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To
The Editor,

Date: 5-11-2013

Sir,

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

Red Chilli Prices to rule around Rs.55-60 per kg during harvest

India stands first in production and consumption of chilli globally. During 2012-13, India produced around 13 lakh tonnes of chilli from nearly 8 lakh hectares. India exported 2.81 lakh tonnes of red chilli during 2012-13. In India, chilli is grown in almost all the States. Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of chilli in India, contributing to about 53 per cent to the total production, followed by Karnataka (8.23%), West Bengal (7.69%), Madhya Pradesh (7.20%), Odisha (5.38%), Gujarat (5.27%), Maharashtra (3.51%) and Tamil Nadu (1.77%).

During 2011-12, Tamil Nadu produced 30,298 tonnes of chillies from 58,603 hectares. Ramanathapuram (mundu), Thoothukudi (mundu), Sivagangai (samba), Virudhunagar (samba) and Tirunelveli (samba, mundu) are the major varieties of chillies in the State. Generally, chilli arrivals from all over India hits the market from November to May. It begins with the first crop from Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka in the November followed by Maharastra and Andhra Pradesh in December. Tamil Nadu chilli arrivals will start from March and extend till May.

Crop status in all the major producing States especially in Andhra Pradesh, amount of carry forward stock, domestic and export demand decides the price of chillies. India consumes around 70-80 per cent of the total production and exports 10-20 per cent of chillies annually. According to trade sources, the carry forward stocks of the current year in Andhra Pradesh is 40 lakh bags (1 bag= 35 kg) where as in Tamil Nadu, it is 2 lakh bag.

Currently, cold stored samba chilli is trading around Rs.6500-7000 per quintal in Virudhunagar market. In Tamil Nadu, during October- November, chillies are raised in nursery or directly sown and harvested during February-March. Farmers are eager to know the price of chilli that will prevail during the harvest period (Feb-

March, 2014). To help the farmers, Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell functioning in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the red chilli prices that prevailed in Virudhunagar regulated market for past 16 years. The analysis and traders survey results showed that the price would be ruling between Rs.5500-6000 per quintal in February-March, 2014. Expected normal production in the current season and good domestic and export demand will keep the price to rule in the above predicted range. Based on the forecasted price, farmers are requested to take their sowing / planting decision on chilli.

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