



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 harvest commenced from the beginning of Mar-19 in all NFPP sub-regions and will finish this month.
- The weather had been favourable until the beginning of seed setting stage. After that, temperature variation between day and night caused severe aphid infestation across the project area. Farmers have sprayed insecticides to control the aphid menace, hence the availability of compliant cumin will reduce this season.
- The crop is reported to drop by 25-30%. The average yield is estimated to be c. 300 kg/ha.

Climate development in NFPP area (2018/19 season)¹

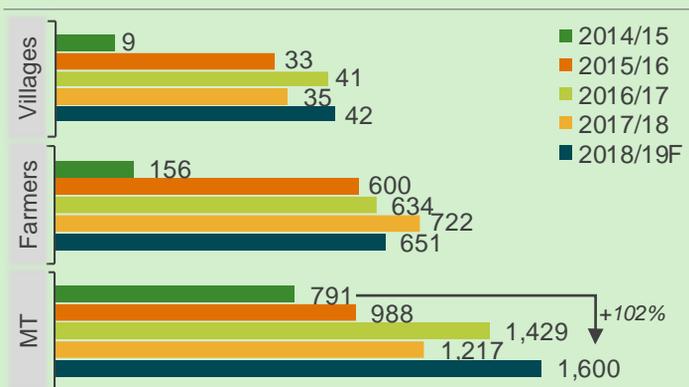
Stage	Period	☀ C°	mm ☁ Days	📅	
Sowing	Nov – Dec	0%	n.a	n.a	✗
Vegetative	Dec – Jan	4%	(100%)	(100%)	✓
Flowering	Jan – Feb	(14%)	n.a	n.a	✓
Seed setting	Feb – Mar	(18%)	n.a	n.a	✓
Harvest	Mar – Apr	(13%)	–	–	✗

Developments



- The NFPP for cumin was initiated during the 2013/14 crop year in 5 villages located across 3 districts of Rajasthan.
- Last season, the number of farmers associated with the NFPP cumin programme saw a 5 fold increase versus the 2014/15 crop. This season saw a small decrease as the programme has become more selective.
- The procurement volumes of sustainably grown IPM compliant cumin increased by c. 54% from programme inception in 2014/15 to last year's programme, across 35 villages from 722 participating farmers.
- 7,014 ha from 651 farmers were registered for this crop season from which Nedspice aimed to procure 1,750+ MT of compliant cumin. However, this target was adjusted to 1,600 MT due to aphid attack issue.

Programme impact and evolution

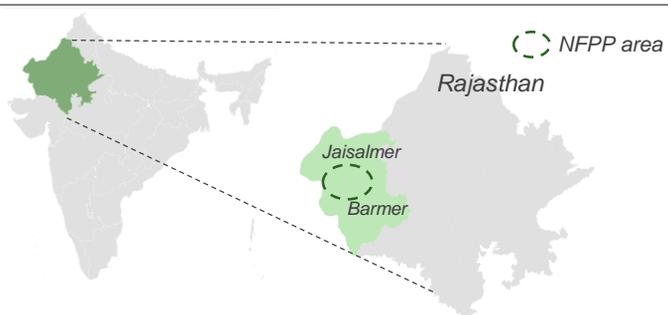


Cumin harvesting



- Harvested cumin on the field.
- Threshing of dried cumin.

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 04-Apr-19. Rainy days are defined as days with >0mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.
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Activities

- Dec-18 – Mar-19: Field visits and farmer trainings on:
 - Pest and disease management, use of safe pesticides
 - Harvest and post-harvest practices
- 15-17 Feb-19: Street plays by a professional theatre group from Jodhpur were conducted in CU5, 6 & 7 NFPP areas to impart awareness among cumin farmers regarding proper use of pesticides towards sustainable agricultural practices.
- Feb-19: Safe insecticides were issued again to NKC farmers due to aphid attack issue.
- Mar-Apr-19: Threshing of harvested cumin is carried out on fields after drying. Physical purity checking, sampling and testing are in progress.
- Early procurement started in CU6 & 7 sub-regions. As of 31-Mar-19, 21MT of NFPP cumin was procured.

Harvest and post harvest trainings



- Farmer training on proper harvest practices.



- Cumin sampling and testing of physical purity.



Sustainable activities



- Safe insecticides were delivered to a NKC farmer who reported aphid infestation on his field.



- Street plays in NFPP areas to impart sustainable agriculture.



What's next?



- Cumin procurement activities from NFPP farms will continue until Jul-19.
- 15-Jul-19: Planning for the 2019/20 cumin project.
- Farm Sustainable Assessment (FSA) of cumin farmers is in progress:
 - Completion of FSA certification is being targeted by Jun-19.

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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