

Summer Price Forecast for Vegetables

India's diverse agro-climatic condition ensures availability of all varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables round the year. It ranks second in fruits and vegetables production in the world, after China. During 2014-15, the total area under vegetable crops was 95.42 lakh hectares with 1694.78 lakh tones of production as per National Horticulture Board (NHB). According to the First Advance Estimates of NHB for 2015-16, the area and production of total vegetable crops are expected to be around 94.65 lakh hectares and 1685.06 lakh tones respectively. The major vegetable growing states in India are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Gujarat, Odisha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

The vast production base offers India tremendous opportunities for export. During 2014-15, India exported vegetables worth Rs. 4702.78 crores. The major destinations for Indian fruits and vegetables are UAE, Bangladesh, Malaysia, UK, Netherland, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Nepal. There is an increasing demand for healthy and fresh vegetables in India and even abroad. In India, the demand for fruits and vegetables has been raising by 2-3 per cent annually, according to Ministry of Agriculture.

In Tamil Nadu, the area for vegetables (Tomato, Brinjal and Bhendi) has been reduced when compared to last year but the production is on increasing trend for the current year. Also arrivals are expected from Mysore and Bangalore to meet domestic demand.

In this situation, to advise the farmers about vegetables prices during May-July 2016, the Price Forecasting scheme functioning in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the prices of Vegetables that prevailed in Ottanchatram and Coimbatore Uzhavar shandies during the past 12 years.

Tomato

In India, during 2014-15 area and production of tomato were 7.67 lakh hectares and 163.85 lakh tones respectively and in the First Advance Estimates of NHB for 2015-16, the area and production of tomato are expected to be around 7.77 lakh hectares and 182.86 lakh tones respectively.

During 2014-15, in Tamil Nadu the area and production of tomato was 0.25 lakh hectares with 3.28 lakh tones respectively as per NHB. In Tamil Nadu, Vellore, Salem, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai, Dindigul, Erode and Krishnagiri are the major tomato producing districts.

The result of the analysis and traders survey indicated that the average farm gate price of tomato during this summer months would be around Rs. 18-20/- per kg in Coimbatore.

Brinjal

In India, during 2014-15, area and production of brinjal were 6.73 lakh hectares and 125.89 lakh tones respectively and according to the First Advance Estimates of NHB for 2015-16, the area and production of brinjal are expected to be around 6.70 lakh hectares and 127.80 lakh tones respectively.

During 2014-15, in Tamil Nadu area and production of brinjal was 0.11 lakh hectares with 1.05 lakh tones respectively as per NHB. In Tamil Nadu, Dindigul, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Salem, Theni, Pudukottai, Vellore, Trippur are major brinjal producing districts.

The result of the analysis and traders survey indicated that the average farm gate price of brinjal during this summer months would be around Rs.22-24/- per kg in Coimbatore.

Bhendi

In India, during 2014-15, area and production of bhendi were 5.04 lakh hectares and 57.09 lakh tones respectively and according to the First Advance Estimates of NHB for 2015-16, area and production of Bhendi are expected to be around 5.04 lakh hectares and 57.94 lakh tones respectively.

During 2014-15, in Tamil Nadu area and production of Bhendi was 0.08 lakh hectares with 0.57 lakh tones respectively as per NHB. In Tamil Nadu, Dindigul, Coimbatore, Salem, Vellore, Kancheepuram, Dharmapuri are the major Bhendi producing districts.

The result of the analysis and traders survey indicated that the average farm gate price of Bhendi during summer months would be around Rs.23-25/- per kg in Coimbatore.

Hence, farmers are advised to take a note on the price forecasting of these vegetables during this summer for taking appropriate decisions.

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