

Sell maize upon harvest

Maize is one of the most important cereal crops in the world due to its wide diversity of uses. It is one of the major crops in America, Africa and Asia. It is grown in almost all states in India, mainly in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. As per the International Grain Council's report of August, 2016, the world maize production is estimated about 103 crore tonnes in 2016-17 as against 96.90 crore tonnes in 2015-16. Which is about 6.30 per cent more than the last year, lead to larger ending stock of about 22 crore tonnes, will keep the maize price stable at world level in 2016-17.

This year having normal rainfall in major maize growing states in the country, the area under maize is estimated to increase about 79.40 lakh ha, as against 71.04 lakh ha last kharif season of 2015-16. The maize production in current kharif season of 2016-17, is also estimated higher about 193 lakh tonnes (First Advance Estimates dt. 22-9-2016), which is almost 40.6 lakh tonnes higher than the last kharif season's production of about 152.4 lakh tonnes. The rabi-summer season's production may also be expected well. Maize export is also shown declining trend from last three years having more production at globe.

In Gujarat, in current kharif season of 2016-17, the monsoon was set up late in first week of July, 2016 and remained normal with evenly distribution, will result in normal to good production. The area under maize in current kharif season in Gujarat is estimated about 3.22 lakh ha as against 2.98 lakh ha in last kharif season. The production of kharif maize of 2016-17 seasons is estimated higher about 4.45 lakh tonnes as against 3.95 lakh tonnes in kharif 2015-16. Last year due scarcity in the state, the maize price which was ruling around Rs. 290 per 20 kg in October, 2016, increased to about Rs. 320 per 20 kg in May, 2016 and further to around Rs. 350 per 20 kg in August, 2016. Currently the maize price has been prevailing around Rs. 335 per 20 kg in various markets of Gujarat, likely to decline around Rs. 300 per 20 kg. The Government has fixed the MSP of maize Rs. 273 per 20 kg.

Considering these all and reviewing the traders' reports, the research team of Department of Agricultural Economics, Junagadh Agricultural University has analysed the historical monthly price data of maize from last twelve years collected from Dahod Regulated Market. The econometric analysis revealed that **the prices of maize may remain in the range of Rs. 290 to 310 per 20 kg (1450 – 1550 Rs/qtl) during November to December, 2016.** This may be taken note by the farmers to take their own decision to sell maize upon harvest without going for storage, keeping the above situation in view.