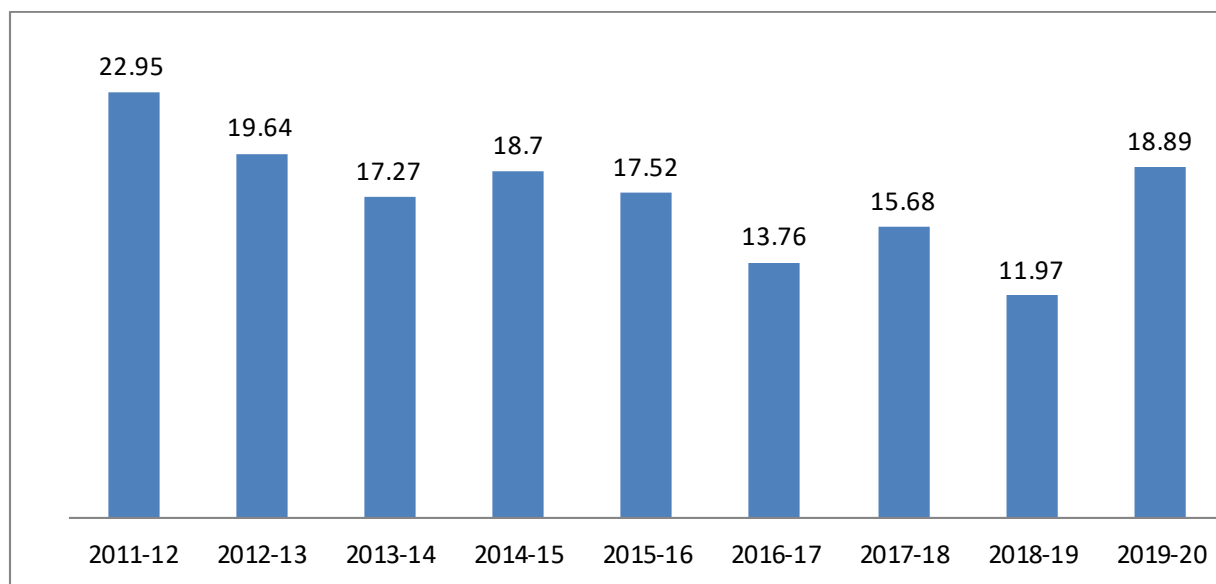


Castor Outlook – September 2020

Castor is one of the oldest cultivated crops; however, it contributes to only 0.15% of the vegetable oil produced in the world. The oil produced from this crop is considered to be of importance to the global specialty chemical industry because it is the only commercial source of a hydroxylate fatty acid. Castor plant is grown in arid and semi-arid regions. In 2018-19, World major producing countries are India (11.97 lakh tonnes), Mozambique (0.85 lakh tonnes), China (0.27 lakh tonnes), Brazil (0.14 lakh tonnes) and Myanmar (0.12 lakh tonnes).

Area under castor reported during 2020-21 was 1.50 lakh ha (3.70 lakh acres) as against 1.09 lakh ha (2.69 lakh acres) during the same period in 2019-20. Among states, Gujarat is leading with 0.916 lakh ha (2.263 lakh acres) under castor followed by Rajasthan 0.192 lakh ha (0.474 lakh acres), Andhra Pradesh 0.139 lakh ha (0.343 lakh acres) and Telangana 0.082 lakh ha (0.204 lakh acres). According to Government 4th advance estimates, all India castor production in 2019-20 is at 18.89 lakh tonnes.



Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES).

Figure 1: Production of Castor in India (in lakh tonnes)

Table 1: Castor Domestic Supply & Demand (in lakh tonnes)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Carry in	4.29	6.72	4.69
Production	15.68	11.97	18.49
Imports	0	0	0
Total Availability	19.97	18.69	23.18
Consumption (crushing)	13.25	14	14.5
Exports	0	0	0
Total Usage	13.25	14	14.5
Carry out	6.72	4.69	8.68

Source: www.agriwatch.com

In Telangana state, Wanaparthi 2,560 ha (6,326 acres), Mahabubnagar 2,297 ha (5,675 acres), Narayanpet 1,672 ha (4,432 acres), Gadwal 976 ha (2,412 acres) and Nagarkurnool 671 ha (1,659 acres) are major castor growing districts. According to Telangana State Government 3rd advance estimates, castor production in 2019-20 was 0.42 lakh tonnes with productivity of 1505 Kg/ha (609 Kg/acre).

Table 2: Prices and arrivals of Castor in Devarakadra market during August 2020

Date	Arrivals (Quintals)	Maximum price (Rs/quintal)	Minimum price (Rs/quintal)	Modal price (Rs/quintal)
12	75	3859	3849	3834
26	16	3849	3809	3829
27	3	3849	3839	3829
31	85	3859	3849	3832

Source: www.tsmarketing.in

During January - July 2020 castor oil exports increased to around 3.67 lakh tons as against 3.3 lakh tons during corresponding period of last year. However, in the remaining months, export of castor oil is likely to fall down due to logistic problem and demand destruction. Spread of COVID-19 and its impact and weakening buying power of retail customer would continue to impact demand for export in the near to medium term. But, low prices may attract stocking interest at consuming countries.

Under these circumstances, Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre, PJTSAU expect that Castor is likely to trade in price range between Rs. 3700 - 3850 per quintal in the month of September 2020.