

**Report of visit to Maharashtra state by Dr. M. Dutta, National Consultant
(Oilseeds) w.e.f. 11th to 13th April, 2017**

A visit was made to Maharashtra state w.e.f. 11th to 13th April, 2017 by Dr. M. Dutta, National Consultant (Oilseeds) to assess the situation for production of pulses and its marketing. APMCs in districts Ahmednagar and Pune were visited to have an on the spot assessment of the ground situation on marketing of major pulses grown in the state namely arhar, gram and moong. The area, production and productivity of major pulse crops in the state during 2016-17 (as per second advance estimates) as compared to those of 2015-16 are given in the following table:

Crops	Area (lakh ha)		% deviation over 2015-16	Production (lakh tonnes)		% deviation over 2015-16	Productivity (kg/ha)		% deviation over 2015-16
	2015-16	2016-17		2015-16	2016-17		2015-16	2016-17	
Kharif pulses									
Arhar	12.37	15.33	24	4.44	11.71	164	359	764	113
Moong	3.66	5.11	40	0.69	2.89	317	190	566	198
Urd	2.86	4.45	56	0.61	2.50	309	214	562	163
Other Kh. pulses	1.18	0.87	(-) 26	0.36	0.41	13	306	507	66
Total Kharif pulses	20.06	25.76	28	6.11	17.51	187	305	680	123
Rabi pulses									
Gram	14.42	17.74	23	7.77	15.07	94	539	850	58
Other Rabi pulses	0.93	1.02	10	0.44	0.50	13	535	485	(-) 9
Total Rabi pulses	15.35	18.76	22	8.21	15.57	90	535	830	55

The figures in the above table indicate that there was substantial increase in area, production and productivity of major pulses in the state during 2016-17 over those of 2015-16. In case of kharif pulses, production increase was 187% and for rabi pulses it was 90%. The percent increase in production was largely contributed by moong (317), urd (309), arhar (164) and gram (94). Increase in yield during 2016-17 was also significant ranging from 198% for moong, 163% for urd, 113% for arhar, 68% for other kharif pulses and 58% for gram.

The production of two major pulse crops viz. arhar and gram in major divisions during 2016-17 (2nd advance estimates) is given below:

Sr. No.	Division	Arhar			Gram		
		Area (00 ha)	Production (00 tonnes)	Productivity (kg/ha)	Area (00 ha)	Production (00 tonnes)	Productivity (kg/ha)
1	Pune	1.48	1.01	685	1.59	1.22	766
2	Aurangabad	1.90	1.56	823	2.11	1.81	856
3	Latur	4.05	2.91	719	5.72	4.59	803
4	Amravati	5.13	4.54	886	4.76	4.45	935
5	Nagpur	1.92	1.28	669	1.54	1.06	686

The figures in the above table indicate that Amravati Division had the largest area (5,12,700 ha) and production (4,54,200 tonnes) followed by Latur (4,04,900 ha area) and (2,91,100 tonnes production) in arhar. While in case of gram, Latur had the largest area (5,71,700 ha) and production (4,59,100 tonnes) followed by Amravati (4,75,900 ha area) and (4,45,100 tonnes production). Other important divisions in terms of area and production were Nagpur, Aurangabad and Pune for Arhar and Aurangabad, Pune and Nagpur for gram.

The details of arrival of gram and arhar during October 2016 to March, 2017 are enclosed. However, the arrival of gram and arhar in some major markets in Latur (Akola), Amravati (Amravati) and Pune (Ahmednagar and Shirur) Divisions is given as under:

Arrival and prices of gram and arhar in major markets of Maharashtra:

District	APMC	Month	Year	Arrival of Gram (qtl)	Price of Gram (Rs.)			Arrival of Arhar (qtl)	Price of Arhar (Rs.)		
					Min	Max	Avg		Min	Max	Avg
Akola	Akola	October	2016	4018	7657	9498	8578	9161	5998	6712	6355
Akola	Akola	November	2016	1867	7220	9082	8186	9895	5329	5937	5630
Akola	Akola	December	2016	1433	7266	9016	8141	6299	4358	4959	4658
Akola	Akola	January	2017	811	5915	7059	6479	34913	4214	4765	4490
Akola	Akola	February	2017	21321	6080	6744	6412	85424	3958	4496	4227
Akola	Akola	March	2017	41610	6181	7251	6723	64382	4022	4420	4222
Amaravathi	Amarawati	October	2016	8372	8935	9313	9125	30406	6525	6741	6633
Amaravathi	Amarawati	November	2016	2268	9309	10086	9698	22451	5774	6003	5888
Amaravathi	Amarawati	December	2016	713	7800	8706	8422	15925	4580	4877	4728
Amaravathi	Amarawati	January	2017	559	6142	6747	6406	22060	4280	4847	4560
Amaravathi	Amarawati	February	2017	43643	4784	5135	4965	106775	4474	4926	4699
Amaravathi	Amarawati	March	2017	74887	5079	5259	5175	147670	4360	4962	4655
Ahmadnagar	Ahmednagar	October	2016	324	7836	8635	8263	-	-	-	-
Ahmadnagar	Ahmednagar	November	2016	173	7057	7950	7522	172	5520	5910	5753
Ahmadnagar	Ahmednagar	December	2016	45	6160	7880	7088	22	5051	5252	5177
Ahmadnagar	Ahmednagar	January	2017	295	6160	6570	6413	240	4292	5031	4691
Ahmadnagar	Ahmednagar	February	2017	9963	5051	5440	5323	2395	3644	4317	4039
Ahmadnagar	Ahmednagar	March	2017	6314	5300	5621	5518	4025	3579	3904	3806
Pune	Shirur	October	2016	23	6438	6813	6800	2912	3692	3983	3917
Pune	Shirur	November	2016	7	6600	6600	6600	5	4300	4300	4300
Pune	Shirur	December	2016	11	6213	6563	6563	30	4254	4407	4336
Pune	Shirur	January	2017	41	5018	5286	5286	264	3667	3974	3861
Pune	Shirur	February	2017	121	4358	4636	4518	191	3416	3651	3581
Pune	Shirur	March	2017	642	4479	4942	4663	147	3369	3617	3548

The major arrivals of arhar was at Amravati APMC during March, 2017 (1,47,670 qtl.) and February (1,06,775 qtl.) followed by Akola in February, 2017 (85,424 qtl.) and in March,

2017 (64,382 qtl). The arrivals at APMC Ahmednagar was highest in February, 2017 (4,025 qtl) followed by in March, 2017 (2,912 qtl). At Shirur APMC the arrival of arhar was low.

The arrival of gram was highest at Amravati during March, 2017 (74,887 qtl), followed by Akola in March, 2017 (41,610 qtl). During February, 2017 arrival of gram was highest at Amravati (43,643 qtl) followed by at Akola (21,321 qtl) and Ahmednagar (9,963 qtl).

Average price of arhar at Amravati was highest during October, 2016 (Rs. 6,633/qtl) followed by Akola during October, 2016 (Rs. 6,355/qtl). Avg. price at Ahmednagar APMC was Rs. 5753/qtl in October, 2016, which came down to Rs. 3806/qtl during February, 2017. At Shirur, avg. price of Arhar was highest during December, 2016 (Rs. 4336/qtl) but came down to Rs. 3548/qtl during March, 2017. The price in all the major markets from December to March declined significantly from the MSP (Rs. 5050/qtl).

The average price of gram was highest at Amravati during November, 2016 (Rs. 9698/qtl), which came down to Rs. 4965/qtl during February, 2017 and rose again to Rs.5175/qtl during March, 2017. The average price at Akola was highest during October (Rs. 8578/qtl), which has come down to Rs. 6723/qtl during March, 2017. The average price of gram at Ahmednagar APMC was highest (Rs. 8263/qtl) in October, 2016, which has come down to Rs. 5323/qtl in February, 2017 and has risen again to Rs. 5518/qtl in March, 2017. The average price of Shirur although was highest during October, 2016 (Rs. 6800/qtl) but came down to Rs. 4518/qtl in February, 2017. Since then there has been a marginal increase in price of gram. The average price of moong at Pune APMC was highest (Rs. 8700/qtl) during May, 2016 and lowest (Rs. 5550/qtl) during January, 2017 as compared to the MSP of Rs. 5225/qtl.

Ahmednagar APMC:

A visit was made to Ahmednagar APMC on 12.4.2017 and meeting was held with Chairman, APMC Shri Shinde alongwith other office bearers of the APMC. In the APMC yard NAFED was procuring pigeon pea, which was inspected. District Marketing Officer, NAFED and farmers were present. The APMC has procured 1,80,189 qtl arhar upto 10.4.2017, out of which 1,63,944 qtl. has been deposited in the warehouse. Payments were made to the farmers through cheques causing delay in realization of payments. Procurement is made through authorized Commission Agents in the market yard. It was reported that initially the procurement by NAFED was affected due to limitation of 50 km distance for warehouse facility, which has been relaxed thereafter to 120 km for which payment will be made. Procurement could not be made between 13th Feb to 23rd March, 2017, due to shortage of gunny bags. It was informed that the supply of gunny bags will be made by the evening of 12th April, 2017 and procurement will be normalized. NAFED is able to procure produce from 25 farmers/day because of manual cleaning/grading, which is creating delay in disposal of produce. **Farmers requested to extend the date of procurement of pigeon pea beyond 15th April, 2017.** As regards gram is

concerned, the market price is ruling much higher (Rs. 5500 to 6500/qtl) than the MSP (Rs. 4200/qtl).

APMC, Shirur:

Next visit was made to Shirur, APMC in Pune district where a meeting was held with the Secretary and other members of APMC. Farmers were also visited to know the difficulty faced by them, if any. In general, the farmers Sri Pandurang Sankar Pingle, Sri Sandeep Bhujbal and Sri Gulab Satpute of Village Kasari informed that procurement price of arhar was low and for gram, it was satisfactory. No intervention was made by NAFED at Shirur, APMC.

Meeting at Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB), Pune:

In the evening, a meeting was held with Joint Director (Marketing) Shri Yogiraj Surve and other officials of Marketing Department in which Sri Lokhande, DGM, MSAMB was present. It was informed that the District APMC, Pune is a secondary market for pulses, hence negligible procurement is made.

Major observations/suggestions:

- Procurement of arhar by NAFED was delayed due to shortage of gunny bags and slow disposal of farmers' produce due to manual cleaning and grading at APMCs.
- The procurement problem was exacerbated by the penalty imposed by the State Government on the traders procuring arhar at below MSP.
- NAFED should intervene in a more vigorous way at all APMCs with assured supply of gunny bags and clear-cut/flexible warehousing rules for support to APMCs.
- In case of arhar, the market price of dal (about Rs.70-80/kg) after procurement at MSP (Rs. 50.50/kg) with 20% loss in processing/breakage and substantial processing charges does not encourage procurement of arhar grain under current price situation. In case of gram, the current price situation is favourable, hence, procurement is not affected.
- The excess production of arhar coupled with continued import is adding to the problem of procurement further.
- State Marketing Department may also initiate proactive steps for procurement of pulses particularly arhar.
- Support for mechanical cleaning and grading of grains at APMCs may be considered.
- Payment to farmers may be made through RTGS to avoid delay in realization of payments made through cheques.
