



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 of pearl millet crop just finished in Rajasthan. Farmers have started preparing land for sowing cumin since last week.
- Sowing is expected to commence by the beginning of November and normally lasts for 3-4 weeks.
- The weather has been favourable so far with lower day temperature compared to last year. However, it is still too early to draw conclusions as high day temperature in the coming weeks may result in delay of sowing or poor and patchy germination in the vegetative stage.

Climate development in NFPP area (2019/20 season)¹

Stage	Period	☀ C°	mm ☁ Days	📅
Sowing	Oct – Dec	(7%)	n.a	n.a
Vegetative	Dec – Jan			
Flowering	Jan – Feb			
Seed setting	Feb – Mar			
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 number of farmers associated with the NFPP cumin programme has recently increased to over 650 farmers across some 40 villages.
- The production volume reached over 3,000MT during the 2017/18 season. However, overall production dropped by c. 45% for the following season due to severe aphid infestation before harvest.
- Nedspice procured 1,021 MT of compliant cumin from the 2018/19 crop. For this season, the procurement target is being set once farmer registrations complete.

Programme impact and evolution

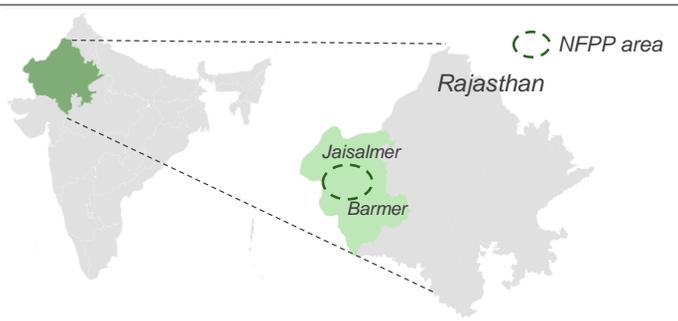


Crop stage



- Harvesting of pearl millet on the field. After that cumin sowing will be carried out.
- Land preparation where pearl millet and other crop harvest completed.

NFPP area overview



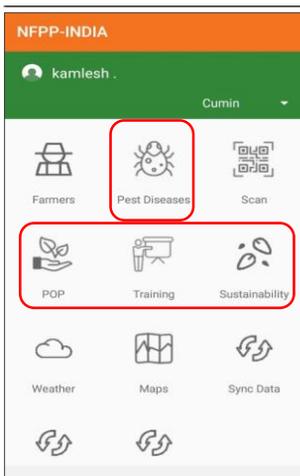
¹) Stages are indicative for the GC-4 variety (commonly grown variety). The percentages represent the change versus the same period last year, considering data till 19-Oct-19. Rainy days are defined as days with >2.5mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.



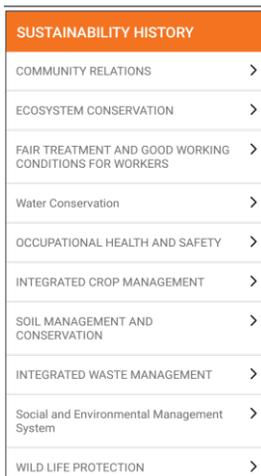
Activities

- Cumin procurement from the 2018/9 crop was completed by end of September. 25-30% yield loss was reported due to aphid infestation and the average yield is estimated to be c. 250 kg/ha.
- Oct-19:
 - Farmer registrations are in progress;
 - New cumin sub region CU9 is included in the 2019/20 crop season;
 - Farmer training on: land preparation, seed treatment and fertiliser application, with special focus on promoting application of bio insecticides and bio fungicides;
 - Roll-out of new NFPP app features including video training and crop wise details of common pest and disease infestation that can be easily tracked by field staffs and farmers.

NFPP cumin app



Sustainable activities



- *Field trials using bio insecticides will be conducted against aphid infestation.*

- *New features are included in NFPP app: pest and diseases, Package of Practices (POP), training and sustainability.*

What's next?



- Oct-19: Trial application of different bio insecticides against pest infestation will be conducted, partnering with Kerala Agricultural University.
- Nov-19: New weather monitoring system will be installed in the cumin trial plots. The micro scale agrometeorological data will be recorded and analysed which helps to foresee pest and disease incidences, hence adoption of preventive measures to reduce adverse impacts.
- Dec-19 - Jan-20: Bio pesticides will be issued to Nedspice Kisaan Club farmers based on requirements.
- Farm Sustainability Assessment regarding biodiversity conservation and protection of buffer zone areas in the fields will be introduced during the crop season.

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