



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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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 Coriander immediately upon Harvest

Coriander is one among the major spices grown in India. In India, coriander is mainly grown in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. In Tamil Nadu, coriander is mainly grown in Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar and Thoothukudi districts. These Three districts accounted for 76.59 percentage of total coriander area in the state. In these districts Coriander is mainly cultivated as inter crop under rain fed situation during Oct –Nov months.

In Tamil Nadu, almost all the farmers are cultivating local varieties which is preferred by consumers. Hence, the priority in purchase will be given to local variety by traders. But due to shortfall in state production, our dependency on coriander seeds is more on Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh production.

Coriander arrivals starts from January and ended in March. At present, Tami Nadu is experiencing the arrivals of fresh coriander seed in major cultivation districts and will be concluded by last week of March 2015. Since 2010, the major cultivation districts were severely affected by droughts which lead to poor arrivals resulted increased price in above said periods. Even in the last year monsoon deficit in Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts, the coriander seeds arrival is good and expected to increase further in upcoming months.

As per Horticulture department statistics, in Ramanathapuram district, the coriander sowing as on Jan '15 was 1492 ha. which is less by 750 ha and in Virudhunagar district area

stood with 1250 ha which was less by 500 ha when compared to 2013-14. At present the market price for the fresh harvested coriander seed is Rs 6200-7000 per quintal.

In this situation, to know the price behavior of coriander seed during this harvest period viz, March – April 2015, the Back Office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI &BPC) in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the prices of coriander for the past 12 years in Virudhunagar market and conducted the traders survey.

The result of the analysis and traders survey indicated that the price may hover around Rs 6500-7000 per quintal. In India, the coriander seed production in major growing states are expected to be higher. Since the chances for price increase during March 2015 is limited, the farmers are advised to sell coriander immediately after harvest.

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