

## **Coconut and Copra Prices Likely to Decline**

India is the third largest producer of coconut in the world. According to the First Advance Estimates of National Horticultural Board (2018-19), the area under coconut is 21.27 lakhs hectare with a production of 163.83 lakh tones. The major states producing coconut are Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh representing more than 90 per cent of the total country production. In the state of Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Thanjavur, Dindigul and Kanyakumari are the major coconut growing districts.

The major export destinations for Indian coconut products are United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Kuwait and Iran. During this season, the production of coconut is also normal when compared to previous year. At present, fresh arrivals of copra are coming to Perundurai market from Dharapuram, Palladam, Salem, Dindigal, Theni, Erode, Palani and Cumbum. Coconut and copra arrivals from Kerala have already started and it is expected that arrivals from Karnataka will commence from the last week of June'19 onwards. Trade sources also stated that copra imports from Indonesia will also affect the domestic prices of copra.

The TN-IAM Project funded Price Forecasting Scheme of the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the past 18 years prices for coconut and copra that prevailed at Avalpoonthurai Regulated Market of Erode district and Perundurai Cooperative Marketing Society. As per the results of the analysis, the price of good quality coconut during July - August, 2019 will be Rs. 12-13 per nut. Good quality copra price will rule around Rs. 86-88 per kg. The price may subject to change based on the arrivals from other states. Hence, farmers are advised to take selling decision accordingly.

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