

## **COCONUT AND COPRA PRICES TO BE STABLE TILL JANUARY 2016**

India is the third largest coconut producer after Indonesia and Philippines. In 2014-15, coconut was cultivated in an area of 2.15 million hectares and annual production of 16.56 million tonnes of nuts. Tamil Nadu stands first with 32 percent of coconut production in the country. Coconut was mainly cultivated in Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Thanjavur, Dindigul, Kanyakumari, Vellore, Theni, Krishnagiri and Tirunelveli districts.

At present, the price of coconut is ruling around Rs.20, 000 - 21,000 per ton in Avalpoondurai market, i.e., approximately Rs.11 - 12 per nut for average size nuts. Current arrivals from Tamil Nadu have already commenced and periodical rains had boosted the production of nuts. Arrivals from various regions of Karnataka have also started a bit earlier and higher than previous year arrivals. Festival season in upcoming months will enhance the demand, but price will be stable during this period due to the higher arrivals. Currently, Copra prices are ruling at Rs. 70 – 72 per kg in Avalpoondurai regulated market in Tamil Nadu. Coconut based products export from India has been reduced in 2014-15 compared to previous year due to sluggish demand.

To help farmers in order to take proper selling decisions, an econometric analysis of coconut and copra prices in Avalpoondurai regulated markets were carried out by the Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC), Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

As per the results of the analysis, the price of good quality coconut during November - December, 2015 will be Rs.12 - 13 per nut (550 - 600 grams) in Avalpoondurai regulated market. Good quality Copra price will be around Rs.68 - 70 per kg. There will be chances for reduction in prices after January, 2016 onwards. Hence farmers are recommended to take their harvesting decisions based on the above prices.

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