

## **Bengal gram price will be lucrative to farmers**

Bengal gram is one of the important grain legume crop which is rich in many nutrients. It contains 25 per cent proteins and 60 per cent carbohydrates and hence, it is appreciated as health food. It is a protein supplement to cereal-based diets, especially to the poor in developing countries and to the people who are not afford with animal protein. It is used as an edible seed and also used for making flour.

Bengal gram is the third important food legume across world. India is the largest producer of Bengal gram with about 63 per cent of the total area under Bengal gram production lying in India. It is cultivated in an area of 81.17 lakhs hectares with a production of 59.01 lakh tonnes during 2015-2016 in India. The major Bengal gram producing states of India are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In these states, two different types of Bengal gram are cultivated mostly are Desi and Kabuli. All these states take sowing of Bengal gram in Rabi Season and it is harvested in the months of February to April. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, Bengal gram is grown in 6,800 hectares with a production of 4,400 tonnes in 2014-2015.

Due to decline in current Bengal gram production when compared to 2014-15, the country may face 11 lakh tonnes shortfall of Bengal gram. The shortage of Bengal gram supply may be met through imports from Tanzania, Russia and Australia. India has imported Bengal gram upto 3.75 lakh tonnes in 2015-16 (April-November). Therefore, the price of Bengal gram may be in rising trend in coming periods as major growing states face shortfall in production due to floods and droughts.

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 Bengal gram in Udumalpet regulated market. The results revealed that farm gate price of good quality Bengal gram would be around Rs. 75 - 80 per kg during harvest. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate sowing decision according to this market advisory.

**For further details contact:**

Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell  
Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
Coimbatore-641 003  
Phone: 0422-2431405.

**For Technical Details contact:**

Professor and Head  
Department of Pulses  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University  
Coimbatore - 641 003  
Phone: 0422-2450498