



About NFPP



Nedspice believes that backward integration and sustainability are some of the main challenges for the food industry in the years ahead. To ensure that spice farming remains financially attractive and offers a sustainable livelihood for farmers Nedspice has initiated the development of backward integration programs for farmers in the countries it works in. This ambition is laid down in the Nedspice - Farmers Partnership Programme (NFPP) which defines the approach, key principles as well as the expected results. In this update you will find information about the latest NFPP activities for cumin in Barmer, India.

Crop stage



- The cumin sowings got under way from the 3rd week of October.
- High temperatures in the first 3 weeks of October (+15% vs last year) led to formation of a thick crusty soil layer, which resulted in poor and patchy germination.
- The majority of farmers (approx. 30% of sowings) went for re-sowings in November owing to poor germination noticed in their October sowings.
- Cumin sowings are likely to extend into the second half of December this year.

Climate development in NFPP area (2017/18 season)¹

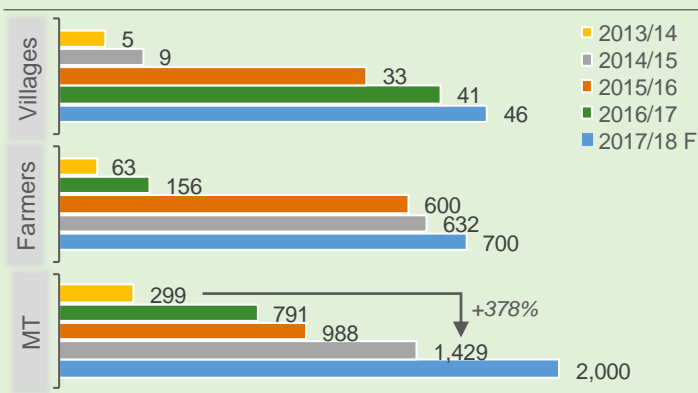
Stage	Period	☀️ °C	☁️ mm	☔ Days	📏
Sowing	Oct - Nov	+1%	(100%)	(100%)	~
Vegetative	Dec				1-2mm last year vs 0mm this year
Flowering	Jan				
Seed setting	Feb				
Harvest	Mar-Apr				

Developments



- The NFPP for cumin was initiated during the 2013/14 crop year, in 5 villages located across 3 districts of Rajasthan.
- The program rapidly scaled up and witnessed a 6 fold increase in the no. of villages to 33 by the 3rd year, despite discontinuing the program in Jodhpur district from year 2.
- The no. of farmers associated with the cumin program saw a 10 fold increase to 632 by year 4 (2016/17).
- The procurement volumes of sustainably grown, IPM compliant cumin increased by 378% from program inception in 2013/14 to last year's program.
- 2,000+ MT of sustainable cumin is targeted to be procured from the 2017/18 NFPP area, across 46 villages from up to 700 participating farmers.

Program impact and evolution



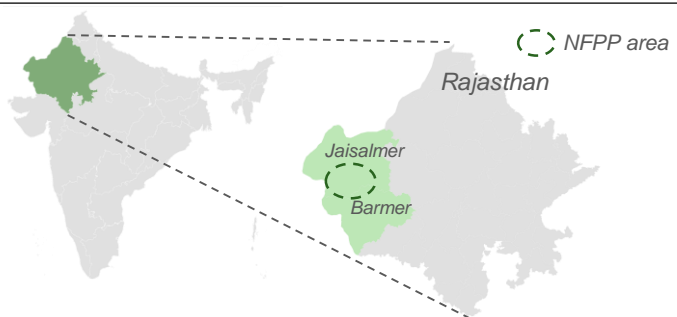
Germinating Cumin



- The cumin crop from early November sowings (left) reveal a good germination. The germination for October sowings (right) is often worse.
- As on date, 50-60% germination is noticed in the area.



NFPP area overview



¹ Stages are indicative for the GC-4 variety (commonly grown variety). The percentages represent the change versus the same period last year, considering data till 30-Nov-17. Rainy days are defined as days with >0mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.

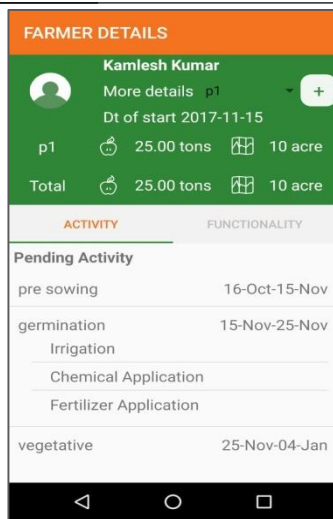
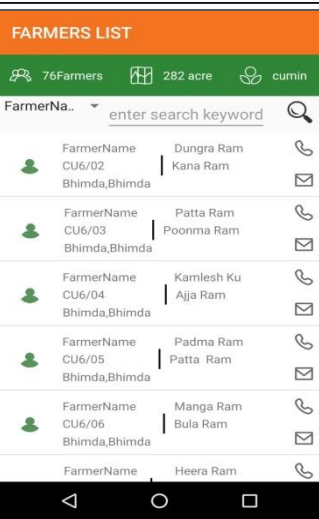


- 4th – 6th November: Farmer training programs were held at the 3 sub regions in the NFPP area, where an average of 20-25 famers attended each training session, with focus on:
 - Adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), promoting the application of Potassium as a basal application (@ 15-20 kg per hectare). This is a practice not commonly followed by cumin farmers in the project area.
 - Awareness about soil and seed treatment with bio agents such as Trichoderma viride and Pseudomonas fluorescens that would provide the crop with higher immunity against fungal diseases, improve soil health and reduce the input costs of the farmers by spending less on synthetic fungicides.
 - Explaining about replacement options for synthetic insecticides with bio insecticides for effective control of insect pests and reduction in input costs.
- NFPP App
 - Farmer details, sowing data, inputs applied are being captured in the NFPP App.
 - Monitoring of the cumin program will be done through the NFPP App this year.

NFPP App



Farmer training



What's next?



- Customer visits are planned to the NFPP area during the second half of December. Focus will be on the GAPs and the Package of Practices (PoPs) we are adopting, and the monitoring, feedback and corrective measures being implemented in the field, which ensures production of IPM¹ compliant, sustainably grown cumin.
- Farmer training program on low cost - high impact pest management to be held in January '18, prior to the onset of the crop flowering stage.
- Development of training videos on the right harvest and post harvest practices to be followed, to be used during the farmer trainings planned in February '18.
- Trial plots for amendment of PoPs in the NFPP cumin program have been undertaken in 2 of the NFPP sub regions:
 - Based on the results we get from the different treatments being provided, the PoPs adopted last year would be appropriately amended going forward.
 - Objective is to replace the hazardous pesticides commonly in use, with safer pesticides and bio products that not only have higher efficiency, but also prevent soil contamination and deterioration.

Nedspice

Netherlands: +31 10 2801 380
 United States: +1 843 443 4007
 Vietnam: +84 274 37 18 005
 India: +91 484 22 23 286

spices@nedspice.com
<http://www.nedspice.com/>

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1) Integrated pest management.