



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 fennel and fenugreek pilots undertaken in Rajasthan, India.

Crop stage



- The fennel pilot program nurseries were raised in Jun-17. Transplantings were completed in Jul-17.
- The crop withstood the heavy rainfalls between June to August and established good vegetative growth by October.
- Flowering commenced in early November, with the fennel fields currently being in seed maturation stage.
- The fennel crop in Abu Road is harvested multiple (5-6) times from mid December to early February, as the umbels mature.
- Vertical drying of the harvested umbels is done in shade, which results in superior quality.
- The fenugreek is at the start of the vegetative stage currently.

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

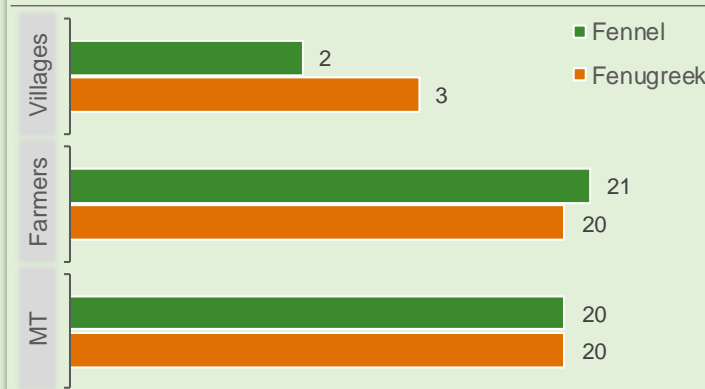
Fennel	Period	Fenugreek	Period
Sowing	Jun	Sowing	Oct – Nov
Transplanting	Jul – Aug	Vegetative	Dec
Vegetative	Sept – Oct	Flowering	Jan
Flowering	Nov	Seed setting	Feb
Seed maturation	Dec	Harvest	Mar – Apr
Harvest	Jan – Feb		

Developments



- This year, the fennel pilot was initiated in the Abu Road region of Rajasthan, known for the production of the best quality of fennel seed in the country.
- The pilot has been undertaken in 2 villages in Abu Road, with 21 farmers enlisted in the project. A procurement target of 20 MT of shade dried fennel seed was set for the pilot.
- The fenugreek pilot was initiated in the Osian region in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan.
- Sowings in 3 villages in the region were completed in November, for a total of 20 participating farmers.
- The crop just entered the vegetative stage, but a preliminary procurement target of 20 MT was set.

Program impact and evolution



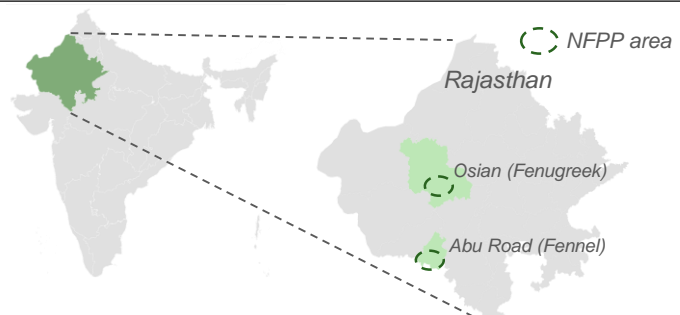
Fennel flowering and drying



- Fennel in bloom on the left.
- Vertical drying of the harvested fennel umbels in the shade on the right.



NFPP area overview



1) Stages are indicative for the Abu 444 and RMT 305 varieties (commonly grown varieties).



- 2nd November: Fenugreek farmer training session was held in Padasala village, Osian:
 - Explaining the concept of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) to the farmers who were interested in joining the pilot.
 - All 20 farmers who attended the meeting registered for the pilot program.
- 14th November: Fennel farmer training program was held in Ore village, Abu Road:
 - Focus was on the usage of bio insecticides and bio fungicides for the fennel crop, which would keep insect pests and diseases at bay.
 - Awareness about using yellow sticky traps to determine the threshold level of insect pest in the fennel crop was extended.
 - 14 participating farmers joined the training session.
- The NFPP App for fennel has been developed and all farmer entries and activities for the pilot are being entered into the App presently. The NFPP App for fenugreek is under development and would be ready for use by January '18.

Fenugreek farmer training session



Fennel farmer training session



What's next?



- Fennel
 - Crop harvest to get under way in December '17.
 - Multiple harvests (5-6) at weekly intervals to continue till end of January '18 / early February '18.
 - Harvested material would be stored in the cold storage to prevent deterioration in colour and quality.
- Fenugreek
 - Farmer training on integrated pest management (IPM) measures to be held towards end of December '17.
 - Focus would be on preventive applications of bio pesticides for effective prevention and control of insect pests and diseases.

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