

Executive Summary:

- In West Bengal, approximately 90-92% of potatoes have made their way to cold storages. It is expected that cold storages will get filled by 100% of their capacities which is approximately 64 lakh tons.
- In Sirsaganj (U.P), cold storages are expected to get filled by 80% which is almost similar to last year. According to trade sources rest of the potatoes which are left in farms for harvesting are expected to be supplied directly to the mandi.
- In MCX, future markets prices of potatoes are hovering around 1000/ quintal in all the contracts which were ruling around Rs 850/ quintal two weeks back. In Khanduali (Agra) spot market, prices are unchanged from last two weeks and still hovering between Rs 750 to Rs 800 / quintal.
- According to news sources in Punjab, area under potato crop this year was 85,000 hectares, which produced 21 lakh metric tons of potato as compared to 84,000 hectares under potato cultivation last year which produced 20 lakh metric tons of the crop.
- In Orissa, Cuttack, Banki and Keonjhar districts farmers have produced 600 quintals of 'Chipsona' and 'Lady Rosetta' variety of potato first time with the assistance of state government. These varieties can produce 25 times of potatoes as compared to the seeds sown. Normal varieties produce 10 times of the seeds
- In Delhi, potato is arriving in market from U.P and Punjab which are contributing approximately 75% and 25% to total arrival.

Weekly Wholesale Potato Prices Analysis for 24th March- 30th March 2013

| Market | State | Avg. Prices 24th March- 30th March 2013# | Avg. Prices 18th March- 23rd March 2013# | Avg. Prices 24th March- 30th March 2012 * | % Change over Prev. Week | % Change over prev. Year |
|-----------|-------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Delhi | Delhi | 717 | 695 | 676 | 3.17 | 6.07 |
| Agra | UP | 510 | 550 | 500 | -7.27 | 2 |
| Kanpur | UP | 700 | 650 | 700 | 7.69 | 0.00 |
| Kolkata | W. Bengal | 580 | 552 | 778 | 5.07 | -25.45 |
| Ludhiana | Punjab | 497 | 478 | 900 | 3.97 | -44.78 |
| Indore | MP | 834 | 775 | 550 | 7.61 | 51.64 |
| Mumbai | Maharashtra | 967 | 975 | 878 | -0.82 | 10.14 |
| Bangalore | Karnataka | 1200 | 1146 | 807 | 4.71 | 48.70 |
| Ahmedabad | Gujarat | 809 | 781 | 606 | 3.59 | 33.50 |
| Hyderabad | AP | 1059 | 1158 | 1060 | -8.55 | -0.09 |
| Chennai | Tamil Nadu | 1334 | 1300 | 1058 | 2.62 | 26.09 |

(Source: #AGRIWATCH, * NHB)

The above table shows the weekly wholesale price variation across different markets in the country. Prices have increased in maximum places because potatoes are directly taken to cold storages from farm because of which arrivals are less in mandi. This week arrivals were also less because of 'Holi' festival. Prices have also increased compared to previous year because of high input cost this year.

Weekly Retail Potato Prices Analysis for 24th March- 30th March 2013

| Market | State | Price as on 30/03/2013 | Price as on 23/03/2013 | Price one year ago- 30/03/2012 | % Change in Price Over Prev. Week | % Change in Price Over Prev. year |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bangalore | Karnataka | 1700 | 1684 | 1500 | 0.95 | 13.33 |
| Bhubaneswar | Odisha | 784 | 795 | 860 | -1.38 | -8.84 |
| Chennai | Tamilnadu | 2000 | 2000 | 1600 | 0.00 | 25.00 |
| Delhi | Delhi | 1200 | 1100 | 1000 | 9.09 | 20.00 |
| Guwahati | Assam | 850 | 800 | 1000 | 6.25 | -15.00 |
| Hyderabad | AP | 1800 | 1800 | 1660 | 0.00 | 8.43 |
| Kolkata | W. Bengal | 800 | 784 | 985 | 2.04 | -18.78 |
| Mumbai | Maharashtra | 1500 | 1500 | 1200 | 0.00 | 25.00 |
| Patna | Bihar | 800 | 817 | 943 | -2.08 | -15.16 |

(Source: NHB)

In Retail prices, a mixed variation is seen. Retail prices have declined in Patna and Bhubaneswar by 2.08 % and 1.38 % on a weekly basis respectively. Maximum prices have increased in Delhi and Guwahati by 9.09% and 6.25% respectively. The increase in prices is due to lower supply to market as potato from producing regions is directly going to cold storages. In some cities, prices have come below previous year level.

Technical Analysis – Weekly Spot Price Chart of Potato- Khandauli, Agra



(Note: Each bar or "candle" in the chart shows the price movement in a particular week. The green candle signifies prices increased and red candle signifies prices decreased in that week. The length of the "candle" shows the upper and lower end of the price range for the week.)

01 April, 2013

The above chart shows the weekly price movement of Potato prices in spot market of Agra. In Agra, prices were trading between Rs 750-800/ quintal. Prices are same as last week. On the lower side prices may found a support at a level of 615-30 whereas on higher side resistance at level of Rs 850/ quintal. Relative Strength Indicator (RSI) is hovering in the neutral zone and expected that prices may trade in the range for coming weeks.

MCX- Potato Futures Weekly Analysis: (24th March-30th March 2013)

| Symbol | Delivery Center | Expiry Date | Weekly Close Price | Previous Week Close Price | Net Change | This Week Open Interest | Previous Week Open Interest | Change in Open Interest |
|--------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| POTATO | AGRA | 15-Apr-13 | 995.4 | 913.2 | 82.2 | 6390 | 8070 | -1680 |
| POTATO | AGRA | 15-May-12 | 997.7 | 912.9 | 84.8 | 17370 | 22740 | -5370 |
| POTATO | AGRA | 16-Jun-12 | 1006 | 907.5 | 98.5 | 12300 | 10020 | 2280 |
| | | | | Total | 265.5 | | | -4770 |

(Source: MCX)

In futures markets potato prices are trading near 1000 level. In April and May contract short covering was seen with increase in prices and decreased in open interest. In MCX, June contract long buildup was seen with increase in price and open interest. This indicates prices are expected to firm up in futures market.

Disclaimer

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