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To
The Editor,

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Sir,

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

Sell Maize Immediately after Harvest

Global corn production has increased to 990 million tonnes against demand of 971 million tonnes in the 2013-14. According to Ministry of Agriculture (2013-14), in India, with a production of 23.29 million tonnes against 22.26 million tonnes in 2012 -13. Maize cultivated area in 2013-14 was 8.7 million hectare as against 8.2 million hectare in 2012-13. India's exports have declined from 4.7 million tonnes to 2.7 million tonnes in 2013-14 compared to last year. The cause for fall in domestic price was due to weak export demand and good crop production in U.S and EU countries.

Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are the major maize producing states. Perambalur, Dindigul, Salem, Thoothukudi, Virudhunagar, Tiruppur and Erode are the major irrigated / unirrigated maize growing districts accounts for 72 per cent of total maize cultivated area and 69 per cent of production in Tamil Nadu.

In 2014-15, Rabi sowing (September - October) maize crop was mainly cultivated as rainfed crop in 23,355 ha in Dindigul, 23,033 ha in Tiruppur, 17,749 ha in Virudhunagar, 15000 ha in Thoothukudi and 9093 ha in Tirunelveli district and contributes 75 per cent of Rabi maize growing area. The cultivation area was reduced by 26 per cent compared with 2012-13, due to good monsoon farmers diversify the cropping pattern with cotton and cholan.

Arrivals from Udumalpet, Virudhunagar and Arrupukottai, Dindigul will commence from mid-January onwards. Current arrivals from Karnataka expected to end with February. At present, maize price is prevailing at Rs 1170 - 1230 per quintal in Udumalpet regulated market.

Under these circumstances, Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC) in the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analyzed the farm gate prices of maize that prevailed during the last 12 years in Udumalpet regulated market to provide market intelligence for the major maize growing districts.

The back office of AMI & BPC analysis revealed that the price for the good quality maize grains will prevail around Rs. 1250 -1300 per quintal during February - March, 2015. Maize grains with moisture content of less than 12 per cent, damage free, mature and impurity free are considered to be of good quality which fetches better price. There will be less chance for price increase after March, 2015. Hence, farmers are requested to sell maize grains immediately after harvest.

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