

## VANAKALAM (KHARIF) 2020-21 PRE-HARVEST PRICE FORECAST OF BAJRA

### **Bajra Price per Quintal will be around Rs 1500 – 1800 at the Time of Harvesting (September to October 2020)**

Bajra is one of the most extensively cultivated cereals in the world, after rice, wheat, and sorghum, and particularly in arid to semi-arid regions. Pearl millet is a principal food cereal cultivated in drought prone semi-arid regions of Africa and Indian sub-continent. In USA, Australia, Southern Africa, and South America, pearl millet is grown most extensively as a forage crop for animal feed. This crop has a wide adaptability to local environments. Bajra is a hardy crop and can grow in areas very hot and dry, and on soils too poor for sorghum. Bajra is considered more efficient in utilization of soil moisture and has a higher level of heat tolerance than even sorghum and maize.

In India, during 2020-21 about 65.15 lakh ha (160.99 lakh acres) area was covered under bajra. The states of Rajasthan 38.42 lakh ha (94.94 lakh acres), Uttar Pradesh 9.20 lakh ha (22.73 lakh acres), Maharashtra 6.14 lakh ha (15.17 lakh acres), Haryana 4.32 lakh ha (10.67 lakh acres), Madhya Pradesh 3.05 lakh ha (7.54 lakh acres), Karnataka 1.45 lakh ha (3.58 lakh acres) and Gujarat 1.81 lakh ha (4.47 lakh acres) are the major growers of bajra in India. According to the 3<sup>rd</sup> advance estimates for 2019-20 bajra production estimate was 10.31 million tonnes as against 8.66 million tonnes in 2018-19.

The area covered under bajra in Telangana during 2020-21 was 586 ha (1450 acres). The major districts growing this crop include Gadwal 261 ha (646 acres), Nagarkurnool 64 ha (160 acres), Sangareddy 63 ha (156 acres), Rangareddy 53 ha (132 acres), Nalgonda 30 ha (74 acres) and Adilabad 24 ha (61 acres).

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, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad at Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University with the financial support of Agricultural Marketing Department, Telangana State has assessed 2020-21 kharif pre-harvest price forecast of bajra. Considering the present crop coverage and its condition, it is estimated that the bajra price per quintal will be around **Rs. 1500-1800** at the time of harvesting (Sep to Oct 2020). This price forecast is based on the monthly modal price of bajra obtained for 18 years from Nizamabad regulated market using econometric models like ARIMA, ARIMAX, SARIMA, ARCH, GARCH and also the market survey. Government of India has increased MSP of bajra by Rs.150 for 2020-21 marketing season i.e., Rs 2150/q as compared to previous year MSP of Rs 2000/q.

***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.***