SWANI SPICE

SUSTAINABLE SPICE SOLUTIONS

# Crop Report & Market Updates
# August 2026

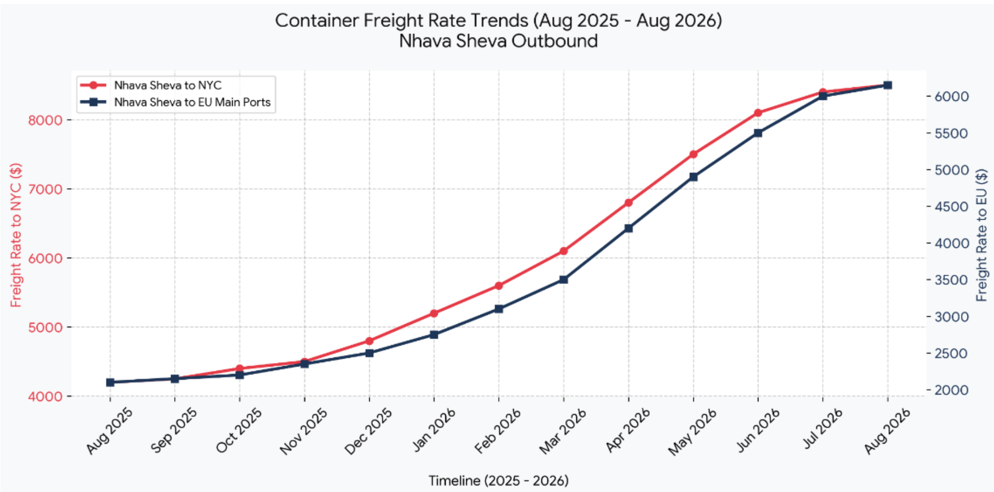
Dear Friends,

**General info/ Updates:**

Global container freight rates remain elevated due to persistent routing diversions around Africa, port congestion in Asia, and heavy peak-season demand. Major benchmarks like the Drewry World Container Index sit near $4,339 per 40ft box, while transpacific and India-West routes face aggressive peak surcharges pushing spot costs well past $6,800–$11,000 per TEU depending on the exact origin-destination pairing.

**Key Drivers of Rising Freight Rates:**

- Red Sea and Middle East Rerouting: Ongoing security risks have forced container vessels to bypass the Suez Canal and Strait of Hormuz, opting for the much longer journey around Africa's Cape of Good Hope. This adds 10 to 15 days per voyage, burning more fuel and tying up global fleet capacity.
- Early Peak Season and Front-Loading: Shippers are moving cargo and restocking inventories much earlier than usual to hedge against potential tariff changes and anticipated holiday demand rushes, sudden spikes that saturate available vessel space.
- Port Congestion and Turnaround Delays: Bottlenecks at major international gateway ports have slowed down vessel schedules and delayed the turnaround of empty containers, reducing effective slot availability.
- Carrier Capacity Discipline: Ocean liners have utilized blank sailings (cancelled voyages) and general rate increases (GRIs) alongside peak season surcharges (PSS) to actively manage and constrain available spot capacity, driving pricing higher**.**




*Just for graphics representation only*

**Monsoons/ El Nino:** Since our last report to you, where the Fears of El Nino were looming large. Today the situation is quite different. Floods in Assam, Floods in Uttar Pradesh, good rains in Gujerat and Rajasthan, and good rains in North India too. We are now in Mid-August, and from what we are hearing that the Rains so far have been sufficient to carry them thru for now. There is water also now in the Dams, so the Winter crops can expect feeds via the Canals, otherwise use of Borewell water.

The Lord has been kind to our Farmers, so they are now back to work, and situation seems to have been saved, for now at least. Dams have water for the rainfed crops. Rainfall is now 60-65% which is good news, however, is approx. 20-30% less from last year (as this time). Overall, much better than last month but we are not in the "Green" yet. We still have August & September for our traditional rain months ahead of us.

It has also now changed the scenario for a lot of crops going forward, which we will review below.

**CHILLIES:**

***Chilli Standing crop***

We have all seen that the prices have actually gone and doubled compared to last year, but last year prices were also artificially depressed as farmers could not put in the cold stores which were already full, so they had to sell at whatever price they got in the local market.

This year it's different and prices are double of last year, and the indications that we get are showing that the farmers will definitely increase by at least 50%, in the coming season. Some of the IPM areas are still short on Rains, and we are hoping that it will change, as Monsoon Season is still – Work in Progress- (As the locals call it) so fingers crossed on this one.

Areas in Madhya Pradesh have increased and they also looking at a good yielding crop – There are viruses in some areas about 7/8% due to erratic weather conditions. Current crop prices are holding stable for now, and I think covering should be considered for the next few months or till End of the year. I can't see prices softening before December.

Karnataka crop will commence in November, but this is mostly the High colour varieties like. Dabbi, KDL, Wonder Hot, etc.

**TURMERIC:**

***Drip Irrigation***

The Bogey of the Rainfall failure has receded, with the good rains in the growing regions of Karnataka, and Maharashtra.

Having said that, let's not forget -Turmeric is a 9-month crop, and we are only into Month 2.5/3.00. The good part is that Areas like Nizamabad and Erode and Southern Parts of Maharashtra have got drip irrigation so moisture here should not be an issue.
In a Nutshell, so far – the crop is looking good, and we hope it will stay this way. Planted area all around seems to be at least 25/30% larger, but we are not rejoicing yet, as we don't know how the delayed sowing will affect the yields, or going ahead – what will be the effect.

Given we are 30 - 40 days late, the plant may not get to the maximum yield weight at harvest, hence affecting the over yield per acre. This is something we have experienced 2 - 3 years ago hence I am also waving a caution flag (not a panic one). Coming to the current market situation, where the Spot Market is at 175, the Futures Market is running at 200– Probable reason is Pure speculation, as there is a group of the Cotton Traders who have gotten into this and are trying to drive the market up to the levels of around 250. Now it Remains to be seen how the market evolves, but as I see it, a lot of domestic buying has already been satisfied, so it’s a wait and watch situation now.

On a lighter note, hopefully the rain diverts the cotton traders back to cotton.

***Our Agri team during their Turmeric Field visit***

**CUMIN:**

Prices for now are holding steady and have been playing in a max. 7/10% range for the last few months now. What needs to be seriously looked is the 2027 crop scenario. There have been good rains in Gujerat and not complete in Rajasthan. In Gujerat, a lot of acreage could potentially move out of Cumin to Coriander where prices are double of last year. In Rajasthan, a lot of acreage could move to Castor and Mustard – both of which are showing a lot of promise into 2027, and are more sturdy crops compared to Cumin.

If this fear should fan out to be true, then I am afraid that after October we will be in Bull Run. My advice is that prices are already sitting at the bottom if the price cycle, and now it’s only going to improve, so don’t wait, then go chasing the market.

These are scenarios developed after speaking to farmers and their feedback. Situations can change all depending on how much water availability is there for the winter crops. Cover whatever you need for the 2026 crop and then wait till December to reassess when more data will be available.

**CORIANDER:**

Prices are ruling strong and firm now. As we reported to you in the previous year sowing & crop report, allot of acreage was lost to other crops, for want of better revenue realisation, hence prices have been gradually firming up. Meanwhile we see stable pricing out of Russia, and it’s quite possible that a lot of Coriander Imports will take place and put some damper on the market here from running away.

Sowing will happen around Diwali (Nov 2026) which will depend mainly on the rainfall & water reserve level of the farmers!! It is too soon to predict this in August, although I am quite sure that farmers will give Higher preference/thought to Coriander this season due to the favourable price, which has fetched them nearly double of last year's price. Last year was ruling around 75/80/85 range which today is in the 165/185 range, so any farmer will take up this option in the coming season.

**Scenario1**- Rainfall is average (not aiming for excess this year). Popular choices will be Wheat, Coriander, Mustard, Chia Seeds followed by others.

**Scenario 2** - Rainfall is deficit. Wheat will be reduced and Bengal Gram will be planted in large way (hardy crop, very little water needed). Mustard/Coriander - 4 irrigations needed so will depend on water availability at the time of sowing.

Fenugreek - will also be reduced as it's a thirsty crop requiring minimum 6 irrigations. Other crops Either ways; I would advise you to Stay covered until December, maybe Q1 2027 by which time we will have a better reading on the sowing.

**FENNEL:**

Market is holding stable for the last few months, and demand also seems to be Normal. I expect the prices will stay stable for the rest of the year and then all eyes will be on the planting of the new crop which will determine the Trend of pricing for 2027 crop. Prices are reasonable, so take coverage and protect yourself.

***Fennel seed transplanting been done from Nursery***

**FENUGREEK:**

Market for now is holding stable. Crop came in Apri/May, and prices are a tad firmer, which is because the crop this year was smaller, as farmers were getting better prices for other crops. I would not rule out the possibility of a another 10/15% hike in prices later in the year as stocks start to diminish, so it won't be a bad idea to stay covered at least until Feb 2027 at these reasonable prices.

Like Coriander, we will need to keep an eye on water availability to forecast the sowing. My recommendation is to keep covered for Q1 2027.

**GINGER:**

Ginger in Northeast India planting is healthy and expected 20-25% increasing is being indicated. Rainfall although there are floods in the state of Assam, ginger seems to be doing ok so far. As we have learnt in the past, the actual picture becomes clear only around October. Fresh vs Dry is also something to monitor. If we have an average / good winter consumption will increase. Flip side; if winter is not good and prices open low, farmer will keep the Ginger in the ground (for another 5 months) to sell for Dried Ginger purposes. Still too early to call this one but overall stay covered.

**CELERY:**

The Madness continues. Traders in Amritsar are still going farm to farm and asking farmers for their material and paying whatever is the price. Result is that slowly material is moving into the hands of the traders rather than farmers. Results: Traceability is getting Lost. No testing for IPM is possible in lots from traders so it's really a very complex and sad situation.

Honestly, I don't know how long the traders will be able to hold these high prices without active demand but let us wait and see whatever happens. I can only say - For now just buy hand to mouth - and we keep a close eye on the situation.

**CARDAMOM:**

Not a very happy story this season. Rains were short. June/July had a shortfall of around 30%. Temperatures were also higher at 33- 35c which is abnormally high, against an average of 25-27c. Fortunately from End July onwards the plantations have witnessed good rains, and the plants are now looking good. What this has done is that it has staggered out the arrivals, and the season, and we believe that there will be a 5th and 6th picking also, extending up to End October. Daily arrivals in the Auctions range from 60,000kilos to 100,000 Kilos.

Prices have been firmer since the start of the season and it has moved up from 2700, to now 3000/kg (bulk & Ungraded) having touched a peak of 3300. Domestic demand is steady and Festival season is coming up shortly now.
Export demand remains absent due to the Conflict in the Middle East. I am also hearing that problems continue in Guatemala, in terms of production /yields, shipping etc etc. (So I hear), but you would know better and please correct me if I am wrong.

**Please visit our LinkedIn page for more updates:**

https://www.linkedin.com/company/swani-spice/

Should you need any further information on any of these or other crops please feel free to ask.

With best regards
Yours Sincerely,

Kirandip Swani

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**For any enquiries pls contact on marketing@swanispice.com**