



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 cumin crop is at the end of the vegetative or in early flowering stage.
- Over the past 2 months, locust swarm infestation was reported across the NFPP project areas, destroying c. 10% of the crop.
- Locust Warning Organization in Jodhpur forecasted that locust attacks would likely continue until May-20 in Rajasthan and Gujarat. More such attacks are expected during harvest stage which will likely cause further significant destruction of the cumin crop.

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

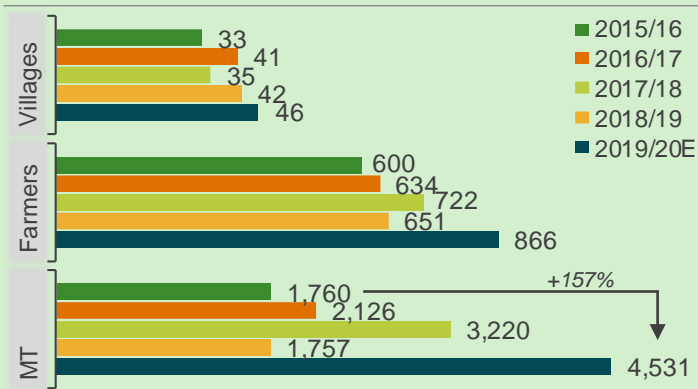
Stage	Period	☀ C°	mm ☁ Days	📅	
Sowing	Oct – Dec	(11%)	1053%	100%	✗
Vegetative	Dec – Jan	(10%)	n.a	n.a	✓
Flowering	Jan – Feb	(24%)	n.a	n.a	✓
Seed setting	Feb – Mar				
Harvest	Mar – Apr				

Developments



- The NFPP cumin project 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 program has recently increased to over 850 farmers across 46 villages.
- Total registered growing area is c. 11,300 ha, with an estimated production of over 4,500 MT this season. However, this figure has not been adjusted yet for the impact of abovementioned locust attacks on the overall crop development in the coming months.
- The procurement target is set to over 2,500 MT of compliant cumin this season.

Programme impact and evolution



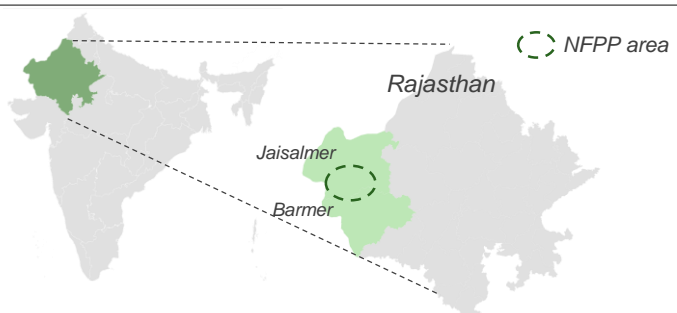
Crop stage



- Vegetative stage.

- Flowering stage.

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 7-Jan-20. Rainy days are defined as days with >2.5mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.

Disclaimer: This document is for information purposes only. The information contained herein does not constitute the provision of investment advice. It is not¹ intended to be and should not be construed as a recommendation, offer or solicitation to purchase any product.



Activities

- Nov – Dec - 19:
 - Preventive measures such as safe insecticide (bio products) application against locust attacks were communicated to NFPP farmers.
 - Package of Practice (PoP) including details of common pest, disease infestation, the recommended control measures and videos of good agricultural practices have been updated into PoP training feature in the NFPP app. Furthermore, Nedspice field executives trained farmers on the best practices and disease symptoms during their field visits.
 - To increase the efficiency of agricultural inputs applied, NFPP programme supported Nedspice Kisaan Club farmers to get motorised sprayers. Required training on usage of power sprayers was provided.
 - Trials with bioinsecticides against locust and aphid infestation are being implemented on the fields.

Locust swarm infestation



Farmer training on usage of power sprayers



INSUFFERABLE INSECTS

Desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) affect the entire north Africa, Middle East and east Asian countries primarily after monsoon

- About 60 countries, forming 20% of Earth's land surface, get affected by the locust attacks
- The feisty insects have even found mention in Bible and Quran for its devastating effects
- A swarm of locusts have about 4 crore insects in a square km area
- As a locust can eat equal to its weight daily (2 grams), a swarm can eat food equivalent to over 2,500 adults within minutes
- Currently 17 talukas in north Gujarat are severely affected by the locust attack where crops including cumin, jetropha, potato and papaya are destroyed

THE ROUTE: The locusts coming to India (Rajasthan and Gujarat) originate from Horn of Africa and traverse Middle Eastern countries before coming via Pakistan after monsoon. Locusts can travel up to 200km a day riding on the winds



- News on locust attacks.
- Locust swarm attack in CU-5 area.

- Provided motorised spraying units to NKC farmers.



- Farmer training on usage of power sprayers and application of bio-products for pest and disease control.



What's next?



- Jan - 20:
 - Regular field visits will be conducted to provide technical assistance regarding preventive measures and insecticide application.
 - NFPP farmer smart sign boards with Nedspice call center number will be displayed on the fields.
- Feb - 20:
 - Farmer training on harvest practices and post-harvest techniques to ensure allergen free produce.
 - Farm activities will be captured in the NFPP app to ensure complete traceability.

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