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To
The Editor,

Date: 30-4-2016

Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

Sell Harvested Sesame Immediately

India is the world's major producer and exporter of sesame. As per the data given by Solvent Extractor's Association of India, sesame is cultivated in an area of 19.81 lakh hectare with a production of 7.25 lakh tonnes in 2015-16. The major sesame growing states are West Bengal, Odhisa, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, sesame is cultivated in lesser area when compared to previous year because of the higher buffer stock. Major sesame cultivating districts in Tamil Nadu are Erode, Karur, Thanjavur, Cuddalore and Salem.

Of the total sesame production of 7.25 lakh tonnes, 0.15 lakh tonne is used for sowing, 3.0 lakh tonnes goes for exports and remaining for domestic consumption of sesame oil. Red and black sesame varieties are used for oil purpose and white sesame varieties are mainly used in confectionaries. India's export significantly declined 34 per cent over the last year mainly due to the increased production, combined with a reduction in demand with higher stock position in domestic market.

Increased acreage, coupled with favourable weather conditions, led to an increase in sesame production. Moreover, good production in China and South America has reduced demand from Central America and that has also affected India's sesame export this year.

Hence, the price forecasting scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the

past 15 years prices for black sesame that prevailed in Sivagiri Regulated Market of Erode district. The econometric analysis and market surveys revealed that during May-June 2016 farmers could get a farm gate price of Rs.81- 85/ kg for black sesame. Based on the above price, farmers are recommended to take appropriate selling decision.

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