## **Take Sowing of Bengal Gram**

India is the largest producer and consumer of the Bengal gram in the world. Bengal gram is a major rabi grown pulse in India and sowing will be taken up in October- November and harvested during January- February. According to second advance estimate released by Ministry of Agriculture, production of Bengal gram in 2014-15 will be 8.28 million tonnes, which was 13 per cent lesser than the previous year. Hence, the price showed upward trend from May, 2015 and at present it is sold at Rs.5000-5500 per quintal. In India, Madhya Pradesh (43%) is the largest producing State followed by Rajasthan (13%), Maharashtra (11%), Karnataka (5%), Andhra Pradesh (7%) and Uttar Pradesh (9%).

In Tamil Nadu, it is cultivated in 8908 ha area with production of 5823 tonnes during the year 2013-14. Among the gram grown in Tamil Nadu, 75 per cent of the area occupied by Desi (black) type and the remaining by Kabuli (white). Now, the last season stock is entering the market and supply from stock will continue till December end. Trade sources revealed that expected arrivals from other major producing countries during November - December followed by local arrivals during February- March will keep its prices firm.

In Tamil Nadu, Bengal gram is majorly grown in Tirupur and Coimbatore districts. Bengal gram prices prevailed in Udumalpet market for last Ten years were collected and analyzed. The Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI&BPC) analysis confirmed that the farm gate price of bengal gram will hover around Rs.4500-4700 per quintal during February - March, 2016. Hence, farmers are advised to take up bengal gram sowing according to this market advisory.

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