



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:

There is No Sunshine for Blackgram Prices

Blackgram accounts for about 13 per cent of India's total pulses production and largely cultivated in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. These states together contribute for 72 per cent of total blackgram production in the country. According to the Second Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture for year 2017-18, Blackgram production is higher than the target. (3.23 million tonnes as against 2.83 million tonnes).

India is one of the major importers of pulses. During August, 2017 the government has restricted the import of pulses by imposing quota of 2 million tonnes import on other pulses and 3 million tonnes on blackgram and greengram taken together. However, India has imported nearly 4.7 million tonnes of pulses during April, 2017 to November, 2017. With the higher buffer stock and good rabi crop stands in the current season make the prices drop below Minimum Support Price (MSP). Blackgram arrivals already started coming from Myanmar and neighboring states as well to Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu is one of the major blackgram growing states of the country accounting for 4 lakh hectares with a production of 2.5 lakh tonnes annually. Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Viluppuram, Thanjavur and Tiruvarur are the major districts cultivating blackgram. Major cultivars are ADT 3, ADT 4, ADT 5, KKM1, CO 6, VBN (Bg) 5 and VBN 6. Tamil Nadu reports, peak harvesting period of blackgram from March to April. According to the trade

sources, the crop area is above normal but incidence of Yellow Mosaic Virus (YMV) is reported in the major pockets.

In this regard, TN-IAM Project funded Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 16 year historical prices data of blackgram prevailed in Viluppuram Regulated Market. As per the results of the time series analysis, the farmgate price of good quality of blackgram during harvest (April -May, 2018) would be around Rs. 45 /- kg. Unless there is any institutional intervention for direct procurement of pulses at the MSP, as indicated in the state budget 2018, there would not be much change in the farmgate price of blackgram. Hence, the farmers are advised to sell the produce accordingly.

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