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To
The Editor,

Date: 8-1-2015

Sir,

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

Thaipattam Sowing Groundnut and Gingelly Price will be Stable

Groundnut

Groundnut is the third largest oilseed producer in the world and second largest in India. In 2013-14, India occupies the second position in terms of production (9.47 million tonnes) and first in terms of area (5.25 million hectare). China is the single largest producer (16.86 million tonnes) as well as consumer of groundnut in the world.

Crop Forecast Coordination Centre (CFCC), Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation, Government of India has estimated groundnut production for kharif 2014-15 as 50.24 lakh tones in major states of Gujarat (26.34 %), Andhra Pradesh (19.08 %), Rajasthan (17.68 %), Tamil Nadu (9.54 %), Karnataka (7.63 %), Madhya Pradesh (7.25 %) and Maharashtra (5.34) which account for close to 90 per cent of the total output. This was lower by 55.69 lakh tonnes compared to kharif 2013-14. Groundnut exports during 2013-14 was 5.10 lakh tonnes. In 2014-15 it was expected to be 6 lakh tonnes.

Although the crop can be grown in all the seasons, kharif season production accounts for about 80 % of the total production. In Southern Region, it is grown as kharif as well as rabi crop and in South Eastern states it is even cultivated in rice fallows during October-March. Groundnut is also cultivated during January-May as a summer crop under assured irrigation.

In Tamil Nadu during 2012-13, groundnut was cultivated in 3.39 lakh hectares and produced 7.85 lakh tonnes of groundnut with an average yield of 2751 Kg/ha. Major groundnut producing districts are Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Vellore, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, Cuddalore, Namakkal, Krishnagiri, Salem and Dharmapuri. In most of these districts groundnut is sown during July to August (Adi

pattam) and January to February (Thai pattam). In Thaipattam, it is grown under irrigated conditions. Thaipattam is one of the major sowing seasons for groundnut in Tamil Nadu.

To help the farmers in taking sowing decisions in Thaipattam, 2015 the Back Office of Agro Market Intelligence & Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC) functioning in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 21 years prices for groundnut pod that prevailed in Sevrur and Tindivanam Regulated Markets.

The econometric analysis and market surveys revealed that during April - May 2015 farmers could get a price of Rs. 40-42/ kg of groundnut pod at Sevrur Regulated market in Tirupur district and Rs. 45-47/ Kg at Tindivanam Regulated market. The relatively higher price for pod in Tindivanam market is mainly due to the higher number of traders and lower inflow compared to higher inflow and lower traders in Sevrur regulated market. Based on the above farmers are recommended to take their sowing decision.

Gingelly

India is the second largest producer of gingelly in the world. It is widely preferred for its qualities of high drought tolerance and the highest oil content in the seeds. Two distinct types (White and Black) of gingelly seeds are popular though a few other varieties varying from red to rose are also available.

As per Crop Forecast Coordination Centre (CFCC), first advance estimate of gingelly seed production in kharif 2014-15 was 6.45 lakh tonnes. However, majority of gingelly is grown as a kharif crop under rainfed conditions in central and southern parts of the country including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, gingelly is cultivated in a small area as a summer crop under irrigated conditions.

In Tamil Nadu, Gingelly production was around 17,179 tonnes from an area of 33181 hectares during 2012-13. The productivity of Gingelly in Tamil Nadu is 613 kg/ha. Erode, Karur, Salem, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Thanjavur, Tiruppur, Pudukottai and Tiruvannamalai are the major districts that are contributed about 66 per cent of the state area and 70 per cent of the state production during 2012-13. Erode district has the highest productivity of 734 kg per hectare.

Main varieties cultivated in Tamil Nadu are TMV (SV)7, TMV-3, TMV-4, TMV-5, TMV-6, VRI (SV) 2, VRI(SV)-1, CO1, (Black gingelly) and SVPR1 (White gingelly). TMV-3, TMV-4, TMV-5, TMV-6 and TMV-7 Red gingelly

varieties are used for oil purpose and CO-1 black gingelly varieties are mainly used in confectionaries. SVPR1 (White gingelly) are used to export.

Back office of Agro Market Intelligence & Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC) functioning in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, has analysed 14 years historical prices that prevailed in Sivagiri Regulated Market and the results revealed that the price of red gingelly would be around Rs. 85-88 per kg during harvest period viz., April to May 2015. Based on the above farmers are recommended to take their sowing decision.

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