

STORE AND SELL SMALL ONION UPON HARVEST

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Tamil Nadu is the major producer of small onion in India. It accounts approximately 90 percent of country's production. From Tamil Nadu, small onion is exported to Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

Currently the small onion arrivals in Dindigul, Trichy and Madurai markets are very high. Normally, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka harvest season coincides during Feb-April months. This is affecting the farm harvest price of Tamil Nadu farmers during the specified periods. At present major small onion markets are experiencing more arrivals from Mysore and expected to continue up to next month. Due to conducive climatic conditions during this season the onions are of high quality.

In Tamil Nadu, there is continuous arrival of onion from major production centers during this month. In export market, to protect the local farmers, Sri Lankan government raised the import duty to curtail the import from India. At present, the good quality small onion price is ruling between Rs.14 - 19 per kg in Dindigul wholesale market.

Under these circumstances, Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC) in the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analyzed the farm gate prices of small onion that prevailed during the last 17 years in Dindigul wholesale market and conducted the traders survey.

The analysis revealed that the price for the good quality small onion will prevail around Rs. 22 - 25 per kg during April- May, 2015. There are chances for the price to shoot up further when the import duty in Sri Lanka is lowered to

allow imports from India. Hence, farmers are advised to store their produce and sell during May-June 2015 to get higher profits.

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