

Coriander will fetch remunerative price

Coriander is one among the major spices in India cultivated in an area of 5.85 lakhs hectares with an annual production of 4.91 lakh tonnes during 2015-16. Rajasthan (54%) and Madhya Pradesh (17%) are the two largest coriander producing states in the country contributing over two-thirds to the country's total production. The other major producers are Gujarat (6.9%), Assam (6.6%), Andhra Pradesh (3.5%), Karnataka (3.3%), Orissa (3.2%) and Tamil Nadu (2%). In Tamil Nadu, coriander is mainly grown in Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Krishnagiri and Thoothukudi districts. The above said four districts accounted for 85 per cent of the state. Coriander is grown as a rabi crop with sowing undertaken during October - November.

Coriander exports from India have been surged by 22 per cent over last the two years from 35,902 tonnes in 2012-13 to 46,000 tonnes in 2014- 15. The major export destinations are Malaysia, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, South Africa, U.K. and Pakistan. In India, the coriander seeds are mostly utilized by spice processing agencies for the purpose of flavoring and as a fragrance in cosmetics and soaps, which consume around 50 per cent of the total production. The Demand from the spice processing sector peaks during March to May, which also coincides with the peak arrival period.

Trade sources reported that the expected arrivals from Rajasthan during February-March, 2017 will influence the coriander price favorably due to the flood in major coriander producing states. Virudhunagar market has been importing coriander seeds from Russia at low price due to its low quality which is pale white to light brown in colour. Even though arrivals from other states and imported coriander influence the price, coriander from Tamil Nadu will fetch better price because of its good quality, flavor and golden brown in colour.

In this situation, Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analyzed the past 15 years monthly coriander prices that prevailed at Virudhunagar market and conducted the trader's survey. The analysis and traders survey results showed that price will rule around Rs. 8,500 per quintal at the time of harvesting. Harvesting stage of coriander is most important when the seeds turn golden brown in color which will fetch better price. Based on this price, farmers are advised to take up decision on sowing of coriander.

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