

TAKE SOWING OF MAIZE IN THAI PATTAM

In India, maize was cultivated in 7.8 million hectare and produced 16.03 million tonnes with a productivity of 2552 kg/ha in 2014-15. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are the major maize growing States. In Tamil Nadu, maize was cultivated in 0.33 million hectare and produced 1.81 million tonnes during 2014-15. Perambalur, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Theni, Tuticorin and Salem are the major maize producing districts in Tamil Nadu.

Farmers of Tamil Nadu having good irrigation facilities will cultivate maize during Thai pattam (January sowing). Tamil Nadu maize production will satisfy only half of the State's demand. At present, arrivals from Ariyalur, Perambalur and Pudukottai districts started to flow in the market. Arrivals from other districts will commence from mid-January. In March, Andhra Pradesh arrivals will meet the domestic demand and subsequently arrivals from Bihar will meet the poultry feed demand in June. Trade sources reported that, even though there was less export demand, domestic demand would support the price to stabilize during harvest.

Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC) functioning in the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analyzed the maize

prices that prevailed during the last 13 years in Udumalpet regulated market to provide market intelligence for the farmers of major maize growing districts.

The econometric analysis revealed that during the harvest of Thai pattam sown crop ie., during March-April, 2016, the farmgate price, will rule around Rs.1350-1400 per quintal. Based on the above price, farmers are requested to take their sowing decision.

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