

Feed Demand boosts Maize Prices

According to the Third Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (2018-19), the area under maize is 93 lakh hectares with a production of 278.20 lakh tonnes. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are major maize producing states of the country. In Tamil Nadu, maize is cultivated in an area of 3.24 lakh hectare with 25.91 lakh tonnes of production during 2017 -18. In the state of Tamil Nadu, Salem, Dindigul, Namakkal, Pudukottai, Tiruppur, Villuppuram, Perambalur and Ariyalur are the major maize growing districts.

According to the trade sources, the area and production of maize in Tamil Nadu is expected to decrease in the current period due to delayed monsoon. The Fall Army Worm pest attack has led to shortage of maize supply in Tamil Nadu and major maize producing states. Hence, the feed industries shift to procure other grains like rye, wheat and broken rice to fulfill the feed demand. Maize price is anticipated to be stable in future as the demand for the commodity in Tamil Nadu is partially satisfied through arrivals from Karnataka state. The Government has also permitted import of feed-grade maize at 15 per cent import duty.

The Tamil Nadu -Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project (TN-IAMP) funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 19 year historical prices that prevailed in Udumalpet Regulated Market for maize. As per the results of the analysis and market survey, the farmgate price of good quality maize during harvest (September - October'19) would be around Rs.2300 per quintal. Hence, farmers are advised to take up sowing decision accordingly.

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