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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:

Sell Coconut and Copra after Harvest

India is the third largest coconut producer after Indonesia and Philippines. In 2013-14, coconut was cultivated in an area of 2.15 million hectares and annual production of 16.56 million tonnes of butts with an average yield of 5525 kg per hectare. India exports coconut to UK, UAE and Iran. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are the major coconut producing states in India.

In 2012-13, the coconut was mainly cultivated in Coimbatore (83341 ha), Triuppur (53661 ha), Thanjavur (34747 ha), Dindigul (29932 ha), Kanyakumari (24502 ha), Vellore (22720 ha), Theni (19967 ha), Krishnagiri (15834 ha) and Tirunelveli (15806 ha) districts accounted for 71 per cent of total cultivation area with a share of 74 per cent of coconut production in Tamil Nadu.

At present, the price of coconut is ruling around Rs.28500 per tonne in Pollachi market, i.e., approximately Rs.16 -17 per nut for average size weighing 550 – 660 grams. Current arrivals from Tamil Nadu have already commenced and arrivals from Kerala and Karnataka will begin from February first week onwards. The good monsoon will boost the coconut production in forthcoming months. Currently, Copra prices are ruling at Rs. 96 – 98 per kg in Avalpoondurai regulated market in Tamil Nadu.

To help farmers in order to take proper decisions, an econometric analysis of coconut and copra prices during last 15 years in Pollachi and Avalpoondurai regulated markets were carried out by the Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion

Centre (AMI & BPC), Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS)
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

As per the results of the analysis, the price of coconut during February – March will rule around (Rs.26000 – 27000 per tonne) Rs.14 – 15 per nut (550 – 600 gram / nut) in Pollachi market at farm level. Prices of coconut will be lower by one to few rupees in other markets when compared Pollachi market due to its better quality. Copra price will be around Rs. 94 – 96 per kg at Avalpoondurai regulated market. There will be less chance for price increase after April, 2015. Hence farmers are recommended to sell coconut and copra immediately.

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