

## **Store and Sell Dry Chilli**

India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices globally. India is the World leader in chilli production followed by China and Pakistan. Chilli was cultivated in 7.75 lakh hectares with a production of 14.9 lakh tonnes in India during 2014-15 which was 9 per cent higher than the previous year. India has also exported 3.47 lakh tonnes of chillies in 2014-15. Increased exports during last season caused the price to increase in the current year. Generally, fresh chilli arrivals from all over India hit the market from November to May.

During 2013-14, Tamil Nadu produced 11,294 tonnes of dry chillies from an area of 41,401 hectare which is 38 per cent lesser than the production in 2012-13. Mundu and sannam are major types of chillies grown in Tamil Nadu. Mundu is grown in Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli Disricts whereas samba is grown in Sivagangai, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli Districts. Sowing of chillies will be taken up in mid-October in major chilli growing districts. Arrivals from all the major growing districts started flowing in the market. More than 80 per cent of the mundu crop is consumed in and around Chennai.

Trade sources reported that this year excess rainfall during the crop growing season caused the chilli production to decline than the previous year in Tamil Nadu. Andhra Pradesh crop is also affected due to unseasonal rainfall. Farmers in Tamil Nadu are eager to know the price of dry chilli that would prevail for mid-October sown crop.

Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC), in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analysed the past 15 years of red chilli prices that prevailed at Thoothukudi regulated market for sannam variety. The analysis and traders survey results showed that sannam chilli farm gate price will rule around Rs.12,500-13,000 per quintal during April-June, 2016. There are chances for the prices to increase due to the shortage in current production. Hence, it is recommended that farmers can store and sell the dry chillies to get higher price.

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