



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 programmes 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 Rajasthan, India.

Crop stage



- Because sowings extended into November, the crop witnessed slower growth in its vegetative stage during December due to lower temperatures.
- A combination of very cloudy and warm daytime weather, together with cool nights, subsequently lead to an outbreak of pest in some areas during January. Curative sprays of permitted pesticides were used to prevent any further spread though, as the incidence was still in initial stages.
- Furthermore, the relatively high temperatures during the day have resulted in uniform and good growth in January.
- The majority of the crop harvest is likely to extend into the second half of March, owing to the delayed sowings.

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

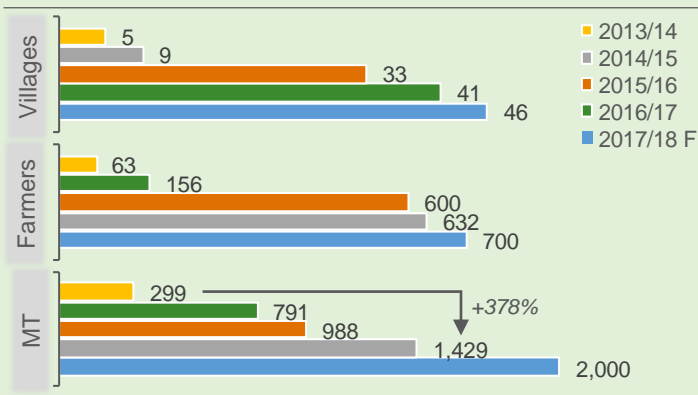
Stage	Period	☀️ °C	☁️ mm	☔ Days	📅
Sowing	Oct – Nov	+1%	(100%)	(100%)	~
Vegetative	Dec	(15%)	n.a	n.a	✓
Flowering	Jan	+24%	(100%)	(100%)	✓
Seed setting	Feb				
Harvest	Mar – Apr				

Developments



- The NFPP for cumin was initiated during the 2013/14 crop year, in 5 villages located across 3 districts of Rajasthan.
- The programme rapidly scaled up and witnessed a 6 fold increase in the no. of villages to 33 by the 3rd year, despite discontinuing activities in Jodhpur district from year 2.
- The no. of farmers associated with the cumin programme saw a 10 fold increase to 632 by year 4 (2016/17).
- The procurement volumes of sustainably grown, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) compliant cumin increased by 378% from inception in 2013/14 to last year.
- 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.

Programme impact and evolution



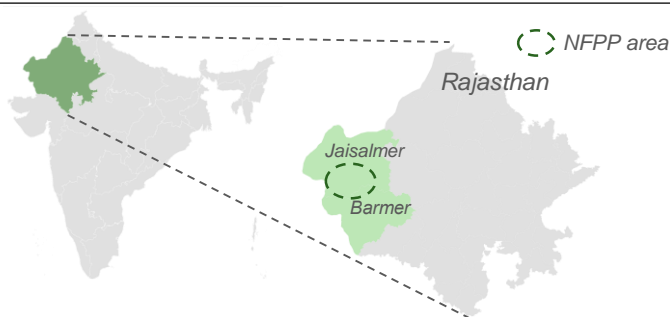
Cumin in flowering stage



- The cumin crop in flowering stage.
- Warmer day temperatures in Jan-18 have resulted in the uniform good growth of the crop.
- Seed setting has been noticed in the early sown areas.



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 23-Jan-18. Rainy days are defined as days with >0mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.



- 20th – 21st December: Customer visits to 2 sub regions of the NFPP area.
 - Visit focused on the adopted Package of Practices, detailing the required monitoring, feedback and corrective measures for implementation in the field that ensure production of IPM¹ compliant and sustainably grown cumin.
- 13th – 19th January: Farmer training sessions.
 - Key topics were use of safe pesticides, bio agents and effective plant protection measures. Information was provided to farmer groups in all the 4 sub regions of the project area.
 - 20 - 25 farmers from different village clusters of each sub region attended the farmer training sessions, which extended over 7 days.
 - Awareness about options to substitute synthetic pesticides for effective control of major diseases and insect pests related to cumin crop was created with the participating farmer groups.

Farmer training session



- Farmer training sessions on effective plant protection and pest control were conducted in Jan-18 across the project area.



- Q&A sessions with the farmers were part of the scheduled sessions.



Training on effective plant protection



What's next?



- Customer visits are scheduled in the project area at the start of February, ahead of the International Spice Conference in Jaipur.
- Short training videos and Q&A interviews have been developed in the regional language:
 - Videos cover the key measures to be adopted during the different crop stages, in order to grow a good quality and IPM¹ compliant crop.
 - The videos will be shown during farmer meetings in the different sub regions of the project area.
- Wall paintings, with the NFPP and Nedspice logo, providing awareness on the various aspects of sustainable agriculture, including IPM¹, to be done in the important villages of each sub region from Feb-18 onwards.
- Farmer training on good harvest and post harvest practices to be followed, planned in second half of Feb-18.

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1) Integrated Pest Management.