



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
O/o the Public Relations Officer
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To
The Editor,

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Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

Nendran Banana Prices to remain stable in next two months

Globally banana is the leading fruit crop. Banana is grown in more than 130 countries throughout the tropics and sub-tropics, with an annual world production of around 103.64 million tonnes, from an area of 5.0 million ha during 2013 (NHB, 2013). The major banana growing countries are India, China, Philippines, Ecuador and Brazil in order.

India, with its rich biodiversity of banana, stands first with a contribution of 25.5 per cent to world banana production during 2013. There is a sizeable increase in acreage and production of banana in India during the past five years. The area increased from 5.69 lakh ha in 2005 - 06 to 7.76 lakh ha in 2012-13, while in terms of production it has increased from 188.87 to 265.09 lakh tonnes with the productivity increase from 33.2 to 34.2 tonnes/ha. India exports 0.17 per cent of its production to countries viz. U.A.E., Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan and Nepal. The varieties which are in demand internationally include Grand Naine and Robusta.

In India, Tamil Nadu produces about 51.36 lakh tonnes from an area of 1.11 lakh ha, and has the highest production share with 19.37 per cent (2013). Gujarat ranks second with 17 per cent followed by Maharashtra 13.5 per cent.

Nendran is one of the important banana varieties cultivated in Tamil Nadu. It is mainly grown in Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Trichy and Kanyakumari Districts. These districts reported a total banana area of 24,667 ha and 24,869 ha in 2012-13

and 2013 -14 respectively reflecting a marginal 0.81 per cent increase in the current year area. Nendran fruits are big sized, mainly used for the preparation of chips. Each bunch of fruit has minimum of 5 hands weighing about 8 - 12 kg. Nendran is planted during April – May besides October – November to coincide with Onam festival. Nendran withstands wind damage and hence high-density planting is followed. January – February is the month of peak arrivals and July – August faces lean arrivals. Present market price for Nendran is around Rs 25 - 28/kg. To make the farmers aware of the future trend in farm harvest prices, Back Office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC) functioning in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the prices of Nendran that prevailed in Coimbatore Farmers shandy for the past 6 years.

Analysis revealed that price of nendran banana in Coimbatore market during the months of April to June, 2014 will be revolving around Rs.26-28/kg.

For further details contact

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