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# **Golden Research Thoughts**

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# COPRA PRODUCTION AND PRICE ANALYSIS OF TUMKUR DISTRICT, KARNATAKA: AN OVERVIEW



M. Muniraju<sup>1</sup> and Jayasheela<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor in Economics, Tumkur University, B.H.Road, Tumakuru . <sup>2</sup>Professor in Economics, Tumkur University, B.H.Road, Tumakuru .

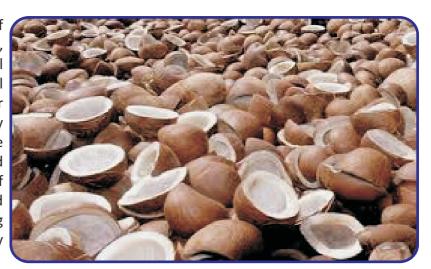
# **ABSTRACT**

The present paper aims at identifying and analyzing different issues pertaining to production marketing and priceof copra with special reference to Tumkur district in Karnataka. This is because although copra production and marketing price analyzing has played a significant role in the economy of Tumkur, marketing the growers of copra are faced with many issues that affect economic viability and livelihood issues. It is in this backdrop that the present study assumes much significance.

**KEYWORDS**: Marketing. Production. COPRA. Price.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Copra, the dried kernel is the chief commercial product from coconut, which is mainly used for oil extraction. Copra normally has an oil content varying from 65 to 72 per cent. Two types of copra, namely milling copra and edible copra are made in India. Milling copra is used to extract oil, while edible grade of copra is consumed as a dry fruit and used for religious purposes. Milling copra is generally manufactured by



adopting sun drying and artificial means. Substantial quantity of milling copra is manufactured using modern hot air driers resulting in the availability of superior quality copra which is required for the manufacture of best grade coconut oil. A good number of farmer's co-operatives are also involved anthem manufacture and marketing of milling copra. Milling copra is available in different grades. Edible copra is made in the form of balls and cups. Different grades of edible copra are available in the market according to the size, color, etc.

Coconut and its products are liable to cycles and this cyclical production translates into cyclical behavior of price movements. Therefore, it is very difficult to predict price movements. There was a

price cycle for coconut products and it was linked to production in Karnataka. the wholesale prices of coconut and coconut related products are moving in close sympathy with those of coconut oil and most of the volatility in prices of these products is associated with the unstable prices of coconut oil, which in turn depend on the changes in Mumbai market.

# **OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS**

Copra: It refers to the coconut kernel, processed from raw coconut after removing the lint and the shell. It is used for extracting oil.

The oil content present in the copra is known as unctuous. It is used for various household preparations and also as an ingredient in the processing of betel nuts for chewing. The copra used for extracting coconut oil is called 'milling copra'.

**Edible Copra:** Copra is used for various household sweet preparations and also as an ingredient in the processed betel nuts for chewing.

Milling Copra: Copra used for extracting oil is referred to as 'milling copra'.

Edible Oil: Edible oil is the oil used in cuisines and catering establishments.

**Marginal Farmer:** A 'marginal farmer' is a person, who is engaged either as an employer's single worker or family worker in the cultivation of land up to two and a half acres, either owned or held from government or private persons or institutions, for payment in cash, kind or share.

**Small Farmer:** A 'small farmer' is a person who is engaged in cultivation of 2½ to 5 acres either owned or held from government or private persons or institutions for payment in cash, kind or share.

**Large Farmers:** A 'large farmer' is a person, who is engaged in cultivation of land above 5 acres of land, owned or held from government or private persons or institutions for payment in cash, kind or share.

# **COPRA PRICE**

Production in Karnataka also declined from 4,337 million nuts to 4,126 million nuts, showing a marginal decrease of 4.87 per cent. The major coconut growing districts of Tumkur and Hassan recorded a decline in production, so are the coastal districts of Udupi and Dakshina Kannada. The highest reduction in yield was observed in Andhra Pradesh with the production declining to 781 million nuts in 2014-15 from 1,678 million nuts in 2012-13. The decline is reported to be the after effect of two cyclonic storms that lashed Andhra coast in the last two years. All the four major coconut growing districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam showed a major decline in production.

The increase in copra prices has brought cheer to coconut growers. For the first time, the price of copra crossed Rs 10,000 a quintal in April this year. At present, the price is over Rs. 18,000 a quintal. Merchants are expecting the price to cross Rs. 20,000 a quintal in a few days from now. Last year, the Union government procured copra through National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) at the support price of Rs 5,500 a quintal. In addition, the State government had granted another Rs 1,000 a quintal. Then, the price of copra in the open market was around Rs. 4,000 a quintal. Growers and merchants were jubilant when the price crossed Rs 10,000 in April this year 2014-15.

"We were anticipating the price to go up to Rs 15,000 a quintal, not more than that. However, it has gone up beyond our expectations. I chose to sell my stock when price touched Rs. 17,900 a quintal. For the first time, I got this price," said Sadanand, a coconut grower in Shettihalli of Channarayapatnataluk. As on Friday, the maximum price at the Arsikere APMC copra market was Rs. 18,200 a quintal. In Tiptur market, the price was Rs. 17,500 a quintal. Merchants procure copra from

Channarayapatna market, following the auctions held at Arsikere and Tiptur. Copra from Karnataka and neighboring States in the south has greater demand in northern States. "Festival season is fast approaching. Copra is the main ingredient for sweets in north India. Every year, there is a huge demand for copra from these States. This year, the yield in Tamil Nadu and Kerala has been hit due to weather vagaries. As the arrival of the product came down drastically, demand increased, prompting steep hike in prices.

# **COCONUT PRODUCTION FALLS**

A study conducted by Coconut Development Board has indicated a decrease in production of coconuts in Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh in 2014-15. Compared to the previous year, production in Kerala is expected to record a decrease of 17.48 per cent, while in Karnataka the estimated decrease is 4.87 per cent. The all India production of coconut in 2014-15 would be less by 10 per cent compared to the previous year. Andhra Pradesh, which was severely affected by two cyclones, in 2012 and 2014, is expected to experience the highest fall in production in 2014-15. As a result, the processing companies in the State will be forced to procure produce from the neighbouring States to meet their production capacity. Since 2012, diversion of coconut for value-added products such as processed tender coconut water, virgin coconut oil, and desiccated coconut powder, and coconut milk, coconut milk powder has been on the rise.

The formation of three-tier farmer collectives in coconut sector has gained momentum. Within five years, 7,806 coconut producer societies, 580 coconut producer federations, and 35 coconut producer Companies have been formed. The Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) can take precautionary steps against the price fall. Tapping 1 per cent of the total palms for Neera, setting up coconut oil processing units, installing modern copra driers, and setting up virgin coconut oil units with a capacity of 25,000 nuts a day need to be the immediate target of the producer companies.

# TREND IN THE PRICES OF COPRA

Copra, the dried kernel, is the chief commercial product from coconut which is mainly used for oil extraction. Copra normally has an oil content varying from 65to 72 per cent. Two types of copra, namely milling and edible, are made in India. Milling copra is used to extract oil while edible grade of copra is consumed as a dry fruit and used for religious purposes. Milling copra is generally manufactured by adopting sun drying and artificial means. Substantial quantity of milling copra is manufactured using modern hot air driers resulting in the availability of superior quality copra, which is required for the manufacturing of best grade coconut oil. A good number of farmers' co-operative societies are also involved in the manufacture and marketing of milling copra. Milling copra is available in different grades. Edible copra is made in the form of balls and cups. Different grades of edible copra are available in the market according to the size, colour, etc.

The magnitudes of the frequent price fluctuations are so high that they will result in unpredictable changes in the daily, weekly, monthly and yearly prices. If there is a sudden and drastic fall in the prices of coconut products, it will adversely affect the millions of coconut growers and processing units. On the other hand if the prices of coconut products especially that of coconut oil are very high compared to other oils, it will affect the buyers, resulting in lesser demand for coconut products. Steps should be taken to protect the existing demand and fresh demand should also to be created. By minimizing price fluctuations and encouraging stability in the supply of coconut products, the demand for coconut products could be improved. In this context, understanding the price behavior of coconut and coconut products is of utmost importance.

## **COPRA PRICE ANALYSIS**

Coconut, being an agricultural, exportable and consumable commodity, its price always depends on the international demand and supply position. As production and supply of coconut in the world market are widely fluctuating, world prices of coconut have always fluctuated, which are reflected in the domestic prices also. Like other commodities, prices of coconut too have year-wise and season wise variations. Hence, an attempt has been made to analyses the variations in the price of coconut.

### Month/year January February March April May June July August September October November December

Average Monthly Prices of Copra in Karnataka Tiptur1997-2015

# SOURCE TIPTUR APMC SEASONAL VARIATION

Coconut, being a rain-fed crop, is subject to seasonal variation in prices. Seasonal variation in the prices of coconut was observed within a year due to its characteristic supply. Though consumption is in small quantity, coconut is being used daily. Hence, there exists a regular demand throughout the year. But the supply varies with the season of production. The harvest of coconut is regular and usually once in 45 days. Only small quantities are stored by the growers beyond 90 days from the time of harvest. Hence, an analysis of seasonal variations in the price of coconut is pertinent.

# PRICE FORECAST OF COCONUT

Coconut palm is the benevolent provider of the basic needs of millions of people across the globe for their livelihood security. The marketability and the price realization of coconut and coconut products determine the financial security of these people. The price behavior of coconut and its products has a profound influence on the rural economy of many States, The coconut price always depends upon the coconut oil price. Even if around 35 per cent of the coconut is utilized for making copra and coconut oil and the remaining for various purposes of which more than 50 per cent itself is

used for the consumption in the unorganized sector. So a sudden fall in the coconut oil price results in the fall of coconut price.

The magnitudes of the frequent price fluctuations are so high that they will result in unpredictable changes in the daily, weekly, monthly and yearly prices. If there is a sudden and drastic fall in the prices of coconut products, it will adversely affect the millions of coconut growers and processing units. On the other hand if the prices of coconut products especially that of coconut oil are very high compared to other oils, it will affect the buyers, resulting in lesser demand for coconut products. Steps should be taken to protect the existing demand and fresh demand should also to be created. By minimizing price fluctuations and encouraging stability in the supply of coconut products, the demand for coconut products could be improved. In this context, understanding the price behavior of coconut and coconut products is of utmost importance.

The analysis of coconut oil prices during the last 30 years reveled that with the exception of few years, there is a tendency for prices to rise in November, which in term could lead to rise in prices of coconut. Recently, import duty on crude edible oil was hiked from 7.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent and that of refined edible oil from 15 per cent to 20 per cent. This is expected to bring down edible oil import which could in turn lead to rise in demand for coconut oil, consequently resulting in increase in prices of coconut oil and coconut.

# **COCONUT AREA, PRODUCTION - 2013-14KARANATAKA**

Tumkur is the largest coconut producing district in Karnataka. Nearly one third of area under coconut cultivation and production in Karnataka is contributed by this district alone. Of the ten Taluks three viz. Gubbi, Turuvekere and Tipur were selected for the study. Samples were equally distributed between the Taluks. Average holding size as per survey findings is 1.63 Ha. Coconut palm density for the district is found to be 133 per Ha, whereas the bearing palm density is 125 per Ha. Bearing palms in the sample gardens selected constitute to 94 per cent of the total palms. Based on the collected data the annual per palm yield in the district is estimated as 37 nuts and per hectare yield as 4625 nuts. Estimated per palm yield for the district is the second lowest in the state, which is just above Chikmagalur. Production of coconuts in Tumkur in 2012-13 is estimated to be 6608 lakh nuts, the highest in all districts due to large coconut area.

# Coconut Area, Production - 2013-14Karanataka

Sl. No.		PLANTATION CROPS		
	Districts	Coconut (lakh nuts)	Prodn.	Yield
		Area		
1	B'lore (U)	1636	182	0.11
2	B'lore (R)	2558	239	0.09
3	Chikkaballapura	2087	339	0.16
4	Chitradurga	57110	5813	0.10
5	Davangere	13814	1753	0.13
6	Kolar	6657	691	0.10
7	Ramanagara	22710	3225	0.14
8	Shimoga	6500	715	0.11
9	Tumkur	145494	12394	0.09
10	Bagalkote	1377	201	0.15
11	Belgaum	3552	400	0.11
12	Bijapura	293	32	0.11
13	Dharwad	574	63	0.11
14	Gadag	1662	117	0.07
15	Haveri	3524	408	0.12
16	U.Kannada	7768	1363	0.18
17	Bellary	2003	1026	0.51
18	Bidar	107	9	0.08
19	Gulberga	260	27	0.10
20	Koppal	1016	166	0.16
21	Raichur	301	31	0.10
22	Yadagiri	226	27	0.12
23	Chamarajanagara	9660	750	0.08
24	Chikmagalore	38611	1731	0.04
25	D. Kannada	17212	1701	0.10
26	Hassan	61138	6174	0.10
27	Kodagu	1598	176	0.11
28	Mandya	42891	4904	0.11
29	Mysore	25214	2445	0.10
30	Udupi	17669	2346	0.13
STATE	TOTAL	495222	49445	0.10

Source: dept. of horticulture Bangalore

2014-2015 Coconut Area, Production -Tumkur

Sl no	Name of taluk	Area	Production
1	Chikkanayakanaahalli	26193.00	2226.41
2	Gubbi	27788	2361.98
3	Koratagere	1395.00	118.58
4	Kunlgal	6739.00	572.82
5	Madhugiri	962.00	81.77
6	Pavaada	390.00	33.15
7	Sira	8011.00	680.94
8	Tiptur	30815.00	2619.28
9	Tumkur	11680.00	992.80
10	Turuvekere	31643.00	2689.66
	District Total	145616	12377

Source dept. Of horticulture tumkur

# THE RANGES OF PRICES PREDICTED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Months	Forecasted Price (? per 1000 nuts	s)
May 2015	11150-11250	
June 2015	11110-11210	
July 2015	11070-11170	

Source DeptOf Horticulture Tumkur

# **PLIGHT ACROSS DISTRICT**

Taluk	Coconut Growing Area coconut farms withered due to Drought			Number of	
	area (in hectares)	(in hectares)	Pest attack (in hectares	total	farmers affected
Tumkur	13,458	150	93	243	8,032
Tiptur	30,111	1,666	361	2,027	25,132
Gubbi	30,680	274	640	914	11,676
Kunlgal	6,588	54	09	63	3,411
Chikkanayakanaahalli	27,700	324	414	738	15,797
Turuvekere	28,153	374	78	452	5,473
Sira	7,047	330	03	333	5,581
Madhugiri	1,642	11	06	17	152
Koratagere	1,710	07	11	18	117
Pavaada	450	04	03	07	43
Total	1,47,539	3,194	1,168	4,812	75,688

SOURCE DEPT OF HORTICULTURE TUMKUR

Management of Black HeadedCaterpillar on Coconut inTumkur DistrictCDB has approved the

project under TMOC for the control of black headed caterpillar in Tumkur District at a total cost of Rs.334.00lakhs during 2010-11. The scheme was implemented on a pilot scale in the cluster villages of pasta fasted taluks like Gubbi, Tiptur,C.N. Hally and Turuvekerecovering an area of 4,550 ha. The scheme is being implemented with state government share of 25% and CDB share of 25% and remaining 50% share is being met by the respective beneficiaries. The overall severity of the infestation of black headed caterpillar has reduced considerably since the implementation of the scheme.

## INTEGRATED FARMING IN COCONUT FOR PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT

Integrated farming in coconut for productivity improvement is implemented with 100% assistance from the Board. The objectives of the scheme are laying out of demonstration plots for improving the production and productivity of coconut and extending assistance for construction of organic manureunits. An amount of Rs.34.981 lakhs has been utilized for the establishment of new demonstration plots in 200 ha and Rs.244.023 lakhs has been utilized for the maintenance of old demonstration plots in 1400 ha. During current year, funds for 350 ha havebeen released for new demonstration.

## SCHEME FOR COCONUT CROP IMPROVEMENT

To improve the productivity of existing coconut gardens, the coconut growers need to be supported by the government. Therefore, the Chief Minister of Karnataka announced Rs.25.00crores package in 2011-12 budget for improving the production and productivity in coconut gardens in the state. The scheme will be continued in 2012-13 and 2013-14.

# **CONCLUSION**

The prices of coconut and its products in the country are mainly centredaround two major coconut products viz, copra and coconut oil. The price of coconut is usually influenced by the price of coconut oil prevailing in the wholesale markets. However, the coconut oil prices are characterized by wide and violent fluctuation and erratic price trend. The factors that determine the price of coconut and coconut products are also associated with the growers, oil mill industry and consumers. The prices therefore, should be attractive to farmers so that they continue to invest and undertake coconut farming for their prospective growth and remunerative to the product based industry for its survival. It has been observed that the prices of coconut in the country are integrated with the price of coconut oil prevailing at Kochi market. However, variations in quality of matured coconut, size of nuts copra content marketing cost marketing methods of tender coconuts and matured coconuts are also deciding factors for the price received by the coconut farmers. The coconuts produced on farm and gardens move through many agencies like farmers or producers, collectors, middlemen, wholesalers and processors, before reaching the consumer in various forms. The involvement of these agencies and number of agencies participated in the marketing channels are also deciding factors of coconut prices.

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