

## **Price Forecast for Aadipattam Vegetable Crops - Brinjal and Bhendi**

### **Brinjal**

According to the First Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, during 2015-16 in India the area and production of brinjal are expected to be around 6.70 lakh hectares and 127.79 lakh tones respectively. The total area under vegetable crops was 94.65 lakh hectares with 1685.05 lakh tones of production as per National Horticulture Board (NHB). Among the total vegetables production, brinjal accounted for 12.15 per cent of the total. The major brinjal growing states in India are West Bengal, Gujarat, Nagaland, Chhattisgarh and Bihar. Tamil Nadu contributes very low area (1.76%) compared to other states in India.

In Tamil Nadu, Aadipattam is an important cropping season under rainfed system and the South West Monsoon determines the production of crops sown during this season. During 2014-15, in Tamil Nadu area and production of brinjal was 0.11 lakh hectares with 1.05 lakh tones respectively as per NHB. In Tamil Nadu, Dindigul, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Salem, Theni, Pudukottai, Vellore and Trippur are major brinjal producing districts. Due to the drought conditions the arrivals are reduced comparing the previous months. The major brinjal varieties cultivated are CO 1, CO 2 and COBH 1. The dark purple varieties with glossy appearance, is mostly preferred by the consumers in the Coimbatore market.

The result of the analysis and traders survey indicated that the average farm gate price of Brinjal during during harvest (August – September, 2016) months would be around Rs.22-24/-per kg in Coimbatore.

## **Bhendi**

According to the First Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, bhendi was cultivated in an area of 5.04 lakh hectares with production of 57.94 lakh tonnes during 2015-16. West Bengal stands first with the production of 8.82 lakh tonnes followed by Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha. In Tamil Nadu, bhendi was grown in an area of 0.08 lakh hectares with production of 0.56 lakh tonnes during the year 2014-15. The major bhendi producing districts in Tamil Nadu are Dindigul, Coimbatore, Salem, Vellore, Kancheepuram and Dharmapuri. The major varieties cultivated are CO 1, CO 2 and Cobh H 1. Major Export destinations are United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Israel and Netherland. In Ottanchatram and Coimbatore market, bhendi arrival is low when compared to previous season due to drought.

Hence, the Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 13 years of bhendi prices that prevailed in Ottanchatram and Coimbatore Uzhavar shandies. The econometric analysis and market survey revealed that during harvest (August – September, 2016) farmers could get a farm gate price Rs.23 - 25/- per kg. Based on the above the farmers are advised to take appropriate sowing decision.

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