

## **Coconut and Copra Prices will revive Marginally**

Coconut has an important place in the Indian culture. Currently, India holds the third place in the list of major coconut producing countries of the world after Indonesia and Philippines. According to the First Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture, coconut is grown in an area of 1.97 million hectares with the production of 14,055 million nuts in India during 2015-16. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh together account for about 91 per cent of the total coconut production in India. In Tamil Nadu major coconut producing districts are Coimbatore, Thanjavur, Kanyakumari, Trippur, Dindigul, Krishnagiri, Theni, Vellore, Salem, Dharmapuri and Tirunelveli.

According to USDA, the domestic consumption of coconut oil in India was 4.50 lakh tonnes during 2016. Activated carbon accounted for 44 per cent of the export earnings. Other major items of export include virgin coconut oil, fresh coconut, coconut oil, dry and desiccated coconut, copra, coconut shell and charcoal. Indian export of coconut and coconut products has shown an increase of 11 per cent to Rs. 1450.24 crores in 2015-16 when compared to last year. Export of Desiccated coconut has increased to 63 per cent, while coconut oil export registered 23 per cent increase over the previous year. The major export destinations are United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Kuwait and Iran.

The peak harvesting period of coconut in Tamil Nadu is from May to July, accounting for about 34 per cent of the total production. But the production is low compared to last season due to uneven rainfall. Even though it is offseason in

Karnataka, the arrivals are expected to continue till the end of August. The festive season in the forthcoming months will enhance the demand for coconut in the domestic markets.

The Price Forecasting scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the last 14 years of coconut and copra prices prevailed in Avalpoonthurai Regulated market of Erode district and markets survey at Perundurai Cooperative Marketing Society. As per the results of the analysis, the price of good quality coconut during September- October, 2016 will be Rs. 8 - 9 per nut. Good quality copra price will be around Rs. 58 - 60 per kg. Hence, farmers are advised to take selling decision accordingly.

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