

Price forecasting of Ginger, Turmeric, Potato, Tomato and Pineapple

Meghalaya is basically an agricultural state with about 80% of its population depending entirely on agriculture for their livelihood. Nearly 10% of the geographical area of Meghalaya is under cultivation. Potato is the most important cash crop of the State and its cultivation also made a clean sweep of the areas because the climate and geographical conditions were suitable to its growth. The present area under potato cultivation is 18139 Ha with a production of 172955 Metric Tons and an average yield of 9535 kg/Ha (GOM, 2012-2013). Potato which is an important cash crop of the State can earn a wholesale price of Rs. 20/kg in the last week of October 2014 as compared to last year October wholesale price of Rs. 13/kg.

Tomato cultivation has become a special feature in the Umsning-Nongpoh belt of Meghalaya where the farmers of this region are growing tomatoes in both the Kharif and Rabi seasons. Recently, tomato cultivation has been introduced in the high altitude regions of East Khasi Hills. It was initially felt that tomato could not be cultivated during summer months in the high altitude regions due to heavy blight infestation. However, formulation of a spray schedule has been successful in controlling the disease. For the same period, a good variety of tomato can earn a wholesale price of Rs. 23/kg as compared to the wholesale price of Rs. 21/kg last year in the month of October.

The production of ginger is highest in Meghalaya followed by Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The production of ginger is 60149 Metric tons in Meghalaya with an average yield of 6274 kg/Ha. The area under ginger is 9587 Ha in Meghalaya (GOM, 2012-13). For the last week of October 2014, the wholesale price of good ginger variety in different markets of Meghalaya may go up to Rs. 94/kg. If the farmers can harvest this crop well in advance, they can earn a good profit as there is possibility to increase the price in the marketing of ginger as compared to last year ginger wholesale price in the same month which was Rs. 82/kg.

The cultivation of turmeric (Lakadong variety) in Meghalaya is concentrated in the Nongbah-Shangpung belt of Jaintia Hills district. The Lakadong variety has about 7.4 per cent curcumin content and has very good commercial value in the market. The present area under turmeric cultivation in the state is 2208 Ha with a production of 12831 Metric Tons and an average yield of 5811 kg/HA (GOM, 2012-13). Turmeric may fetch a good wholesale price of Rs. 60/kg in different markets of Meghalaya in the last week of October 2014 as compared to the lower prices in the previous months of the year, if the farmers can make a timely harvest of the good quality turmeric.

Meghalaya is one of the major pineapple producing states of India. It contributes 8% of the total pineapple produced in India. During the last decade, the area under pineapple cultivation has increased by 11.7% and the total production increased by 21.8%. 'Kew' and 'Queen' are predominantly cultivated traditionally along the hilly slopes under rainfed conditions. Traditional pineapple growing areas of Meghalaya have immense potential to be developed into certified organic pineapple producing hubs. The present area under the cultivation of pineapple is 10816 Ha with a production of 109393 Metric Tons and an average yield of 10114 kg/Ha (GOM, 2012-13). Pineapple which is one of the important fruits developed by the State can earn a wholesale price of Rs. 29/kg for the last week of October 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013 which earn a lower wholesale price of Rs. 27/kg.

***The forecasted price have been developed using statistical analysis and the actual prices may vary according to the local situation**

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