2021-22 to 1.86 lakh tonnes in 2022-23. Besides, from April to December, 2023 only 1.07 lakh tonnes cumin has been exported due to short supply and high domestic prices. Hence, cumin price, which was ruling around Rs. 5600 per 20 kg in February, 2023 in various markets of Gujarat, increased to Rs. 8400 per 20 kg in May, 2023 and further to around 11000 in August-September, 2023. Then after, it started declining having good monsoon and import of cumin. Further it declined to Rs. 5600 per 20 kg in January, 2024 with report of good production this year and currently it is ruling around Rs. 4700 per 20 kg in last week of February, 2024, is expected to remain stable at this level with slight ups and downs.

Considering these all and reviewing some agencies' reports, the research team of Department of Agricultural Economics, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, analysed the historical monthly price data of cumin collected from Rajkot APMC. The econometric analysis revealed that the **prices of cumin during March to April, 2024 (at harvest) may remain in the range of Rs. 4700 to 5200 per 20 kg (23500 - 26000 Rs/qtl)**. This may be taken a note by the farmers, to take their own decision, to sale cumin upon harvest, without going for storage, keeping the above situation in view.

This year having higher production estimates of cumin in India, there are less chances that its price may go up in near future.