

Coconut and Copra Prices may Decline

India is the third largest coconut producer after Indonesia and Philippines. According to the Third Advance Estimates of National Horticultural Board (2017-18), the area under coconut is 20.79 lakhs hectare with a production of 162.28 lakh tonnes. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh together contribute nearly 89 per cent of the total coconut production in India. Tamil Nadu stands third position with 28 per cent of coconut production in the country. Coconut is mainly cultivated in Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Thanjavur, Dindigul, Kanyakumari, Vellore, Theni, Krishnagiri and Tirunelveli districts of Tamil Nadu.

The major export destinations for Indian coconut products are United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Kuwait and Iran. According to trade sources, arrivals from Karnataka have started and it will continue up to December, 2018. The reasons for fall in coconut oil price during recent times are mainly due to the low industrial demand, reduction in local consumption, and reduced movement of upcountry markets besides import of cheaper edible oils. Hence, stagnation of current stock of oil drags the prices for raw materials.

The TN-IAM Project funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analysed the past 18 years prices for coconut and copra that prevailed in Avalpoonthurai Regulated Market of Erode district and Perundurai Cooperative Marketing Society. As per the results of the analysis, the price of good quality coconut during November – December, 2018 will be Rs. 14-15 per nut. Good quality copra price will rule around Rs. 85-90 per kg. Hence, farmers are advised to take selling decision accordingly.

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