

Price Forecast for Pulses

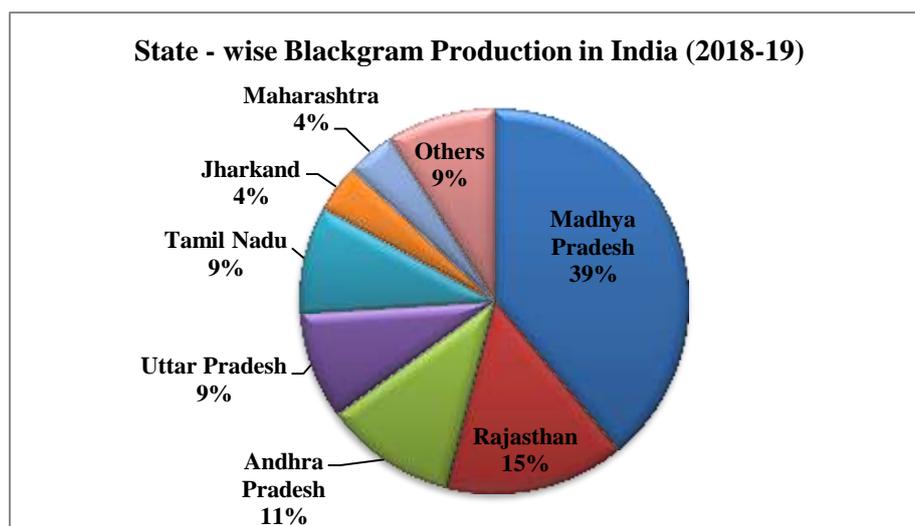
India is the biggest producer of pulses, accounting for more than one-fourth of the total global production. Many exporting countries are dependent on India for marketing their pulses. Even though India is the world's largest producer and consumer of pulses, still there is a gap of 5-6 million tonnes between the production and consumption of pulses in the country and the gap is met through imports.

As per the Fourth Advance Estimates by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, total pulses production in India was 23.40 million tonnes in 2018-19. The Government of India expects total pulse production to touch 26.30 million tonnes during 2019-20. Blackgram and Greengram accounted for 13.93 and 10.04 percent share in the pulses production of India during 2018-19. Apart from India, pulses are widely cultivated in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

A. Blackgram

According to the First Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (2019-20), the production of blackgram is 2.43 Million tonnes in India. The major states producing blackgram are Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkand and Maharashtra accounting for 89 per cent of the total blackgram of the country.

The major consuming cum importing countries of black gram are India, China, Pakistan, Japan and Thailand. These countries import mainly from countries like Myanmar, Thailand, Canada and Australia.



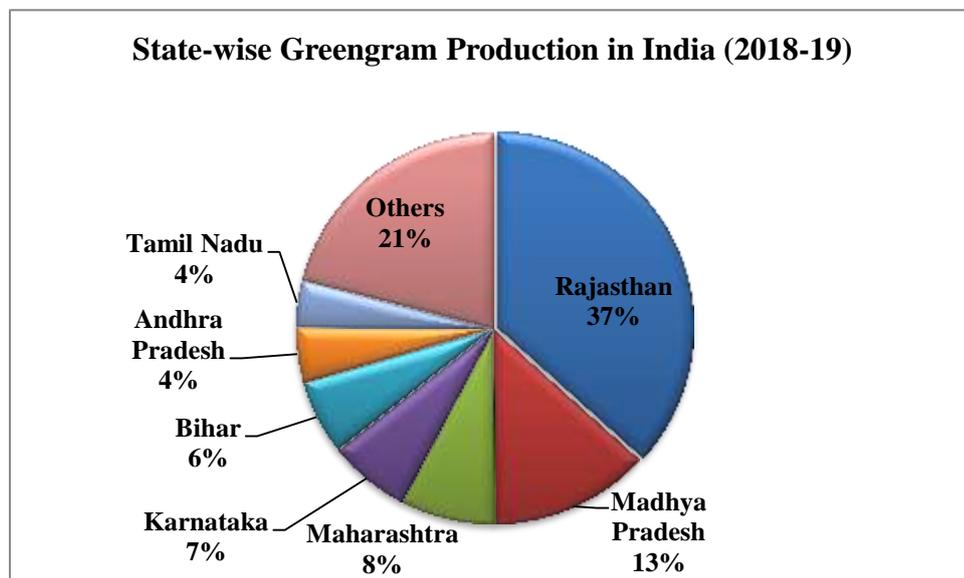
According to Indian Pulses Grains Association (IPGA) country is likely to face 50 per cent shortage in production because of damage in Kharif crop of 2019. Import of blackgram quota had raised by the Ministry of Commerce by 1.5 to 4 lakh tons till the end of March 2020 by millers and refiners.

Blackgram is normally cultivated in Tamil Nadu in an area of 4.26 lakh hectares with a production of 3.01 lakh tonnes. Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Viluppuram, Thanjavur and Tiruvarur are the major districts cultivating blackgram. Major cultivars are ADT 3, ADT 4, ADT 5, KKM 1, CO 6, VBN (Bg) 5 and VBN 6. Greengram was cultivated in Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Thoothukudi, Cuddalore, Thiruvallur, Salem and Thanjavur.

Blackgram arrivals from Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have already started and it is expected that arrivals from Tamil Nadu will commence from the March first week. Trade sources also stated that blackgram imports from Myanmar will also affect the domestic prices of blackgram.

B. Greengram

According to the First Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (2019-20), the production of Greengram is 1.42 Million tonnes in India. The major greengram producing states are Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. These states together contribute for 79 percent of total greengram production. Importing countries of greengram are Myanmar, China, Tanzania, Mozambique and Indonesia.



Greengram are annually cultivated in Tamil Nadu in an area of 1.89 lakh hectares with a production of 0.78 lakh tonnes. Greengram was cultivated in Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Thoothukudi, Cuddalore, Thiruvallur, Salem and Thanjavur. Major varieties under cultivation in the state are CO 6, CO 7, CO 8 and VBN 3.

The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) is the nodal agency for procurement of these pulses. Procurement has already begin on February 1 in the districts of Thoothukudi, Virudhunagar and Tiruvallur, all for greengram, and

Tirunelveli, Dindigul, Pudukottai, Ariyalur, Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, Villupuram and Tirupur besides Thoothukudi, all for black gram. In Cauvery delta districts, it will commence on April 1.

The TN-IAM Project funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 18 years prices for blackgram and greengram that prevailed at Viluppuram Regulated Market. As per the results of the analysis, the farmgate price of good quality blackgram during March- April, 2020 will be Rs. 65-67 per kg. Good quality greengram price will be around Rs. 68-70 per kg and fluctuation would be subjected to the variations in the arrivals from the major production centres and import from other countries. Now harvesting season has commenced for greengram and blackgram especially in the rice fallows areas. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate selling decision accordingly.

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