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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:

### **Farmers can take up sowing of Sesame**

Sesame or Gingelly is one of the most significant oilseed crops playing an important role in human nutrition. Most of the sesame seeds are used for oil extraction and the rest are used for edible purposes. Sesame is grown primarily for its oil-rich seeds. Seeds were primarily used for oil and also appreciated for their ability to add nutty flavour or garnish foods. After the extraction of oil, the cake is mostly used for livestock feed or often as manure.

Sesame grown under rain fed conditions in almost all the states of India. It was cultivated in 18.58 lakhs hectare with production of 7.14 lakhs tonnes in 2014-15. The major sesame growing states are West Bengal, Odhisa, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu where red, brown and black varieties are grown while white sesame is grown in Maharastra and other Western States.

As per the Solvent Extractor's Association of India, the current stock of sesame is approximately 3.14 lakh tonnes. On new crop arrival of sesame seeds, it is anticipated that 60-70 per cent of stock will be depleted. Present prices of Indian sesame seeds are 30 per cent less compared to last year and according to common view of the traders and stockists the prices are expected to reduce further.

According to Ministry of Agriculture, sesame was cultivated in 0.53 lakh hectares with production of 0.23 lakh tonnes in Tamil Nadu during 2014-15. Major sesame cultivating districts are Erode, Karur, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Salem, Villupuram, Tiruppur and Thiruvannamalai. Main varieties cultivated in Tamil Nadu

are TMV 3, TMV 4, TMV 5, TMV 6, TMV 7 (Brown sesame), CO1 (Black sesame) and SVPR1 (White sesame). Red sesame varieties are used for oil purpose and black sesame varieties are mainly used in confectionaries.

Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC) working under Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, has analysed 12 years historical prices that prevailed in Sivagiri Regulated Market and the results revealed that the farm gate price of good quality sesame would be around Rs.50-52 per kg during harvest period viz., March to April 2016. Hence farmers are recommended to take sowing decision based on the above price.

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