**NEDSPICE** 

March 2025 | spices@nedspice.com

## Pepper



### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- > Global production is estimated to decline further in 2025. Decreasing acreage in Vietnam and adverse weather conditions in India are the main drivers.
- > Global demand remains resilient and is substantially above supply.
- > Generally, price increases encourage farmers to intensify pepper production, slowing down a further drop in supply. However, competing crops like durian and coffee fetch higher profits for farmers in Vietnam currently.



short term

medium term

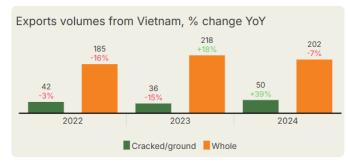


long term





## SUPPLY DYNAMICS



# PRICE TRENDS (\$/MT)



#### Vietnam

- > The 2024 Vietnamese harvest is expected to reach 172KMT, about 2% lower than last year and 47% down from 322KMT in 2018/2019. The harvest is currently underway, peaking in March and April.
- > Exports to Asia decreased by ~40% while exports to America and the Middle East increased by 20–30%.

#### Brazil

> Early estimates for the total Brazil crop in '25 fall in the 85-90KMT range. Espírito Santo is currently completing its first main harvest period of the year, which should yield ~20KMT.

#### India

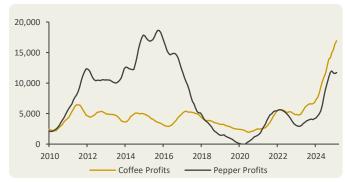
India's pepper production is likely to drop 20-25%, mainly due to adverse weather conditions in Karnataka. The smaller crop in India could lead to increased import demand, despite trade barriers.

- After a steep increase during the end of the '24 harvest season in Vietnam, prices have been fluctuating within a relatively narrow hand
- > This crop season, the financial position of farmers in Vietnam is stronger than last year, supported by high prices. This is likely to reduce selling pressure.
- High profitability of crops like coffee and durian in Vietnam limits large-scale new pepper planting, despite attractive prices.
- > China was largely absent during 2024, with exports from Vietnam down by >80%. As stocks in the country deplete, it's uncertain when Chinese buyers will return in force, potentially driving prices up further.

## 📻 KEY QUALITY PRICE LEVELS



## ESTIMATED PROFITS, PEPPER VS OTHER CROPS (\$/HA)



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### Cumin

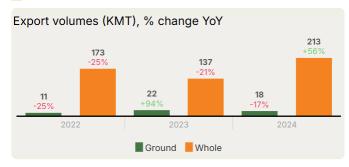




- India's 2025 cumin production is estimated to be 20-25% lower than last year. Gujarat's harvest is in full swing, while activities in Rajasthan just started. Carry-forward stocks from the high 2024 crop should help stabilize prices.
- > IPM cumin prices are expected to be lower than last year's average, with export demand and Rajasthan's production volumes being key determining factors.
- > Indian cumin exports in 2024 were 45% higher compared to 2023, with China and the UAE as the largest importers.



# SUPPLY DYNAMICS



- > The 2025 harvest season is ongoing, with an expected production of 500-550 KMT, showing a reduction of 20-25% compared to 2024.
- > Leading up to the current crop season, traders and farmers were holding about 20% of the previous year's crop.
- > In Gujarat, farmers have opted for chickpea and wheat cultivation instead of cumin, resulting in 25-30% reduction in area.
- > Cumin exports from India increased by 45% in 2024 to around 230KMT, coming from the small 2023 crop which resulted in an export volume of just 160KMT.
- > The exports of whole cumin increased by 56%, whereas the exports of ground cumin were down 17%.

# PRICE TRENDS (\$/MT)

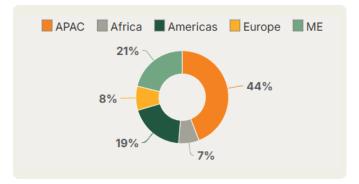


- Current prices of conventional cumin are lower than last year due to subdued demand, with a current farm gate price around \$ 2,100 - 2,500/MT.
- > Price development for the new crop will depend on weather conditions in the coming weeks, as untimely rains pose significant risks.
- > The impact on prices due to the reduction in area and production is likely to be mitigated by the carry-forward stocks from the previous season.
- > IPM cumin availability will remain limited, with the price premium in line with last season.

# CUMIN DRYING IN THE FIELD



### INDIA EXPORTS BY DESTINATION REGION, 2024



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### Turmeric





### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- > The turmeric harvest for the 2025 crop has begun in India, with an estimated 20% production increase vs last year, facilitated by increased acreage.
- > Total production is estimated at 450 KMT, most of which will be consumed domestically. The effect of the larger crop on prices is expected to be balanced by limited carry-forward stock.
- > India exported around 145 KMT of turmeric in 2024, approximately 10% more than 2023. The UAE and USA are the top turmeric-importing countries.



medium term



long term





## SUPPLY DYNAMICS



- > The turmeric harvest of 2025 is beginning with an expected production of approximately 540KMT, showing a 15-20% increase compared to 2024.
- > Turmeric whole exports saw a 10% increase in 2024, recovering from a 14% decline in 2023, while turmeric powder exports grew 10%, up from a 3% growth in the previous year.
- > The availability of IPM turmeric remains a challenge, as high prices for conventional turmeric (Mar-Aug 2024) have led farmers to rely more on agrochemicals to boost yields.

# PRICE TRENDS (\$/MT)



- > Overall prices remain volatile, with the market closely watching the upcoming crop harvest to determine pricing.
- Carry-over stocks for 2025 are at a record low due to last year's short crop, unlike previous years when large carry-forward stocks helped stabilize prices.
- > Farmers may hold back from selling if prices go lower, while buyers are holding off on purchases, anticipating a price drop once the new crop enters the market.

# 📻 LEAF CUTTING STAGE (LEFT), HARVEST STAGE





## INDIAN EXPORTS BY DESTINATION 2024

