



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:

Neerbogam Sown Potato Price will be Stable at Harvest

In terms of global production, potato is the fourth most important food crop after corn, rice and wheat. In 2013, the world potato production was 368 million tonnes of fresh tubers from 19.5 million ha. India produced 46.39 million tonnes of potato from an area of 2.024 million hectares during 2013-14. The States of Uttar Pradesh (32%), West Bengal (26%) and Bihar (14%) accounted for more than 70 percent of total production in India.

According to the statistics given by National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) the area and production of potato in Tamil Nadu were 5350 hectares and 1.16 lakh tonnes, respectively during 2013-14. Area and production of potato in the state has increased by 35 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively during 2013-14 compared to last year. In Tamil Nadu, Potato is grown in the hilly regions of Dindigul (38%), Nilgiris (36%), Krishnagiri (20%) and Erode (6%) districts.

In Neerbogam/Irrigated season, it is sown in February - March and harvested during May-June. Potatoes can be stored in cold storage for about five to six months. In Mettupalayam, cold storage godowns are available. Potatoes arrive from other states like Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh and stored in cold storage only for seed purpose. Peak period of storage takes place during January to May for seed purpose. Before sowing, farmers are eager to know about the prices of Neerbogam potato in order to take up their sowing decisions.

Back Office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI &BPC) in the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil

Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 23 years (1991-2014) prices of potato that prevailed in Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society (NCMS), Mettupalayam and the results revealed that prices of good quality potato would be around Rs. 25 to Rs.27 per kg in May-June, 2015. Based on this expected price, farmers are recommended to go for sowing potato in Neerbogam.

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