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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:

Sell Blackgram and Greengram upon Harvest

Pulses are important food crops due to their high protein and essential amino acid content. Pulses are used as food and animal feed. India is the world's largest producer, importer and consumer of pulses. Many exporting countries are dependent on India for marketing their pulses. Even though India is the world's largest producer and consumer of pulses still there is a gap of 2-4 million tonnes between the production and consumption of pulses in the country and the gap is met through imports.

Among pulses, greengram and blackgram are important ones in Tamil Nadu. Current ruling prices are Rs.52 and 62 per kilogram for black gram and greengram, respectively on an average in Villupuram regulated market. In Villupuram regulated market, wholesale blackgram price attained its maximum of around Rs.55/kg during February 2014, whereas for green gram it was around Rs.66/kg. The current rise is due to lower production.

According to the Indian Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), Current year imports are expected to decrease to 2.6 million tonnes due to slight increase in production. As per the Fourth Advance Estimates by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, pulses production in India was 18.45 million tonnes in 2012-13. While Government of India expects pulse production to touch 19.7 million tonnes during 2013-14. The average per capita consumption of pulses in India annually was 14 kilogram, against the WHO's recommendation of 20 kilos.

According to Fourth Advance Estimate, national production of blackgram and greengram during the year 2012-13 was 1.90 and 1.20 million tonnes respectively. Now it is harvesting season for greengram and blackgram especially in the rice fallows. Hence farmers wanted to know whether to keep the produce under storage in anticipation of better price or sell immediately.

In this regard Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell, Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the prices of blackgram and greengram that prevailed during the last ten years in Villupuram regulated market. As per the results of the analysis the prices of the above crops for the period April, May 2014 are forecasted as Rs.52-53 and Rs.62-64 per kg for blackgram and greengram, respectively. Up to end of May 2014 there are no chances for the prices to increase. Hence farmers are recommended to sell blackgram and greengram upon harvest without going for storage.

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