

TAPIOCA PRICE WILL BE STABLE DURING HARVEST

Tamil Nadu stands first in tapioca production in India, contributing for 61.17 per cent of total production in the country. In 2013-14, the tapioca cultivation area of the state was 0.12 million hectare with a production of 4.97 million tonnes of raw tapioca. During 2014-15, the tapioca production was increased to 5.18 million tonnes, which was 4.28 percent higher when compared to 2013-14. The major export destinations are Oman, Unites states and Saudi Arabia, but there was less export demand for tapioca products during current year.

Namakkal, Dharmapuri and Salem are the major tapioca cultivated districts in the state. Normally, sowing takes place during the months of November-December as a rainfed crop and during March-April irrigated condition. The tapioca harvest commences from October and extends till February for the rainfed crop. Normally, raw tapioca price is calculated based on its starch content. At present, Tapioca farm gate price is ruling between Rs.3600 - Rs.3800 per tonne. The price of tapioca starch, which was sold at Rs. 2500 per 90 kgs bag, had come down and the ruling rate of starch is Rs.1600 only which was mainly due to higher production enabled by favorable growing condition and spurt in cultivation area.

In this situation, to know about the price behavior of raw tapioca during this harvest period 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 has analyzed the prices for past 15 years of raw tapioca in Salem market and also conducted the traders survey.

The result of the analysis indicated that during January-February, 2016 the farm gate prices will be stable in the range of Rs. 3700 - Rs. 3900 per ton of raw tapioca. The chances for price increase is very limited and the tapioca farmers are recommended to sell their produce immediately.

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