



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:

Store and Sell Turmeric

In India, turmeric is cultivated in an area of 2.04 million hectares with a production of 10.00 million tonnes in 2014-15, which was 18 per cent higher than the previous year. Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka and West Bengal are the major turmeric producing states contributing 80-85 per cent of total turmeric production of the country. India exports turmeric to U.S.A, Iran, UAE and U.K.

In Tamil Nadu, turmeric is cultivated in 0.46 million hectares with 2.31 million tonnes of production in 2014-15. Erode, Salem, Dharmapuri and Namakkal are the major turmeric growing districts in Tamil Nadu.

Sowing of turmeric will be in the months of June-July and harvesting will be done during January-March. During current year, area under turmeric in Tamil Nadu shown an increasing trend whereas Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra witnessed marginal decline. Anticipated production from the current crop will be around 45-50 lakh bags. Annual demand for turmeric will be 63-64 lakh bags. Trade sources reported that at present the carryover stock in the current year is around 15 lakh bags which is 50 per cent lesser than the previous year.

At present, turmeric is selling at Rs.9500 per quintal in Erode market which is 47 per cent higher than the price prevailed in the previous year during the same month. From September, 2015 onwards turmeric price showed increasing trend. Due

to the recent price rise, 20 per cent of the stored turmeric was already sold in Tamil Nadu.

According to trade sources, in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra there was slight damage due to long dry spell to the standing crop where as continuous rains in the recent North East Monsoon period may cause damage to the growth of the fingers. Anticipated production from the major turmeric growing States, decreasing carryover stocks and increased domestic as well export demand will cause a wide demand supply gap for turmeric in the coming months. Evidence of five year cycle in turmeric price and increasing trend in commodity futures for turmeric would also support the peak price in the current and the forthcoming period.

To help the farmers to take proper marketing decisions, the Back Office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI &BPC) of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University conducted the traders survey in Erode Regulated market.

The current trend supports the turmeric farm gate price to rule around Rs.9500-10,000 during December, 2015- January, 2016. There are good chances for the price to increase during the year, 2016. Hence, farmers are recommended to store and sell turmeric to get higher farming income.

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