



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
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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:

Red Chillies Prices will Cheer Farmers

Red chilli is the major spice crop occupying nearly 26 per cent of total area under spices in India. According to First Advance Estimates of National Horticultural Board (2017-18), the area under red chilli is 8.44 lakhs hectare with a production of 21.06 lakhs tonnes. Major chilli growing states are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Odisha, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu contribute nearly 89 per cent of total production under chillies. Andhra Pradesh alone accounts for 53 per cent of total chilli production in the country.

Though 75 per cent of total production is consumed within the country. There is always high demand for chillies in nutraceutical industries because of its antioxidant and medicinal properties. Export orders for high quality chillies are emerging from China, Sri Lanka and Malaysia. Further, trader / stockists buying spree attitude, low output in Andhra Pradesh due to viral disease, crop diversification to maize in some of the chilli growing areas, suspension of trading in chillies in the futures platform would firm up chilli prices in coming months. The quality of chillies arriving from Madhya Pradesh is not as good as that of Andhra Pradesh chillies.

In Tamil Nadu, chilli is grown during October – November. Mundu and sannam are the major types of chillies grown in Tamil Nadu. Ramnad, Sivaganga, Thoothukudi, Virudhunagar and Thirunelveli are the major districts cultivating chillies and the crop area is below normal. In the current season, chilli farmers of

Tamil Nadu have diverted to maize cultivation in some of the areas because of delayed and extended monsoon. It is expected that local arrivals will commence by first month of April.

The TN-IAM Project funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 17 year historical prices that prevailed in Tirunelveli Market for sannam chilli variety. The analysis and market survey indicated that the farm gate price of good quality chillies during harvest would be around Rs. 8500 to 9000 per quintal. The price would subject to change based on the release of stock from Guntur market. Hence, the farmers are advised to take appropriate selling decision.

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