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To
The Editor,

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Sir,

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

Bright Chances for Price Increase in Turmeric

The amount of stocks held, present crop scenario, export and domestic demand are the major factors deciding the price of turmeric in India. The annual demand for turmeric is around 75 lakh bags in the country. Turmeric is cultivated as a kharif crop, sown in June-July and harvested in March- April. In the year 2013 turmeric price showed mixed trends at the time of harvest (February-April, 2013) and one quintal of turmeric fetched Rs.6500-7500, whereas it declined to Rs.5800 per quintal in the middle of 2013 and shown a slight increase at year end. A new trend existed in the price where it showed highest price in the peak arrival season (February – April) compared to lean season. Major reason is supply of Andhra Pradesh crop at the quality similar to Tamil Nadu crop with cheaper price and also higher integration among the national markets. In the beginning of 2014, turmeric price shows increasing trend and currently fetches around Rs. 6700 per quintal for good quality turmeric.

Under this circumstances turmeric farmers in Tamil Nadu are eager to know about the future prices of turmeric so as to take their selling/ storage decision. To guide them in taking selling decision NAIP –Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell functioning in the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development

Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analysed 25 years of turmeric prices prevailed Erode Regulated Market and conducted traders' survey.

Trade sources reported that Indian turmeric production in 2014 is estimated at 35-40 lakh bags (75 kg each) of which Andhra Pradesh accounted for 20 lakh bags, Tamil Nadu accounted only for 7 lakh bags and 10 lakh bags from Maharashtra. The amount of stock held at National level estimated at 35 lakh bags approximately. At present both finger and bulb are sold at almost equal price as demand for bulb from Delhi picked up early and lesser bulb arrivals from the stored crop. Even though Karnataka started early the arrivals are almost over and more than 70 per cent of the turmeric was directly procured by Kerala traders.

The peak demand will pick up only from February end after completion of winter season. Fresh arrival of BSR 8 variety alone is entering the Tamil Nadu market now arrivals of other varieties and will start from March arrivals from Andhra Pradesh also started flowing to the market which is expected to peak at March.

Lesser production estimate from the nation's largest producers, good demand for turmeric in the forthcoming months and also expected less stock held at major production centers as per trade source will help the price to rule around higher side. The actual supply of fresh and stored produce will decide the price stability in future. Results of the analysis revealed that turmeric would cross Rs.7500 per quintal in the forthcoming months (March-May, 2014).

For further details contact:

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