



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
Coimbatore – 641 003

Dr. E. Somasundaram Ph.D.,  
Public Relations Officer  
Mobile: 94890 56730

Phone: 0422 - 6611302  
Fax: 0422 – 2431821  
E-mail: [pro@tnau.ac.in](mailto:pro@tnau.ac.in)

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To  
The Editor,

Date: 19-4-2018

Sir,

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

### **Coconut and Copra Prices are Heating up this Summer**

Coconut is the major plantation crop occupying nearly 58 per cent of total area under plantation in India. According to the First Advance Estimates of National Horticultural Board (2017-18), the area under coconut is 20.82 lakhs hectare with a production of 164.93 lakhtonnes. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh together contribute nearly 91 percent of the total coconut production in India.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the domestic consumption of coconut oil in India was 4.32 lakh tonnes during 2017- 18, which is 4 per cent higher than the previous year. The major export destinations for Indian coconut products are United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Kuwait and Iran. Coconut oil price has continued its upward trend since in the last few months. During this season, the production of coconut in major producing states is low and as a result, prices are likely to show an upward trend.

In Tamil Nadu, coconut is mainly cultivated in Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Thanjavur, Dindigul and Kanyakumari districts. Coconut and copra arrivals from these districts and from Kerala have already started and it is expected that arrivals from Karnataka will commence from June onwards. According to the trade sources, area and production of coconut in Tamil Nadu and Kerala have been reduced

considerably due to rapid urbanization and frequent cyclones. Further, high prices for coconut oil in Kerala markets would increase demand for coconut.

The TN-IAM Project funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 18 years prices for coconut and copra that prevailed in Avalpoonthurai Regulated Market of Erode district and markets survey at Perundurai Cooperative Marketing Society. As per the results of the analysis, the price of good quality coconut during May, 2018 – June, 2018 will be Rs. 20-23 per nut. Good quality copra price will rule around Rs. 130-135 per kg. Hence, farmers are advised to take selling decision accordingly.

**For further details contact:**

Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell  
Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
Coimbatore – 641 003.  
Phone: 0422-2431405

**For technical details please contact:**

Professor and Head  
Department of Spices & Plantation Crops  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
Coimbatore – 641003.  
Phone -0422 -6611284

Public Relations Officer