

Webinar Highlights: Tanzania Sesame Crop - 2025

Summary of Webinar on Tanzania Sesame Crop – 2025 organised by Sesameinfo.in and presented by Ms Irene Madeje Mlola, Cereals & other Produce Regulatory Authority, Tanzania and Mr Fahad Nahdi, S M Holdings.

Tanzania's sesame is known for its high oil content (up to 58%), unique flavor, and premium-grade white sesame (especially from Lindi, Kilwa, and Mtwara). It has strong export advantages due to its coastal port access (Dar es Salaam, Mtwara) and government-supported quality control measures.

Most sesame in Tanzania is grown under rain-fed conditions, with irrigated areas comprising less than 5% of the total. Yield per acre varies widely:

- With improved seeds and good practices: 400–600 kg/acre
- With traditional practices: 200–300 kg/acre.

The cost of production per acre is estimated at 680,000–700,000 TZS (252 to 260 USD), varying based on region, soil quality, vegetation, and labor costs.

Tanzania's sesame production has grown from 80,000 MT in 2022 to 200,000 MT in 2024, with an expected harvest of 250,000 MT in 2025. The country has set an ambitious target of 500,000 MT by 2030. Around 88% to 90% of the crop is exported, with systems now in place to track volumes digitally through a warehouse receipt and TMX auction platform. These platforms ensure transparent pricing, traceability, and direct farmer access to markets — though payment delays and limited warehousing infrastructure remain concerns.

Despite this structural progress, the current market faces challenges. Due to global oversupply — especially from China (which is holding over 300,000 MT in stock) and increased volumes from Brazil, Pakistan, and West Africa — prices have dropped. As a result, farmers in Tanzania initially rejected auction prices, but have gradually started accepting them after understanding global market dynamics. Current CNF China offer prices for white sesame are around USD 1450–1550/MT.

To improve quality and meet international standards, the government has issued requests for proposals (RFPs) for private investors to install cleaning and grading machinery at warehouses. It is also encouraging investment in processing and value addition, such as oil extraction and hulled sesame production.

Efforts are underway to train farmers, ensure access to quality seeds, strengthen extension services, and address logistical challenges at ports. The government has committed to continuing close engagement with exporters and cooperatives to ensure smooth flow of goods and support market competitiveness.