

# Cardamom auction price shoots up

A CORRESPONDENT

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The price of cardamom has crossed the ₹2,000 mark a kilogram, though it has not benefited the farmer. Twice in two weeks, the maximum price quoted at the auction at the Spices Park, Puttady, under the Spices Board of India crossed ₹2,000 per kg. However, the average price remained below ₹1,300 per kg.

The highest price quoted on Tuesday was ₹2,253 a kg while the average price was ₹1,230. But, only 12 kg of the 75,450 kg sold in the auction was quoted at the highest price.

On September 8 also the highest price quoted per kg was ₹2,227 and only 19 kg was sold at that rate. The average price was only ₹1,323 per kg. On Thursday and

Wednesday, the maximum prices were ₹1,489 and ₹1,550 per kg respectively, while the average prices were ₹1,247 and ₹1,256.

Farmers said they had not benefited from the high price and had to sell the produce below the average price at the open market. The crop had sustained heavy loss in rains and landslips. Thomas Kurien, a farmer based at Puliyanmala, said there would be a drop of over 60% in total production.

This was in addition to the large-scale decay of plants that would impact the cardamom sector for long. He said this was for the first time that there was such a huge difference in the highest price and the average price quoted in the auctions.