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To
The Editor,

Date: 14-10-2014

Sir,

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

Price Forecast for Karthigai Pattam Crops

In Tamil Nadu, Karthigai pattam is an important cropping season for rainfed cultivation in the State. For Tamil Nadu this is the main rainy season accounting for about 48% of the annual rainfall (998 mm). North East monsoon coincides with Karthigai pattam (Oct-Nov) in Tamil Nadu. The rainfall followed by winter season is suitable for crops like Bengal gram, Coriander and Cumbu. The price behavior for Karthigai pattam crops were analyzed by Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI&BPC) functioning in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to facilitate decision making by farmers on crop planting for this season.

Cumbu

Cumbu (Pearl millet) is a major food, feed and fodder crop for feeding the world population. India is the largest producer of Cumbu. It is also one of the most drought resistant crops among cereals and millets. In India, during 2013-14, Cumbu was cultivated in 7.95 million hectares with a production of 8.79 million tonnes with a productivity of 1,106 kg/ha. 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 occurrence. In 2011-12, it was grown in an area of about 0.46 lakh hectares with a production of 1.14 lakh tonnes with a productivity of 2,453 kg per hectare. Villupuram district has the highest production of 29,870 tonnes followed by Thoothukudi, Madurai, Theni, Virudhunagar, Dindigul and Cuddalore districts. As per the econometric analysis done by Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI&BPC), on the last 12 years Cumbu price of Villupuram market, the price of Cumbu during Feb-March 2014, i.e., during harvest of Karthigai sown crop would revolve around Rs. 1,400 to 1,500 per quintal. Based on this price farmers are advised to take their decision on sowing of Cumbu.

Coriander

Coriander is an annual spice having a prime position in flavoring food. It is a native of Mediterranean and commercially produced in India. The commercial parts of the plant are its leaf and seed. India contributes around 80% of world coriander production and produces around 4.50-5.00 lakh tonnes in 2013-14. Rajasthan (60%) is the major producer of coriander in India followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Orissa. Annually 5-10% of total production from India is exported. India exported about 35,000-40,000 tonnes of Coriander in 2013-14. Exports substantially moved up from India following good demand at International market during the year. In the current fiscal April-July 2014 accelerated by 40% to 16 thousand tonnes from 11,412 tones. Major importers are Malaysia, Pakistan, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

In Tamil Nadu, the area under coriander was 10,804 hectares with a production of 5,049 tonnes (2011-12) and Thoothukudi district ranks first in area (3975 ha) followed by Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram. The sowing period is from October to December; Harvesting extends from January to April and arrivals start from January and continue till April. During Feb-March 2014, the price prevailed at Virudhunagar market was Rs. 8,750 per quintal and the current price of Coriander in Virudhunagar market is around Rs. 11,500 per quintal. The Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI&BPC) analysis revealed that the price of Coriander during harvest i.e. in February, March 2015 will be around Rs. 11,600 per quintal. Harvesting stage of coriander is most important and harvesting when the seeds turn golden brown in color will fetch a better price. Based on this price farmers are advised to take their decision on sowing of coriander.

Bengalgram

India is the largest producer (estimated at 9.9 million tonnes) in 2013-14 and consumer of Bengal gram in the world. Its production for 2014-15 is expected to drop by about 5.9 percent to 9.3 million tonnes. India also exports Bengal gram produce to Pakistan (23.50%), Turkey (20%), Algeria (20%) and Sri Lanka (5%). Its production domestically accounts for about 40% of the total production of pulses and approximately 67% of the total world production of Bengal gram. Bengal gram producing states in India are Madhya Pradesh (33%), Rajasthan (20%), Maharashtra (16%) and Andhra Pradesh (9%). Bengal gram is sown in the months of September to November in India.

In Tamil Nadu, it is sown only in Karthigai pattam (October – November). During 2012-13 it was cultivated in an area of about 9,800 hectares with a production of nearly 5,800 tonnes and it is mainly cultivated in Tiruppur district with an area of about 3,773 hectares followed by Coimbatore district. Trade sources revealed that expected arrivals from other major producing countries during November–December followed by local arrivals during February– March will keep its prices firm. Bengal gram prices prevailed in Udumalpet market for last ten years were collected and analyzed. The Back office of

Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI&BPC)analysis confirmed that the price of Bengal gram will hover around Rs.4,350-4,500 per quintal during February - March, 2015. Hence farmers are advised to take up Bengal gram sowing to get remunerative prices during harvest period.

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