

## **Price Forecast for Tomato**

Tomato is one of the most important vegetable crops in India, accounting for about 8.23 per cent of the total vegetable production in the country. According to the National Horticulture Board, the area and production of tomato in India was 7.91 lakh hectares and 173.98 lakh tonnes respectively during 2014-15. Tamil Nadu contributes less than 5 per cent share of the total tomato area and production in India. In Tamil Nadu, the major tomato producing districts are Vellore, Salem, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai, Dindigul, Erode and Krishnagiri. It is being grown all over Tamil Nadu in all seasons, but Thai pattam is the most preferable season for its cultivation. The major tomato varieties grown in Tamil Nadu are PKM 1, Marutham, Paiyur 1, and COTH 2.

Apart from local cultivation, arrivals from nearby states such as Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka significantly contribute to meet our local demands. The peak prices for tomato is influenced in the month of May to June because of crop loss during summer. India has been exporting processed tomato in the form of tomato paste, tomato sauce, tomato ketchup and tomato puree. The major export destinations are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.

Trade sources reported that tomato arrivals in the Coimbatore wholesale market are very high from local areas and other states, especially Karnataka. Due to regular and continuous arrivals from those areas to the wholesale market impacted the market price unfavorably. Kerala traders mostly prefer to source tomato from nearby Coimbatore markets. In Oddanchatram wholesale market also, arrivals are high as good production was seen in and around Udumalpet and

Oddanchatram areas. There are chances for increase in price, if there will be heavy downpour of the North East Monsoon during harvest period.

Price Forecasting Scheme functioning in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has analyzed the price of tomatoes that prevailed in Oddanchatram and Coimbatore Uzhavar shandies during the past 13 years. The result of the analysis and traders survey indicated that the average farm gate price of good quality tomato during the harvest month would be around Rs.13 to 15/-per kg. Hence, the farmers are advised to take up sowing decision accordingly.

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