

Coconut and Copra Prices will remain Stable

According to the first Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture, coconut is grown in area of 1.97 million hectares with the production of 140.55 million nuts in India during 2015-16. Tamil Nadu stands first in production contributing about 50 per cent to total coconut production of the country followed by Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. Coimbatore stands first among the coconut producing districts in Tamil Nadu with production of 8,598 lakh nuts followed by Tirupur, Thanjavur, Dindigul and Kanyakumari.

According to USDA, the domestic consumption of coconut oil in India was 4.35 lakh tonnes and copra was 7.1 lakh tonnes during 2015. Export of coconut and coconut products fetched a record of Rs. 1,450 crore during 2015-16, an increase of 10.50 per cent over the previous financial year due to lower domestic prices. Fresh coconut contributes more than 10 per cent of India's export earnings from coconut products. The major export destinations are United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Kuwait and Iran.

Production of coconut in Tamil Nadu and Kerala is above normal whereas it is low in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh due to water scarcity. Arrivals of copra from other states were lower compared to last year. Arrivals from Mysore may commence from June onwards. Demand from North India would also stabilize the prices of coconut in near future.

The Price Forecasting scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the last 14 years of coconut and copra prices prevailed in Avalpoonthurai Regulated market of Erode district. As per the results of the analysis, the price of good quality coconut during May-June, 2016 will be Rs.8 - 9 per nut. Good quality copra price

will be around Rs.52 - 54 per kg. Hence, farmers are advised to take selling decision accordingly.

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