

## Pakistan Sesame Crop Seen Bountiful inspite of Inclement Weather



**Mr Mahesh Raja Mangani**  
Director Commercial, Mast Qalandar Group, Pakistan

Sesame seeds are commonly produced to get oil essentials. It grows in about 70 countries in the world. In Pakistan, it grows in about 65 districts as irrigated as well as a rain crop. It grows in the province of Punjab, Sindh, NWFP, and Baluchistan. Sesame is known as an oilseed crop. Besides its high content of protein, which is up to 22%,

it is also known as one of the finest oil crops. It has an oil content that ranges from 50 to 58%. Sesame is a crop that is cultivated in hot, dry climates and produces oil and protein-rich seeds.

In addition to raw food purposes, sesame seeds are used in different sweets and bakery products

as well. Due to its fragrant smell, it is also an essential ingredient in soaps, perfumes, vegetable oil, and carbon paper as well. It is an ancient conventional oilseed crop. Being sesame seed suppliers, we know its worth in the international market.

Potential areas for sesame cultivation in Pakistan are Gujrat, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Attock, Bhakkar, Faisalabad in Punjab, Tharparkar/Dadu and Hyderabad in Sindh, Kohat and D.I. Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Naseerabad, Lesbela in Baluchistan and many others.

Recently, we have seen the shift from farmi sesame seeds to hybrid sesame seeds in the Punjab region. In 2021, the total sesame seeds production was around 125,000 MTs and above, the exports were 100,000 MTs, local and border trader was roughly around 56,000 MTs, and carry forward from the year 2020 was 18,000 MTs.

During 2022-2023, sesame seeds have gone through a lot of challenges. Like every year, the production is increasing a lot with the demand.

As per the initial survey report and analysis in the month of July 2022, the overall sesame seeds crop was expected to be around 200,000+ MTs, from Punjab and Sindh Region. This year, there have been

several challenges that occurred before, during, and after the harvesting period. Such as excessive heat waves and harsh weather during the period of irrigation. However, there have been adequate rains in the month of July but due to change in weather globally, it has affected the weather in Pakistan as well; the continuous two spells in the month of August have resulted in flooding and drowned 90% of the agricultural crop in Sindh, and 30% in Punjab.

As compared to last, the yield of hybrid and farmi sesame seed this year is relatively very low, around 5-6 mounds (1 mound = 40kg in Pakistan), or 200kg per acre due to aforesaid reasons above. So far,

the Sindh region crop is completely flooded away, the early harvests of hybrid and farmi sesame seeds during the month of August have been affected in the Punjab region due to heavy rain, and the damaged quality would be in the region of 25 and 30%. However, the quality of early September harvested seeds of hybrid is good.

Local consumption is increasing every year. More and more people are now adapting sesame seeds locally. Now, the demand from hulling factories is also high. The border trade is also increasing and the demand from various destinations is also good. The main export destination includes China, Vietnam, Korea, and Europe.

Only around 4500 MTs were exported in the month of August, the main reason being late and slow arrivals due to the disrupted weather and harvesting. In the coming months, I believe the exports will be 70,000-80,000 MTs only. The price range will remain in the region of 1500\$ and 1600\$ per ton for hybrid and 1400-1500\$ for farmi. The demand for sortexed sesame seeds is very less.

The freight rates have started declining, and the easy availability of containers will improve shipping time. However, the local inflation in Pakistan will affect the cost of production.



■■■