

# Peanut Blog

An ounce of information



## Unseasonal rains threaten Rajkot groundnut farmers' profits

**Increased sowing met with crop damage & unfair market prices, raising concerns about financial losses this season**

Groundnut cultivation in Rajkot district has increased compared to last year, but farmers are worried due to unseasonal rains and low prices. According to data from Rajkot District Agriculture Department, groundnut was sown in 2,68,000 hectares of land in Rajkot district last year, while this year it has been sown in 3,29,000 hectares. Initially, production was estimated at 9 to 10 lakh tons, but due to unseasonal rains and humid weather, production is now expected to be 10 to 15 percent lower. Due to rain directly affecting the crop, market supply is also likely to decrease.

### **Increase in sowing this year compared to last year**

Rajkot District Agriculture Officer Triptiben Patel said that groundnut was sown in about 2,68,000 area in Rajkot district last year and this year groundnut crop has been sown in about 3,29,000 area. Looking at the main reasons for increased sowing, in Rajkot we have cotton and groundnut cultivation, and the area that has seen some reduction in cotton cultivation has shifted to groundnut. Furthermore, he stated that farmers usually get good production in groundnut crop and in cotton it happens that it is a long-term crop, so farmers cannot sow any other crop after removing it, whereas when there is groundnut, people can sow crops like wheat or chickpeas. So there has been a main increase in groundnut crop. Currently, due to unseasonal rains, a survey is ongoing to determine the extent of damage. He has also appealed to farmers to shift their crops to safe places.

### **Groundnut prices range from Rs. 700 to 1300 in Rajkot yard**

On the other hand, according to Rajkot Marketing Yard Chairman Jayesh Boghra, currently the yard has started a token system and is receiving soybean and groundnut arrivals even during ongoing rains. The transaction prices for groundnuts are currently being quoted at Rs. 1100 to 1200 per 20 kg. Since the yard has a large shed of 15 bighas available, arrivals can be continued. According to yard figures, this year the lowest price for 20 kg of groundnuts has been around Rs. 700 and the highest price has been around Rs. 1300. It is noteworthy that farmers say they should get prices of Rs. 1300 to 1400 for groundnuts, but currently they are getting prices around Rs. 1150 only. However, in the coming time, groundnut procurement will begin at support prices and as demand increases, farmers are likely to get better prices. The government is currently assessing the exact estimate of damage caused by unseasonal rains. It will be important to see whether the government provides assistance to farmers in the affected areas or not.

**Source:** <https://www.bhaskarenglish.in/local/gujarat/rajkot/news/unseasonal-rains-threaten-rajkot-groundnut-farmers-profits-increased-sowing-met-with-crop-damage-136274898.html>