



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
O/o the Public Relations Officer
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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:

Maize Farmers Advised to Store and Sell after June 2014

According to Second Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, in 2013-14 India will produce 23.92 million tonnes of maize which is 3 per cent higher than in 2012-13. Around 72 per cent of the maize was produced in *kharif* season and 28 per cent from rabi season. Production of maize in 2013-14, *rabi* is estimated at 64 lakh tonnes which is 5 per cent higher than previous year.

Fresh rabi arrivals from all the major producers like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Bihar was almost over. Now stored maize crop is arriving to the market and quality of the crop is not superior. Andhra Pradesh crop is expected to come till April end. According to market sources, in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, Government procured around 4-4.5 lakh tones of *kharif* and *rabi* maize at MSP and stocked the crop.

According to USDA estimates around 3 million tonnes of maize will be exported in 2013-14 which is 30 per cent lesser than in previous year. At present maize export price is not competitive one, hence exports from India is limited.

Maize price in Tamil Nadu showed mixed trends in 2013 where price of maize ruled around Rs. 1400 per quintal in January, 2013 and peaked to Rs. 1600 per quintal in September and declined to Rs. 1300 per quintal in December, 2013. Higher Indian *kharif* production in 2013 (16.88 million tonnes) made the price to decline

around Rs. 300 per quintal. From January–March, 2014 maize price in Tamil Nadu ruled around Rs. 1250-1350 per quintal and started increasing from mid March and now the price is ruling around Rs. 1420 per quintal. In Tamil Nadu even though there observed a marginal increase in thai pattam crop in major growing districts, the production will not increase because of unfavorable weather conditions.

The thai pattam sown crop is flowing into the market and the farmers are not in a position to take their selling decision. Under the above circumstances, Back Office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI&BPC) in Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analysed the past 20 years prices that prevailed in Udumalpet regulated market and also conducted traders survey.

The econometric analysis revealed that the price will rule around Rs. 1450-1550 per quintal during April-May, 2014 and after June there are chances for the price to cross Rs. 1600 per quintal. Even though there is a lesser export demand, lesser fresh arrivals and continued demand for maize in the feed industry will keep the prices in the above range. Hence, farmers are recommended to store the harvested maize and sell after June, 2014.

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