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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:

Price forecast for Thaipattam vegetables –Tomato, Brinjal and Bhendi

To extend advice for the farmers on Thaipattam cultivation, the Back Office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI &BPC) operating in the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has taken price forecast for Tomato, Brinjal and Bhendi

Tomato

In Tamil Nadu, tomato is cultivated mainly in Adipattam, Karthigaipattam and Thaipattam. Tamil months Thai and Maasicoincide with harvesting time in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Hence, market arrivals from Mysore and parts of Andhra Pradesh are very high in Oddanchatram and Coimbatore markets, affecting the farm harvest prices during these months.

Thalaivasal and Hosur markets also experience surplus inflow. As per Tamil Nadu Agricultural Department statistics, during Oct-Nov, 2014 increased area under tomato cultivation resulted higher production in current thaipattam harvest in major districts namely Salem (844 ha), Dindigul (810 ha), Krishnagiri (1966 ha), Dharmapuri (1128 ha) and Coimbatore (609 ha). However in Dec, 2014 – Jan, 2015 the area has decreased in Salem (483 ha), Dindigul (358 ha), Krishnagiri (1524 ha), Dharmapuri (1125 ha) and Coimbatore (124 ha) compared to Karthigaipattam cultivation. This could lead to poor arrivals during the maasi pattam harvest from local areas of respective wholesale markets.

Even though upcoming months such as Mar –Apr 2015 face lesser arrivals, the price won't be high due to inflow from Mysore, Bangalore and part of Andhra Pradesh. In this situation to advise the farmers about Tomato price during Feb-Apr 2015, the Back Office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI &BPC) in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the prices of tomato that prevailed in Ottanchatram, Coimbatore, Hosur and Thalaivasal Uzhavar sandies during the past 11 years.

The result of the analysis and traders survey indicated that the prices may decline further in February 2015 and the same will persist upto March end. Thereafter, there is a chance to increase from April second week and the expected average farm gate price in April 2015 would be Rs 6-10 per kg in Coimbatore, Thalaivasal and Oddanchatram and Rs 6-8 per kg in Hosur markets. Further, during May –June 2015, there is a possibility for higher prices. Hence, farmers are advised to take up sowing of tomato from March second to April first week to realize better prices.

Brinjal

As per trade sources, currently Coimbatore, Oddanchatram and Thalaivasal markets are experiencing more arrivals during this period. The current farm price in these markets hover around Rs 5-8/kg whereas it was Rs 25-30 per kg during Nov –Dec 2014. Increased cultivation area in Salem, Coimbatore and Dindigul districts affected the farm harvest prices. As per Tamil Nadu Agricultural Department statistics During Oct –Nov 2014, the cultivation area is more during Karthigai pattam in Coimbatore (81 ha), Salem (531 ha) and Dindigul (463 ha) resulting more arrivals. At the same time during Dec 2014 –Jan 2015 the cultivation area has reduced comparing the previous months in Coimbatore (61 ha), Salem (353 ha) and Dindigul (125 ha).

In this situation, to forecast the price of brinjal during Mar-Apr 2015, the Brinjal prices that prevailed during the past 11 years in Coimbatore, Ottanchatram and Thalaivasal Uzhavar sandies were analyzed besides a trader's survey.

The price analysis and trader's survey results revealed that the brinjal price during March-Apr 2015 upon harvest would be around, Rs. 12-15 per kg in Coimbatore market, Rs. 10-12 per kg in Oddanchatram and Thalaivasal markets. Hence farmers are advised to take up planting of brinjal.

Bhendi

In Tamil Nadu, major cultivation season for bhendi is June to August (Adi pattam) and February (Thai pattam). Normally bhendi fetches maximum price during January-February months in a year. Due to powdery mildew occurrence in winter season, the cultivation area have shrunk during Nov –Dec resulted lesser arrivals of good quality produce during Jan-Feb. Instead current season is experiencing more arrivals despite the winter season due to the increased cultivation area during Oct-Nov 2014.

Past three years continuous drought led to reduced crop area in most farm lands. In Tamil Nadu North East Monsoon was good and conducive to commence agricultural practices during Oct-Nov 2014. Hence more area under bhendi cultivation in Coimbatore (55 ha) and Salem (625 ha) districts which resulted in higher production even during unfavorable climatic conditions prevailed in the winter season. But during Dec 2014-Jan 2015 period the bhendi area has drastically reduced in Coimbatore (10 ha) and Salem (306 ha) had lead to poor arrivals in the upcoming Mar-Apr 2015.

The current farm prices in these markets hover around Rs 5-8 per kg. To advise the farmers on expected price of bhendi during Mar- Apr 2015 months, the Uzhavar sandai prices of bhendi during the past 11 years was analyzed and the trader's survey was conducted in Coimbatore, Ottanchatram and Thalaivasal markets.

Trade sources and Price analysis indicated that the average farm gate price of bhendi during Mar-Apr 2015 would be around, Rs 10-15 per kg in Coimbatore and Oddanchatram wholesale markets. In Thalaivasal wholesale markets, average farm gate price would be around Rs 10-12 per kg. Hence, farmers are advised to take up sowing of bhendi based on the above market advisory.

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