

## **Irrigated Potato will Fetch Better Price**

According to Ministry of Agriculture, potato is cultivated in an area of 20.85 lakhs hectares with a production of 440 lakh tonnes in 2015-2016. Major potato producing states are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar. There will be likely decline the production from 460 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 440 lakh tonnes in 2015-16.

Domestic potato consumption has absorbed almost the entire production of the country having a lesser quantity for meeting out export demand. Export demand also estimated to increase during the current year.

Rabi crop of potato is adversely affected due to unfavourable weather conditions and impact of late blight disease which are also the reasons for lesser production in major potato growing states. Government is also creating a buffer stock during current year in anticipation of rise in potato prices. Marginal export demand will also firm the prices of potato of our country.

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. 22-24 per kg during harvest. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate selling decision according to the market advisory.

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