



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
O/o the Public Relations Officer  
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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:

### **Store and Sell Cumbu and Ragi during March– April**

In India, during 2013-14, Cumbu was cultivated in 7.95 million hectares with a production of 8.79 million tonnes yielding a productivity of 1.19 tonnes per hectare. It was mainly grown in Rajasthan (41%), Uttar Pradesh (16%), Gujarat (14%) and Haryana (11.5%). In Tamil Nadu, Cumbu is cultivated mostly in two seasons viz., May-June and October – November. Mainly, it is sown during October - November based on the rainfall received during the North East Monsoon. In 2012-13, it was grown in an area of about 0.43 lakh hectares with a production of 0.57 lakh tonnes with a productivity of 1.31 tonnes per hectare. Villupuram district has the highest production of 11 lakh tonnes followed by Thoothukudi, Cuddalore, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Madurai and Theni districts. The Cumbu area and production was declined 7 percent and 50 percent during 2012-13 compared to 2011-12.

India produced 1.88 million tonnes of ragi from 1.38 million hectares with an average productivity of 1.64 tonnes per hectare in 2013-14. Tamil Nadu is having the highest productivity of 1.96 tonnes per hectare which is higher than the country's average productivity. It was largely cultivated in the state of Karnataka. During 2012-13, in Tamil Nadu, it was grown in an area of about 0.70 lakh hectares with a production of 1.38 lakh tonnes with a productivity of 1.96 tonnes per hectare. Krishnagiri (58%), Dharmapuri (15%), Vellore (8%), Salem (7%) and Erode (7%) districts together accounted for 96 per cent of the total area and 95 per cent in production of Tamil Nadu. *The Ragi crop is sown during September and October. The rainfed Rabi crop in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu*

*and Andhra Pradesh is sown in September and October.* Fresh arrivals will start at the end of December and the stored crop will serve round the year.

Under this circumstance, Farmers in Tamil Nadu raised Cumbu and Ragi are to be informed whether to store the harvested Cumbu and Ragi 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 Cumbu that prevailed in the Villupuram regulated market and last 10 years prices of Ragi in Tindivanam regulated market. The current price of Cumbu is Rs.1350/quintal and Ragi is Rs.1750/quintal.

Econometric analysis predicted that the price of Cumbu would revolve around Rs 1500 to 1700 per quintal and of fully cleaned ragi will rule around Rs.1800-2000 per quintal during March - April 2015. Hence, the farmers are advised to store and sell the Cumbu and Ragi during March-April, 2015.

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