

Kadaibogam Potato to Fetch Better Prices (Nov 2013)

India produced 447 lakh tonnes of potato from an area of 19.65 lakh hectares in 2012-13. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat accounted for 85 per cent share in total area and production in 2012-13 in India. The area and production of potato were 4860 hectares and 97,200 tonnes, respectively in Tamil Nadu during 2012-13 according to the statistics given by National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF). In Tamil Nadu in 2012-13 area and production decreased by 1 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively compared to 2011-12. India has exported about 1.14 lakh tonnes of potato in 2012-2013, which is 13 per cent more than that of 2011-12.

In Tamil Nadu, potato is grown in the hilly regions of Dindigul, Nilgiris and also in the plains of Krishnagiri and Erode districts. In Kadaibogam season, it is sown in the months of September and October and harvested from December to January. Before sowing, farmers are eager to know about the prices of Kadaibogam potato in order to take up their sowing decisions. There are two major varieties, viz., Kufri Jyoti and Kufri Giriraj grown in Nilgiri district. Nilgiri potato is traded to Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Salem and Vellore and also to other States (Kerala).

Nilgiri potatoes are considered as the best ones because of its taste, hardness and higher shelf-life. Hence it fetches higher price. Potatoes coming from Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh are stored and used for seed purpose. Nilgiris potatoes are used up to 95 per cent for food purpose and 5 percent for chips making.

The NAIP – Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMICO) functioning in Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University analyzed the 10 years (2004-2013) prices of potato prevailed in Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Societies (NCMS), Mettupalayam. The econometric analysis and

market surveys revealed that farmers could get a price of Rs.16 to 18 per kg of potato during harvest period (December, 2013 January, 2014). Based on this price, it is advised to take potato sowing kadaibogam season.

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