



### 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 set out in the Nedspice - Farmers Partnership Programme (NFPP), which defines the approach, the key principles and the expected results. In this update you will find information about the latest NFPP activities for cumin in Rajasthan, India.

### Crop stage



- About 5% of the NFPP project area was reported to be severely impacted by locust swarms during the Nov-Dec-19 period. Fortunately, the weather conditions have been favourable for crop development since late Jan-20. Crop yield is estimated to be c. 0.4 - 0.45MT/ha which is much better than last year's crop.
- India's lockdown extended until early May. The restrictions are eased for selective manufacturers and Nedspice buying and processing facilities in both areas are currently operational with limited work shifts. Transport between states remains hard, but is expected to improve in the next few days.

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

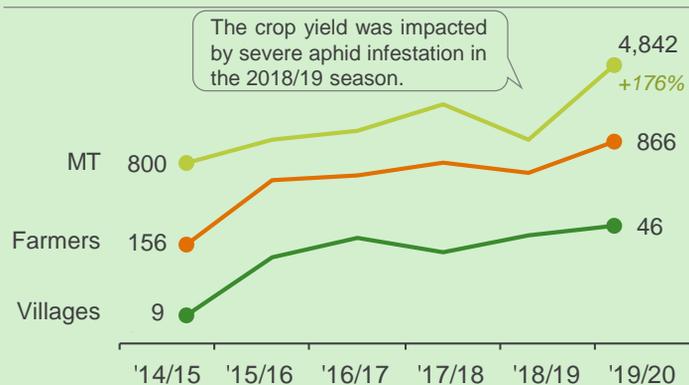
Stage	Period	☀ C°	mm ☁ Days	📅	
Sowing	Oct – Dec	(11%)	1053%	100%	✗
Vegetative	Dec – Jan	(10%)	n.a	n.a	✓
Flowering	Jan – Feb	(10%)	(100%)	(100%)	✓
Seed setting	Feb – Mar	16%	(100%)	n.a	✓
Harvest	Mar – Apr	(3%)	25%	–	✓

### Developments



- The NFPP cumin project was initiated during the 2013/14 crop year in 5 villages located across 3 districts of Rajasthan.
- After 7 years of development, the number of farmers associated with the NFPP cumin programme increased to over 850 farmers across 46 villages. Farmers benefit from the Package of Practice (PoP) provided during each crop stage by Nedspice field technicians. Crop wise details and the PoP are regularly uploaded into the NFPP mobile app for crop training and monitoring.
- This crop season, the total registered growing area is c. 11,300 ha, with an estimated production of over 4,800 MT. The procurement target is set to over 2,500 MT of compliant cumin.

Programme impact and evolution



### Crop stage

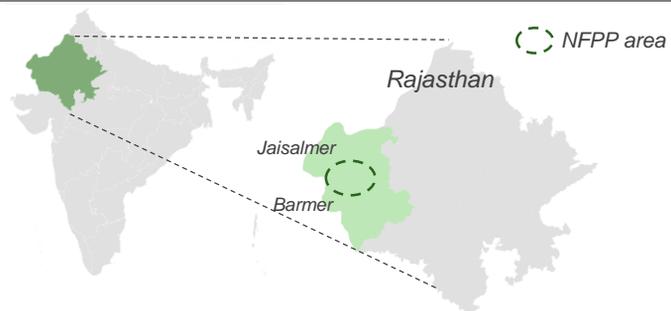


- Cumin harvest.



- Threshing after harvest.

### NFPP area overview



<sup>1</sup> 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 13-Apr-20. Rainy days are defined as days with >2.5mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.



- Feb-20:
  - A review meeting was organized with NFPP farmers, during which the benefits of applying the Package of Practice (PoP) were discussed. The PoP includes information on seed treatment with Trichoderma to prevent disease, recommendations on the application of nutrient solutions during different crop stages and good practices for the use of bio insecticides. Most farmers succeeded in reducing production costs by following this package.
  - Regular market updates through the Nedspice call center system.
- Mar-20:
  - To promote cashless transactions, NFPP farmers are encouraged to open bank accounts. The first opening camp was conducted at the CU-7 sub region in association with Bank of Baroda. This will be applied to other sub regions in the coming month.
  - Nedspice opened a new buying station near the CU-7 and CU-9 cumin sub regions. During this period, precautionary measures have been taken to avoid the spread of corona virus, such as using hand washing facilities, sanitisers and face masks during field operations and procurement.

## New Nedspice buying station



- A new Nedspice cumin buying station was opened in March.



- Precautionary measures were followed in the buying station amid the corona virus pandemic.



## Bank opening camp and farmer training



- Bank account opening camp organised at CU-7.



- Farmer training on post-harvest practices and discussing the overall crop results and the next crop registration.



## What's next?



- Apr-20:
  - Cumin samples are being collected for quality testing, to ensure that crop materials meet compliance levels and are allergen free.
  - The Package of Practice review for the upcoming crop by analysing the samples from organic and conventional trial plots.
- May - June -20: Nedspice Corporate Social Responsibility activities:
  - Nedspice continues to support local schools with basic facilities at 4 sub regions of the NFPP cumin project area. Benches and tables will be provided to schools to enhance education facilities in Rajasthan's rural areas.

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