

Potato Price will be Static

According to the third Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture, potato is cultivated in an area of 21.34 lakhs hectares with a production of 437.70 lakh tonnes during 2015-2016 in India. The major potato growing states are Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. In Tamil Nadu, potato is cultivated only in small area, specifically in the Nilgiris and Palani hills of the state. The crop is grown round the year both as irrigated and rainfed crop. Potato is annually grown in 6000 hectares with a production of 1.3 lakh tonnes in 2014-2015 in Tamil Nadu. Kadaibogam season, sowing starts from September to October and harvesting from December to January. Kufri Jyoti and Kufri Giriraj are the two major varieties grown in Nilgiris district.

Potato arrivals from Kolar, Dhimbam and Hassan of Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh during October - December months denote peak arrivals in Tamil Nadu. The arrivals has decreased during the September since there was an erratic rainfall during last season in Nilgiris and delayed sowing of potato in Hassan district of Karnataka due to poor rainfall. Hence, it is expected cause deficit supply during this month. Demand for potato may rise significantly in the future since festival seasons and spiritual seasons (*Karthigai* and *Margazhi*) are ahead.

According to market sources, the prices may remain stable upto December of this year, if adequate alternative measurements and supports, like cold storage facilities, are arranged in the market arenas.

Hence, the price forecasting scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 19 years prices of potato that prevailed in Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing

Society (NCMS), Mettupalayam. The results revealed that farm gate price of good quality potato would be around Rs. 23-25 per kg. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate sowing decision according to the market advisory.

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