



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
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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:

### **Sell Sorghum on Harvest**

Sorghum is the world's fifth major cereal after wheat, rice, maize and barley. Among rainfed crops it is an important staple food in African and Asian subcontinents. It also used as fodder, cattle & poultry feed and as a raw material for bakery products and starch industry. Developing countries account for 97 per cent of the world's sorghum area. India ranks first position in sorghum cultivated area and it exports to Kenya, Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

In India, as per the United States Department of Agriculture, 2013 -14, the area under sorghum was 6.2 million hectares and production of 6 million tonnes. The cultivation area during 2013-14 increased by 5.08 per cent and the production by 9.09 per cent compared to previous year. Maharashtra contributes 50 per cent of total cultivated area and Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are the major sorghum growing states.

In Tamil Nadu, sorghum is cultivated for mainly grain and fodder purposes. The major sorghum growing districts are Dindigul, Coimbatore, Trichirapalli, Salem, Karur and Triuppur contributing 76 per cent of the total area under cultivation. The major landraces and varieties cultivated in surroundings of Triuppur and Coimbatore districts are Manjal cholam used as seed for good quality of fodder production, Vellai cholam, Kari cholam and Karareddu cholam are used for feed purposes and Mottu vellaicholam are used as food grain. The ruling varieties and hybrids are CO 30, BSR1 and CSH5 used as source of fodder, feed and bakery preparation. In Tamil Nadu, Sorghum can be grown in Kharif (July-October), Rabi (October-February) as well as in summer seasons.

Under these circumstances, 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 has analyzed the wholesale prices of cholam that prevailed during the last 11 years in Tiruppur regulated market to provide market intelligence for the major sorghum growing districts.

Current price of good quality sorghum (Manjal cholam, Karicholam and varieties) is Rs.22 – Rs.25 per kg and Vellai Mottu cholam is Rs. 30-35 per kg in Tiruppur market. The poor quality of sorghum ruling around Rs. 19 -20 per kg only in Tiruppur market. Sorghum grains with moisture content of less than 9 per cent and impurities free are considered to be of good quality which fetches better price. The cost of cleaning charges would be Rs.0.80 per kg. The results of price analysis and traders' survey revealed that the price for the good quality sorghum grains will be Rs. 20 - 21 per kg during viz., October – November, 2014. There will be less chance for price increase during December, 2014. Hence, farmers are recommended to sell immediately after harvest of sorghum.

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