MCX
METAL & ENERGY
Trade with Trust



MENTHA OIL

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

2025-2026

FOREWORD TO THE MENTHA OIL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Mentha Oil Performance Report (PR) is the outcome of the SEBI circular SEBI/HO/CDMRD/DNPMP/CIR/P/2020/21 dated February 04, 2020 directing all recognised Stock Exchanges offering commodity derivatives segment to create a 'Performance review of the commodity derivatives contracts'. The PR, based on SEBI directive, has to be uploaded on the Exchange website by June 30, 2026 after consultation with the respective Product Advisory Committee (PAC).

Following the above directive the Agri - Product Management Team (PMT) at the Exchange has created PRs for all the listed Agri products. These have since been prepared in consultation with the respective Commodity/Commodity Complex PACs.

The Mentha Oil Performance Report highlights the important aspects of the trade like the domestic and international supply, import and export statistics, etc. There is also extensive information on the volume, turnover, open interest, deliveries of Mentha Oil on the Exchange, along with the price correlations with spot markets and hedging efficiency to help the market participants get an empirical understanding of the performance of the Mentha Oil contract on the Exchange.

Acknowledgement

We have been ably guided by the MCX Mentha Oil PAC members in improving the content of the report and we are extremely thankful to them. We hope to keep improvising the report going forward.

1. **Background**
    a. **Brief about the commodity such as sample picture, lifecycle and various varieties/grade of the commodity found in India**

Brief about Mentha Oil

Menthol mint/ Japanese mint/Corn mint (Mentha arvensis) is cultivated since antiquity in Japan and during recent years in China, India, and Brazil. Mentha oil (also known as Japanese or Chinese or Brazilian mint oil) is valued as a source of l-menthol, which is generally obtained by simple freeze-crystallization. Dementholized oil, a by-product is used as an inexpensive, rather harsh mint like oil.

Prior to 1940, Japan was the supplier of 70% of world's total requirement of Menthol mint, with a total production of 600 to 800 MT per annum. During the Second World War the cultivation started in Brazil and it reached to 2800 MT thus surpassing Japan. But in 1984 Brazil showed a sharp decline from 5000 MT to nearly 100 -200 MT. Thereafter China reached at the top by producing 6000 MT of Mentha oil. In modern times production of Mentha oil shifted to India. Currently India contributes to approximately 80% of world production of Mentha oil.

Sample Picture of Mentha Oil



Lifecycle

Nursery for Mentha oil is generally prepared in Jan (mid)-Feb (end). After 25-30 days in nursery, seedlings get transplanted from nursery to fields in the month of March-April. First cutting is done after approximately 90 days of transplantation and second cutting is done after approximately 60 days of first cutting.

Distillation of leaves are usually done at farm level with the help of simple distillation units. Around end of May or beginning of June arrival of Mentha oil starts in mandis.

Varieties/Grade of Mentha

Japanese mint (Mentha arvensis), Peppermint Oil (Mentha piperita), Spearmint Oil (Mentha spicata) are important types of Mentha. The contract listed on the Exchange platform is of Mentha arvensis.

There are several varieties of Mentha arvensis. Important varieties of Mentha arvensis are:

Shivalik: It is an introduction from China. This variety is highly suitable for obtaining second cut. Shivalik is highly sensitive to the fungal diseases and pests prevailing in the Tarai area.

Himalaya: This variety yields high amount of essential oil and is not susceptible to pests and diseases. Like Shivalik, Himalaya can be ratooned for two cuts.

Hybrid 77: It is a tall vigorous compact growing variety. It is highly resistant to rust diseases.

EC-41911: This is an erect type variety, which gets less affected by rains. The oil extracted from this variety is preferred in food flavors.

CIM Kosi: A novel mint plant 'Kosi' characterized by its high menthol content, high biomass and high oil yield with symmetrical branching giving globular shape to the canopy for equal distribution of sunlight to the lower leaves.

CIM Kranti: This variety has a unique genotype with better performance in terms of essential oil yields during winters. Therefore CIM-Kranti could be used for both, essential oil and sucker production. This variety demonstrated tolerance towards cold and showed potential of giving higher additional essential oil yields during winters.

b. Commodity fundamentals and balance sheet as per the following format (to be prepared based on publicly available information on best effort basis):

Global Balance Sheet

Global Scenario	2024-25 (MT)	2025-26 (MT)
Data Not Available in Public Domain		

Domestic Balance Sheet

Indian Scenario (June-May)	2024-25 (MT)	2025-26 (MT)
Opening Stocks	14,800	13,600
Production	33,500	32,000
Imports	NA	NA
Total Supply	48,300	45,600
Exports	19,300	NA
Domestic consumption	15,400	NA
Closing stocks	13,600	NA

Source: CIMAP & Industry Estimates

Top Major Producing Countries	2024-25 (MT)	2025-26 (MT)
India	33,500	32,000
Others	NA	NA

Source – TG Field Survey & Industry Estimates, NA=Not Available

Top Major Consuming Countries	2024-25 (MT)	2025-26 (MT)
India	NA	NA
Others	NA	NA

Top Major Exporting Countries	2024-25 (MT)	2025-26 (MT)
India	NA	NA
Others	NA	NA

Top Major Importing Countries	2024-25 (MT)	2025-26 (MT)
China	9688.75	NA
USA	5906.19	NA
Germany	1689.89	NA
Singapore	1565.70	NA
Netherlands	1249.48	NA
Japan	934.67	NA
France	672.33	NA
UK	442.98	NA
Spain	564.07	NA
Brazil	467.45	NA
Indonesia	444.41	NA
Korea (South)	266.58	NA
Phillipines	313.72	NA
Nigeria	300.84	NA
Malaysia	268.81	NA
Turkey	259.23	NA
Russia	220.63	NA
Vietnam (South)	180.71	NA
Thailand	154.24	NA

Source: DGCI&S., Calcutta/ MoC

Top Major Producing States in India	2024-25 (MT)	2025-26 (MT)
Data not available in public domain		

c. Major changes in the polices governing trade in the spot markets of the commodity

The 56th GST Council meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman under the Ministry of Finance, has introduced significant tax reforms aimed at supporting the agriculture sector and rationalizing the tax structure. In a major move to benefit farmers and the natural menthol industry, the Council recommended reducing the GST rate from 18% to 5% for Natural Menthol and related natural products, such as Menthol and menthol crystal, Peppermint oil, DMO, Spearmint oil, DTMO, Mentha piperita oil (HSN 29061110,30,3301). However, to maintain a clear distinction and better farmer price, the council increase the GST rate for, "Other than natural Menthol" (Synthetic) and its derivatives (HSN 29061190, 30,

3301) from 12% to the standard rate of 18%. These changes are scheduled to take effect nationwide on September 22, 2025, as part of a broader effort to promote natural products and streamline the indirect tax framework.

d. **Geopolitical issues in the commodity and its impact on Indian scenario.**

Production of Synthetic Mentha has become a challenge for domestic Mentha industry. However, the demand for synthetic Mentha is highly elastic and depends upon price of natural Mentha. Economics for synthetic menthol can only work if the price difference between natural and synthetic menthol remain attractive. Synthetic menthol is already at lower cost benefit.

2. Trading related parameter

a. Monthly and Annual traded volume

Month	Traded Quantity (MT)
Apr'25	667.80
May'25	454.68
Jun'25	695.52
Jul'25	1053.26
Aug'25	2103.48
Sep'25	1993.36
Oct'25	1192.68
Nov'25	792.00
Dec'25	1399.32
Jan'26	1344.96
Feb'26	736.56
Mar'26	1160.28
2025-26	13593.96

b. **Annual traded volume as proportion of total deliverable supply**

	Annual traded volume (MT)	Deliverable Supply (MT)
2025-26	13,593.96	45,600
Annual traded volume as proportion of deliverable supply	29.81	

c. **Annual traded volume as proportion of total annual production**

	Annual traded volume (MT)	Production (MT)
2025-26	13,593.96	32,000
Annual traded volume as proportion of production	42.48	

d. Annual average Open interest as proportion of total production

	Annual daily average OI (MT)	Production (MT)
2025-26	175.32	32,000
Annual daily average OI as proportion of production	0.55	

e. Annual average Open interest as proportion of total deliverable supply

	Annual daily average OI (MT)	Deliverable Supply (MT)
2025-26	175.32	45,600
Annual daily average OI as proportion of deliverable supply (opening stock not considered due to its unavailability)	0.38	

f. Monthly and Annual value of trade (in Rs. Crores)

Month	Volume (Rs Crs)
Apr'25	61.51
May'25	41.49
Jun'25	64.07
Jul'25	95.58
Aug'25	205.43
Sep'25	196.4
Oct'25	111.66
Nov'25	72.65
Dec'25	134.66
Jan'26	134.18
Feb'26	71.48
Mar'26	115.75
2025-26	1304.88

g. **Monthly and Annual quantity of delivery**

Month	Deliveries (MT)
Apr'25	2.52
May'25	13.32
Jun'25	36.72
Jul'25	64.44
Aug'25	84.96
Sep'25	106.92
Oct'25	14.76
Nov'25	27.00

Dec'25	29.88
Jan'26	15.12
Feb'26	85.32
Mar'26	48.24
2025-26	**529.2**

h. Monthly and Annual value of delivery (in Rs. Crores)

Month	Delivery Value (Rs Crs)
Apr'25	0.25
May'25	1.31
Jun'25	3.43
Jul'25	5.94
Aug'25	8.23
Sep'25	10.54
Oct'25	1.48
Nov'25	2.66
Dec'25	3.25
Jan'26	1.61
Feb'26	8.88
Mar'26	5.06
2025-26	**52.65**

i. Monthly and Annual Average Open Interest (OI)

Month	Daily Average OI (MT)
Apr'25	87.12
May'25	92.52
Jun'25	90.00
Jul'25	148.32
Aug'25	225.36
Sep'25	256.68
Oct'25	220.68
Nov'25	222.12
Dec'25	194.76
Jan'26	193.68
Feb'26	177.48
Mar'26	195.84
2025-26	175.32

j. Annual average volume to open interest ratio

	Daily Average Volume (MT)	Daily Average OI (MT)
2025-26	52.92	175.32
Annual daily average volume to open interest ratio	30.18%	

k. Total number of unique members and clients who have traded during the financial year

Financial Year	Unique Members traded	Unique Clients traded
2025-26	76	1143

Note: Client count (including proprietary) traded during the period April 2025 to March 2026.

l. **Ratio of open interest by FPOs/farmers/Hedge/VCP positions to total open interest (Annual average as well as maximum daily value)**

Daily Average Open Interest	Unit	Annual Average		Ratio of Open Interest		Maximum Daily Value (OI)	
		FPOs/ Farmers/ Hedge/VCP		FPOs/ Farmers/ Hedge/VCP to total OI		FPOs/ Farmers/ Hedge/VCP	
		Long	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short
169.27	MT	12.35	109.22	0.07	0.65	76.67	261.36

Note: Details are provided based on daily disclosure on the Exchange website for the period April 2025 to March 2026 in line with SEBI circular no SEBI/HO/CDMRD/DNPMP/CIR/P/2019/08 Dated January 04, 2019 Based on the data provided by the members from time to time pertaining to Farmers/ FPOs, VCPs/ Hedgers.

m. Number of unique FPOs / farmers and VCPs/hedgers who traded in the financial year

Farmers/FPOs	Value Chain Participants (VCPs)/Hedgers
0	20

Note: Based on the classification provided by the members as on March 31, 2026, for clients traded during FY 2025-26. In case of classification of OWN (Prop Account) is uploaded as VCPs for any commodity, the same is included in "VCPs/ Hedger' category.

n. Algorithmic trading as percentage of total trading

Financial Year	Algorithmic trading as a % of total trading
2025-26	6.44%

o. Delivery defaults

- Number of instances: Nil
- Quantity involved: Nil
- Value involved: Nil

3. **Price Movement:**

a. Correlation and ratio of standard deviation of Exchange futures price vis-à-vis international futures price:

International futures price is not available for Mentha oil.

b. Correlation and ratio of standard deviation of Exchange futures price vis-à-vis international spot price and domestic spot price (exchange polled price)

International spot price is not available for Mentha oil.

c. Correlation between exchange futures & domestic spot prices along with ratio of standard deviation.

Correlation between MCX Mentha Oil Futures and Spot prices in 2025-26	80.54%
Standard Deviation of MCX Mentha Oil futures prices in 2025-26	1.23%
Standard Deviation of MCX Mentha Oil spot prices in 2025-26	0.87%
Ratio of standard deviation of MCX Mentha Oil futures and spot prices in 2025-26	141.77%

d. **Correlation between international futures & international spot prices along with ratio of standard deviation.**

International futures and international spot prices of Mentha oil are not available.

e. Comparison of Exchange polled price and mandi price (in case of agricultural commodities)/ other relevant price (in case non-agricultural commodities) at basis Centre.

The local mandis prices for Mentha oil could not be obtained.

f. Maximum & Minimum value of daily futures price volatility and spot price volatility along with disclosure of methodology adopted for computing the volatility.

	Maximum daily volatility	**Minimum daily volatility**
Future price	3.88%	0.54%
Spot price	1.54%	0.28%

Note: *Above details are based on Near Month contract volatility and for the period 1-Apr-25 to 31-Mar-26.* Methodology adopted for computing the volatility is Exponential Weighted Moving Average (EWMA).

g. Number of times the futures contract was in backwardation/contango by more than 4% for the near month contract in the period under review.

One (3) time the futures contract was in backwardation/contango by more than 4% for the near month contract in 2025-26.

4. Other parameters

a. Qualitative and quantitative measure for Hedge effectiveness ratio and basis Risk (Volatility of Basis) along with disclosure of methodology adopted for such calculations.

Hedge Ratio	
FY 2025-26	0.5448979

Note: Hedging efficiency is the value of Coefficient of Determination (R^2) obtained from regressing changes in five-day moving average of daily MCX Spot Prices on changes in five-day moving average of daily MCX Futures Prices during the period.

Basis Risk (Volatility of Basis)

Financial Year	Unit	Basis Risk
2025-26	Rs/Kg	0.2215

Note: Basis Risk is computed as the Standard Deviation of normal returns in Basis, which is excess of Spot over Futures price. In case Basis is zero for any day, next day's Basis return has been ignored for computing the Standard Deviation.

b. Details about major physical markets of the commodity vis-à-vis market reach in terms of availability of delivery centers (information to be provided state-wise and UT-wise)

Delivery center:

1. Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh

Barabanki is the basis centre for Mentha oil futures. Barabanki & nearby districts/regions contribute approximately 55% of Mentha oil production in Uttar Pradesh. Mentha oil production share of Uttar Pradesh in the country is approximately 70%.

c. Details about major physical markets of the commodity and average Open Interest for each month generated from those regions:

- Details about major physical markets are mentioned above.
- Region-wise open interest is not available.

d. Details, such as number and target audience, of stakeholders' awareness programs carried out by the exchange.

Overall, the PMT – Agri team conducted 75 programs in the Agri segment, and the target participants were primarily the physical participants, especially, the Farmers and Farmer Producing organizations (FPOs) associated with the commodities listed on the MCX platform.

e. **Steps taken / to be undertaken to improve hedging effectiveness of the contracts as well as to improve the performance of illiquid contracts**.

To make the Mentha oil contract more effective for hedging, the Exchange conducts Product Advisory Committee meetings and remains in touch with market participants on a regular basis. Based on feedback received, the Exchange makes suitable changes in the contract or other processes, wherever applicable/permissible.

5. **Any other information to be disclosed as deemed important by the exchange or as suggested by the PAC.**

No other information to be disclosed

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Disclaimer: *The information contained in this report is provided for information purpose only, and are provided on as available basis. Along with MCX information, this report also contains the information obtained from third party sources/ market sources on best effort basis. The user of the information assumes the entire risk of any use of such information provided herein at its sole discretion. MCX ensures accuracy and reliability of information, to the best of its endeavours, however, makes no warranty or representation as to the accuracy, completeness or reliability of any of the information along with the third party information contained herein. MCX expressly disclaims any and all liability whatsoever to any person for any damage or loss of any nature arising out of use or as a result of reliance, any error, misrepresentations or omissions of any of the information provided herein. The information contained in this document is not intended to provide any professional council or investment advice. No information contained herein may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise without explicit prior permission of MCX."*