

Price for Kharif Maize will bring cheers to Farmers

In India, maize is the third most important food crop after rice and wheat. As per the Third Advance Estimates of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, maize is cultivated in 84.9 lakhs hectares with a production of 210.2 lakhs tonnes in India during 2015-16. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu together accounted for 62 per cent of the total maize production in India. Maize was cultivated in 3.39 lakhs hectare with a production of 18.19 lakhs tonnes in Tamil Nadu during 2014-15. Tiruppur, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Pudukottai, Dindigul, Theni, Tuticorin and Salem are the major maize production districts in Tamil Nadu.

According to USDA reports, the stock position and domestic consumption of maize in India is 8 lakhs tonnes and 222 lakhs tonnes respectively during 2015-2016. India is traditionally a major maize exporter to South East Asia, but due to the factors such as improper seed setting, drought, heat stress etc., in the major maize growing states of India, domestic production is constrained. Hence for the rising feed demand, India had to import maize. India has imported 2.5 lakhs tonnes of maize from Ukraine during 2015-16. It is also expected to import another 5 lakh tonnes of maize to overcome the shortage during the current season.

As production of maize in Tamil Nadu satisfies only 50 per cent of our domestic requirement arrivals from maize sowing states fulfill the state maize demand. Trade sources reported that during the current season there is no arrival from Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. Some quantity of maize is stocked by both traders and poultry firms for future demand and the sowing area is expected to increase by 30-35 per cent.

The Price Forecasting scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the last 13 years of Maize prices prevailed in Udumalpet Regulated market. The econometric analysis and market surveys revealed that during harvest farmers could get a farm gate price of Rs.1600-1700/quintal for maize at Udumalpet market. Based on the above price, farmers are recommended to take sowing decision.

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