

## **Cumin price to remain firm, store and sell after April, 2022**

Cumin has a significant demand as a spice, all over the globe, especially in the places where spicy food is preferred. India being the world leader in context of spices production, it is also the largest producer of cumin in the world. Besides India, it is cultivated in Syria, Iran, Turkey, China and Latin America; but its production comes late by June-July.

India, obtained the highest cumin production about 8 lakh tonnes in 2019-20, which declined to round 7.18 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 due to reduction in price. In current year of 2021-22 cumin area and production is estimated about 30 per cent less over last year and crop has been damaged due to unseasonal rain and frost. The export of cumin has increased from 2.14 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 to 2.99 lakh tonnes in 2020-21. Besides, from April to December, 2021 about 1.74 lakh tonnes cumin has been exported. Hence, cumin price, which was ruling around Rs. 3000 per 20 kg February, 2019 declined to around Rs. 2400 per 20 kg in March, 2020 in Gujarat and remained at this level still October, 2021. Then after, it steadily increasing and currently it is ruling around Rs. 3700 per 20 kg in last week of February, 2022 in various markets of Gujarat, expected to remain firm at this level.

In current year of 2021-22 in Gujarat, the area under cumin is reported less about 2.89 lakh ha (2<sup>nd</sup> Advance Estimate dt. 10-1-2022) as against 4.74 lakh ha as in last year. Its production is also estimated very less about 2.37 lakh tonnes as against 3.99 lakh tonnes in 2020-21. Hence, cumin production in current year in the country is expected less around 5 lakh tonnes, which is inadequate to meet current domestic consumption and export demand, as last year's ending stock may be negligible.

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, 2022 (at harvest) may remain in the range of Rs. 3600 to 4000 per 20 kg (18000 - 20000 Rs/qtl)**. Hence, farmers are suggested to take note of the above situation and take their own decision to store cumin and sell after April, 2022. If export opportunities continue to remain better, there is some chance that, cumin price may go up in future.