

Sell tur upon harvest: price to remain around MSP

Arhar is the second largest pulse crop in India accounting for about 20 per cent of total pulse production. It is mainly grown in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. Last year in India the tur production was decreased to 24.60 lakh tonnes as against 28.10 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 and 31.70 lakh tonnes in 2013-14 due to poor monsoon in several parts of the country. Hence, tur price which was ruling around Rs. 1300 per 20 kg in March, 2016 in various markets of Gujarat jumped to Rs. 1600 in May, 2016 and prevail at this high level till July, 2016. It started decline from August, 2016 with the record sowing reports in the areas of about 51 lakh ha in 2016-17 as against 37.46 lakh ha in 2015-16. This year having normal monsoon in main tur producing states, the tur production is likely a record high of about 42 lakh tonnes.

The import of arhar in India was 4.63 lakh tonnes in 2015-16 and total pulses 58 lakh tonnes. In current year from April to October, 2016 about 3.24 lakh tonnes tur and about 24 lakh tonnes total pulses has been imported.

In Gujarat, in current year, the tur acreage is estimated of about 3.36 lakh ha as against 2.29 lakh ha in 2015-16 and production will be higher about 3.71 lakh tonnes which were only 2.82 lakh tonnes in last year.

Government of India has fixed the Minimum Support Price of (MSP) of tur for the *khariif* season of 2016-17 to Rs. 1010 per 20 kg (Rs. 5050 per quintal) as against Rs. 925 in last year. The total pulses production in India during 2016-17 is likely to be higher about 203 lakh tonnes, as against 165 lakh tonnes in last year. This is slight low than the total consumption requirement of nation about 235 lakh tonnes. But the carryover stock of import will keep the price low. Hence, in peak seasonal arrivals in February - April, more downside pressure on the prices may be seen.

Taking into consideration the production and market reports, the research team of Department of Agricultural Economics, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, analysed the historical monthly price data of tur collected from Dahod Regulated Market with the aim to provide reliable market intelligence to farmers in taking their appropriate selling decision. The econometric analysis revealed that **the prices of tur during February-March, 2017 (i.e. during harvesting) may remain in the range of Rs. 920 to 1020 per 20 Kg (Rs. 4600 - 5100 per quintal)**. Hence, farmers are suggested to sell tur upon harvest (at MSP centres in APMCs), without going for storage, taking their own decision.