

## **Rabi maize price will be stable during harvest**

Maize is one of the most versatile crops having wider adaptability under varied agro-climatic conditions. According to Ministry of Agriculture in 2014-15, maize was cultivated in 7.8 million hectare and produced 16.3 million tonnes with a productivity of 2552 kg/ha. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are the major maize growing states.

During 2014-15, maize was cultivated in 0.33 million hectare and produced 1.81 million tonnes in Tamil Nadu. Perambalur, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Theni, Tuticorin and Salem are the major rabi maize producing districts in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu maize production will satisfy only the half of our State's demand. Fresh maize arrivals from Karnataka commenced from November and will continue till mid-December. Tamil Nadu arrivals will flow to market from December end to February. In March, Andhra Pradesh arrivals will meet the domestic demand and subsequently April - May arrivals from Bihar will meet the poultry feed demand. At present, maize farm gate price is prevailing around Rs. 1,500-1,520 per quintal in Udumalpet regulated market. Trade sources reported that, even though there was less export demand, domestic demand would support the price to stabilize during harvest.

Back office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI & BPC) functioning in the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analyzed the maize prices that prevailed during the last 15 years in Udumalpet regulated market to provide market intelligence for the farmers of major maize growing districts. The econometric analysis revealed that the farm gate price for the good quality maize grain will prevail around Rs. 1,500-1,550 per quintal during January to February,

2016. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate decision according to the market advisory.

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