

Ragi price will cheer farmers

Ragi is one of the most important millet crop because of its nutritive value and excellent storage properties. As per Fourth Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in India ragi is cultivated in an area of 1.20 million hectare with a production of 1.79 million tonnes during 2015-16. Major ragi producing states are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odissa, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakand, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and the hilly region of Himachal Pradesh.

The total cultivated area of ragi in Tamil Nadu is 0.11 million hectares with 0.25 million tonnes of production during 2014-15 as per the estimate of Directorate of Economic and Statistics. Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Vellore and Tiruvannamalai districts together accounted for 87 per cent of the total ragi production in Tamil Nadu. The Ruling Varieties and Hybrid are CO 2, Paiyur 1, Paiyur (RA) 2, GPU 48 and Indaf 5.

Fresh arrivals of ragi will start at the end of December and stored crop will serve round the year. The production of ragi is declined due to erratic monsoon behaviour during the current season. So, the demand has increased for ragi and better price can be expected in the coming months.

In this situation, the Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 10 years prices of ragi that prevailed in Tindivanam Regulated market. The results revealed that farm gate price of good quality ragi would be around Rs. 20-22 per kg during harvest. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate sowing decision according to the market advisory.

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