



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



- The crop has entered the harvest stage slightly earlier than expected owing to the higher day temperatures witnessed from mid February onwards.
- Due to the fact that exchange prices were almost 10% lower than last year's opening prices, farmers are holding onto their stocks and are selling their seed material in a piece meal manner.
- Expected procurement volume for the season is at 2,250 MT. It was lowered somewhat because the crop yield was impacted by the aphid attack (see January update), which also brings additional pesticide risks requiring due care.

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

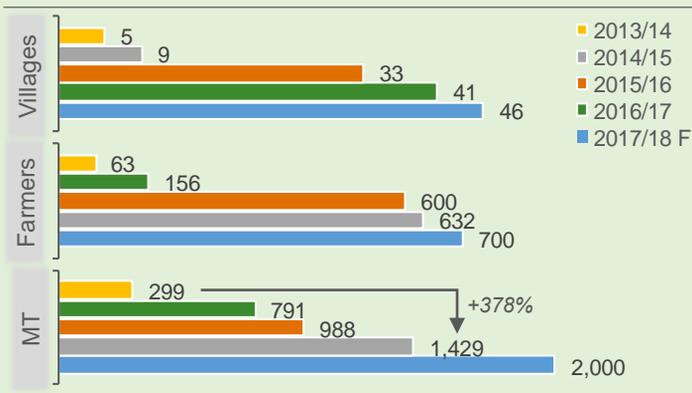
Stage	Period	☀️ °C	mm ☁️	Days ☔	📅
Sowing	Oct – Nov	1%	(100%)	(100%)	~
Vegetative	Dec	(15%)	n.a	n.a	✓
Flowering	Jan	22%	(100%)	(100%)	✓
Seed setting	Feb	4%	n.a	n.a	✓
Harvest	Mar – Apr	13%	(100%)	(100%)	✓

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



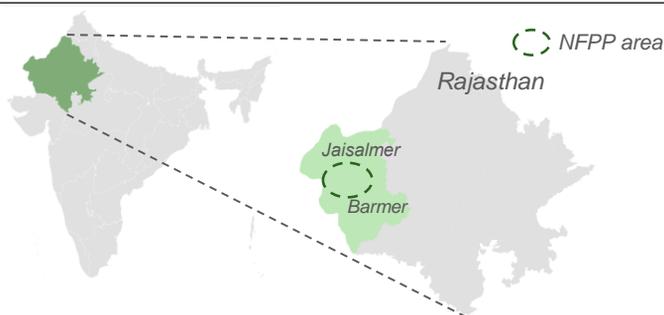
Cumin harvest



- Harvesting of the cumin crop commenced from mid Feb-18.
- Small heaps of harvested cumin are left to dry in the field for a week prior to threshing.



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



- 1st – 3rd February: Awareness campaign on Sustainable Agriculture through wall paintings:
 - In order to create larger and better awareness on Sustainable Agriculture, NFPP launched an initiative carrying out wall paintings in the sub regions of Jhinjhinyali and Bhimda (see video).
 - Topics covered are pesticide label identification, safe usage of chemicals, water management, environment conservation, etc., but also topics not directly related to sustainable agriculture are covered in cooperation with local authorities, e.g. control on population growth, protecting and providing better education to children, etc.
 - Wall paintings are generally located near schools, bus stations or along main roads, to ensure good visibility.
- 26th February – 2nd March: Pre- and post-harvest training sessions.
 - Training on the right procedures to be followed prior to crop and post crop harvest were carried out with farmer groups in all the 4 sub regions of the cumin programme.

Pre- and post-harvest training



Wall painting campaign on SA awareness

Topics:

1. Adoption of correct field practices prior to harvest.
2. Drying of harvested seed heaps to required moisture levels prior to threshing.
3. Usage of plastic sheets beneath piled cumin seed heaps before threshing.
4. Thorough cleaning of threshers prior to commencement of threshing.



What's next?



- Procurement of cumin seed from all the 4 sub regions of NFPP Cumin area will be under way from mid March onwards.
- Subsequent to lot sampling (for pesticide residue testing and analysis) from the procured farmer seed lots, the material will be sent to the seed processing unit at Unjha, Gujarat for processing and onward shipments.
- Extension of wall painting initiative to CU7 and CU8 sub regions to be done in April/May.
- Awareness on benefits of green manuring and soil solarisation to be increased through farmer meetings during May-18.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of providing seating in classrooms for school children of a secondary school, to be done by Nedspice in CU5 sub region in May-18.

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