

# Mandi price trend indicates higher production in soyabean, groundnut

**MIXED BAG.** Output of urad, moong, sunflower and sesame may see a fall as compared to last year

**Prabhudatta Mishra**

New Delhi

The prices in agriculture market yards (mandis) in the last 30 days signal that the output of at least four kharif crops — soyabean, groundnut, jowar, and niger — may be higher than last year while there may be a fall in the harvest of tur, urad, moong, sunflower and sesame. Production of rice, maize, bajra and ragi may be around last year's levels, as market rates indicate. The government is yet to release the production estimates of kharif crops, which is usually announced in September.

In the 2023 kharif season, production was as follows: rice 113.26 million tonnes (mt); maize 22.25 mt; bajra 9.66 mt; jowar 1.51 mt; ragi 1.67 mt; tur 3.42 mt; urad 1.60 mt; moong 1.15 mt;

## Average mandi prices

	November (1-2)	October	November '23
Sesame	12,216	11,085	13,182
Tur	10,200	9,591	9,089
Urad	8,719	8,283	8,940
Niger*	8,092	8,536	7,006
Moong	7,955	7,627	8,178
Cotton (medium)	6,993	7,134	6,868
Sunflower**	6,300	5,504	4,823
Groundnut	5,147	6,002	6,876
Soyabean	4,341	4,705	5,393
Ragi	3,948	3,861	3,314
Jowar	2,577	2,934	3,714
Bajra	2,575	2,520	2,867
Paddy	2,416	2,435	2,457
Maize	2,263	2,440	2,208

\*Prices in October and September; \*\*Only in Karnataka; Source: Agmarknet

groundnut 8.66 mt; soyabean 13.06 mt; sunflower 0.06 mt; sesamum 0.40 mt; and niger 0.03 mt.

### COTTON RATES DOWN

Cotton, which had 32.52 million bales of 170 kg each in 2023-24, seems to be the only crop whose prices have come down a bit in the last

30 days despite lower acreage. Latest data show cotton (medium) is currently sold at an average of ₹6,993/quintal in mandis, a tad lower than the average of ₹7,134/quintal in October.

The sowing area under cotton was recorded at about 113 lakh hectares this year, down from 127 lakh

hectares in 2023. The Agriculture Ministry, on September 20, had said that the first advance estimates of kharif crops' production would be released in October.

The Ministry even discussed the prospect of kharif crops with industry experts from Crisil Research, Agri-watch, India Pulses and Grain Association, Indian Oilseed and Produce Export Promotion Council, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), and several ICAR institutes.

“The primary objective of this consultation was to gather crucial insights and early assessment from stakeholders regarding the current production outlook of crops for the kharif 2024 season. These contributions will be integral to formulating the first advance estimates of these agricultural

crops,” the Ministry said after the consultation.

“Trade knows the pulse of a crop, whether production will be lower or higher, even though it may not be accurate. Private traders and industry always look forward to the government estimates, particularly for crops grown in several States. It is easier to estimate a crop like tur or moong since it is majorly grown in 2-3 States,” said V K Jain, a trader with over 40 years of experience.

Rajasthan, which is among the top three producers of many crops, has already released its first estimates of production. According to the State's data, bajra production is seen at 4.9 mt, moong at 2.28 mt, maize at 2.34 mt, jowar at 0.62 mt, urad at 0.2 mt, groundnut at 2.27 mt, soyabean at 1.42 mt, castor at 0.3 mt, and sesamum at 88,379 tonnes.