Pre-Harvest Price Forecast for Maize:

Maize is called the queen of cereals and is the most versatile crop that is being cultivated in India. It is gaining importance in recent days due to surging demand for feed production, fuel blending, starch processing, etc., not only restricted to human consumption.

The Third Advance Estimates of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare says that India has produced 550.93 lakh tonnes of maize from 144.08 lakh hectares (2025-26). Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh are the major maize producing states in India. Decline in monsoon rainfall has significantly affected the kharif area. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA, 2026) also pointed on that the below normal rainfall in India has affected maize yields attributing to declined area.

Tamil Nadu is one among the major states producing maize in India with a production of 33 lakh tonnes from 5.4 lakh hectares. Salem, Namakkal, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Villupuram and Tiruppur are the major producers of Maize in Tamil Nadu. Apart from domestic maize production, it depends on the arrivals from other states which includes Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh. Indian Meteorological Department has predicted that the North-East Monsoon is likely to bring below-normal rainfall to the Southern Peninsular Region. Therefore, the monsoon deficit may influence its supply in Tamil Nadu, affecting the maize price.

In this context, Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC) of Department of Agricultural Economics, CARDS, TNAU has analysed the maize prices prevailed in Udumalpet market for the past 15 years and also conducted market survey. Accordingly, farm gate price of good quality maize would prevail around Rs. 2,700/quintal during harvest. The further price fluctuations will depend on arrivals from Bihar. Hence, the farmers are advised to take up appropriate selling decisions.

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