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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 Maize upon Harvest

International Grains Council, United States of America predicted that World maize production in the year 2013-14 would be 948 million tonnes which is 10 per cent higher comparing that in 2012-13. Expanding global feed use, world consumption of maize is expected to show 6 per cent growth, and trade is also forecasted to increase by 6 per cent. In the United States as the harvest of maize started with good production as more than expected, global maize prices started declining.

According to Fourth Advance Estimates of Government of India, the production of maize in 2012-13 is 222.3 lakh tonnes which is 2.8 per cent higher than in 2011-12 at national level. Higher than normal rains across major maize growing States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are likely to push up *rabi* acreage and the *rabi* maize production. If price dips towards on peak arrivals or US prices move upwards then only there exists competitive advantage for Indian maize exporters.

Minimum Support Price of maize for 2013 is fixed at Rs.1310 per quintal which is 11 per cent higher than in the previous season. The farm gate price crossed Rs.1500 per quintal during July – September, 2013 in Tamil Nadu. Currently maize price is sliding down in Tamil Nadu as *kharif* arrivals from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is flowing into the market. In Tamil Nadu, maize harvest would start by November end.

Under the above circumstances, DEMIC of CARDS in TNAU analyzed the past 19 years prices that prevailed in Udumalpet maize market and conducted traders survey. The econometric analysis revealed that the price will rule around Rs.1350-1450 per quintal in the harvesting period ie., during November- December, 2013. Increased global production, increasing demand for maize by the end users will support the price not to decline. Expected increased rabi arrivals from other major producers will support the price to rule in the above range. There are limited chances for the prices to increase. Hence, farmers are advised to sell the harvested maize immediately.

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