

Farmers welcome lower feed prices



Agricultural Society of T&T's Darryl Rampersad

PETER CHRISTOPHER SENIOR MULTIMEDIA REPORTER
PETER.CHRISTOPHER@GUARDIAN.CO.TT

Agriculture stakeholders are heartened by the reduction of prices for selected livestock feed by the National Flour Mills.

Last Friday, the majority state-owned company announced reduction of prices for 45 kilogramme packs of:

- National broiler starter feed;
- National broiler finisher;
- National hi gain pig grower;
- National pig starter; and
- National duck grower/finisher.

All of these products were reduced by \$10.

Agricultural Society of T&T's (ASTT) Darryl Rampersad said it should usher in better prices for consumers, but he noted that the industry had been impacted by price increases for the past few years.

“Basically what we are seeing is a four per cent across-the-board cut on the cost of feed, which significantly is going to lower the cost of production for the livestock and poultry farmers, of course. So we could anticipate that we can see better prices in terms of poultry and livestock pricing as well. However, taking into consideration in the last couple of years, this cost that we have seen in reduction here in terms of feed prices over the last three years, it has almost went up by close to 25 per cent,” said Rampersad, in a telephone interview.

He continued, “So whereas we are happy to see that there’s a four per cent decrease, it is still significantly more than what we would have been paying let’s say three to four years ago. But we can anticipate that this will be welcomed by the growers, livestock and poultry farmers and we hope to see that we can balance the market in terms of production across an input cost as it relates to feed.”

Rampersad hailed the board of the NFM for making such a move as he anticipated that it could lead to reduction in prices for livestock and poultry products.

Broiler Growers Association president, Sudesh Ramkissoon said the news was welcomed by farmers and should increase the availability of local livestock on the market.

He said, “The decrease will surely help farmers and farmers will surely welcome it.

The backyard farmers and the small farmers will surely appreciate this decrease in cost.

“We hope that it will help farmers decide to increase their supply, so to speak, so that they could grow a few more birds and have a few more pounds of chicken on the market.

“We need it as well as the initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture in trying to plant corn to help reduce the cost of feed.”