

## **Ragi Price will remain firm**

Ragi is the staple diet in many villages across South India especially in North Karnataka besides Maharashtra and the North Western Zone of Tamil Nadu. It is an important millet crop because of its excellent storage properties and nutritive value. Ragi offers high nutritional, anti-diabetic, antioxidant properties and excellent source of calcium

According to the estimates of Ministry of Agriculture, ragi is cultivated in an area of 1.20 million hectares with a production of 1.99 million tonne during 2014-15 in India. According to the Third Estimates, the production is estimated to be 1.86 million tonnes during the year 2015-16. There will be likely decline to the tune of 0.13 million tonnes in ragi production due to severe summer. Major ragi producing states are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and the hilly region of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

In Tamil Nadu, ragi is cultivated in an area of 0.11 million hectares with 0.25 million tonnes of production during 2014-15 as per the estimate of Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Chennai. Ragi contributes for 4.67 per cent of total area under cereals in Tamil Nadu. Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Vellore, Salem and Erode districts together accounted for 95 per cent of the total ragi area in Tamil Nadu.

Ragi is cultivated mainly in Kharif season (July-August season) in all the major ragi growing districts as rainfed crop. Fresh arrivals will start at end of December and the stored crop will serve round the year. Since, ragi production from Tamil Nadu alone does not support the demand for entire state, arrivals from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh also started flowing into the markets.

The Price Forecasting Scheme of Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

analyzed the past 12 years prices of ragi that prevailed in Tindivanam Regulated market. The results revealed that farm gate price of good quality ragi would be around Rs. 19-20 per kg during harvest. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate sowing decision according to the market advisory.

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