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Karnataka tobacco auctions to begin from Sept 17

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Anil Urs

Hubli, Sept. 1

With tobacco auctions set to commence on September 17, traders and farmers estimate Karnataka's crop size to be around 140 million kg (mkg), but the Tobacco Board's estimate is around 120-125 mkg.

Tobacco being a restricted crop in the country, the board has fixed Karnataka's 2010-11 crop size at 100 mkg, around the same as the previous fiscal.

The State, the second largest producer of tobacco after Andhra Pradesh, has 85,000 hectares under tobacco cultivation, which on an average produces 150mkg annually.

A senior Tobacco Board official said the quality of the crop this year is expected to be good compared with last year.

"Rains at regular interval in April to July and early August has facilitated



early growth. Quality and quantity is also expected to be much better," he added.

"We need to wait for the rains to stop to take stock of the ground situation," he further added. In 2009-2010, a total of 95 mkg was fixed for Karnataka and about 112.61 mkg was marketed at an average price of around Rs 110.64.

Bright grades fetched Rs 137.47 a kg

and quantity marketed was 32 mkg. Medium Grade was Rs 121.33 a kg and marketed was 48 mkg and low grades Rs 73.08 a kg and marketed 36 mkg.

The following are the quantity marketed and average price fetched at the 2009-10 auctions at different auction platforms. HD Kote quantity fixed 8.45 mkg, quantity marketed 11.15 mkg, and average price fetched was Rs 109.94. Hunsur 1 6.94 mkg, 8.4 mkg and Rs 110.79. Hunsur 2 7.77 mkg, 9.20 mkg and Rs 108.59. Hunsur 3 9mkg, 4.97 and Rs 110.48. Periyapatna 14.25 mkg, 12.39 mkg and Rs 110.83. Periyapatna 2 10.68 mkg, 11.61 mkg and Rs 112.85. Periyapatna 3 10.19 mkg, 11.54 mkg and Rs 113.46. Ramanathpura 19.69 mkg, 11.67 and Rs 107.90. Kampalapura 1 9.39 mkg, 10.61 mkg and Rs 113.48. Kampalapura 2 8.31 mkg, 9.45 mkg and Rs 111.32. Ramanathpura 2 210.03 mkg, 11.58 mkg and Rs 107.24.