Pre-Harvest Price Forecast for Tomato

Tomato is one of the most important vegetable crops of India, presently accounting for about 9.5 per cent of the country's total vegetable production. India is the world's second largest producer of tomato, contributing around 11 per cent of global output. As per the Second Advance Estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India (2025-2026), tomato is grown in about 8.34 lakh hectares with a production of around 214.61 lakh tonnes in the country with the major producing states of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Tamil Nadu contributes about five per cent of the country's tomato area cultivating tomato in around 0.38 lakh hectares and producing about 12.18 lakh tonnes. The major tomato producing districts in Tamil Nadu are Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruppur. Although, local cultivation contributes substantially to tomato availability, Tamil Nadu's demand is further supported by arrivals from neighbouring states, particularly Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. At present, the Oddanchathiram market sources tomato from nearby villages as well as regular arrivals from Karnataka, while surplus supplies are channelled through the Oddanchathiram market to Kerala, helping absorb excess arrivals and stabilize market availability.

In this context, the Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC) of Department of Agricultural Economics, CARDS, TNAU has analyzed the past 15 years tomato prices that prevailed in Oddanchathiram market. As per the results of the analysis, the farm gate price of good quality tomato during harvest will rule around Rs. 30 per kg. According to the trade source, rain during harvest time and arrivals from the other states may affect the local market price. Hence, farmers are advised to take appropriate selling decision accordingly.

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