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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:

Ground Nut Price will be Stable

India is the second largest producer of groundnut in the world. Indian groundnut is available in different varieties: Bold or Runner, Java or Spanish and Red Natal. Groundnut is the major oil seed crop in India and it plays a major role in bridging the vegetable oil deficit in the country. Groundnut in India is available throughout the year due to a two-crop cycle harvested in March and October. Groundnut is also an important protein crop in India grown mostly under rain-fed conditions.

As per the Solvent Extractor's Association of India, groundnut was cultivated in 45.68 lakh hectare with a production of 48.45 lakh tonnes in 2014-15, which was less than 12 per cent in area and 25 per cent in production respectively when compared to previous year. The major growing States are Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Uttar Pradesh.

According to APEDA, India has exported 0.7 million tonnes of groundnut to the world for the worth of Rs. 4,675.35 crores during the year 2014-15. The major export destinations are Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. In India has imported 14.4 million tonnes of edible oil during 2014-15 and this will also have an impact on the price of the groundnut oil.

According to Ministry of Agriculture, groundnut was cultivated in 2.89 lakh hectares with production of 9.31 lakh tonnes in Tamil Nadu during 2014-15. Major groundnut cultivating districts are Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Vellore, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, Cuddalore, Namakkal, Krishnagiri, Salem and Dharmapuri. In most of

these districts, groundnut is sown during July to August (Adipattam) and January to February (Thai pattam). In Thaipattam, it is grown under irrigated conditions.

To help the farmers in taking sowing decisions in Thaipattam, 2016 the Back Office of Agro Market Intelligence & Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC) functioning in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 13 years prices for groundnut pod that prevailed in Sevur and Tindivanam Regulated Markets.

The econometric analysis and market surveys revealed that during March -April 2016 farmers could get a price of Rs. 40-42/ kg of groundnut pod at Sevur Regulated market in Tirupur district and Rs. 45-47/ kg at Tindivanam Regulated market. The relatively higher price for pods in Tindivanam market compared to Sevur market is mainly due to good quality pods raised in that area as the soil condition is most suitable for groundnut cultivation. Based on the above, farmers are recommended to take their sowing decision.

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