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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 small onion after harvest

Shallots are originated from central and south East Asia and it is an essential vegetable food in south Indian cuisine. India, exports small onion to Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Country's around 90 per cent of small onion is produced from Tamil Nadu and 10 per cent from Karnataka. According to the Second Advance Estimates (2013-14) of National Horticultural Board, area and production of onion in Tamil Nadu is 0.39 lakh ha and 4.73 lakh tonnes. Tamil Nadu accounted for 5 per cent of country's area under onion and more than 70 per cent of this is shared by small onion.

At present, Shallots from Karur, Dindigul, Erode and Triuppur districts are arriving to the markets. During April to June 2014, the farm gate price of good quality small onion was Rs. 22 per kg because of arrivals of stored onion in Tamil nadu and higher arrivals from Karnataka. At present, small onion price is ruling between Rs. 25 - 40 per kg in Dindigul market since arrivals of Karnataka ended with early August due to heavy rainfall during harvest. The trade sources indicated that the demand would be expected to increase from September to October for sowing in Purattasi pattam coupled with festival season which may push the price of shallots.

To help farmers to take proper marketing decisions, 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 analyzed the last 16 years prices prevailed in Dindigul market and also conducted traders' survey.

The results revealed that the price of good quality small onion will rule around Rs.30 – Rs.35 per kg during October - November, 2014 in Dindigul market at farm level. The expected export demand will keep the price rule around higher side in the month of October, 2014. Hence farmers are recommended to sell immediately after harvest since there is no chance of increase in price after December, 2014.

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