

## Sell gram upon harvest at MSP

Gram is a major pulse crop in India accounting for nearly 45 per cent of the total pulses production. It is a protein-rich supplement to cereal-based diets, widely grown in about 50 countries in the world. There has been a steady increase in the area under gram in India in the last decade from 91.86 lakh ha in 2010-11 to 112 lakh ha in 2020-21. However, its production shows variations owing to rainfall pattern, unfavourable weather and disease incidence *etc.*

During the current year 2020-21, gram production in India is estimated about 116.2 lakh tonnes (2<sup>nd</sup> Advance Estimate dt. 24-2-2020) which is about 5 per cent more as compared to last year (110.8 lakh tonnes). The crop condition remained good throughout the season. The total pulses production was 230.3 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 and in current year it is estimated about 244.2 lakh tonnes, it is slight higher than our total consumption requirement of around 242 lakh tonnes. In current year in Gujarat, the area under gram is estimated about 8.2 lakh ha as against 4.05 lakh ha in last year and crop condition was good. The production is also estimated higher about 13 lakh tonnes, *i.e.* about more than double as compared to last year.

India imported 1.86 lakh tonnes gram in 2018-19 increased to 3.71 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 and also exported 1.34 lakh tonnes. The import of total pulses also increased from 25.3 lakh tonnes in 2018-19 to 29.7 lakh tonnes in 2019-20. In Current year from April- December, 2020 about 2.35 lakh tonnes gram and 18.63 lakh tonnes of total pulses has been imported in the country. Hence, the gram price which was ruling around Rs. 860 per 20 kg in April, 2019 decreased to about Rs. 750 per 20 kg in March, 2020. But it again increased to about 1050 per 20 kg in October, 2020 and currently it is ruling around Rs. 870 per 20 kg in various markets of Gujarat, now expected remain at this level with slight ups and down in current year. The Government of India has fixed MSP of gram Rs. 1020 per 20 kg (Rs. 5100 per quintal) for current *rabi* season of year 2020-21 as against Rs. 975 in last year. In 2019-20 a total of 20.7 lakh tonnes of gram was procured by NAFED in country including 1.2 lakh tonnes from Gujarat (*i.e.* about 19% of total production).

Considering all these the research team of Department of Agricultural Economics, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, analysed the historical monthly price data of gram collected from Dahod Regulated Markets. Based on the econometric analysis and production reports, it is concluded that **the prices of gram during March to April, 2021 at harvest, may remain in the range of Rs. 850 to 940 per 20 kg (4250 to 4700 Rs/qlt).** Hence, keeping above situation in view, farmers are suggested to sell gram upon harvest (at MSP centers in APMCs), without going for storage, taking their own decision. Owing to higher production of total pulses, particularly gram in country; there is less chances for gram price to go up in future.