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To
The Editor,
Sir,

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I request that the following message may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

TNAU Pre-Sowing Price Forecast for Cotton

India is the leading producer and exporter of cotton, and to meet the specific quality requirements of the domestic textile industry, less than 10 per cent of the total consumption requirement is imported. As per the latest USDA report, world cotton area for 2024 is estimated at around 30.83 million hectares, with global production projected at about 72.81 million tonnes supported by a record global yield of 2362 kg per hectare. China, India, Brazil and the United States together account for about 74 per cent of world cotton production.

India ranks first globally in acreage and second in production and consumption. According to the Second Advance Estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India (2025-26), cotton was cultivated across about 114.82 lakh hectares with a production of around 49.455 lakh tonnes and productivity of 431 kg per hectare. Cotton is largely grown in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

In Tamil Nadu, cultivation was expanded to 1.02 lakh hectares with a production of 3.80 lakh tonnes and the productivity of 350 kg per hectare during 2024-25. The major cotton producing districts in Tamil Nadu are Tiruvarur, Virudhunagar, Mayiladuthurai, Ramanathapuram, Tiruchirappalli and Salem. The major cotton varieties cultivated in Tamil Nadu are Bt hybrids, Varalakshmi and Suvin.

In this context, the Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC) of TNAU has analysed the historical cotton prices prevailed in Moolanur regulated market over the past 20 years. As per the results of the analysis, the price of good quality cotton during harvest is expected to be around Rs.75-80 per kg. According to the trade sources, price may subject to change based on the performance of the South West Monsoon characterised by El Nino climate change phenomenon and

the extent of arrivals from other cotton growing states. Hence, the farmers are advised to take up sowing decision accordingly.

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