

Tapioca Price will be stable at Harvest during October – November’15

World production of cassava in 2013-14 is estimated at over 277 million tonnes from an area of about 20 million hectares. Nigeria (20%), Thailand (11%), Indonesia (9%) and Brazil (8%) are the world's largest producer with respect to area under tapioca. In tapioca cultivation, India ranks 25th in area, 11th in production and 1st in productivity (34.95 tonnes/ha).

Tapioca is cultivated in an area of 0.21 million ha in India, with a total production of 7.74 million tonnes. This tuber crop is largely cultivated in Tamil Nadu (64%), Kerala (32%) parts of Andhra Pradesh (1.5%), Nagaland (1.2%) and Assam (0.5%). India exports several forms of tapioca products like raw tapioca tuber, starch, sago and other modified starches like Dextrins. India ranks 8th place in tapioca export value led by Thailand, China and Vietnam during 2013-14. Indian tapioca and its value added products export value has increased from ₹77.37 million (2012-13) to ₹189.46 million (2013-14). During current year India exported tapioca and its value added products valued at ₹81 million during 2014-15 (Apr-Dec).

Tamilnadu State stands first (64%) in respect of tapioca production and also processing of tapioca into starch & sago. Tapioca is being cultivated in major 14 districts including Namakkal (21%), Dharmapuri (19%), Salem (15%), Villupuram (14%), Trichy (9%), Erode (5%) and Thiruvannamalai (5%) in an area of 1.21 lakh hectare.

At present Tapioca price is ruling between ₹700- ₹800 per quintal which was sold at ₹1350 per quintal during March-April, 2014. Sago which was sold at ₹6700 per 90 kgs bag had come down and the ruling rate of Sago per bag is ₹3582 and the price of Tapioca Starch, which was sold at ₹4000 per 90 kgs bag, had come down and the ruling rate of Starch is ₹2260 only. The farmers, who got a good price last year, could get only half the price this year. This was mainly due to the crash in sago and starch price because of higher production and less demand.

Under these circumstances to facilitate farmers in taking up sowing decision of tapioca during March-April, Back Office of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI&BPC) in Centre for Agricultural Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analyzed the last 15 years wholesale price of tapioca in Salem market to provide market intelligence for the tapioca grown in plains of major growing districts. AMI-BPC analyses revealed that the price of raw tapioca would be in the range of ₹7-8 per kg during November-December, 2015. Based on this information, farmers are recommended to take up sowing decision.

For further details contact:

Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC)
Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development studies,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore - 641 003.
Phone- 0422-2431405.

For technical information farmers may contact

Professor and Head,
Department of Vegetable Crops,
Horticultural College& Research Institute,
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,
Coimbatore - 641 003.
Phone - 0422-6611374,
0422-6611283