

Coconut prices to remain stable

In India, coconut was grown in a total area of around 2.13 million hectares with a production of 15.35 million tonnes of nuts. India's production increased by 2.72 % during 2012-13 compared to previous year as per the estimates of Government of India. Tamil Nadu accounts for around 21.81 per cent of area and 31.02 per cent of production according to First Advance Estimate of Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

In Tamil Nadu, in Pollachi market, the price rose to an all-time high of Rs.13 per kg of coconut during 2011. It has eased to Rs.7 per kg of coconut in March 2013. Market experts do not expect an upward trend in the price due to the seasonal increase in production as peak arrivals start in summer. Going by the present trends and prevailing market sentiments traders are of the opinion that there will not be an immediate spurt in coconut price.

In this connection, Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell, Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed market prices of coconut that prevailed in Pollachi Market. Based on the results of the analysis it is forecasted that farm price of coconut would be ruling between Rs.4.5 to Rs.6.5 per nut from April to June 2013 depending on the size. The above forecast pertains to Pollachi market which is a high priced market. In other markets the farm price will be lower than the above one.

There are limited chances for the price to increase. Hence it is recommended that farmers can go for sale of coconut upon harvest without resorting to storage. The nuts weighing 600 g and above will fetch higher price. One quintal contains on an average 150 nuts.

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