

## **Price Forecast for Vegetables**

### **Tomato**

Tomato is one of the most important "protective foods" because of its special nutritive value. It is one of the most versatile vegetable with wide usage in Indian culinary tradition. According to the Third Advance Estimates of National Horticultural Board (2017-18), the area under tomato is 7.86 lakhs hectare with a production of 193.77 lakh tonnes. Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telengana, Gujarat, West Bengal and Odisha together contribute nearly 64 per cent of the total production in India. In Tamil Nadu, the major tomato producing districts are Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Tiruppur, Theni and Dindigal. It is being grown all over Tamil Nadu in all seasons. Trade sources reported that, continuous arrivals from Karnataka to the local markets are the reason for drop in tomato prices at present. But, with the onset of the North East Monsoon, there would be a chance for increase in price.

### **Brinjal**

According to the Third Advance Estimates of National Horticultural Board, during 2017 -18 the area and production of brinjal in India are expected to be around 7.36 lakh hectares and 128.26 lakh tones respectively. West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh together contribute nearly 69 per cent of the total production in India. Brinjal is grown in Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri Dindigul, Tiruvannamalai and Vellore districts in Tamil Nadu. As per trade sources, currently Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy and Ottanchatram markets are experiencing huge arrivals from Tamil Nadu and Mysore district of Karnataka.

## **Bhendi**

Bhendi is one of the major vegetable crops of India cultivated in an area of 5.14 lakh hectares with production of 61.26 lakh tones during 2017- 18. West Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh are major bhendi producing states of the country. These states together contribute for 59 per cent of total bhendi production. The major bhendi cultivating districts in Tamil Nadu are Salem, Theni, Dharmapuri, Thiruvallur, Coimbatore and Madurai. As per the trade source, in Coimbatore market, bhendi arrival has more when compared to previous season due to reasonable rainfall in the major growing areas.

Ensuing festive season in Tamil Nadu and the likely onset of North East Monsoon would favour the vegetable prices to firm further in coming months.

The TN-IAM Project funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analysed the past 12 years prices for tomato, brinjal and bhendi that prevailed in Oddanchathiram, Trichy, Madurai and Coimbatore Uzhavar shandies. As per the results of the analysis, the price of good quality tomato during November – December, 2018 will be Rs.17-20 per kg. Good quality of brinjal price will rule around Rs.23-25 per kg and good quality of bhendi price will rule around Rs. 21-23 per kg. Hence, farmers are advised to take up sowing decision accordingly.

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