

Sorghum Price will Remain Unchanged

According to the estimation by USDA (2015-16), sorghum is cultivated in an area of 5.75 million hectares with a production of 5.05 million tonnes in India. Major sorghum producing states in India are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana. In Tamil Nadu, sorghum is widely cultivated in Dindigul, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli, Salem, Karur and Tiruppur. The major sorghum varieties cultivated in these areas are yellow grain type (manjal cholam) for good quality fodder production and white grain type (vellai cholam) for food and feed purposes. Sorghum is grown in Kharif (July-September) as well as in Rabi (October - December) season in the state.

Sorghum has good potential for industrial use. About 50 per cent of the kharif produce goes into alternative uses such as poultry feed, alcohol and animal feed, while rabi sorghum is exclusively used as food in India. In Tamil Nadu, sorghum is annually grown in 4.2 lakh hectares with a production of 6.3 lakh tonnes/ha.

At present, poultry feed sector utilizes approximately 2.0 million tonnes of sorghum annually while animal feed sector uses about 0.60 million tonnes followed by alcohol distillers using about 0.49 million tonnes. According to USDA, the stock position and domestic consumption of sorghum in India is 0.29 million tonnes and 5.3 million tonnes respectively during 2015- 2016.

In this situation, the Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 13 years prices of sorghum that prevailed in Tiruppur

regulated market. The results revealed that the farm gate price of good quality sorghum grains at the time of harvest (September, 2016) will be Rs.22-24 per kg. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate sowing decision according to the market advisory.

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