

Rabi maize to fetch Rs.1400/Qtl at harvest

World maize production in 2016-17 was seen at a record 1.03 billion tonnes up from previous year's projection of 1.017 billion tonnes and prior season's 969 million tonnes. The U.S, the world's top maize producer harvested a crop of 379 million tonnes.

According to the sowing data released by the Central Agricultural Ministry, *Kharif* maize in 78.66 lakh hectares as on September 1, 2017 was lesser than 82.87 lakh hectares of area reported last year. Used mainly as poultry feed and for starch manufacturing, arrival of new *kharif* maize is expected to peak from November. Lower demand from poultry and higher stocks are cited as the means for down turn of prices which are likely to remain down for some time in the short term. Highest decline in the maize area was found in Karnataka, due to deficit rainfall.

Under the circumstances, the Agricultural Market Intelligence center operating at the Institute of Agribusiness Management, Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural university, S.V. Agricultural College, Tiruapti has forecasted the price of maize in the coming months using econometric analysis of the modal prices of maize in Nizamabad Market. Given the present market sentiments backed up by market survey in the light of analytical results the prices are likely to be in the range of Rs.1350-1400/-at harvest period (December 2017 – February, 2018).

Groundnut prices to be around Rs.5000/Q during rabi harvest

In the case of edible oils, according to the industry, India's dependence on imported edible oils at about 70 per cent has increased to dangerously high levels. Cheap imports of edible oils have stagnated growth of domestic oilseeds production.

Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu account for close to 90 per cent of the total groundnut production. Groundnut has been increasingly used for direct consumption as table nut as it is the cheapest among all the nuts, but there is no commensurate increase in their production.

In the *kharif* season (2017-18), Gujarat- the largest producer of the oilseed, has witnessed record groundnut sowing, on over 16.26 lakh hectares. As on September 2017 the area under the crop in the country was 41.58 lakh.ha. In Andhra Pradesh the area sown under groundnut during *kharif* 2017-18 was 6.66 lakh.ha. In *kharif* 2017-18 it is expected that groundnut production would be encouraging.

Assuming normal area in *rabi* 2017-18 and to arrive at the prices likely to prevail at *rabi* harvested period the Agricultural Market Intelligence center operating at the Institute of Agribusiness Management, Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, S.V. Agricultural College Tirupati attempted econometric analysis of model prices of Kurnool market. The results coupled with traders' survey indicated that prices are likely to be around Rs. 4700 to 5000/qtl at *rabi* (2017-18) harvesting (December 2017 – February, 2018). This holds good given the present market sentiments.

Rabi sunflower price would be around Rs. 3200/q at harvest

Edible oil imports are rising by about 7-8 lakh tonnes a year on rising domestic demand. The per capita consumption is increasing by 3-4 per cent every year. Sunflower is the fourth most important crop in the country. The average yield of sunflower seeds in India is about 650 – 750 kg/ha, which is approximately half of the world's average. This may be attributed to lower percentage of area under irrigation, poor quality seeds, vulnerability to drought and output loss due to pests and diseases. Sunflower oil being healthier one, it commands premium over other edible oils especially palmoil. India imports sunflower edible oil from Ukraine, Russia and Argentina.

In recent years there is a fall in the area under sunflower in Andhra Pradesh. It is presumed that area in *rabi* 2017-18 may be closer to the area sown in the corresponding season of 2016-17. Now the interest is about the prices that are likely to prevail during January and February, 2018.

To arrive at the prices during harvest time of *rabi* 2017-18 the Agricultural Market Intelligence center operating at the Institute of Agribusiness Management, Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural university, S.V. Agricultural College, Tirupati analysed the modal prices of sunflower for 15 years from Kurnool market. The results of the analysis, market survey and present market sentiments indicated that the sunflower prices are likely to be in the range of **Rs. 3000-3300/-** per quintal during January to February 2018, *i.e.*, *rabi* harvest period. Farmers are advised to take there sowing decision accordingly.

BENGALGRAM PRICES TO BE AROUND RS. 4500/QTL AT HARVEST

Bengalgram area coverage at 9.9 million hectares during 2016-17 reflected growers response to the market prices. During 2016-17, the production has been recorded at 90.75 lakh tonnes, which was higher than the normal and 29 per cent higher than the production of 2015-16. In India Madhya Pradesh stood first with a production of 35.49 lakh tonnes, followed by Maharashtra with 16.48 lakh tonnes and Rajasthan with 13.82 lakh tonnes. The production in Andhra Pradesh was 4.34 lakh tonnes.

Taking cognisance of the of the crop realization bengalgram prices have already corrected down to the current level of Rs. 5100-5200 a quintal. India had produced about 250-260 lakh tonnes of pulses in 2016-17 and imported 57 lakh tonnes of pulses. The country consume about 250-260 lakh tonnes of pulses in a year. Higher sowing of bengalgram in the rabi 2017-18 is expected due to good rainfall, which could boost supplies next year and likely to impact prices.

Under the circumstances, the Agricultural Market Intelligence center operating at the Institute of Agribusiness Management, Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural university has analyzed the modal prices of bengalgram from Kurnool market for 12 years with the help of time series model. Given the present market sentiments, the bengalgram prices at harvest (December 2017 – February 2018) would revolve around Rs.4, 500 per quintal.