

Sunflower Prices to be stable during Rabi Harvest (06, Jan 2014)

Sunflower is one of the important oilseed crops in India. It occupies fourth place among oilseed crops in terms of acreage and production. Total world production of sunflower seeds in 2013-2014 is estimated to be 42.77 million tonnes and it was 36.40 million tonnes during 2012 – 2013. Major Production countries are Ukraine (26.88 %), Russia (23.37 %), European Union (19.93), Argentina (7.10 %), China (5.72 %), Turkey (3.27 %), Burma (1.87 %) and India (1.87%).

The import forecast for edible oils into India during 2013 – 2014, includes 8.4 million tonnes of palm oil, 1.3 million tonnes of soybean oil, 1.2 million tonnes of sunflower oil and 10,000 tonnes of other edible oils. In India, sunflower seed production in kharif (2013-14) was 1.85 lakh tonnes and the same was 1.50 lakh tonnes in kharif 2012-13. The major producers of sunflower are Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu the sunflower seed production was around 41,711 tonnes from an area of 13,610 hectares during 2011-12. Karur, Tiruchirapalli, Dindigul, Thoothukudi, Virudhunagar and Dharmapuri districts contribute about 80 per cent of area and 49 per cent of the total sunflower production in the State. Currently, farmers are busy in preparing their lands for sowing of Sunflower in Tamil Nadu.

To facilitate the farmers in taking a better sowing decision the Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC) functioning in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analysed the monthly prices of sunflower that prevailed in Vellakoil Regulated Market for the past 13 years. The results of the analysis revealed that the prices would be around Rs34-36 per kg during March to April 2014. The current prevailing price is Rs.35 per kg. The last year price at harvesting time (March, 2013) was Rs.33 – 36 per kg. Based on this price, farmers are advised to take their decision for sowing Sunflower.

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