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To
The Editor,

Date: 11-3-2014

Sir,

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

Coconut and Copra prices to Increase

India is the third major producer of coconut in the world. According to Government of India, coconut was grown in 2.99 million hectares with a production of 15.61 million tonnes of nuts in 2012-13. Tamil Nadu stands second in the country in terms of coconut production after Kerala, which accounts for 22 per cent of area and 30 per cent of production. Major coconut growing districts are Coimbatore, Thanjavur, Kanniyakumari, Vellore, Erode, Theni, and Krishnagiri.

Currently the price of coconut is ruling around Rs.24, 500 per tonne in Pollachi market, i.e., approximately Rs. 14 – 16 per nut for average size weighing 550 - 600 grams. Kerala and Tamil Nadu markets are facing acute shortage of copra due to low arrivals from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Coconut oil prices continued their upward trend in the last month. In this season, the production of coconut will be low and as a result prices are likely to show an upward trend. Copra prices are ruling at Rs 89 - 90 per kg in Tamil Nadu. This is due to the increase in demand for coconuts for various purposes, besides supply constraint due to low production. Drought in last two years had affected the production of coconut and in 2012-13 Tamil Nadu produced only 50 per cent of total production comparing 2011-12 as per trade sources. Since coconut is fetching higher prices, farmers are going for immediate sale.

Given this scenario, farmers are interested to know the prices that are likely to prevail during March and April 2014 for coconut and copra. To help farmers in order to take proper marketing decisions, an econometric analysis of coconut and copra prices that prevailed in Pollachi and Avalpoondurai markets were analyzed by the Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell, Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. As per the results of the analysis, the price of coconut during March-April will rule around Rs. 17/- per nut in Pollachi market at farm level. Prices of coconut will be lower in other markets comparing Pollachi market which always leads in prices due to better quality of nuts. In other markets the farm price will be lower by one to three rupees per nut. Copra price will be around Rs. 92 – 96 per kg at Avalpoondurai regulated market. In Negamam market the price will be lower. From May, 2014 onwards the arrivals from Karnataka will start. Hence farmers are recommended to sell coconut and copra in March and April itself.

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