

## **Govind Ballabh Pant Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar Udham Singh Nagar (Uttarakhand)**

### **Basmati prices may reach upto Rs. 3400 per quintal in this season**

Pantnagar. 15 June, 2010. The market prices of Traditional basmati rice are expected to range between Rs. 2500 to 3400 per quintal during October to December this year which is the peak harvesting season of paddy. This forecast has been made by the team of Agriculture Economists of Pantnagar University lead by Dr. Jagdish Kumar during their study under National Agriculture Innovation Project of ICAR entitled 'Establishing and networking of market intelligence centers in India' which is under operation at the University. One of the objectives of this project is to make price forecasts well in advance of sowing of selected agricultural commodities and during harvesting. The research team of the University had conducted market survey at Rudrapur regulated market, a major market for traditional basmati paddy in Uttarakhand, and analyzed the market price data which prevailed during last fifteen years in this market. The results of econometric analysis showed that the market prices of traditional Basmati paddy in Rudrapur market would be ruling in the range of Rs. 2500 to 3300 per quintal in October, 2010; Rs. 2500 to 3350 per quintal in November, 2010; and Rs. 2700 to 3400 per quintal in December, 2010. However the traders of the market revealed that the prices of traditional basmati paddy would be ranging between Rs. 2200 to 3500 per quintal during these months, which are slightly on the higher side than the results of econometric analysis. Based on the present Government policies and above results the market prices of the Basmati paddy are expected to range between Rs. 2500 to 3400 per quintal during October to December, 2010. The farmers planning to grow traditional basmati paddy in the coming season on their farms may decide the acreage under paddy crop considering these forecasted prices besides other conditions. The traders of Rudrapur market revealed that November end and December are the peak arrival months while January and February are the lean arrival months for paddy in the market. According to some experts it is also expected that farmers will be less inclined to grow Pusa-1121 variety due to decline in its prices and will shift to traditional basmati varieties, viz. HBC 19 and CSR-30, in this season. Normal sowing of paddy is expected in this Kharif season with the expectation of not too bad south-west monsoon.

The major paddy producing districts in Uttarakhand are Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun and Haridwar. The area under paddy crop in Uttarakhand during 2008-09 was 0.3 million ha and production was 0.58 million tonnes.

(Naresh Kumar)  
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