



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. E. Somasundaram, Ph.D.,
Public Relations Officer &
Professor (Agronomy)

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To
The Editor,

Date: 18-11-2013

Sir,

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

Tomato prices to be stable for next one month

Tomato ranks second after potato in world consumption. The major tomato growing countries are China, USA, Italy, Turkey, India and Egypt. At the world level, 159.34 million Tonnes of tomatoes are produced in an area of 4.75 million ha and the average productivity of the crop is 33.53 t/ha. China stands first with a contribution of 32 percent to world tomato production. India stands second with 9.47 percent production globally.

There is a sizeable increase in acreage and production of tomato in India during the past five years. Area increased from 5.96 lakh ha in 2006-07 to 8.65 lakh ha in 2010-11, while the production increased from 10.05 to 16.8 million tonnes with a productivity increase from 16.9 to 19.5 tons/ha. Tomato has a very good demand in export markets too. Pakistan is the major consumer for Indian tomatoes followed by United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh and Nepal.

In India, Andhra Pradesh has the highest production share with 35 percent followed by Karnataka with 10.44 percent. Tamil Nadu stands ninth place with 3.45 percent of total tomato production. In terms of productivity Karnataka occupies first place with 34.3 t/ha. and Tamil Nadu stands fourth place with 21.40 t/ha next to Gujarat (25.2 t/ha) and Bihar (22.60 t/ha)

In Tamil Nadu, even though tomato is grown throughout the year the major seasons are, April-June (Chithiraipattam), July-Sep (Adipattam) and Nov- Feb (Karthigaipattam). The state has three peak harvesting months - February, June and October. February and October harvests coincide with harvesting time in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Hence, market arrivals from Mysore and parts of Andhra Pradesh is very high in Oddanchatram and Coimbatore markets, affecting the farm harvest price.

In Tamil Nadu, Dharmapuri, Salem, Krishnagiri, Coimbatore and Theni districts are the major cultivation pockets for tomato. Among those districts, Salem

and Dharmapuri are the major contributors. In Salem district, Mettur, Yercaud, Edappadi, Omalur, Attur, Gangavalli and Sankagiri are the major areas and in Dharmapuri district, Pennagaram, Harur, Pappireddipatti, Palakkodu and Pochampalli constitute the major tomato growing areas.

Market price for tomato was ruling unusually high at Rs. 45/kg during July-August 2013. Severe drought experienced in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka was attributed for this. Farmers are eager to know the likely prices that would prevail for the tomato being harvested in October and November 2013. They need to be suitably advised whether the same price will prevail at the time of harvest also or not. Scientists in the back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC) in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University have analyzed the prices of Hybrid Tomato in Coimbatore Uzhavar sandhai during the past 11 years.

The result indicated that the farm gate price of hybrid tomato in Coimbatore market will be ruling around Rs. 16-20/kg up to December second week. If North-East monsoon intensifies in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu the farm prices are likely to increase. The farm gate prices of tomato at Ottanchatram markets would be less by Rs. 2-5/Kg comparing Coimbatore market.

For further details contact:

Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC),
Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development studies,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore 641 003.
Phone- 0422-2431405.

For technical information farmers may contact,

Professor and Head,
Department of Vegetable crops,
Horticultural College & Research Institute,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore -641 003,
Phone - 0422-6611374, 0422-6611283

Public Relations Officer