

Maize price likely to be steady

Maize is a major source for starch and carbohydrates. It is used as a versatile industrial raw material and finds extensive applications in the textile, food, pharmaceutical and paper industries. Maize production is growing faster than all other cereals. Hence it is called as the Queen of Cereal. According to the estimates of USDA (2016 – 17), Maize is cultivated in an area of 9.5 million hectare with a production of 24.5 million tonnes in India. Maize is largely grown in North India. Highest concentration of the crop is found in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab which together account for two – third of the total area and output of the crop.

In Tamil Nadu, maize is cultivated in 0.33 million hectares and produced 1.81 million tonnes in 2014-15. Perambalur, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Theni, Tuticorin and Salem are the major rabi maize producing districts in Tamil Nadu. According to the field sources, area and production of maize in Tamil Nadu is expected to reduce because of low rainfall and drought conditions. Demand for maize in Tamil Nadu is partially satisfied through inflow from other states. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar are the major states supplying maize to Tamil Nadu during November to February.

According to USDA report, the stock position and domestic consumption of maize in India is 0.16 million tonnes and 23.3 million tonnes in 2016-17. India exports maize traditionally to Malaysia, Srilanka, Nepal, Oman, Egypt and Bahrain but drought during current period and domestic demand lead to minimal export of maize. India has imported 1.0 lakh tonnes of maize from Ukraine followed by Argentina and United States during 2016-17.

Hence, the Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 13 years of maize prices that prevailed in Udumalpet regulated market. The econometric analysis and market survey revealed that during December 2016. The farm gate price of good quality maize would prevail around Rs.1400 - 1500 per quintal. Based on the above, the farmers are advised to take appropriate selling decision.

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