



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. M. Jegadeesan, Ph.D.,
Assistant Public Relations Officer
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302
Fax: 0422 – 2431821
E-mail: pro@tnau.ac.in

To
The Editor,

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Sir,

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

Chances are Remote for Price Increase in Banana

As per the First Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, banana is cultivated in 8.36 lakh hectare with a production of 298.95 lakh tonnes in 2015-16 in India. The major growing states are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. In Tamil Nadu, banana production is slightly higher than the previous year. Major banana cultivating districts are Theni, Trichy, Erode, Thoothukudi, Coimbatore, Kanyakumari, Thanjavur and Dindigul.

Most of India's banana production is for domestic consumption. India produces 30 per cent of the world's banana, but export is negligible at less than 1 per cent. The top export destinations are Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE and Kuwait and preferred variety for export is Grand Naine.

Banana prices usually fall every summer when there is arrival of other tropical fruits such as mangoes. Increased production coupled with high temperature has led to cracking of fruits that has forced the farmers to sell the produce immediately during this period.

Hence, the price forecasting scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 13 years monthly prices of cultivars of Poovan, Karpooravalli and eight years monthly prices of Nendranbanana that prevailed in Coimbatore Market.

The econometric analysis and market surveys carried out at Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli revealed that during May-June 2016 farmers could get a farm gate price of Rs.8-10 per kg for Poovan, Rs.14 -16 per kg for Karpooravalli and Rs.35-37 per kg for Nendran respectively. Hence, farmers are advised to take note of the above market advisory before harvesting their produce.

For details, contact:

Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell,
Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore – 641 003.
Phone: 0422 – 2431405

For technical details, please contact:

Professor and Head,
Department of Fruit Crops,
Horticultural College and Research Institute,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore – 641 003.
Phone No: 0422- 6611269.

Asst. Public Relations Officer