

KHARIF 2018-19 PRE-HARVEST PRICE FORECAST OF CASTOR

Castor Price per Quintal will be around Rs. 3800 – 4250 at the Time of Harvesting (October to December 2018)

Castor plant is grown in arid and semi-arid regions. It is cultivated in 30 different countries on commercial scale of which India, China, Brazil, Russia, Thailand, Ethiopia and Philippines are major castor seed growing countries accounting for nearly 88% of the world's production.

India, being the single largest producer of castor seed in the world, during kharif 2018, the total castor acreage increased by nearly 5.62% to 8.35 lakh ha as against 7.91 lakh hectares during kharif 2017. Kharif 2018 castor sown area in Gujarat, the largest producer of castor seed in India was 4.83 lakh hectares which was 0.69 lakh hectares less than that during last year. However, the same in the Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh were 2.64 lakh hectares and 0.33 lakh ha, that were more than that during last year by nearly 1.04 and 0.11 lakh hectares respectively.

According to the sources, castor seed prices are going to move steady to firm in coming weeks due to lower arrival from major producing regions and constant demand from consuming states. A decline in ready stocks due to pause in supplies from growing belts amid strengthening demand for consuming industries such as soap, paint and lubricant industries in the spot markets, enthused traders to build up their holdings, marking the uptick in castor seed futures prices.

In Telangana state castor crop has occupied 25809 hectares during kharif 2018, which was increased by nearly 982 hectares than the previous year. Gadwal, Siddipet, Medak, Mahaboobnagar, Nagarkurnool, Karimnagar and Nizambad districts are found to be major growing districts in the state.

The Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre established under a research project for development of price forecasting mechanism in the Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University Rajendranagar, Hyderabad with the financial support of Agricultural Marketing Department, Telangana State has assessed pre-harvest price forecast of castor for kharif 2018-19. Under constant demand and lower supply in domestic market, it is predicted that the castor price per quintal will be around **Rs. 3800 – 4250** at the time of harvesting (October to December 2018). This price forecast is based on the monthly modal price of castor obtained for 17 years from Gadwal regulated market using econometric models like ARIMA, SARIMA, ARCH, GARCH and ANN and also the market survey.

Note: There may be any possible deviation of the actual prices from the predicted prices in light of tentative developments in the commodity markets such as change in international prices, export or import restrictions, etc. And these price forecasts are based on past market price data & different econometric models and that actual market price may not turn out to be the same as forecasted.