



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
O/o the Public Relations Officer
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. Venkata Pirabu, Ph.D.,
Public Relations Officer &
Professor (Agrl. Extension)
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To
The Editor,

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Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

Bengal gram Price will be Stable during Harvest

Bengal gram is a rich source of high-quality protein which is the maximum (25%) provided by any pulses. Globally Bengalgram was cultivated in 13.54 million hectares leading to a production of 13.10 million tonnes in 2013-14. Countries including India (67%), Australia (6%), Pakistan (6%), Turkey (4%) and Myanmar (4%) accounts for about 85% of the world Bengal Gram production. The Desi gram (Black) variety constitutes 85-90% and Kabuli (White) variety accounts for the remaining 10-15% of world production.

In India, Bengal gram is a major pulse crop and it accounted for more than 50 percent of the total pulse production in 2013-14. According to The Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), India produced 9.88 million tonnes from an area of 9.6 million hectare. Madhya Pradesh (43%) is the largest producing state in India followed by Rajasthan (13%), Maharashtra (11%), Uttar Pradesh (9%), Andhra Pradesh (7%) and Karnataka (5%).

In Tamil Nadu, the total area and production of Bengal gram during 2012-13 were 7036 hectare and 4530 tonnes with the productivity of 643 Kg/Ha. Thiruppur (53%), Dharmapuri (21%), Coimbatore (20%) and Dindigul (3%) are the major producing districts contributing about 97 percent of the total Bengal gram production of the state. It was sown only in Karthigai pattam (October-November) and harvested during February-March. Udumalpet market is one of the major markets for Bengal gram and the market arrivals will commence in February and will continue up to April. The current price of Bengal gram is Rs.4100 per quintal.

Under this circumstance, Farmers in Tamil Nadu raised Bengal grams are to be informed whether to store the harvested Bengal gram or sell immediately. Scientists in the Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI &BPC), Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS) in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University have analyzed the last 12 years prices of Bengal gram that prevailed in the Udumalpet regulated market. Econometric analysis predicted that the price of Bengal gram would revolve around Rs.3800 – 4000 per quintal during March, 2015. Based on the above farmers are recommended to take their selling decision.

For further details contact:

Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC)
Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003.
Phone No: 0422-2431405

For Technical Details contact:

Professor and Head,
Department of Pulses,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore – 641 003.
Phone No: 0422-2450498

Public Relations Officer