

Harvested Chillies Fetches Better Price

Chillies are extensively used as spice in curried dishes, an ingredient in curry powder and also in seasonings. It contains capsaicin, which gives a strong burning tangy sensation when eaten and the red colour is because of the presence of pigment capsanthin. Chillies are valued based on their high pungency and colour. The constituents of chillies are important for nutritional value, flavor, aroma, texture and colour. Chillies are low in sodium and cholesterol free, rich in vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin E, a good source of potassium and folic acid.

India is popularly known as "Spice bowl of the world" and is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of chillies in the world. India is the world leader in chillies production followed by China. The area under chillies in India is 7.21 lakh hectares with a production of 16.89 lakh tonnes (Spices Board of India 2018-19). Indian chilli is most preferred because of two important commercial qualities namely color and pungency levels. Indian chilli is mainly exported to China, Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and U.A.E.

There are mixed sentiment about impact of n-Corona virus on chilli demand. Trade source reported that the outbreak may reduce the demand for chilli but the clear picture is not known. Hence if the problems persist there are chances for reduction in chilli export. In spite of reduction in demand from China, the price for Indian chilli is expected to uptrend due to heavy rains during October month in Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka, which caused greater damage to the crop.

The major chilli growing states in India are Andhra Pradesh (49%), Karnataka (15%), Maharashtra (6%) and Tamil Nadu (3%) which altogether constitutes nearly 75 per cent of the total area in the country. During 2018-2019,

Tamil Nadu produced 21,693 tonnes of dry/red chillies from an area of 46,873 hectares. Mundu and sannam are major types of chillies grown in Tamil Nadu. Mundu is grown in Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi whereas sannam is grown in Sivagangai, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli Districts. Sowing of chillies will be taken up during mid-October in major chilli growing districts.

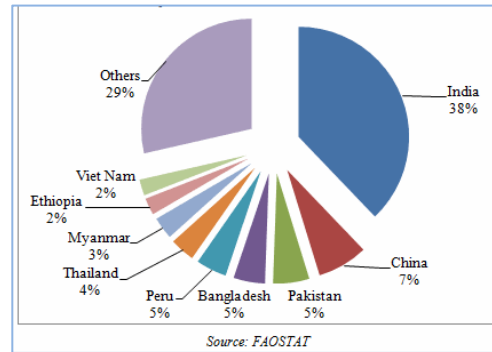
Generally, chilli arrivals from all over India hit the market during November to May. It begins from Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka during November followed by Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh during December. Production of chillies in Tamil Nadu will hit markets of Kovilpatti, Sathur, Sankarankoil, Rajapalayam, Kamuthi, Muthukulathur, RS Mangalam, Aruppukottai, Watrap and Virudhunagar markets during second fortnight of March till May. Single crop cultivation is practiced in Tamil Nadu. Hence, traders are intended to pile their stock during the harvesting period to meet out the year round demands.

The TN-IAM Project funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 19 years prices that prevailed in Ramanathapuram Regulated Market for sannam chillies. As per the analysis and market survey, the farm gate price of good quality chillies during March'2020 to September'2020 will be Rs.160 to 170 per kg. From April to July, increase in arrivals may decrease the price of chillies. Hence, farmers are advised to take up appropriate marketing decision.

Major chilli growing states in India



Country-wise share in chilli production



Visit to regulated market and chilli trader survey at Virudhunagar



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