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To  
The Editor,

Date: 15-02-2019

Sir,

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

### **Maize Price Increase is Firm in the Short Run**

Maize is an important cereal crop of India and has been planted approximately in 74.34 lakhs hectares during Kharif 2018. According to the First Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare it is estimated that area under maize cultivation would be 96.33 lakh hectares with 21.5 million tonnes during 2018-19. Major maize growing states of India are Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In the state of Tamil Nadu, Salem, Dindigul, Namakkal, Pudukottai, Tiruppur, Villuppuram and Ariyalur are the major maize growing districts.

During kharif, 2018 Fall Army Worm (FAW) an invasive pest has damaged maize crop in the neighboring states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and spread into Tamil Nadu also. Traders expect that the kharif production is hit by more than 40 per cent in most of the maize growing states of the country and hence there is a spurt in maize prices.

As per the market sources, maize production in the rabi season would also drop further because of drought conditions in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana. At present, arrivals from Ariyalur, Perambalur and Pudukottai districts started to flow in the Udumalpet market. It is also expected that arrivals from other states will commence from February'19 onwards.

The Tamil Nadu -Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project (TN- IAMP) funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development

Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 19 year historical prices that prevailed in Udumalpet Regulated Market for maize. As per the results of the analysis and market survey, the farm gate price of good quality maize during harvest (March- April'19) would be around Rs.1700-1800 per quintal, provided the irrigated crop would survive from the pest attack and also duty free import of maize from other countries would happen soon. Hence, farmers are advised to take up the sowing decision accordingly.

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