

Small Onion Cultivation will be Profitable

Small onion is one of the most important commercial vegetable crop grown in Southern India. The major small onion growing states are Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Odissa. In Tamil Nadu, Dindigul, Tiruppur, Perambalur, Trichy and Namakkal are the major shallot producing districts. Karnataka is a major competitor for Tamil Nadu in cultivation and trade of small onion. Small onion occupies nearly 75 percent of the total onion produced in Tamil Nadu with a productivity of 12 tonnes per hectare. Major growing seasons are May – June and October – November. Major varieties under cultivation are CO 1, CO2 and CO (On) 5, whereas CO (On) 5 is most preferred for export. Major export destinations are Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia and Gulf countries.

Small onion arrivals have started flowing into Dindigul market from Mysore district of Karnataka and will continue till July. The demand for small onions raised from nursery is high in Dindigul market owing to its size which is bigger than other ruling varieties and also mainly used as seed material for the ensuing season. Currently, area sown and production status of small onion is normal in the state.

Regular arrivals from Udumalpet, Dharapuram, Thuraiyur and Namakkal are flowing into the market. With the onset of the South-West Monsoon and also there may be, chances for occurrence of diseases, the prices of good quality small onions will likely to be higher than the prevailing price.

Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has

analyzed the farm gate prices of small onion that prevailed during the last 13 years in Dindigul market. Results from the above analysis revealed that the farm gate price for the good quality small onion will prevail around Rs. 32 – 35 per kg during July - August, 2016 and with the onset of monsoon showers, price may touch even Rs. 50 per Kg. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate sowing decision according to the market advisory.

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