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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:

### **Ragi price will be stable during harvest**

In India, ragi production holds the sixth position after wheat, rice, maize, sorghum and cumbu. Ragi offers high nutritional, anti-diabetic and antioxidant properties.

Ragi is extensively grown in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the hilly region of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. Karnataka tops the Indian ragi production with a contribution of 67 per cent followed by Tamil Nadu with 14 per cent.

India exports ragi to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Srilanka and African countries all-round the year. In 2014-15, India produced 1.99 million tonnes of ragi from 1.20 million hectares with an average productivity of 1.6 tonnes per hectare and in Tamil Nadu, ragi is cultivated in an area of 0.11 million hectares with 0.30 million tonnes of production (Directorate of Economic and Statistics). Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode and Vellore are the major ragi growing districts in Tamil Nadu.

The Back Office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI &BPC) of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analyzed the last 12 years of ragi prices prevailed in Tindivanam Regulated market and the econometric analysis was carried out to forecast the prices of ragi for the harvesting months.

Based on the analysis and market survey, it is forecasted that the farm gate price of ragi would be around Rs.16-18/- per kg. Accordingly, Ragi farmers can take up selling decision.

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