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To
The Editor,

Date: 7-10-2016

Sir,

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

Sell Sunflower seeds upon Harvest

Sunflower is one of the important oilseed crops in India. According to USDA report, sunflower was sown in an area of 5.5 lakh hectares in India with the production of 3.2 lakh tonnes during 2015-16. As per the reports of Solvent Extractors' Association of India, sunflower area during Kharif 2016 is higher by 0.62 lakh hectares compared to corresponding period of Kharif 2015. In Tamil Nadu, sunflower was cultivated in an area of 9,000 hectares with the production of 13,000 tonnes during 2014-15. The major districts cultivating sunflower are Thoothukudi, Dindigul, Karur, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar and Trichy. Though sunflower seeds are mainly used for oil extraction, they are also edible and used as snacks, poultry and cattle feed.

According to Solvent Extractors' Association, country has imported 96.69 lakh tonnes of edible oil during 2015-16. Ukraine is the single largest supplier of sunflower oil to India amounting to USD 201 crores from April 2015 - September 2016. About 32.4 per cent of sunflower oil import is routed through Chennai Sea.

As per trade sources the production of sunflower, in Tamil Nadu has fallen down in areas like Karur, Vedsanthur and Erode due to failure of the South West Monsoon. However, in districts like Trichy and Thuraiyur, the area under sunflower has increased in anticipation of rainfall in the forthcoming months.

The Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the last 16 years of sunflower seed prices prevailed in Vellakovil regulated market. As per the results of the analysis, the farm gate price of good quality Sunflower seed during October- November, 2016 will be around Rs.3200-3300 per quintal. Hence, farmers are advised to take selling decision accordingly.

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