

Kharif sorghum price will be flat

Sorghum is mainly cultivated as a rainfed crop in Tamil Nadu. It is used as grain, fodder and dry feed. In India, sorghum cultivated area was 5.82 million hectares with a production of 5.54 million tonnes during 2013-14. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are the major sorghum growing states of India.

In Tamil Nadu, the sorghum cultivated area was 2.1 lakh hectare with a production of 1.75 lakh tonnes in 2012-13. Namakkal (26%), Dindigul (11%), Coimbatore (10%), Trichirapalli (10%), Salem (9%), Virudhunagar (5%) and Dhamapuri (5%) are the major sorghum growing districts contributing 76 per cent of total of sorghum area of the state. The major sorghum varieties cultivated in the area are Manjal cholam for good quality fodder production and Vellai cholam for food and feed purposes. Sorghum can be grown in Kharif (July-September), Rabi (October - December), as well as in summer season.

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 prices of sorghum that prevailed during the last 12 years in Tiruppur regulated market to provide market intelligence.

Current price of average quality sorghum is Rs.22 - 24 per kg in Tiruppur market. The results of econometric analysis and traders' survey revealed that the price for the good quality sorghum grains at the time of harvest (September - October, 2015) will be Rs.21 - 23 per kg. Hence, sorghum farmers are recommended to make kharif sowing decision based on the above price.

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