

## **Interim Market Advisory for Blackgram**

Blackgram is extensively cultivated in India and is one of the most valued pulses due to its culinary values. According to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, blackgram was cultivated in an area of 39.6 lakh hectares with production of 22 lakh tonnes during the year 2015-16. Blackgram was cultivated in 4.0 lakh hectare with a production of 2.65 lakh tonnes in Tamil Nadu during 2014-15. Viluppuram, Thiruvarur, Cuddalore, Nagapatinam and Thanjavur are the major blackgram producing districts in Tamil Nadu.

Against the total consumption of pulses in India which has been around 22-23 million tonnes, the total pulses production of 17.06 million tonnes was recorded during 2015-16. Thus, India needs to import pulses every year to fulfill the domestic demand. India produces about 1.5 million tonnes of black gram annually and consumes its entire production. India has imported blackgram worth of Rs. 89.7 Crore in 2015-16. Myanmar is the single largest supplier of blackgram accounting for 98.9 per cent and 90.9 per cent of total value and quantity of blackgram imports of India followed by Vietnam.

According to the trade sources, blackgram arrivals from Maharashtra and Karnataka will commence from September and will continue till mid-October. Severe drought in Andhra Pradesh has caused acute shortage of water and worsened the crop growth during this kharif season.

In this condition, the Price Forecasting scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the last 15 years of blackgram prices prevailed in

Viluppuram Regulated market. The result of the econometric analysis revealed that the farm gate price of the good quality blackgram would revolve around Rs. 64-67 per kg during current month. At the time of harvest, blackgram price may revolve around the Minimum Support Price during December, 2016.

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