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To
The Editor,

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Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

Price Forecast for Adipattam

Adipattam is an important cropping season under rainfed system in Tamil Nadu. South West monsoon determines the production of the crops and this monsoon has been forecasted likely to be below normal. Mostly cereals, oil seeds and vegetables are sown in this season. Farmers have to take decisions on whether these crops can be sown or not. To help them in taking proper pre sowing decisions, Back Office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI &BPC) in the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University provides price forecast for Kharif crops, viz., Maize, Sorghum, Gingelly, Groundnut and Small onion.

Maize

In 2013-14, global Maize production was 967 million tonnes produced from 177 million hectare. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) predicted that global maize production for 2014-15 will be 979.1, million tonnes which is 1.25 per cent higher than previous years production and also global stocks in 2013-14 is estimated to be 7.69 percent higher than 2012-13. At global level, maize price is declining because of the estimated global high ending stocks and also good current crop at United States, the World's largest maize producer. Department of Agriculture, Government of India, in 2014-15 expected maize production is 23 million tonnes which is 2 per cent higher than the previous year. Karnataka is the highest producer of maize in India contributing 18.94 per cent followed by Andhra Pradesh (17.42 per cent), Maharashtra (10.65 per cent), Rajasthan (7.74 per cent), Tamil Nadu (7.27 per cent) and Bihar (7.04 per cent).

Perambalur, Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Dindigul and Tirupur are the major maize cultivating districts of Tamil Nadu. Currently maize price is ruling around Rs.1480 per quintal. Trade sources indicated that Tamil Nadu farmers stocked about 15,000 tonnes of maize which was sown during thai pattam with the expectation of increase in price. Karnataka Government procured and kept around seven lakh tonnes of maize and is yet to announce the e-tender. Besides, currently arrivals from Bihar are flowing into Tamil Nadu market at less than Rs.1400 per quintal which curtailed the expected increase in price and kept the maize price at the above said level.

The centre analysed the past 20 years prices that prevailed in Udumalpet regulated market and also conducted traders survey to advise the farmers on expected price for adipattam sowing maize crop. The econometric analysis and traders' survey revealed that the maize price may rule around Rs.1480 per quintal till June end and during harvest (October- November, 2014) price will rule around Rs.1400 per quintal. Based on the above price, farmers are advised to take up cultivation of maize.

Sorghum

In India, the area has come down to 65 per cent from 18.2 million hectares in 1961 to 6.3 million hectares in 2011 and the annual production has declined by 25 per cent from 8.0 to 6.0 million metric tonnes, from 1961 to 2011, with doubling productivity by 440 kg to 951 kilograms per hectare during the above period. In India, as per the third advance estimate of 2013 -14, the area under sorghum was 6.32 million hectares with production of 5.25 million tonnes. Maharashtra (3.26 million hectare) contributes 50 per cent of total cultivated area and Karnataka (1.14 million hectare), Rajasthan (0.55 million hectare), Madhya Pradesh (0.36 million hectare) and Tamil Nadu (0.20 million hectare) are the major sorghum growing states.

In Tamil Nadu, sorghum is cultivated for mainly grain and fodder purpose. The major sorghum growing districts are Dindigul (29.15 thousand hectare), Coimbatore (23.11 thousand hectare), Tiruchirappalli (25.05 thousand hectare), Salem (17.39 thousand hectare), Karur (16.05 thousand hectare), and Triupur (11.97 thousand hectare). Contributing 76 per cent of the total area under cultivation. Tamil Nadu is the home of the largest number of traditional sorghum varieties. The major landraces and varieties are Manjal cholam, Vellai cholam, Kari cholam, Karareddu cholam are cultivated in surroundings of Triupur and Coimbatore districts and ruling varieties are CO 30, BSR1 and CSH5. In Tamil Nadu, Sorghum can be grown in Kharif (July-October), Rabi (October-

February) as well as summer seasons. The area under sorghum is drastically declining from 383 thousand hectares to 198 thousand hectares during the past ten years due to its low demand and price.

Analysis was carried out with farm gate price of cholam that prevailed during the last 10 years in Tirupur regulated market. Current price of sorghum is Rs.19 per kg in Tirupur regulated market. The analysis revealed that the price for the sorghum grains will prevail around Rs. 18 - 19 per kg during harvest period viz., September - October 2014. Accordingly, farmers are requested to take sowing decision on adipattam sorghum.

Gingelly

Gingelly is one of the most important oilseed crops of India and also grown in Tamil Nadu in Adipattam and its production depends mainly on weather. Global area under gingelly during 2011-12 was around 78.97 lakh hectares and production was around 40.36 lakh tonnes. India, Myanmar, Sudan, Tanzania, China, Nigeria, Uganda and Ethiopia are the major gingelly growing countries which together account for 79 per cent of the total global area and 77 per cent of production. In India, gingelly production during Kharif 2013-14 was 3.50 lakh tonnes and it was 3.40 lakh tonnes during 2012-13. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Gujarat together accounted for 86 per cent of the total production of India. Uttar Pradesh ranks first with a production of 1.20 lakh tonnes.

In 2011-12, area and production of gingelly was about 0.43 lakh hectares and 0.26 lakh tonnes in Tamil Nadu. Erode, Karur, Salem, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Thanjavur, Tiruppur, Pudukottai and Thiruvannamalai are the major gingelly producing districts in Tamil Nadu. Traders procure gingelly from Kolkata, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat States. In Tamil Nadu, gingelly crop is usually grown in two seasons during Thaipattam (Jan -Feb) and Adipattam (July-August). The crop sown during July-August is harvested during September-October and comes to market in October – November. Thai crop which comes to market during the months of March-April is sown during December- January. The centre has analyzed the past 14 year prices of red gingelly that prevailed in Sivagiri Regulated market. The analysis and traders survey revealed that price of red gingelly would hover around Rs.8500-8700 per quintal during harvest. Based on this price forecast, farmers are advised to go for gingelly cultivation.

Groundnut

Groundnut or peanut is one of the important oilseeds in the world. The price of competing oilseeds like soybean, palm oil, sunflower, mustard, etc. influence price of

groundnut and oil. Total world production of groundnut in 2013-14 was 39.88 million tonnes as against 37.19 million tonnes during 2012-13. Groundnut production in kharif (2013-14) was 47.15 lakh tonnes and the same was 26.20 lakh tonnes in kharif 2012-13. The major producers of groundnut are Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. The US Department of Agriculture reported that the India's overall edible oil import is likely to stand at 11.8 million tonnes (mt) this year, against 10.7 mt in the previous year. This oil year (October 2013-November 2014), the share of oil imports to overall edible oil consumption is likely to hit 65.3 percent, against 61.2 percent in the previous year.

The area under groundnut in Tamil Nadu was 3.85 lakh hectares with production of 10.26 lakh tonnes during 2011-2012. The major groundnut cultivating districts are Thiruvannamalai, Vellore, Villupuram, Namakkal, Salem, Erode and Pudukottai. More than 65 percent of the rainfed groundnut is grown in Adi pattam season. TVM 7, VRI 2, VRI Gn 5, VRI Gn 6 and TMV Gn 13 are the important Groundnut varieties grown in Tamil Nadu. The econometrics analysis of past 14 years prices of groundnut in Tindivanam and Sevr regulated markets and traders survey reveal that farmers in Tirupur and Coimbatore districts could get a price of Rs.4200-4300 per quintal of groundnut pods in Sevr Regulated Market of Tiruppur district and Rs.3500-3600 per quintal in Viluppuram district. Based on the above prices farmers are advised to take sowing decision.

Small Onion

Small onion (shallot) is cultivated throughout the year because of its profitability. According to the Second Advance Estimates (2013-14) of National Horticultural Board, area and production of onion in Tamil Nadu was 0.39 lakh ha and 4.72 lakh tonnes respectively. The onion cultivation area increased by 9.09 per cent and production by 5.68 per cent compared to previous year (2012-13). Tamil Nadu accounted for 5 per cent of country's area under onion and more than 70 per cent of this is shared by small onion.

Last year (September – October, 2013) Small onion price was ruled between Rs.45 – Rs.80. At present, the farm gate price of good quality small onion is Rs. 22 only. The decline in price was due to expansion of area by farmers based on previous year price hike and current year decline in export. Currently, Small onion from Theni, Dindigul and Trichy districts are arriving to the markets. Arrivals from Karnataka fed begun and may end during September. The prices in Tamil Nadu could show an increasing trend during harvest time due to increased demand and festival season would be round the column.

CO5 is the important multiplier onion, which is round shaped with a diameter 27 mm and above, and the colour is pink to red and it fetches better price. Small onion prices that prevailed in Dindigul market for the past 15 years were analysed and market surveys were also conducted. Based on the analysis and traders survey, farm gate price of small onion is expected to be Rs. 22 – Rs.25 and above per kg during harvest period viz., September and October 2014. Based on this price farmers are advised to take of their sowing decisions.

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