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50 YEARS

MINT MARKET OVERVIEW MAY 2020

A monthly summary of the crop conditions and precipitation during the growing seasons of all the spices we offer from different parts of the world where they are at its best.

A 30 days old Mint crop

MINT CULTIVATION

Mint sowing is usually completed by the end of April. As per the information available there has been a slight increase of 5% in cultivation area as compared to last year. Every region other than Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring areas in Punjab, farmers are reporting increase in crop size. In Punjab, the cultivation area was reduced due to the higher prices of alternate crop Maize. However, total production of Mentha Arvensis in Punjab is around 5% of India's total production.

> "THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 5% IN CULTIVATION AREA AS COMPARED TO LAST YEAR."

A 60 days old Mint crop

A few key points highlighted by farmers for the increase in area:

- Higher returns for Mint oil in 2018 and 2019 as the prices were higher
- Availability of planting material was around 20% higher than last year during the time of sowing.
- The lockdown imposed by the Govt. of India due to Covid-19 have got the entire labourers and workers working in other states to return back to their hometown and are in search of opportunities to work in and around their villages. This has resulted, reduction in daily labour wages and with mint being a labour intensive crop, has prompted farmers to cultivate mint even after the harvesting of Wheat in April.
- Due to the current situation, farmers are also uncertain about their future and hence would like to utilise their land to get maximum results; Mint crop will give them returns by June-July.

Covid-19 lockdown hasn't affected the Mint cultivation as farming inputs like machinery, fertilisers, pesticides, labourers were available to farmers. In addition to the small amount land being held, the farmers and their families were able to manage their fields most of the time and due to the availability of labour especially that for labour intensive jobs.

A 75 days old Mint crop

CLIMATE AND PRODUCTION EXPECTATIONS

We had witnessed a prolonged winter with more than normal rainfall in the early months of 2020. This has led to the delay of mint sowing by 10-15 days compared to normal sowing time.

Even after sowing, the entire region witnessed rainfall and hailstorms at regular intervals. The summer so far this year wasn't warm enough in mint growing regions. The current weather does not have any effect in growth of mint, but it can affect the oil yield if this weather continues. However, forecasts have predicted for clear dry weather in May-June and followed by a good monsoon season.

DISTILLATIONS

Distillations should begin from 25th May for Mentha Arvensis and is expected to carry on till July. The peak arrival of mint oil is expected from mid-June and should continue till early August. Part of the harvesting/distillation period may fall in the monsoon season which will start from 20th to 25th June in Uttar Pradesh this year, as per the meteorological survey has predicted and expected to have good rainfall during this monsoon.

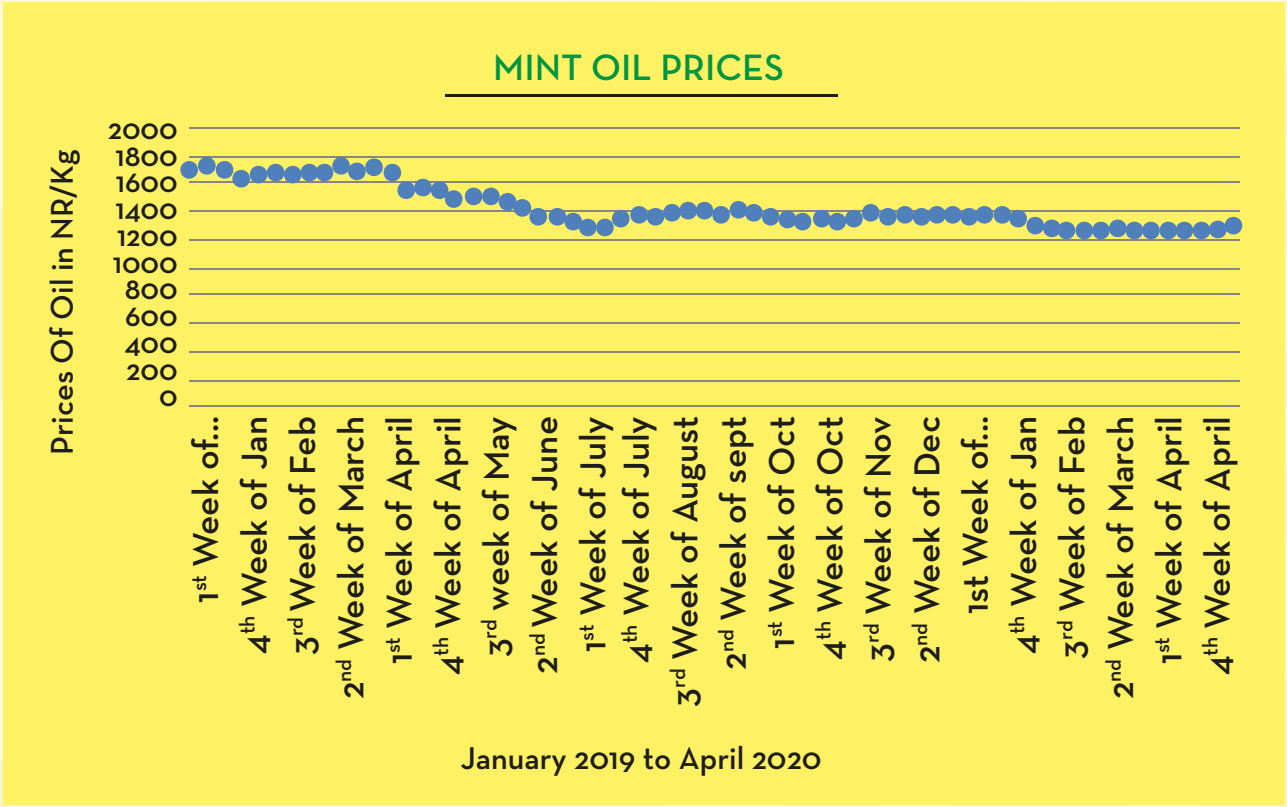
> "THE PEAK ARRIVAL OF MINT OIL IS EXPECTED FROM MID-JUNE AND SHOULD CONTINUE TILL EARLY AUGUST"

MINT MARKET FORECAST

Due to Covid-19 lockdown, most buyer-seller activities in local markets were closed from 25th March – 15th April. Farmers especially in mint growing regions may not stock their produce due to following reasons:

- Increase in prices of essential commodities in villages.
- Usage of wheat crop for household consumption and storage instead of selling.
- Farmers had last cash inflow in October by selling Paddy and other crops. Since then, they have just invested in their crop with no Monetary returns.

If the climate is good till distillation, then we are expecting favourable prices for Mint oil as supply will be much higher than demand.



MINT SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES BY KANCOR

Kancor is working with mint farmers to improve farm level sustainability, in order to make mint cultivation sustainable for farmers, field labourers, distillers and environment. Following activities are carried out by Kancor with the help of government agencies like CIMAP in order to achieve farm-sustainability:

An awareness program on mint sustainability conducted by Kancor

1) Good Quality planting material

Kancor provides latest high yielding and climate resistive planting material to farmers through CIMAP, Lucknow. Farmers multiply it at their farms and use it as planting material for next season. Latest variety developed by CIMAP is CIM Kranti. It is a winter resistive variety which helps farmers to grow mint early during January-February.

> "IT IS A WINTER RESISTIVE VARIETY WHICH HELPS FARMERS TO GROW MINT EARLY DURING JANUARY-FEBRUARY"

2) Modern cultivation Techniques

> "COST OF CULTIVATION IS REDUCED BY 20% BY USING EMT"

Early Mint Technology is a cultivation technique developed by CIMAP. In this technology, farmers must cultivate mint by preparing ridges instead of flat surface. Cultivation on ridges gives multiple advantages to farmers. Cost of cultivation is reduced by 20% by using EMT methodology as water requirement for mint crop is less in EMT compared to traditional practice. Also, weeding is less in EMT due to less requirement of water. **It increases crop yield by around 15%.** Also, this practice has positive impact on environment as water requirement is less.

Kancor conducts training programs for local farmers through lead farmer system. We have lead farmers who cultivate mint using EMT. Farms of these farmers act as model farms where **training programs are organised with the help of CIMAP for local farmers.**

A Good Agricultural Practices training program

An on-farm EMT training program conducted by CIMAP scientists

3) Good Agricultural Practice training

Kancor conducts training programs for local farmers for good agricultural practices. Under this, farmers are trained not to use banned pesticides at farm level, IPM practices to be followed at farm level.

4) Capacity Building programs on Organic Manure

> "REDUCES COST OF CULTIVATION FOR FARMERS"

Kancor conducts capacity building programs for farmers for preparing Organic manure at their houses. Under this, farmers are trained to prepare Vermi-compost using their household cow-dung and Earthworms at their houses. It reduces cost of cultivation for farmers as they prepare fertilisers using their own resources, create environmental sustainability as farmers are using organic manure and reducing usage of chemical fertilisers and improves the quality of final crop produce as it is cultivated using organic manure.

> "FARMERS OBTAINED 7% HIGHER OIL AS COMPARED TO CONVENTIONAL DISTILLATION"

5) Modified distillation practice

Distillation plays important role in mint crop, as final output i.e. mint oil is obtained only after steam distillation practice. At farm level, Steam distillation practices are very crude where temperature inside condenser is very high which causes oil loss in form of steam. Kancor modified a local distillation unit under which temperature inside condenser is reduced by continuously circulating water in it with the help of a cooling unit. Also, the condenser used is SS shell and tube condenser instead of MS coil condenser. Due to this modification, farmers obtained 7% higher oil as compared to conventional distillation practices which increases their returns by around Rs 2800 per Acre.

Vermi-compost preparation training program

6) Good quality packing material

> "KANCOR PROVIDES FOOD GRADE PACKING MATERIAL TO FARMERS"

Local farmers use packing material, which is used for other household purposes as well, to keep their mint oil. Due to use of such packing material, there are chances of contamination of chemicals in mint oil which is hazardous for entire mint industry and human consumption at consumer level. Kancor provides food grade packing material to farmers so that the quality of mint oil can be maintained in the entire supply chain of mint oil.

Disclaimer : Please note some of the information mentioned has been taken from other sources.