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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:

Kadaibogam Potato Price will be Stable during Harvest

India ranks second position in potato production after China at the world level. Fresh potatoes are exported to Sri Lanka, UAE, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Maldives and Kuwait etc. India exports less quantity of potato, due to high price and poor quality of produce compared with world potato export markets.

India produced 449 lakhs tonnes of potato from an area of 20.60 lakh hectares in 2014-15, which was eight percent higher in production and four percent in cultivated area when compared to 2013-14. Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Assam and Bihar accounted for 85 per cent share in total area and 90 percent of the total production in 2014-15 in India. In the current year, Potato cultivation area in Gujarat has increased as replacement to wheat crop. India has exported about 12.56 lakh tonnes of potato in 2014-2015, which is 47 per cent higher compared to last year.

In Tamil Nadu, the area under potato was 5000 hectares and production was 1.27 lakh tonnes in 2014-15, which was five per cent higher in cultivated area and nine percent increase in production compared with 2013-14. Potato grown in the Nilgiris fetch higher prices due to longer shelf-life without refrigeration compared to those grown in other States. In Tamil Nadu, potato is grown in the hilly regions of Dindigul, Nilgiris, Krishnagiri and Erode districts.

In Kadaibogam season, it is sown in the months of September and October and harvested in December and January. There are two major varieties, viz., Kufri Jyoti, and *Jalandhar* grown in Nilgiri district. Potatoes arriving from other States like Gujarat, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh are stored in cold storages mainly for seed purpose.

Back Office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI &BPC) in the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 23 years prices of potato that prevailed in Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society (NCMS), Mettupalayam and the results revealed that farm gate prices of good quality potato would be around Rs.19 to Rs.21 per kg in December' 2015 –January' 2016. Hence, farmers are recommended to take sowing decisions accordingly.

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