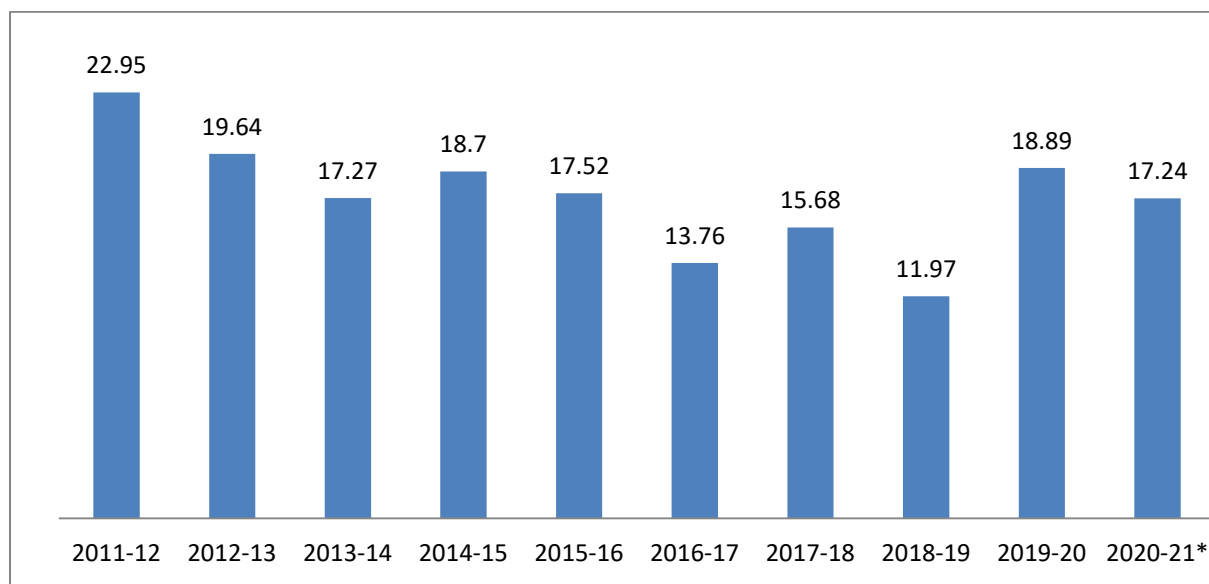


Castor Outlook – February 2021

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 7.743 lakh ha (19.133 lakh acres) as against 9.101 lakh ha (22.489 lakh acres) during the same period in 2019-20. Among states, Gujarat is leading with 5.799 lakh ha (14.330 lakh acres) under castor followed by Rajasthan 1.390 lakh ha (3.435 lakh acres), Andhra Pradesh 0.180 lakh ha (0.445 lakh acres) and Telangana 0.094 lakh ha (0.234 lakh acres). According to Government 1st advance estimates, all India castor production in 2020-21 is at 17.24 lakh tonnes.



Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES). * 1st Advance estimates

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

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

	2019-20	2020-21
Opening Stocks	2.30	6.69
Production	18.89	17.24
Imports	0.00	0.00
Total Supply	21.19	23.93
Consumption	14.50	15.00
Exports	0.00	0.00
Total Demand	14.50	15.00
Ending Stocks	6.69	8.93

Source: www.agriwatch.com

In Telangana state, Wanaparthi 2,812 ha (6,949 acres), Mahabubnagar 2,361 ha (5,834 acres), Narayanpet 1,683 ha (4,158 acres), Gadwal 1,119 ha (2,962 acres) and Nagarkurnool 686 ha (1,694 acres) are major castor growing districts. According to Telangana State Government 1st advance estimates, castor production in 2020-21 is at 0.13 lakh tonnes with productivity of 1483 Kg/ha (600 Kg/acre).

Table 2: State wise wholesale prices of Castor during January, 2021

State	Prices January, 2021	Prices December, 2020	Prices January, 2020	% Change (Over Previous Month)	% Change (Over Previous Year)
Andhra Pradesh	3821.69	3826.98	3088.14	-0.14	23.75
Gujarat	4359.43	4371.6	3983.32	-0.28	9.44
Karnataka	3897.55	3653.57	3627.96	6.68	7.43
Maharashtra	3612.5			—	—
Rajasthan	3820.96	4166.07	3933.55	-8.28	-2.86
Tamil Nadu	4050	4022.14		0.69	—
Telangana			3579.44	—	—
Average	3927.02	4008.07	3642.48		

Source: www.agriwatch.com

Table 3: Prices and arrivals of Castor in Devarakadra market during January 2021

Date	Arrival (Tonnes)	Maximum price (Rs/quintal)	Minimum price (Rs/quintal)	Modal price (Rs/quintal)
5	3	4059	4059	4059
6	22	4050	4009	4030
18	1	4039	4039	4039
19	4	4019	4019	4019
20	5	4052	3809	3921
23	25	4112	4063	4088
27	8	4109	4009	4059
28	7	4061	4019	4040
30	2	4063	4063	4063

Source: www.tsmarketing.in

After 1st phase of Castor harvest and seeds picking, the news of 2nd phase of picking castor seeds is also coming up. This year the exports of Castor Oil have grown by 15% as compared to last year. Major chunk has been exported to China. There has been no enhancement in the export of castor seeds to Western Markets.

Under these circumstances, Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre, PJTSAU expects that Castor is likely to trade in price range between Rs. 4000 - 4100 per quintal in the month of February 2021.