

Price of Small Onion Cheers Farmers of Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is the major producer and consumer of small onion (shallot) in India. Small onion is traditionally grown in Dindigul, Tiruppur, Perambalur, Trichy, Namakkal, Theni and Madurai districts of Tamil Nadu. In recent years, shallot cultivation is gradually replacing bellary onion which is already confined to vary small area in the state.

According to the trade sources, small onion production in the state is nearly half of the normal production because of poor rainfall during the crop period. Now, market arrival has started coming from Palladam area alone and farmers widely cultivated CO (On) 5 - a variety released by TNAU which holds high yield with attractive pink colour and bold sized bulbs. They are highly preferred for both domestic and export markets. But, export is not picking up to the South East Asian countries in the recent past. Shallot harvested in the Perambalur area is currently stored for seed purpose and hence, poor supply to markets firms up the onion price.

Arrivals from Karnataka are also expected to be low since, nearly 50 per cent of normal production is anticipated. Around late- June, small onion from Mysore and Chamarajpet area of Karnataka is expected to hit Tamil Nadu markets. Till then, price will cheer onion farmers during the current season.

The TN-IAM Project funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 20 year historical prices that prevailed in Dindigul Market for small onion. As per the results of the time series analysis, the farmgate prices of good quality small onion till end of June

would be around Rs. 45 /kg and subsequent price fluctuation would be subjected to the arrivals from Karnataka and anticipated export demand. Hence, the farmers are advised to take selling decision accordingly.

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