



CUMIN

Current Market: After moving up slightly in June, prices have been mostly steady in July, though supply still continues to be hampered by restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Though many primary markets have gradually started functioning, farmers still find it difficult to move material to markets. Harvesting is over in all areas, and good stocks remain with farmers. It is estimated that about 40% of the harvested material has been marketed so far, while about 60% still remains with farmers.

Crop Conditions:

INDIA: Harvesting is complete in the growing areas of both Rajasthan and Gujarat. This year, farmers have faced many challenges: There was a severe attack by locust swarms during November-December 2019 which affected some of the late sown crop in southern Rajasthan and north Gujarat resulting in a slight decline in yield in these areas. Aphid attack was reported in Rajasthan during the flowering and seed setting stages, and untimely rains during the harvesting and threshing period. The locust and aphid attacks led to higher usage of pesticides, affecting availability of IPM material.

Despite all these setbacks, production has been good due to favourable weather conditions which have pushed up yield. Total acreage has increased by about 25% to 1.03 million hectares. Total production is estimated to have increased by about 25% this year, compared to about 416,600 tons in 2019.

SYRIA: Production this season could exceed 15,000 MT if favourable weather conditions continue. Weather conditions in the growing regions have been good so far. Reports indicate a delay in the commencement of harvests.

TURKEY: The rains in June were very good for cumin. Harvesting started in a few areas in early-July. Normal yield is expected this year. It is important that there is no precipitation in the growing areas during the harvest period as this

can affect yield and quality. If conditions remain favourable, new arrivals are expected to start by end-July. The average yield in 2019 was about 100 kg per hectare, leading farmers to reduce their acreage this season. It is estimated that there is a significant reduction in acreage this season.

Market Scenario: Market arrivals during June were quite high as markets reopened after two months. Even before the lockdown, market arrivals during January-March were nearly 15% higher than those during the corresponding period last year. Though auction centres have resumed operations, shortage of labour has affected activities. There has been good export and domestic demand after the markets reopened.

Price Forecast: Nearly 60% of the harvested material still remains with farmers. While supply remains limited due to the restrictions in place, there is good domestic and export demand. This supply-demand balance could keep prices range bound during the coming months. From July onwards, market arrivals are expected to decline as monsoon rains start and farmers turn their attention towards the next season agricultural operations. At the same time, availability of pesticide-compliant material is limited due to excess use of chemicals earlier in the season to control the locust and aphid attacks. The revised EU guidelines on Chlorpyrifos residues could also have a bullish effect.

Coverage Recommendation: Increase in demand could have a stabilizing effect on the market. With IPM material limited in quantity, prices are expected to remain firm and coverage is recommended as new material arrivals pick up.

CORIANDER

Current Market: Carry-forward stocks are estimated to be lower than last year's levels. At the same time, with weather conditions favourable, production has increased by over 30% this year, resulting in an increase in total supply. Markets were closed from March to May due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the lockdown was imposed, primary market arrivals had been below normal due to late commencement of harvesting this year. Market arrivals were very high in June, as activities resumed after the lockdown.

All parts of the coriander plant are edible, and it is used both as an herb and spice. It is one of the oldest herbs and spices known; the seeds have been found during excavations in the West Bank, Israel, dating back to circa 6500 BC. The name comes from the Greek word *koris*, meaning a stink bug, possibly due to the sharp aroma given off by the fresh leaves when they are crushed.

Crop Conditions: Harvesting started in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in early-March. Harvesting was delayed by a month due to a delay in sowing due to excess rainfall during the sowing stage. Favourable conditions for the new crop due to good growing conditions and daytime temperatures have resulted in increased yield. There was also an increase in acreage of over 20% in Gujarat, and marginal increase in the other states.

Market Scenario: Market activities were affected by the lockdown during March-May. Shortage of labour has hampered harvesting and drying operations, affecting the quality of material. Improper drying has affected the colour of the dried material. Market arrivals increased significantly in June as market reopened. Prices moved up slightly as demand increased. Arrival of green quality material has decreased, while colour has been affected due to improper drying and prolonged storage.

Price Forecast: Good domestic demand is expected to keep prices firm during the coming month also. The market greatly depends on domestic demand, with curry masala companies being significant buyers. These processors had not been able to cover material during the past three months. At the same time, market arrivals could slow down as farmers start holding back expecting better prices.

Coverage Recommendation: With good quality material limited and demand expected to keep markets supported, it is recommended to cover for forward requirements.

FENNEL

Current Market: Market activity is slowly picking up after the lockdown. About 40% of the harvesting material has been sold so far. While there has been good demand for green fennel earlier in the season, difficulties in the post-harvest stage has led to production of more brownish grades. There has been a bearish trend, with prices ruling at low levels.

Crop Condition:

INDIA: Harvesting is complete for the current season crop. Increased acreage and favourable weather conditions have increased production by about 10%. There has been a shortage of labour in the growing areas during the post-harvest stage, affecting the quality of material and limiting availability of good quality green fennel.

TURKEY: Fennel in the Burdur region has reached the flowering stage. The first irrigation is complete, and the second irrigation will start soon. Weather

conditions have been normal so far, and there are no reports of any pest or disease incidences. Reports indicate that sowing in the region has been reduced by almost 70% compared to last year. Harvesting is expected to start by end-August.

Market Scenario: Market arrivals in India were low during the lockdown period, and so far, only about 40% of the harvested material has been sold. There is adequate availability of material, and prices have remained low. Export demand has been weak.

Price Forecast: With trading activities limited, prices are expected to remain range-bound. There is adequate supply of conventional material. However, for IPM material, there could be limited availability due to higher pesticide application in some regions.

Coverage Recommendation: Prices of conventional and lower quality material is expected to remain range-bound due to limited market activity. However, prices of IPM and good colour material could move up, considering the limited supply. Forward coverage is recommended.

FENUGREEK

Current Market: Market activity continues to be dull even though lockdown restrictions have been removed. Primary market arrivals are low, and trading activity is limited with most of the new material going to stockists.

Crop Condition: Production has been good this year due to favourable weather conditions which resulted in improved yields in almost all growing areas. Good rainfall has been received.

Market Scenario: There is limited material available in the wholesale markets as carry-forward stocks are limited. Even after the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, market arrivals are low.

Price Forecast: If market activity remains low, prices can be expected to remain range-bound. Once trading activity resumes, some bullishness can be expected due to domestic demand.

Coverage Recommendation: With availability of material limited, it is recommended to cover for forward requirements. Domestic demand could provide support to prices.

CELERY

Current Market: Availability of material is limited, causing prices to remain firm. Limited availability of good quality material has kept prices firm for such material.

Crop Conditions: Harvesting is over in all areas. Production is estimated to have declined by nearly 30% this season mainly due to a decline in acreage, since farmers have preferred alternate crops having higher yield and shorter crop durations.

Market Scenario: Over 95% of the material harvested last season is estimated to have been sold so far. Market arrivals from the new season harvest is at normal levels. Farm-gate prices have moved up slightly, partly due to increased costs incurred due to the lockdown.

Price Forecast: Market arrivals are normal. However, stockists have stepped up buying, anticipating increased demand during the coming months. Apart from this pressure on the demand side, the decline in production this year will impact the supply side also. Both these factors together could have a bullish effect on the market.

Coverage Recommendation: It is recommended to closely follow the market and cover, particularly for higher quality material. Dips in the market can be seen as opportunities for extending coverage.



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