

**Domestic Market Update:**

- Most of the markets are closed today on occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. All India castor seed arrival is 1363 quintal which is lower from last day arrival of 10452 quintal.
- All India castor seed sowing as on 14 August, 2020 is 4.18 lakh hectares which was higher by 9.28% of last year corresponding period area of 3.83 Lakh hectares. If the sowing would be in same pace in coming weeks, record production of castor seed could be seen in second consecutive years.
- Castor seed Price would like to go up from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1100/- Uncertainty over kharif Crop the sowing of Castor would decline by 20-25 %. According to N.P. Patel, president Gujarat Seeds producers association, due to good amount of rainfall in Kutch & Saurashtra farmers would like to have two crops instead of Castor, whose gestation period is 6 months. This is the main reason for decline in the area under Castor.
- Castor Seed futures on the NCDEX are witnessing a range-bound movement but the counter continues to see buying support at lower levels are traders are wondering if there is likely to some negative impact on the sowing of the commodity in leading producing state of Gujarat. Gujarat kharif sowing continues rigorously. The latest data shows that total acreage under the crops stands at 40.88 lakh hectares as on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020, soaring by 48.16%.
- However, it is also evident that Castor acreage is likely getting affected as farmers prefer more of other crops. The benchmark NCDEX Castor Seed futures have been in a good nick recently, hitting a contract high above Rs 4000 per quintal before pulling off.
- As Per the final estimates, castor output in the country will be lower by about 15,000 tons from 19.77 lakh tons reported in 2018-19.
- The latest data of Gujarat sowing shows that total acreage under the castor crops stands at 1900 hectares as on 06<sup>th</sup> July 2020. From this it is clear that Castor acreage is likely getting affected as farmers prefer more of other crops.
- India's average castor seed productivity after the third and fourth survey has been revised down to 1,977 kg per hectare against 2,052 kg/ha estimated in the first estimate. This is due to some crop damage in Gujarat from untimely rains and strong winds. However, Rajasthan crop conditions were a little better than the first estimate.
- Gujarat will continue to be the largest castor seed producer with an estimated output of 16.60 lakh tons or nearly 85 per cent of the country's output. The first estimate had put the Gujarat output at 17.44 lakh tons.
- Strong winds, rains and hailstorm in some tehsils of Banaskantha, Gandhinagar, Mehsana and Ahmedabad (districts) during March 2020 had slightly damaged the standing castor crop. Farmers have also gone slow on selling castor seed in the market primarily due to the lockdown and lower prices.
- Rajasthan, on the other hand, is set to see an improvement in the average yield, which is revised upward to 1,593 kg/ha after the fourth round of survey, as against the first estimate of 1,523 kg/ha, due to favorable weather conditions and availability of water for irrigation.

- Also the area under castor in Rajasthan is believed to be higher for 2019-20 at 1,54,240 hectares per government estimates over last year's 1, 38,000 hectares. Meanwhile final production for the State is estimated to be 2.46 lakh tonnes as against the first estimate of 2.35 lakh tonnes.

NCDEX Castor Futures				Date: 21/08/2020			
Contract	+/- (%)	Open	High	Low	Clos e	Volum e	O. Int
20-Sept	+0.10	3982	3990	3970	3980	875	24820
20-Oct	+0.00	4010	4024	4010	4010	115	1100
20-Nov	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Castor Seed Prices in Key Centers:**

Commodity/Center	Market	Price (Rs/ Quintal)				Change
		22-Aug-20		21-Aug-20		
	Castor Seed	Low	High	Low	High	
Gujarat	Patan	Closed	Closed	3850	3925	-
	Harij	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	-
	Rajkot	3675	3780	3650	3805	-25
	Gondal	Closed	Closed	3705	3855	-
	Deesa	Closed	Closed	3925	3950	-
	Bhabar	Closed	Closed	3900	3925	-
	Mehsana	Closed	Closed	3875	3900	-
	Kadi	Closed	Closed	3875	3965	-
	Sabarkatha	Closed	Closed	3675	3950	-
	Gandhi Nagar	Closed	Closed	3900	3950	-
	Ahmedabad (Sanand)	NA	NA	NA	NA	-
	Halvad	3700	3850	3700	3875	-25
	Junagadh	3500	3810	NA	NA	-
	Dhrol	3100	3600	NA	NA	-
	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	3700	3800	Closed	Closed
Sumerpur		Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	-

Center	Market	Fig. in Quintal		Change
		22-Aug-20	21-Aug-20	
Gujarat	Patan	Closed	2250	-
	Harij	Closed	Closed	-
	Rajkot	175	650	-475
	Gondal	Closed	500	-
	Deesa	Closed	300	-
	Bhabar	Closed	1200	-



	Mehsana	Closed	225	-
	Kadi	Closed	3592	-
	Sabarkatha	Closed	160	-
	Gandhi Nagar	Closed	450	-
	Ahmedabad (Sanand)	NA	NA	-
	Halvad	1125	1125	Unch
	Junagadh	62	NA	-
	Dhrol	1	NA	-
Rajasthan	Jodhpur	NA	Closed	-
	Sumerpur	Closed	Closed	-
Total Arrivals/Above Markets		10452	1363	-9089

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