

Sesame Price likely to Decline

Globally, India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of sesame. As per the Solvent Extractor's Association of India (SEAI), the area under sesame crop is 19.81 lakh hectares with a production of 8.87 lakh tonnes during 2015-16. India ranks first in the world with respect to area under sesame cultivation. The major states producing sesame are West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat representing more than 70 per cent of total country's production. The other sesame producing states are Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Odisha.

According to Ministry of Agriculture, in Tamil Nadu, sesame was cultivated in 0.66 lakh hectares with a production and yield of 0.36 lakh tonnes and 596 kg/ha respectively during 2014-15. In Tamil Nadu, Erode, Villupuram, Thanjavur, Karur, Cuddalore, Thoothukudi and Salem are the major sesame producing districts.

The major importers are Japan, Holland, USA, Germany, Turkey, The Netherlands, Hong Kong, Israel, UK and UAE. According to Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council of India (IOPEPC), the export of sesame seed from India was 3.28 lakh tonnes during 2015-16 in comparison to 3.75 lakh tonnes during 2014-15. The present stock of sesame seeds is approximately 60,000 tonnes as per Indian Sesame Seeds New Crop Report.

About 65 per cent of the annual sesame crop is processed into oil and 35 per cent is used as food. The crop is cultivated twice a year, during December - January and July - August. Brown and black sesame varieties are used for oil purpose and white sesame varieties are mainly used in confectionaries.

Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analyzed the farm gate prices of sesame that prevailed during past 16 years in Sivagiri regulated market. Results from the above analysis and market survey revealed that the average farm gate price of black sesame during harvest (September, 2016) would be Rs. 62-64 per kg. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate sowing decision during Adipattam.

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