

# Spot Market Recap

Turmeric:

- Turmeric markets remained weak as buying activity declined over the month.
- The continuous fall in turmeric price shall stand discouraging for the growers.
- At the same time growers are having apprehension of further decline in turmeric prices which is likely to weigh on their margins and likely to shrink it further.
- It is important to note that sharp increase in turmeric prices could be seen for consecutive previous two year supported by low carryover stocks and surge in export demand.
- Meanwhile, prices registered steep fall in the first week of May because of the sluggish demand in the domestic and export markets coupled with arrival pressure.
- Markets may move lower in the next month as higher arrivals are expected from farmers as the area doubled during the last year.
- The peak arrival season for turmeric usually between January to March and starts receding from the month of April.

#### Cumin Seed:

- Cumin seed prices fell this month as weak demand in the markets weigh on the market sentiments.
- Arrival pressure keep prices to stay at subdued levels as against the anticipation of lower arrivals from Gujarat.
- Traders were anticipating lower arrivals on the wake of farmers holding this year and greater stockist's activities.
- Arrivals will start to decline from next month onwards as peak season of arrivals is likely to get over during first week of June and is likely to stand supportive for the prices moving forward.
- Markets remained weak as weak export demand mainly led to the fall in jeera prices.

### **Coriander Seed:**

- Coriander seed prices ended on a soft note this month owing to weak demand from the stockists coupled with lack of buying from masala millers.
- Currently they are waiting for prices to cool off further to book their monthly requirements.
- Meanwhile, it is expected that supply could increase in the coming month from major trading centres which may pull markets lower in short-run.
- However, lower production estimates at 60-65 lakh bags may drives up in the month of June.

#### **Black Pepper:**

- Black Pepper prices in Kerala ruled firm in May and the trend is likely to continue due to demand supply miss-match.
- Pepper is a perennial crop grown in a hilly region of India. Black pepper flowers during May-June. It takes 6-8 months from flowering to harvest. Normally harvesting is done during December month. The harvest season extends from December to January in the plains and January to March in the hills. February will be peak arrival season.
- In Vietnam, harvesting is done during January. The harvest season extends from January to March. April will be peak arrival season.
- In Malaysia, harvesting is done during May. The harvest season extends from May to June. July will be peak arrival season.
- In Indonesia, harvesting is done during July. The harvest season extends from July to August. September will be peak arrival season.

### Cardamom:

- Cardamom markets prices declined sharply during the month of May on account of higher production at 13,000 tonnes in 2010-11 Vs. 11,000 tonnes in 2009-10 coupled with higher arrivals in the month of May.
- Markets also fell on sluggish spot market demand against adequate stocks position.
- Stockiest liquidation is likely to continue during coming couple of trading weeks and they might be interested to liquidate their physical stocks at every rise on the heels of anticipation of strong arrivals in spot market and restricted buying by traders and stockiest at current levels.
- Meanwhile, new crop arrivals from Guatemala and adjoining region is likely to soften the international quotes which might also stand discouraging for Indian prices as India has to compete with Guatemala for export to middle east and Europe.



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### Red Chilli:

- Red Chilli markets remained sideways in the month of May and trading activities were seen minimal as the bench mark market of Guntur remained closed till June 1st week due to annual summer vacations.
- However sources added that after summer vacations market may re-open with expectation of surge in arrivals which is likely to soften the market sentiments.
- Meanwhile, trade estimates reveal that cold storage stock in the markets in Guntur is estimated to be around 30-35 lakh bags.
- However, one can expect buying interest to improve at lower chilli quotes as stocks lying in cold storage stocks are slightly lower compared to last year.

(Area in Hectares, Production in Tonnes)					
Commodity	2009-10		2010-11		
Commodity	Area	Production	Area	Production	
Pepper	238700	50000	154000	48000	
Cardamom	92545	11000	94325	13000	
Chilli	207000	831000	200000	800000	
Turmeric	114730	450000	194358	650000	
Coriander	507935	416663	348900	800000	
Jeera	Jeera 242700 320000 244600 270000				
Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.					

### Acreage and Production details of Spices

The above table shows the acreage and production details of Turmeric, Cumin Seed, Coriander Seed, Black Pepper, Cardamom and Red Chilli.

Pepper production declined to 48,000 tonnes in 2010-11 compared to 50,000 tonnes in 2009-10. Now this will create a shortage in the domestic markets after consumption and exports and this may support the uptrend in the long term.

Cardamom production has improved in 2010-11 when compared with last year. Higher prices during previous year prompted growers to plant more cardamom as depicted in the above table. Higher crop area and thereby improved production is likely to add to the supply and is likely to build the ending stock which might keep prices at subdued price levels going ahead. Moreover, sharp decline in cardamom prices shall stand discouraging for the growers in near term as planting for new crop sowing is expected in June end.

Chilli production declined in 2010-11 as acreage declined in 2010-11. Acreage declined as farmer's moved to more rewarding crops like soyabean and cotton and the erratic weather condition during the sowing period. Lower production anticipation for 2010-11 and relatively lower cold storage stocks might lend underlying support to the chilli prices in the medium term. However, market might be watching the sowing progress for 2011 which might determine its long term price trend.

Red Chilli sowing season starts from the onset of monsoon in June. Sowing intentions for Red Chilli in 2011-12 show an increase as prices are competitive compared to soyabean and cotton. However the final sowing may depend on the monsoons which according to IMD is expected to start in June and is expected to be normal. So if monsoons are normal then sowing intentions may be higher which may pull markets lower.

Turmeric acreage and production was improved significantly for 2010-11 as farmers more area under turmeric after getting hefty returns for consecutive previous 2 years. Meanwhile, congenial weather scenario in most of the growing states helped to boost the yield and thereby production during the above mentioned period. With the advent of new crop arrivals prices would decline as in the past discouraging farmers to go for active Kharif planting during 2011-12. Despite recent fall in turmeric prices, which are currently between Rs 8000 to 12000 the past returns would encourage farmers to consider planting turmeric again. However, weather will play an important factor in the coming month as sowing will start in June.

The downtrend of turmeric prices may pause for a while as exports to Japan have started again. The exports orders which had come before the quake in Japan are now being dispatched as the situation starts



improving. However, market is watching closely the new export orders and all forward booking shall lend additional support to the falling turmeric prices. As per trade sources international demand for turmeric has restarted from West Asia, Japan, Europe and US. Should the demand to stay intact for coming month, turmeric prices would remain encouraging.

Sowing for turmeric in Tamil Nadu start in March and 35-45% sowing has been completed for 2011-12. Sowing was done by farmers in March as prices in March were higher at Rs.14,000-15,000/qtl. However prices fell to Rs.8000-8100/qtl in May due to higher arrivals and weak demand sowing has slowed down. So this may push prices higher. Trade sources added that the rest of sowing will be gather momentum on the onset of monsoons in June.

There is ambiguity with respect to the coriander production for 2010-11. In one hand ministry of agriculture is projecting sharp improvement in production while on the other hand trade sources are bit conservative on production number and stating sharp drop in production figure. As per trade sources coriander production is likely to hover around 60 - 65 lakh bags with beginning stocks of nearly 20-25 lakh bags. Higher production of 80 lakh bahs anticipation by the government results into lower stockists buying and liquidation of the old stocks in market which keep spot prices under check. Moving forward, with the fag end of arrivals during 1<sup>st</sup> fortnight of June the same might lend support to the coriander prices moving forward.

Jeera production had declined in 2010-11 due to unseasonal rains in Gujarat and Rajasthan which lowers the output. However, continuous decline in jeera prices during last couple of weeks mainly attributed to the inferior quality jeera arrivals which stockists are not willing to stock. Meanwhile, lower production expectation and shortage of quality jeera for 2010-11 might underpin the market sentiments once active arrivals will be over. Meanwhile, higher yield for the coming crop might keep short term fundamentals on a soft note. Initial estimates for jeera production were 21-22 lakh bags while estimates after considering the revised yield are expected to hover near 27 lakh bags. Any upward revision for yield and thereby production shall keep jeera prices on subdued note for coming couple of weeks more but with dwindling arrivals especially during the fag end shall cap aggressive gains and keep the prices range bound during medium term perspective. Production this year in Rajasthan is expected to hover in the range of 7-8 lakh bags compared to 3-4 lakh bags last year.

#### Weather Impact on Production

Weather is likely to play key role in Kharif sowing for Red chilli, turmeric and cardamom. Red Chilli kharif sowing will start in June which might pick up with the onset of monsoon. Given the fact that monsoon set over Kerala on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2011, 3 days in advance to the normal onset on 1<sup>st</sup> June we expect sowing to start bit early if there is no lull phase in between. Widespread rainfall can be expected in the next month in Andhra Pradesh which may be suitable for farmers to go aggressive for red chilli planting. At the same the Southwest monsoon hitting in Kerala, will encourage to go for cardamom planting as well. Actual rainfall received during July – Aug shall be the deciding factor for 2011-12 (MY) production.

#### Fundamental analysis Turmeric Arrival Scenario:

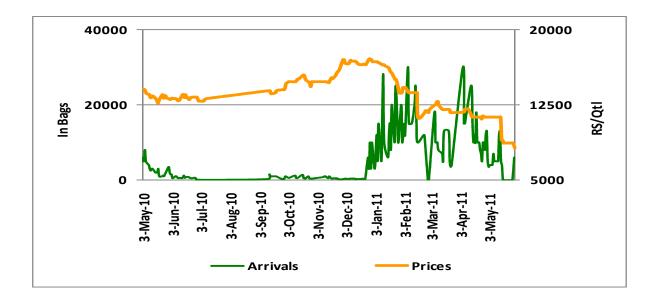
Market	% Change during corresponding period last year	Arrivals during the May 2011 in bags	Arrivals during the April 2011 in bags	Arrivals during May 2010 in bags
Nizamabad(Andhra Pradesh)	-73.72	17,000	208,000	64,700
Erode(Tamil Nadu)	+11.03	156,000	181,000	140,500

1 bag = 90kgs

Turmeric prices remained weak in the month of May 2011 as arrivals remained higher. Arrivals in the month of May 2011 were at 156,000 bags in Erode, higher by 11% compared to last arrivals at 140,500 bags. However, arrivals remained lower in May 2011 at 156,000 bags compared to April 2011 as peak was over and farmers did not bring in more stocks due to lower prices. Corresponding increase in arrivals is expected moving forward with respect to the total production which is pegged at 60-65 lakh bags during 2011 compared with 40-45 lakh bags previous year.

#### **Turmeric Prices and Arrivals at Nizam Market**





### **Turmeric Price Outlook**

Turmeric at Nizam was trading in the price band of Rs. 8,600-12,500 per quintal which is expected to drop in the next month as arrivals is expected to increase further during coming couple of weeks coupled with higher production estimates. So we expect a prices drop to Rs.7500/quintal for the next month in both Erode and Nizam.

Meanwhile, farmers had started sowing in the month of March as by that time they saw higher turmeric prices. However, Nizam markets have since fallen 26% with active sowing. However, we expect sowing to continue in major turmeric growing regions as better realization when compared with other crops shall encourage them to plant turmeric instead of rice which is likely to keep its normal area intact. Same is the case in Erode as prices since has fallen 29% as farmers had sowed more.

Optimistic export scenario especially on the advent of strong export orders from Japan and other nations shall cap aggressive fall thereby lending support to the turmeric prices moving forward.

Expected Range of Turmeric
7200-7500
8000-8200
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# Expected Price range of Turmeric Prices for next month

Prices-Rs/quintal Nizam prices- Nizam quality Erode prices-Gattah quality

Fundamental analysis Jeera Arrival Scenario:

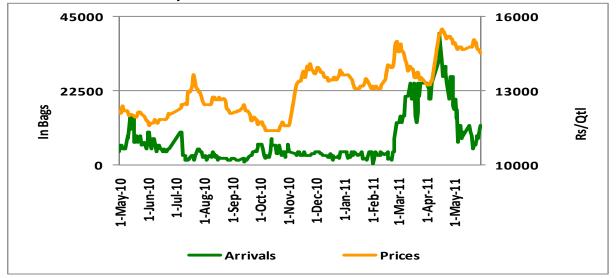
Market	% Change during corresponding period last year	Arrivals during the May 2011 in bags	Arrivals during the April 2011 in bags	Arrivals during May 2010 in bags
Unjha (Gujarat)	+33.41	261,500	475,000	196,000

Unjha 1 bag = 55kgs

Jeera prices remained weak in the month of May 2011 as arrivals remained higher. Arrivals in the month of May 2011 were at 261,500 bags in Unjha, higher by 33% compared to last arrivals at 196,000 bags. However, arrivals remained lower in May 2011 at 261,500 bags compared to April 2011 at 475,000 bags as peak was over and farmers did not bring in more stocks due to lower prices. Corresponding decrease in arrivals is expected moving forward with respect to the total production which is pegged at 27 lakh bags during 2011 compared with 30-32 lakh bags previous year.



Jeera Prices and Arrivals at Unjha Market



### Jeera Price Outlook

Arrivals remained lower in 2011 as against 2010 as production remained lower at 27 lakh bags compared to 30-32 lakh bags in 2010. We expect the arrivals to decline in the month of June due to off-season.

On the international front, crop output is expected to stay normal in Syria and Turkey and fresh arrivals is expected from July which might keep luring the international buyers till July. Moreover, with expectation of marked decline in arrivals in India, the international demand is likely to move towards Syria and Turkey.

However, crop size from Syria and Turkey is dependent on the weather. According to a weather forecast, Turkey and Syria could see thundershowers in the next week which might deteriorate the quality of jeera and even production if it coincides with maturity as jeera crop is in grain filling to maturity stage in these countries. Any major weather aberration over these countries especially during maturity to harvest stage shall underpin the market sentiments moving forward.

In the previous year, jeera production in Turkey and Syria (combined) was 35,000 tonnes while this year it might be lower at 30,000 tonnes.

#### Jeera Price Outlook

Jeera was trading in the price band of Rs. 14,500-15,100 per quintal which is expected to stay in a tight range. Any further decline in jeera prices and farmers may prefer to hold the stocks. The same shall lend underlying support to the prices once arrivals starts to thin. With expectation of decline in arrivals days ahead we expect prices to stay in the range of Rs.14,000 to 15,100/quintal.

At the same time, weather aberration in Turkey and Syria and anticipation of losses from these countries are also likely to lend additional support to the jeera prices.

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	Markets	Expected Range of Jeera			
	Unjha	14,000-15,000			
	Jodhpur	13,500-14,400			
	Nagaur	13,800-14,400			

Prices-Rs/quintal Unjha prices- Loose quality Jodhpur and Nagaur- Loose quality

Fundamental analysis Coriander Arrival Scenario:

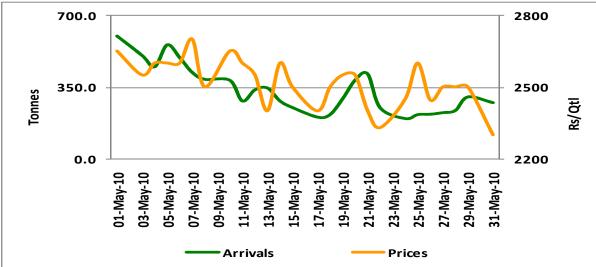


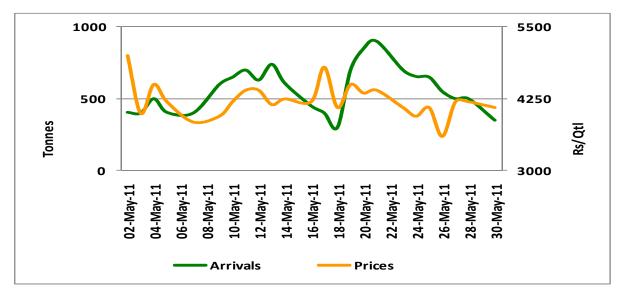
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Market	% Change during corresponding period last year	Arrivals during the May 2011 in tonnes	Arrivals during the April 2011 in tonnes	Arrivals during May 2010 in tonnes
Kota (Rajasthan)	+108.83	13192.1	12462	8743.1

Arrivals remained higher at 13192.1 tonnes during the month of May 2011 as against 12462 tonnes during April and the same remained higher when compared to previous year. Arrivals were higher which remains inline with the production figure in combination with higher carryover stocks which is estimated to hover near 25-30 lakh bags compared to 15-20 lakh bags to same period last year.







### Prices-Rs/qtl Arrivals-Tonnes

# **Coriander Price Outlook**

Coriander was trading in the price band of Rs. 3,600-4,800 per quintal for the Badami quality which is expected to move down on account of expectation of surge in arrivals during coming month. We expect prices to move lower to the extent price band of Rs. 3,000-3,200/quintal. Sources also added that prices



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might decline in the next month and are likely to extend the previous month weakness as peak arrival of coriander is expected from Rajasthan.

### Expected Price range of Coriander Prices for next month

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Markets	Expected Range of Coriander		
Kota	3000-3200		
Ramganj	2800-3000		
Baran	3200-3400		

Prices-Rs/quintal Kota, Ramganj and Baran prices- Badami quality

#### Coriander Statistics for 2010-11

Year	Production (Lakh bags)
2009-10	80
2010-11	60

### 1 bag=40kg

As per trade sources, coriander seed production in 2009-10 was 80 lakh bags while it has declined sharply by upto 20% during 2011-11 and is expected to be 60 lakh bags with a consumption of 65 lakh bags estimated for 2010-11. Carry forward for the 2009-10 was 13 lakh bags.

**Long term impact:** This will create a shortage situation and in the long run markets may move higher and buying can be done at lower support levels at Rs. 2,800-3,000 quintal levels.

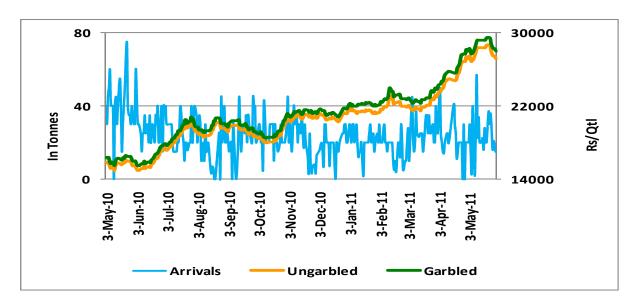
### Fundamental Analysis Black Pepper Arrival Scenario:

Market		Arrivals during the May 2011 in tonnes		Arrivals during May 2010 in tonnes
Kochi (Kerala)	-40.35	581.5	481	975

Arrivals remained higher at 581.5 tonnes as depicted in the above mentioned table. Though marginal increase m-o-m was seen owing to stockist's liquidation at higher price, quotes it remained significantly lower when compared with previous year while continuing to hold prices steady to firm in the spot. Lower beginning stocks and anticipation of lower production year on year basis are the reason for lower arrivals. However, black pepper arrival is likely to improve in June which might keep pepper prices steady with expectation of marginal decline.

#### **Black Prices and Arrivals at Kochi Market**





### **Black Pepper Price Outlook**

Black Pepper trading in the price band of Rs. 27000-28500/quintal which is expected to ease with the onset of active harvest from countries like Malaysia and Indonesia. In Vietnam, harvesting is done during January. The harvest season extends from January to March. April will be peak arrival season. In Malaysia, harvesting is done during May. The harvest season extends from May to June. July will be peak arrival season. In Indonesia, harvesting is done during July. The harvest season extends from July to August. September will be peak arrival season.

Year	Brazil	India	Indonesia	Malaysia	Vietnam	Total
2010	34,000	50,000	52,000	24,227	95,000	2,55,227
2011	35,000	48,000	37,000	25,672	1,00,000	2,45,672

#### **Black Pepper Statistics for main producers**

#### Production in tonnes

Global black pepper production in 2010- was 2,55,227 tonnes which is likely to decline during 2011 and is expected to hover near 2,45,672 tonnes. This suggests a 3.744% decrease in production year on year basis. Given the lower global pepper production we expect global prices to stay firm for medium to long term.

#### **International Pepper prices**

International pepper prices in May 2010 were much lower compared to current May 2011 amid crop shortage from few of the major producing countries. However, current spread between the Indian Asta MG-1 quality and Brazil B1 quality is \$600/MT. The normal spread between the two usually hovers near USD 500/MT which is marginally on a higher side. This might encourage US and European buyers to wait for the crop from Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil to go for active booking of order. However any delay in crop harvest owing to rainfall forecast for Indonesia and Malaysia shall again bring back the demand to Indian ports. Considering the weather forecast for equatorial countries and any possible delay in harvest we are expecting black pepper prices to inch higher and to hover near Rs. 31500/quintal.

Keeping in view the arrivals from Malaysia is likely to start in July and Indonesia is likely to start in August we expect a temporary decline in global prices. However, any major decline in global pepper prices would be a buying opportunity for importers.

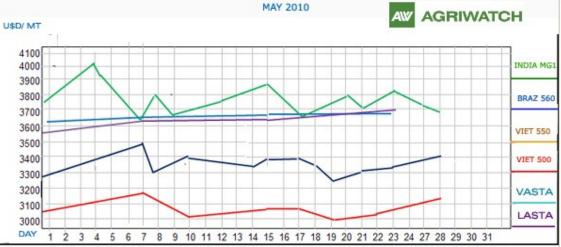


#### International pepper prices 2011



Prices-US/MT

### International pepper prices 2010



#### **Prices-US/MT**

Markets this month moved lower as buying activity declined with the high quotes. Demand rationing at relatively higher prices from EU and US helped to ease the black pepper prices for short term. However it continues to rule firm when compared with previous year. The current uptrend may only last till July as new crop is expected from Malaysia, followed by Indonesia in September and Brazil in November.

Harvest will be completed in May in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and farmers may bring in their stock due to good returns. Production in the two states of Assam and Meghalaya has increased to 5,000 tonnes which may not compensate fully for the reduced production in the South Indian States, but supply may be seen in the coming weeks.

Sentiments may remain firm in the next month as fresh arrivals in the international markets will only start in July as peak season of Malaysia will start in the month of July. So we could see the markets moving higher in the next month as shortage in the domestic and global markets.

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IPC released the export figures of Lampung a province of Indonesia. In April 2011, Lampung exported 4,416 mt of black pepper valued at USD 20.6 million. The export was almost doubled, from the previous months export of 2,368 mt. Major share of Lampung black pepper was shipped to the United States (43%) and Vietnam (33%), followed by India and China by 12% and 8% respectively. During January – April 2011, total exports from Indonesia was 10,821 mt as against 7,025 mt in the same period last year, registering a significant increase of 54%.

IPC also said that Vietnam with current year's production of 120,000 metric tonne and 20,000 metric tonne imports of last year and 10,000 metric tonne carry-over stocks has exported only 37,000 metric tonne of pepper in the first four months of this calendar year and this may hit Vietnam business due to an increase of interest costs and demand may shift back to India in the coming weeks.

#### Expected Price range of Black Pepper Prices for next month

Markets	Expected Range of Black Pepper
Kochi	26500-27500
New Delhi	28000-29000

Prices-Rs/quintal Kochi- Ungarbled quality New Delhi-Unpolished quality

Fundamental Analysis Cardamom Arrival Scenario:

Market	% Change during corresponding period last year	Arrivals during the May 2011 in Kgs	Arrivals during the April 2011 in Kgs	Arrivals during May 2010 in Kgs
Vandanmettu, Thekkady, Kochi, Nedumkandam , Kumily, Santhanpara & Bodinayakanur (Kerala)	+120.39	974,407	932,913	273,897

Arrivals remained higher at 974,407Kgs during the month of May, 2011 as against 273,897 Kgs in the same period last year. Higher arrivals are mainly attributed to increased production during 2011 which is expected to hover near 13,000 tonnes compared to 11,000 tonnes in the previous year. Favourable weather conditions during most part of the growth phase resulted into better production. At the same time higher production numbers during the ensuing season kept cardamom prices on a soft note.

Cardamom markets prices were seen declining during May which is worrying traders and farmers. However, this might bag export orders and would lead to higher exports in the coming few months which might underpin the market sentiments moving forward. Higher supply coupled with relatively thin export demand and lacklustre domestic demand results into significant fall when compared with previous year contemporary period.

Demand is likely to pick up after August when Ramadan demand is expected from Middle East. Immediate demand is likely to stay steady to weak owing to higher production estimates and lack lustre buying interest from stockists.

On the international front cardamom production from Guatemala is likely to decline to 20,000 tonnes from the previous 27,000-30,000 tonnes and may shift demand towards India which might lend support to the falling cardamom prices. The total carry-overstock in India is about 2,000 tonnes compared almost Nil in the last year.

### Expected Price range of Cardamom Prices for next month

Markets	Expected Range of Cardamom	
Vandanmettu	685-700	



Bodinayakanur	600-610
Santhanpara	680-690

### Prices-Rs/Kg

# Vandanmettu, Bodinayakanur and Santhanpara - Loose quality

# **Red Chilli**

The red chilli markets at Guntur will be closed till June 1st week due to summer vacations. However sources added that after summer vacations market may re-open with expectation of surge in arrivals which is likely to soften the market sentiments. Guntur market cold storages have the stock holding capacity of 85 lakh bags and at present total stock position in cold storages are 35 lakh bags. However, one can expect buying interest to improve at lower chilli quotes as stocks lying in cold storage stocks are slightly lower compared to last year. Market participants are expecting Rs.10000/quintal price for chilli when market activities start from 6<sup>th</sup> June onwards.





#### **Spot Prices Monthly Change**

Commodity	Centre	Variety/Type	Price Rs/Qtl	Price Rs/Qtl	
			30.05.11	01.05.11	- Change
Black Pepper	Kochi	Ungarbled	27200	27200	-
		Garbled	28000	28000	-
	New Delhi	Unpolished	27500	29000	-1500
		Number 11.5	32500	30900	+1600
			-		
	Erode	Finger	8650-9650	9950-10950	-1300
Turmeric		Gattah	8150-9150	9450-10450	-1300
	Nizamabad	Nizam	8050-8150	11150-11250	-3100
	Unjha	Loose	13450	13875	-425
Cumin Seed		Machine Cut	14025	14450	-425
Cumin Seed		NCDEX Quality	14250-14525	14675-14950	-425
	Jodhpur	Loose	13800	13700-14200	-400
	Nagaur	Unpolished	13900	14100	-200
Red Chilli	Guntur	LCA 334	Closed	7500-8500	-
		Bedki	Closed	8000-9000	-
Coriander Seed	Ramganj	Badami	3450-3550	4100	-550
Contanuer Seed		Eagle	3750-3850	4350-4400	-550



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	Price Rs/Kg				
Vandanmettu, Small					
	Thekkady,	Max Auction Price	643.5-755.5	1056	-300.5
Cardamom	Kochi, Kumily,				
(Small)	Nedumkandam,	Average Auction Price	504.85-	831.2	-315.66
	Santhanpara &	Average Auction Frice	515.54	031.2	-315.00
	Bodinayakanur				

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