

## Sell groundnut upon harvest at MSP

From last six years in Gujarat monsoon remained satisfactory and very good in current kharif season of 2024-25. However, it has caused considerable damage in many districts, particularly to groundnut crop. The monsoon was set up timely in fourth week of June, 2024 and groundnut sowing was completed in third week of July, 2024, occupied about 19.18 lakh ha acreage over 16.35 lakh ha in 2023-24. The rainfall distribution remained even, brightened the yield prospects. The kharif groundnut production in Gujarat is estimated record high about 58 lakh tonnes (First Advanced Estimate dt. 23-9-2024) as against 45 lakh tonnes in last year.

At country level, the kharif groundnut acreage is also estimated higher about 47.85 lakh ha as against 40.44 lakh ha in last year and the production is estimated high 103.6 lakh tonnes (1<sup>st</sup> AE, dt. 5-11-2024) as against 86.6 lakh tonnes in last year.

About 6.81 lakh tonnes groundnut (kernels) was exported during 2023-24 over 6.69 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 and in current year, it may be around 10 lakh tonnes. Besides, in 2023-24 about 1.26 lakh tonnes groundnut oil was exported. Hence, groundnut price which was ruling around Rs. 1300 per 20 kg in October-November, 2023 remained at this level still June, 2024 and then started decline owing to higher acreage in kharif 2024-25. Currently the groundnut price is ruling around Rs. 1200 per 20 kg in various markets of Gujarat, is likely to remain around this level during harvesting season. The Government has fixed the MSP of groundnut at Rs. 1356.60 per 20 kg (6783 Rs/qtl.) for the year 2024-25 as against 1275.40 per 20 kg in last year.

The total oilseed production in the country was estimated about 396.7 lakh tonnes in 2023-24, which was 4 per cent less than previous year. The current *Kharif* oilseed crops production is estimated 257 lakh tonnes, over 242 lakh tonnes in last year. In 2023-24 the import of edible oil in country was around 155 lakh tonnes as against 157 lakh tonnes in previous year. In current year from April to September, 2024 about 88 lakh tonnes edible oil has been imported.

Reviewing the above situation, the research team of Department of Agricultural Economics, JAU, Junagadh has analysed the historical price data of groundnut pods collected from Gondal and Rajkot APMCs. The econometric analysis revealed that, **the prices of groundnut at harvest may remain in the range of Rs. 1150 to 1280 per 20 kg (5750 – 6400 Rs/qtl) during November to December 2024.** Hence, farmers are suggested to take note of the above situation and take their own decision to sell groundnut upon harvest at MSP centers, without going for storage.

This year estimation of higher groundnut production, particularly in Gujarat and higher import of edible oils, there is less chance for groundnut price to go up in near future. However, MSP will provide good support to market.