



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 Maize Immediately after Harvest

International Grain Council estimated the world supply of maize has increased to 1115.3 million tonnes in 2013-14 as against of 991million tonnes in 2012-13. This is due to good yield potential of US, EU and Russian countries. World demand of maize is estimated to be increased at 939.7 million tonnes in 2013-14 as compared to 859 million tonnes in 2012-13.

In India, the maize cultivated area and production in 2013-14 is estimated at 9.4 million hectare and 23.29 million tonnes as against 8.7 million hectare and 22.26 million tonnes in 2012-13. This is due to higher sowing acreage coupled with favourable crop conditions in major producing states. Maize recorded the high annual growth rate of 2.5 per cent in area and 5.5 per cent in production during the period 2004-05 to 2013-14. Exports from India to Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka have declined to 3.5 million tonnes in 2013-14 compared to previous year export of 4.8 million tonnes due to improved supplies from other competing countries. States such as Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Bihar and Tamil Nadu are the major maize producing states.

In Tamil Nadu arrivals from Perambalur, Palani, Oddanchatram, Virudhunagar, Arrupukottai and Udumalpet will commence from January onwards. Arrivals from Bihar commenced and end with December. Arrivals from Karnataka are expected from January onwards and will end with May. In Tamil Nadu, maize constitutes 25 per cent of livestock

feed, 49 per cent of poultry feed and 12 per cent of maize goes to industrial purposes. Currently, maize price is ruling around Rs 1200-1250 per quintal in Udumalpet regulated market. Trade sources indicated that heavy arrivals from Bihar depressed the price to less than Rs.1200 per quintal and the chance for lower the price further. The demand for maize is expected to be around 5000 tonnes per day in Tamil Nadu.

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 maize that prevailed during the last 11 years in Udumalpet regulated market to provide market intelligence for the major maize growing districts.

The back office of AMI-BPC analysis revealed that the price for the good quality maize grains will prevail around Rs. 1100-1150 per quintal during viz., November-December, 2014. The quality of maize grains is based on less than 12 per cent moisture content and less than 2 per cent fungus are the important key factors for getting better price. There will be less chance for price increase upto January, 2015. Hence, farmers are requested to sell immediately after harvest of maize.

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