



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. E. Somasundaram, Ph.D.,  
Public Relations Officer &  
Professor (Agronomy)

Phone: 0422 - 6611302  
Fax: 0422 – 2431821  
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To  
The Editor,

Date: 15-5-2013

Sir,

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

**Scarcity for maize will increase the price in coming months**

United States Department of Agriculture Report released in March, 2013 says that maize planting for 2013 is expected to reach 97.75 million hectares in United States, the highest in 77 years. Maize contracts for May, 2013 on Chicago Board of Trade are hovering around \$7.26 a bushel (25.40 kg) and September 2013 contracts are hovering around \$5.97, reflecting an easing trend in prices. The Chicago maize prices have eased on better planting prospects in the US and Brazil.

India produced 22.5 million tonnes of maize from an area of 8.67 million hectares in 2012-13. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh together contribute 60 per cent of area and 70 per cent of maize production in India. The estimated production in *rabi* 2012-13 at national level is 5.5 million tonnes. Only in Bihar the *rabi* production is 20 per cent higher than the previous year production where as in other States it was lesser than previous year as per trade sources. Karnataka produced 4.4 million tonnes of maize from 1.3 million hectares in the year 2011-12. Tamil Nadu contributes 5 per cent to country's maize production. Recent year's area and production under maize crop in Tamil Nadu, shows an increasing trend, because of increasing demand for maize in poultry industry. The productivity is highest at 63 quintal / ha.

India's maize exports have more than doubled in the past few years from 1.9 lakh tonnes in 2009-10 to 4.8 lakh tonnes in 2011-12. The estimated maize export in 2013 is around 3 to 3.5 million tonnes. Maize exports in the current season are expected to be lower by about a third over last year's record high of 4.8 million tonnes on a lower crop and rising domestic demand. Trade sources reported that exports from India will be only up to month of July, 2013. After that increased global production will support the global demand for maize.

Eventhough Maize is cultivated almost all round the year, only farmers with irrigation facilities will be growing maize during thaipattam (January, February, sowing). The thai pattam sown crop is flowing into the market and the farmers are not in a position to take their selling decision. Currently in Tamil Nadu, the price is ruling

around Rs.1350/- to Rs.1400/- per quintal. NAIP-Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell functioning in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the seventeen years prices that prevailed in Udumalpet market and predicted that the price will be ruling above Rs.1450/- per quintal during May, 2013. After May, 2013 the price may cross Rs.1500/- per quintal. Trade sources reported that this year, thaipattam arrivals are lesser compared to previous year. Now poultry firms in Tamil Nadu are procuring the maize from Karnataka and Bihar. This scenario will continue for next month and after that scarcity for maize may exist. There are chances for the price to increase above Rs.1500/-.

The expected scarcity for the crop in May -July months will increase the price of maize in the coming months. The continuous demand for maize in poultry industry, good export demand and expected low production will help the prices to rule around higher side. Since US crop planting is historical high in the present year, the chance of export of maize from India is limited. Based on this, farmers are recommended to store maize and sell in June, July, 2013 to get higher prices.

**For further details contact:**

Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell,  
Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies,  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,  
Coimbatore-641 003,  
Phone: 0422-2431405

**For Technical Details please contact:**

The Professor & Head,  
Department of Millets,  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,  
Coimbatore-641 003.  
Phone: 0422-2450507

Public Relations Officer