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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:

Tapioca Price would be Stable at Harvest

India occupies 10th position in global tapioca production. The total tapioca production was 7.74 million tonnes from 2.14 lakhs hectares during 2013-14. Indian export of tapioca has increased from Rs. 73.7 million (2012-13) to Rs. 33.2 million (2013-14). India export several forms of tapioca products like raw tapioca tuber, starch, sago and sago pith. Tamil Nadu State stands first (64%) in respect of tapioca production and also processing of tapioca into starch & sago. Tapioca is being cultivated in major 14 districts including Namakkal, Dharmapuri, Salem, Villupuram, Trichirapalli, Erode and Cuddalore, in an area of 1.05 lakh hectare.

The starch and sago prices play a vital role in tapioca tuber price. The Tapioca cultivation as well as the production of Sago and Starch commodities has been severely affected due to 'adulteration' of Maize Starch in the production of Sago and Starch commodities. The tapioca tubers, which was sold Rs. 1100 - 1300/- per quintal during July - August 2013-14, had come down and the ruling rate is Rs. 800 - 900/- per quintal. Similarly, the price of tapioca starch, which was sold at Rs. 4500/- per 90 kgs. bag had come down and the ruling rate of starch is Rs. 2200/-only. The price difference between sago and starch commodity was nearly 4000. Reduced price of tapioca has considerably affected the farmers profitability of raising the crop.

The tapioca tuber is available in the industry from July to April but the maximum amount of raw material is available only during November to February during which the

starch content of the tubers is at its peak. Winter appears to be helpful for the consolidation of starch in the tubers. Maximum crushing activity is being undertaken during this period only. Maximum Arrivals of raw material starts from October onwards.

Under these circumstances, Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI&BPC) in Centre for Agricultural Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analyzed the last 14 years wholesale price of tapioca in Salem market to provide market intelligence for the tapioca grown in plains of major growing districts. AMI-BPC analyses revealed that the price of raw tapioca would be in the range of Rs. 1-12 per kg during November-December, 2014. Hence farmers are recommended to sell the tapioca after harvest.

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