

Upward Swing in Banana Prices

In Tamil Nadu, area under banana was around 1.13 lakh hectares with a production of 49.0 lakhs tonnes during 2015-16. The major banana growing districts of Tamil Nadu are Theni, Trichy, Erode, Thoothukudi, Coimbatore, Kanyakumari, Thanjavur and Dindigul. Major banana market centres are Trichy, Thirunelveli, Cuddalore, Theni and Coimbatore.

As for as banana production is concerned, a mixed trend is seen in Tamil Nadu. The Central parts of Tamil Nadu like Trichy and Karur districts had achieved better yields of banana because of good rainfall during last year. But the production has declined owing to heavy rain and wind lashes occurred during the last week of June in the Northern districts like Cuddalore and Villupuram. Uneven rainfall and water deficit in the Southern districts like Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli have also affected the market arrivals during the current season.

The season ahead is auspicious since, it happens to the period of marriage ceremony and festival occasion in Tamil Nadu as well as in nearby states, which would firm up the banana prices in the ensuring festive occasion. Hence, the festive demand may boost up the prices of banana in coming months.

The Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analyzed the fifteen year's monthly prices of cultivars of Poovan, Karpooravalli and eight year's monthly prices of Nendran banana of Coimbatore. The result of the analysis and traders survey indicated that during August – October, 2016 the expected average farm gate price would be Rs.23-25 per kg for Poovan, Rs. 27-29 per kg for Karpooravalli and Rs.36-38 per kg for Nendran, respectively. Hence, farmers are advised to take note of the above market advisory before harvesting their produce.

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