

Tur price to remain high, above MSP in current year too

In India, tur is second most important pulse crop mainly grown in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. The annual domestic consumption of tur is quite high about 47 lakh tonnes in India, needs to import every year.

In 2023-24, the kharif pulses sowing area was reduced by around 4 per cent due to erratic rainfall in major pulses-growing areas in India, particularly Maharashtra and Karnataka. At country level, tur occupied about 43 lakh ha area and production estimated at 34 lakh tonnes, which is approximately similar to the last year's production, but quite less than 42.20 lakh tonnes obtained in 2021-22. The total kharif pulses production may be slight less than the last year (76.21 lakh tonnes). It was 82.35 lakh tonnes in 2021-22.

In Gujarat, in current year, the tur acreage is estimated 2.27 lakh ha as against 2.44 lakh ha in last year and production about 3.38 lakh tonnes (Second Advance Estimate dt. 17-1-2024), as against 2.84 lakh tonnes in last year, as the crop condition remained good.

The tur price, which was ruling around Rs. 1420 per 20 kg in February, 2023 in various markets of Gujarat, steadily increased to Rs. 1640 in May, 2023 and further to Rs. 2000 in October, 2023. Then it started declining at harvesting and currently ruling around Rs. 1800 in January 2024. This year also owing to lower production estimates as was in last year, the tur price is expected to remain firm at this level with slight ups and downs. Government of India has fixed the Minimum Support Price of (MSP) of tur for the *kharif* season of 2023-24 to Rs. 1400 per 20 kg (Rs. 7000 per quintal) as against Rs. 1320 in last year.

The import of tur in India was 8.94 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 and total pulses 24.96 lakh tonnes. In current year from April to November, 2023 about 5.46 lakh tonnes tur and about 22.50 lakh tonnes total pulses has been imported.

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, 2024 (i.e. during harvesting) may remain in the range of Rs. 1800 to 2000 per 20 Kg (Rs. 9000 - 10000 per quintal)**. Hence, farmers are suggested to take note of the above situation and take their own decision to store tur and sell after March, 2024. If price goes above Rs. 2100 per 20 kg during harvesting season, farmers may sell tur immediately, as the government imposed a stock limit on tur and urad to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.