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To  
The Editor,

Date: 23-3-2018

Sir,

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

### **Greengram Prices are Not Charming**

Greengram accounts for nearly 8 per cent of India's total pulses production and mainly cultivated in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. These states together contribute for 66 per cent of total greengram production in the country. According to the Second Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture for year 2017-18, greengram production is lesser than the target. (1.74 million tonnes as against 2.3 million tonnes).

In India, the pulses production touched a record high of 22.95 million tonnes in 2016-17 crop year compared to 16.35 million tonnes during 2015-16, an account of encouragement from the government to the pulses growing farmers in terms of attractive Minimum Support Price (MSP). But the surplus buffer stock and rabi new arrivals dragged the prices of greengram below MSP. Increased arrivals from Odisha and normal crop area in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu may weaken the prices for greengram.

Greengram is normally cultivated in an area of 2.38 lakh hectares with production of 1.25 lakh tonnes annually in Tamil Nadu. Major varieties under cultivation in the state are CO 6, CO 7, CO 8 and VBN 3. Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Thoothukudi, Cuddalore, Thiruvallur, Salem and Thanjavur are the major districts cultivating greengram in the state.

The TN-IAM Project funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 16 year historical prices that prevailed in Viluppuram Regulated Market for

greengram. As per the results of the time series analysis, the farm gate price of good quality greengram during harvest (April -May, 2018) would be around Rs. 48 /-kg. The price may subject to change according to the recent government initiative taken in procuring pulses directly from farmers.

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