

## **Potato price will be firm**

Potato is annually grown in 21.34 lakh hectares with a total production of 437.70 lakh tonnes in India. Major potato growing states are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Assam and Karnataka which together accounts for about 90 per cent of India's production.

In Tamil Nadu state it was cultivated in 6000 hectares with a production of 1.3 lakh tonnes in 2014-2015. It is grown mainly in Nilgiris district. According to the field survey, it is observed that area under potato and its production has decreased this year due to low rainfall. Hence, arrivals from other states is expected to increase up to the month of December.

According to the trader source, arrivals from Dhimbam Erode district of Tamil Nadu and Hassan district of Karnataka is going to end in November, 2016. But arrivals from Kolar district of Karnataka, Agra and Gujarat may continue upto December. Though there is much of arrivals from the other states, they are marketed very shortly as the shelf - life of potato other than Ooty varieties is so less. Besides, import duty for potato has been reduced from 30 per cent to 10 per cent till October, 2016 by the Central Government to increase the import of potato and to manage existing imbalance in the demand and supply of the country. All these indicate that price of potato may be stable during the period ahead.

In this situation, the Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 19 years prices of potato that prevailed in Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society (NCMS), Mettupalayam. The results revealed that farm gate price of good quality potato would be around Rs. 25 -27 per kg during harvest. Hence,

farmers are advised to take appropriate selling decision according to the market advisory.

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