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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:

Hill Grown Tapioca will Fetch Reasonable Price

According to Second Advance Estimates of National Horticulture Board, tapioca is grown in an area of 2.12 lakh hectares with the production of 48.42 lakh tonnes in India during 2015-16. Tamil Nadu stands first with production of 26.99 lakh tonnes followed by Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya. Salem stands first among the tapioca producing districts in Tamil Nadu followed by Namakkal, Dharmapuri, Cuddalore, Tiruvanamalai and Trichy. As per the trade sources, the current stock position of sago is 15 lakh bags (90 kg/bag) and starch is about 3 lakh bags (90 kg/bag). The area under tapioca in the hill regions of Tamil Nadu is normal but the productivity may come down due to drought. Major varieties cultivated are MVD 1, H-165 and H-266.

Tapioca products such as sago is used for edible purpose and starch is being used for various industrial purposes. India exported 3,334 tonnes of tapioca products worth Rs.143.69 million during the 2015-16. Tapioca products are mainly exported to United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Qatar and United States of America. Tapioca starch and modified starch is being imported from Thailand.

Though the productivity is low during current year because of the extended summer and drought, the price won't appreciate much owing to huge quantities of current stock. Since, prevailing export price for Thailand starch is much higher than our domestic starch price, it is an advantageous situation for domestic tapioca producers to get reasonable profit.

The Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the last 15 years of tapioca prices prevailed in Salem market. As per the results of the analysis, the price of hill grown good quality raw tuber during July-August, 2016 may prevail around Rs.5, 500-6,000 per tonne. Hence, farmers are advised to take selling decision accordingly.

For further details, contact:

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