**Kharif 2020 Crop Survey Report**

Sesame and groundnut occupy jointly comprise more than 80% of the oilseeds exports from India. Nearly 75% of the national production of sesame and 85% of groundnut comes from kharif season. Hence, these twocrops are the focal points of IOPEPC kharif oilseed crop survey.

Sesame is harvested in September and groundnut in October. The Department of Economics and Statistics (DES) releases the first advance estimates of production in the second fortnight of September which are based on eye observations. The DES releases its earliest crop performance based estimates as late as in February of the next calendar year. The stakeholder in exports, however, need the estimates in the month of October.

Therefore, to fill this crucial gap, the IOPEPC has been organizing crop surveys every year and releasing the estimates in October itself. As per standard procedure, for each crop, the total number of farmers to be interviewed is equal to 0.1% of the national acreage. Accordingly, this year about 1400 farmers for sesame in five states and 5000 groundnut farmers in seven states were required to be interviewed. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic the IOPEPC could not organise such a survey. Hence the IOPEPC, decided to adopt an alternative approach instead. The salient features of this approach are:

* Interviews with only 10-15% of the standard number of farmers
* Collection of views of the district/state level Govt. Agriculture Officers on the likely performance of the crops
* Consultations with the crop scientists of the agricultural universities
* Evaluation of crop-rainfall relationship on the basis of historical data
* Harmonization of data to fix a putative but realistic figures for yields
* Estimate the state-wise production by using the figures for state-wise coverage (DES website) and the state-wise putative yields

**Monsoon rainfall and crop coverage:**

By 1 June the south-west monsoon touched Kerala and by 8 July covered the entire country. The 2020 south-west monsoon season (01/06/20 to 30/09/20) was characterized by an overall normal and but somewhat unevenly distributed rainfall. India as a whole received 958 mm rainfall against the normal rainfall of 881 mm i.e. 9% more than normal.

With the timely arrival of monsoon, there was a head start in sowing operations. In kharif-20, sesame was sown in 14 lakh ha, which is 3% more than the normal. Three states viz., UP, MP and Rajasthan together accounted for three fourths (72.2%) of the national area.

Groundnut was sown in 51 lakh ha- 23% more than the normal. In Gujarat alone, the increase was by 36%. Except for Maharashtra which registered a decrease by 14%, in AP, Karnataka, MP, Rajasthan and TN the increase was between 21 to 26%.

**Crop condition**

Owing to sandy soils, excess rainfall in west Rajasthan did not have any significant effect on groundnut crop. Large excess rains in August and September, however, lowered the yields of sesame and also caused wetting of harvested bundles being dried and cured in the open fields

Due to large excess rainfall in Saurashtra region, the productivity of both the crops was adversely affected.

Likewise, groundnut crop in the Rayalaseema region, was severely hit due to overall large excess of rains coinciding with the harvest time.

In the Bundelkhand region, due to deficient rainfall, the performance of sesame crop was not even up to the normal mark.

To sum up, the large-excess of rains during harvesting operations of sesame and pod-filling and post-harvest drying stages of groundnut belied the hopes of bumper harvest of these crops in several important regions.

**Production estimates**

All India coverage of kharif-2020 sesame was **14,01,200 ha**. The **production** is estimated to be **4,39,075 tonnes** with an average yield of **313 kg/ha.** Amongst the major producing states, the largest contribution of 1,6,2475 tonnes (37%) has been estimated from Madhya Pradesh which is followed by 92,308 tonnes (21%) of Rajasthan, 72,312 tonnes (16.5%) of Uttar Pradesh, 45,774 tonnes (10.4%) of Gujarat and the least 26,291 tonnes (6%) of Odisha. The joint contribution of the other states is 39,916 tonnes (9.1%).Wherever, the harvested bundles of plants left in open fields for drying and curing, have been exposed to excess rains, discoloration of seeds to varying extent has been reported.

All India coverage of kharif-2020 groundnut was **50,95,500 ha.** The production is estimated to be **77,28,597 tonnes** with an average yield of **1517 kg/ha.** With a production of 38,51,971 tonnes amounting to half (49.8%) the national production, Gujarat stands head and shoulders above the other states.The next amongst the major producing states, Rajasthan contributed14,94,040 tonnes (19.3%); and is followed by 5,39,922 tonnes (7.0%) of Tamil Nadu; 5,22,348 tonnes (6.8%) of Andhra Pradesh; 4,34,000 tonnes (5.6%) of Madhya Pradesh; 3,76,320 tonnes (4.9%) of Karnataka; and 2,12,742 tonnes (2.8%) of Maharashtra. The joint contribution of the other states is estimated to be 2,97,254 tonnes (3.8%).

The produce from excess rainfall areas like Saurashtra and AP is likely to have poor pod filling with a lower shelling out turn (≈65%) against the normal (≈70%). The proportions of one-seeded pods and shriveled seeds are also likely to be more than usual.