

Price of Sorghum Settles Stable

Sorghum is one of the important food and fodder crop cultivated widely across India and Tamil Nadu. According to the estimation by USDA (2016-2017), sorghum is cultivated in an area of 5.8 million hectares with a production of 5.5 million tonnes in India. Major sorghum production states in India are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana. It can be grown in both Kharif (June-August) and Rabi (September-December) seasons. In Tamil Nadu (2014-2015), sorghum is cultivated in 4.2 lakh hectares with a production of 6.3 lakh tonnes/ha.

Sorghum is primarily used for food comprising 66 per cent of total utilization. The rest is utilized for feed and industrial uses. Recently sorghum is also used in alcohol industry with the introduction of sweet sorghums. The major land races and varieties cultivated in Tamil Nadu are Manjal cholam used as seed for good quality of fodder production, Vellai cholam, Kari cholam. Karureddu cholam are used for feed purposes and Mottu vellai cholam are used as food grain. The ruling varieties and hybrids are CO 30, BSR 1 and CSH 5 used as source of fodder, feed and bakery preparation.

Arrivals of white sorghum from Tiruppur and Coimbatore have decreased due to deficit South West Monsoon. Hence, that the price of sorghum would be stable in future also.

In this situation, the Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 13 years prices of sorghum that prevailed in Tiruppur regulated market. The results revealed that the farm gate price of good quality sorghum grains

at the time of harvest will be Rs.24-26 per kg. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate selling decision according to the market advisory.

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