

Will Thai Pattam Maize & Small Onion Fetch Better Prices? (23rd Jan 2014)

Thai Pattam (Jan-Feb) is one of the major seasons for sowing of many agricultural crops in Tamil Nadu. The crops are raised under irrigated conditions in this season. Farmers are eager to know what would be the prices of small onion and Maize commodities during their harvest if sown in this season. This information is essential to them as they can take a right sowing decision. To help them in doing so Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell functioning in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is now releasing its price forecast for these crops.

Small Onion

Tamil Nadu accounted for 5 per cent of country's area under onion and more than 70 per cent of this is constituted by small onion. According to the Third Advance Estimates (2012-13) of National Horticultural Board, area and production of onion in Tamil Nadu were 25,260 ha and 2,77,860 tonnes, respectively and in the year 2011-12, they were 37,120 ha and 5,56,450 tonnes, respectively. During September to November 2013, the farm gate price of small onion was Rs.45 and above per kg because of less arrivals. In December 2013, the prices started to decline besides increased arrivals. At present the farm gate price of small onion is ranging between Rs. 25 to 30 per kg. Currently small onion from Coimbatore, Dindigul, Madurai, Trichy, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli districts are arriving to the markets. Arrivals from Karnataka would be from mid January to March end. Farmers are procuring Seed onion for Thai pattam sowing, The econometric analysis revealed that farmers could get a price of Rs. 25-30 per kg during harvest of small onion, i.e., from April to June 2014.

Maize

One of the important seasons for maize sowing in Tamil Nadu is Thai pattam (January-February sowing). The production of maize in 2012-13 rabi was estimated to be 61.9 lakh tonnes, which is 17 per cent higher than that in 2011-12 at national level. Trade sources reported that the increased global and national production in the year 2013 resulted in decline of maize price to around Rs.1300 per quintal. Increased global production made the Indian maize exports not a competitive one. Under the above circumstances, Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell of CARDS in TNAU analysed the past 19 years prices that prevailed in Udumalpet regulated market and conducted traders survey. The econometric analysis revealed that when Thai pattam sowing takes place, the price will rule around Rs.1300-1350 per quintal in the harvesting period i.e., during March-April, 2014. Eventhough anticipated rabi-arrivals from other major producing States are higher the demand for the same will keep the prices in the above range. Based on the above price, farmers are requested to take their sowing decision.

For details contact:-

Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell,
Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore- 641 003.
Phone -0422-2431405.