MAIZE PRICES TO REMAIN STABLE

Maize is the third largest planted crop after wheat and rice. Indian corn is a type of maize known for its colourful kernel (or seed) which is scientifically known as *Zea mays*. It is mostly used and traded as a leading feed crop but is also an important food staple. In addition to food and feed, maize has wide range of industrial applications i.e. from food processing to manufacturing of ethanol. United States is the world’s largest producer, consumer and exporter of maize.

Global maize production is likely to be a record 822 million tonnes in the year 2010-11 season, up from 807 million tonnes last season, due to improved prospects in the US, Mexico and parts of Africa, according to International Grains Council (IGC). The maize production forecast for 2010-11 is increased by 15m. tonnes to a record 822 MT. It is however, noted that despite this increase, demand will overshoot the projected supply of 822 MT by 4 MT at 826 MT during the year. The world maize consumption is projected to rise by 2 per cent in 2010-11 to a record 826 MT, against 812 MT last year.

According to the third estimate of the Agriculture Ministry, maize production in the country is expected to touch 20.23 MT in 2010-11 season out of which 15.87 MT is in the kharif season. "India's maize export destinations are Middle East and the whole of South East Asia". India's maize export is expected to rise by 33 per cent to 2.4 million tonnes in 2010-11 marketing year ending October, mainly on the back of record domestic production.

In India, maize is used as human food (25%), poultry feed (49%), animal feed (12%), industrial (starch) products (12%), beverages and seed (1%). With the increasing trends of maize production, the projected demand of maize 22.73 million tonnes by the end of XI Five-Year plan (2011-12) which will be achieved through improved maize production technologies focused on ‘Single Cross Hybrids’.

Among the major maize producing states, Andhra Pradesh tops the list with the contribution of 21 per cent to the total Indian maize production during 20089. Other maize producing states are Karnataka (15.35%), Rajasthan (9.27%), Bihar (8.68%), Maharashtra (7.9%), Uttar Pradesh (6.07%), and Madhya Pradesh (5.8%).

In Rajasthan, the main maize producing districts are Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Banswara, and Dungarpur.
The last year is maize price during the harvesting period was Rs. 990 per quintal which was more than the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs.880 per quintal as fixed by Central Govt. Presently, maize prices in Udaipur market are stable around Rs 1140 per quintal which are higher than last year’s price.

Price of maize mainly depends upon supply demand structure. In the last few weeks, maize is trading on higher side on account of supply demand mismatch. Food Corporation of India, which procured maize under market intervention scheme, is not releasing the stocks to the market. This created supply crunch resulting in surge in prices despite higher acreage under the crop.

To help the farmers in taking a sowing decision about maize crop the prices that could prevail during September-October, 2011 are forecasted. The Agricultural Market Intelligence Centre (AMIC) functioning in Department of Agricultural Economics and Management, MPUAT, Udaipur Collected and analysed the average prices of maize that prevailed in Udaipur Market during the last eleven years. An opinion survey of maize traders was also conducted. Based on the analysis and Market survey it is forecasted that maize if sown in this kharif season would fetch a price ruled around Rs.950 to Rs. 1000 per quintal at the time of harvesting subject to the normal rainfall condition. So, farmers are advised to keep all these suggestions in mind while allocating the area under maize crop.

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महाराणा प्रताप कृषि एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय की राष्ट्रीय कृषि नवोन्मेशी परियोजना के कृषि अर्थशास्त्र विभाग द्वारा कृषकों को मूल्य पुर्वानुमान पहुँचाने के उद्देश्य से किये गये शोध में आगामी मक्का फसल की संभावित कीमत का पुर्वानुमान लगाया गया है।

कृषि मंत्रालय के अनुसार वर्ष 2010-11 के लीसेर अग्रिम आंकड़ों के आधार पर देश में मक्का का उत्पाद 20.23 मिलियन टन तक छुजे की संभावना है, तथा इसी वर्ष में मक्का का निर्यात 24 मिलियन टन का कि 33 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ने की संभावना है। अतः इन सभी तथ्यों व सूचनाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस वर्ष भी मक्का की कटाई के समय रहने वाली बाजार कीमतो का निर्धारण कृषि अर्थशास्त्र एवं प्रबन्धन विभाग के सह-आचार्य एवं परियोजना प्रभारी डॉ. सुखदेव सिंह बुरड़क द्वारा पुर्वानुमान लगाया गया है जिसमें उन्होंने बताया कि गत वर्ष कटाई के समय मक्का की आंसूत कीमत 990 रुपये प्रति विकटल थी, जो कि केंद्र सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित खुनतम समांथन मूल्य 880 रुपये प्रति विकटल से 110 रुपये अधिक रही व वर्तमान में उदयपुर मण्डल में मक्का की कीमत स्थिर रूप से 1140 रुपये प्रति विकटल बच रही है, जो कि पिछले वर्ष से अधिक है।

अतः किसान समुदाय तक बुरझ कंविष्यन निर्यात लेने हेतु जानकारी पहुँचाने के लिए पिछले वर्ष व वर्तमान बाजार भाव के आंकड़ो को एकत्रित करके अर्थमितीय विश्लेषण के द्वारा यह अनुमान लगाया है कि मक्का की कीमत सितंबर-अक्टूबर माह, 2011 के दौरान वर्ष के सामान्य रहने की स्थिति में कटाई के समय यह भाव 950 से 1000 रुपये प्रति विकटल रहने की संभावना व्यक्त की है। अतः किसानों को सलाह है कि उपरोक्त निर्देशों व सूचनाओं का ध्यान में रखते हुए मक्का के क्षेत्रफल में बदलाव कर सकते हैं।