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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 24.08.2026

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

TNAU Pre-Sowing Price Forecast for Sesame

India is the largest producer of sesame in the world followed by Myanmar and Sudan, and continues to be the world's largest exporter of sesame. Global sesame production stood at around 6.7 million tonnes in 2024, with India producing 0.87 million tonnes, accounting for 12.93 per cent of global production, followed by Myanmar with 0.72 million tonnes (10.75 per cent) and Sudan with 0.63 million tonnes (9.40 per cent). India is a leading global exporter of sesame, with South Korea, the United States and Russia among its top destinations by value.

Sesame is one of the important oilseed crops cultivated in India and is valued for its high-quality edible oil and nutritional properties. Sesame is cultivated under both kharif and rabi seasons in India. As per the Second Advance Estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India (2025-26), the country's sesame area and production stood at around 9.90 lakh hectares and 3.66 lakh tonnes respectively with a productivity of 369 kg per hectare. Major sesame growing states are West Bengal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

In Tamil Nadu, sesame production was around 0.34 lakh tonnes from an area of about 0.47 lakh hectares during 2024-25, at a productivity of 428 kg per hectare. The major sesame producing districts in Tamil Nadu are Kallakurichi, Erode, Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Karur and Ariyalur.

Sesame is cultivated in the state due to its high drought tolerance. Two distinct types (white and black) of sesame seeds are popular though a few other varieties varying from red to brown are also available; brown and black seed types are preferred for oil extraction, while white sesame is mainly used in confectionery.

In this context, the Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC) of CARDS, TNAU has analyzed the historical sesame prices prevailed in Sivagiri Regulated Market of Erode district over the past 25 years. As per the results of the analysis, the price of good quality black sesame during harvest would be around Rs.140-145 per kg. According to the trade sources, the price levels could vary depending on monsoon performance and the volume of arrivals from other sesame growing states. Hence, farmers are advised to take up sowing decision accordingly.

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