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Best farmers given awards

Staff Reporter

Government is keen on extending loans and other benefits to ryots, says MP

— photo: basheer

reward for hard work:Member of Parliament Killi Kruparani giving away ‘Best Farmer' award in Srikakulam on Friday.

SRIKAKULAM: Srikakulam MP Killi Kruparani on Friday said that the Congress had only strived for the welfare of farmers in the State. She said welfare programmes such as free power to farm sector, waiver of loans, input subsidy, and other measures were taken up by both Union and State governments.

While honouring best farmers with Ugadi puraskarams, Ms. Kruparani said the government was keen to provide loans and other benefits to farmers during the next Khariff season.

Collector N. Srikanth said the farmers ought to be respected as they were fulfilling the food needs of nation. ‘Hardship'

Narsannapeta MLA Dharmana Krishnadas and Member of Legislative Council Peerukatla Viswaprasad explained the hardships being faced by the farmers in the district.

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Post-harvest methods' improvement stressed

Special Correspondent

TIRUPATI: The Zonal Research and Extension Advisory Council of the A.P. Horticultural University had its meeting here on Friday to have deliberations on a wide range of issues concerning the farmers, improving and motivating farmers to adopt scientific post-harvest technologies, etc. The meeting also discussed ways and means of improving the sync between the agricultural scientists and the farmers so that there was a constant interaction between them for exchange of views on field problems and the benefits of the research reached the farmers on the field.

Dr. Prabhakar Rao, Vice-Chancellor of S.V. Veterinary University, Tirupati addressing said that there was no point in merely forcing the farmers for increased productivity without simultaneously providing them the required post-harvest technologies to achieve optimum results. To drive home his point he said that farmers lost nearly 40 per cent of their production due to lack of post-harvest facilities and technology like cold-storages, marketing link, etc.

He cited the typical case of the Chittoor tomato farmers dumping their produce on the roads or on their own farm fields for want of cold-storage facilities, which eventually led to lack of remunerative prices forcing them to resort to either distress sales or deserting them on the roads or in the market yards.

He pointed out that after initial reluctance and disinterest, farmers were now slowly heeding to the advice of the farm scientists and the extension officials to diversity from the conventional crops to such crops which gave them ‘value addition' to their produce, labour and investment.

Dr. K. Purushotham, Directoro of Research, A.P.H.U and Dr. S. Amarendar Reddy, Director of Extension, APHU also spoke.

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Centre urged to impose 15 % duty on cotton yarn exports

Staff Reporter

Tirupur: The Tirupur Exporters Association (TEA) has requested the Union Government to impose a 15 per cent duty on cotton yarn exports with immediate effect so as to curtail its price and also increase the availability in domestic market.

Knitwear exporters

In a memorandum to the Union Commerce Ministry, the TEA president, A. Sakthivel, said that it was unfortunate that the Government had recently moved the cotton yarn exports from the restricted category to free category in the export policy. This happened at a time when the knitwear exporters were asking the Union Government to restrict and calibrate the export of cotton yarn so that adequate quantity of yarn would be available for apparel makers within the country, he added.

He expressed the fear that moving of cotton yarn exports to free category would trigger a scarcity in the yarn supply within the country and make the yarn, one of the main raw materials in knitwear clusters like Tirupur, dearer.

“Availability of yarn at lower prices is the need of the hour for the knitwear exporters to keep the cost of apparels down and remain competitive in the price-driven global market,” the TEA president said.

Marine discharge

In another representation to the Union Textiles Minister, Dayanidhi Maran, the TEA had reiterated the need to expedite the proposed marine discharge project as a permanent solution for safe disposal of effluents generated out of the dyeing process in the textile industry.

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India may seek carbon credit from agriculture

Kolkata: India is trying to build a case to include agriculture in an estimated global market of US$ 200 billion for carbon credit from the Clean Development Mechanism.

“We are pressing for carbon credit from agriculture. The Planning Commission has accepted the idea in September 2010,” National Council for Climate Change Sustainable Development (NCCSD) executive chairman Kirit N. Shelat said.

“NCCSD is pressing for it. I was included in a committee on agriculture by the Planning Commission and I hope the 12th plan paper will include this aspect to put pressure on the global platform,” senior official of the NCCSD and Public Leadership said.

Currently, carbon credit is available only for manufacturing and industry.

Shelat said the CDM norms were designed by the developed countries keeping there interest in mind and where agriculture did not figure in their total share of economy. But, now India has to put pressure keeping its interest with farmers to benefit commercially from agriculture based CDM.

India's average annual greenhouse gas reduction is pegged at 33.21 million credits or nearly 13 per cent of global annual reduction average of 257.28 million, according to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change data. If agriculture could be included then this percentage would jump significantly.

Professor Y. S. Rajan who co-authored the book India 2020 with former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam said there was need for lifestyle pattern of consumption that would by default help in reducing the carbon footprint.

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Stress on preserving wild pickle mango

Correspondent

Chief Minister to attend the state-level mango confernce

Sirsi: Geographical identity was obtained for wild pickle-mangoes found in Uttara Kannada, Shimoga and Chikmagalur districts.

The Government should give usage right to community people, said Anant Hegde Ashisar, chairman of the State Task Force on Western Ghats.

He was inaugurating the one-day diversity fair and national workshop on pickle-mango of Western Ghats at Forestry Science College, Sirsi, organised jointly by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad; College of Forestry, Sirsi, and Life Trust, Sirsi, on Friday.

Punishable offence

Under the plant protect Act and Bio diversity Act cutting the branches of wild pickle mango during harvest was a punishable offence, he said. As most of the wild pickle mango trees were found in river basin, mini-hydel project could not be taken up as it violates Biodiversity Act and Plant protection, he said. Mr. Ashisar said in May ‘Shalmala river walk' programme would be taken up to identify and record such pickle mango trees.

He added that on April 18, State-level pickle mango conference would be held at Sagar and Chief Minister would attend the programme.

P.M. Salimath, director of research, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, said wild pickle mango trees needed to be conserved by community.

M.R. Hegde, vice-chairman of Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore, said 50 species of such wild pickle mango were being conserved.

He stressed that efforts were on for genetic value conservation.

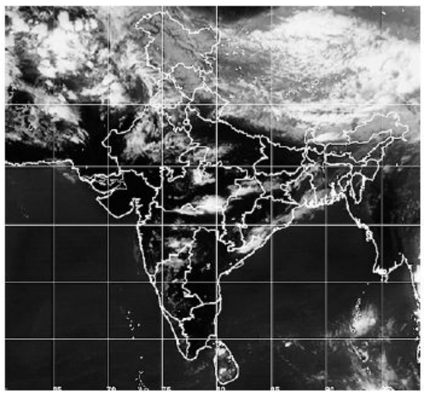
WEATHER

ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	38	23	0	0
Arogyavaram	35	21	0	0
Bapatla	32	23	0	0
Calingapatnam	32	23	0	0
Gannavaram	36	23	0	0
Hyderabad AP	36	22	0	2
Kakinada	34	24	0	0
Khammam	38	25	0	0
Kavali	34	24	0	0
Kurnool	38	26	0	0
Mahabubnagar	38	25	0	tr
Machilipatnam	34	23	0	0
Nandyal	37	24	0	0
Narsapur	33	24	0	0
Nellore	35	25	0	0
Nizamabad	38	24	0	7
Ongole	34	24	0	0
Ramagundam	36	23	0	1
Tirupathi AP	37	22	0	0
Tuni	36	24	0	1
Vizag AP	34	24	0	2
Vizag	32	26	0	tr

KARNATAKA

Agumbe	33	17	0	0
Bangalore AP	33	19	0	8
Bangalore	34	21	0	1
Bagalkote	—	26	0	0
Belgaum AP	35	24	0	0
Bellary	38	25	0	0
Bijapur	36	23	5	5
Chitradurga	36	23	0	0
Chickmagalur	27	16	0	16
Chintamani	34	18	07	—
Gadag	36	22	0	1
Gulbarga	38	25	0	1
Hassan	33	17	0	0
Honavar	34	23	0	0
Karwar	36	23	0	0
Mangalore AP	34	24	0	0
Mysore	33	19	0	4
Mandya	34	19	0	40
Panambur	34	25	0	0
Raichur	37	24	0	0
Shirali	35	23	0	0



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs.
Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on April 8.

KERALA

Alappuzha	33	25	0	19
Kannur	36	25	0	0
Kochi AP	33	27	0	73
Kottayam	35	25	0	128
Kozhikode	34	25	0	7
Punalur	37	24	0	122
Thiruvanantha -puram AP	32	24	tr	55
Thiruvanantha -puram City	33	24	0	3
Vellanikkara	36	24	0	12

TAMIL NADU

Adiramapattinam	34	23	0	4
Coimbatore AP	34	23	0	13
Coonoor	23	13	0	47
Cuddalore	33	23	0	0
Chennai AP	34	25	0	0
Chennai	33	25	0	0
Dharmapuri	35	21	0	7
Kanyakumari	34	25	0	0
Karaikal	33	27	0	1
Kodaikanal	20	10	0	3
Madurai AP	37	25	0	tr
Nagapattinam	33	26	0	4
Palayamkottai	38	25	0	0
Pamban	34	25	0	0
Parangipettai	33	24	0	0
Puducherry	33	24	0	0
Salem	36	23	0	0
Thanjavur	35	26	0	0
Tiruchi AP	38	25	0	1
Tirupattur	37	21	0	0
Tiruthani	38	22	0	0
Tondi	33	26	0	3
Tuticorin	33	26	0	0
Ooty	16	12	0	43
Valparai	29	15	0	92
Vedharanyam	33	26	0	0
Vellore	36	23	0	0

LAKSHADWEEP

Amini Divi	33	25	0	0
Minicoy	33	25	0	23
Kavarathi	34	26	0	tr

OTHER STATIONS

Kolkata (Alipore)	35	25	0	41
Mumbai	33	25	0	0
New Delhi	35	18	0	4

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace) and total rainfall in mm since March 01, 2011.

Dry weather in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI: Isolated rainfall occurred over Kerala and North Interior Karnataka and dry weather prevailed over Tamil Nadu, Coastal and South interior Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep.

On Thursday, the maximum temperature rose appreciably at one or two places over Coastal Karnataka, South Kerala, fell at one or two places over North Interior Karnataka and changed little elsewhere over the region.

They were appreciably below normal at one or two places over Telangana, below normal at one or two places over North Interior Karnataka, Rayalaseema, appreciably above normal at a few places over South Tamil Nadu, above normal at a few places over rest Coastal Karnataka, and at one or two places over rest Tamil Nadu, and were generally normal over the rest of the region.

Rentachintala recorded the highest maximum temperature of 41 degree Celsius in the region.

FORECAST (Valid till Sunday morning): Isolated rain or thundershowers may occur over Interior Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Interior Karnataka and Telangana. Mainly dry weather will prevail over Coastal Tamilnadu and Puducherry, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Coastal Karnataka and Rayalaseema.

Outlook For Subsequent Two Days: No significant change.

Business Standard

Monday, Apr 09, 2011

Oilmeal exports jump 158% on rising overseas demand

BS Reporter / Mumbai April 09, 2011, 0:48 IST

Oilmeal exports rose the most in three years in March on high demand from the global bird feed and animal feed industries. According to a statement by the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA), exports rose 158 per cent to 579,907 tonnes in March, from 224,407 tonnes in the month last year.

In volume terms, the overall shipment of oilmeals rose 57 per cent to 5,071,779 tonnes in the financial year (from April 2010 to March 2011), compared to 3,224,787 tonnes in the previous financial year. In value terms total exports grew 59 per cent to Rs 8,220 crore in 2010-11, compared to Rs 5,176 crore in the previous financial year.

Despite recording a staggering growth, total oilmeal exports are yet to achieve the dream volume figure of 5,421,607 tonnes in 2008-09. During the financial year, total shipment worth Rs 8,341 crore was recorded.

Attributing the growth to a recovery in global demand, B V Mehta, executive director of SEA, said: "Our effort to increase exports to West Asia brought favourable results. Total exports to the West Asian countries surged 58 per cent to 505,644 tonnes during last financial year, compared to 320,504 tonnes in the one before that.

SEA had taken a delegation to West Asia in April-May last year and evaluated oilmeal demand from the bird feed and animal feed industries in the region. The trade body is planning to take to a similar delegation to China and Cambodia between April 23 and May 3 to study the current status of their feed industry and explore new markets. Mehta hopes for a further boost to oilmeal demand from these two potential countries.

In 2009-10, export was down due to low oilseed crops, coupled with a disparity in crushing between November 2009 and February 2010 — the main crushing and export season.

However, in 2010-11, oilseed crop increased to 27.8 million tonnes from 24.9 million tonnes in 2009-10. Besides, high prices of edible oils, good crushing margin and demand from Southeast Asia pushed the export mainly between November 2010 and March 2011, resulting in a substantial increase in export in 2010-11 over the previous year.

Despite a slowdown in demand from Japan in recent months, following the earthquakes and tsunami there last month, the overall oilmeal exports to the country doubled to 1,259,870 tonnes in 2010-11, compared to 474,547 tonnes last year.

“Japan is a key market that imports around 800,000 tonnes of oilmeal from us. We want fast recovery and speedy normalcy in this market, so that the demand of oilmeal can be restored,” Mehta added.

Despite the quarantine issue, Vietnam imported 853,869 tonnes of oilmeal in 2010-11, compared to 857,690 tonnes in the previous financial year. South Korea imported 624,699 tonnes, compared to 477,171 tonnes, and China bought 536,604 tonnes, compared to 333,029 tonnes, in the previous year. Fortunately, Europe has once again started buying oilmeals from India and about 300,000 tonnes were shipped during 2010-11.

Indore-based Soybean Processors’ Association (Sopa) reported total soymeal exports from India of 409,882 tonnes in March 2011 — a rise of 141 per cent from 169,861 tonnes in the same month last year. Total soymeal exports in 2010-11 jumped 80 per cent to 38,45,735 tonnes, from 21,35,765 tonnes a year ago, Sopa added.

THE HINDU Business Line

Textile industry disputes Farm Ministry's cotton output figures

At its meeting on February 26, the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) pruned the projection for cotton production by five per cent to 312 lakh bales (of 170 kg each). But the Agriculture Ministry in its third advance estimate on April 6 projected the output unchanged at 339.27 lakh bales. In between these two divergent figures, the Textile industry is sure of its footing, saying the Agriculture Ministry's projections are not in tune with reality.

“The data on cotton arrivals are not accurate for want of scientific methods,” said Mr A. Ramani, a cotton analyst.

“We think the CAB's estimate itself is higher and we have said that in the February 26 meeting,” said Mr D.K. Nair, Secretary-General of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI)

“Cotton production could be between 312 lakh bales and 320 lakh bales,” said Mr Anand Poppat, Vice-President of Saurashtra Ginners Association.

According to sources, the Department of Cotton Development in the Agriculture Ministry had insisted during the February 26 meeting that the production was 339 lakh bales. But with other board members coming up with their own projections, a figure of 312 lakh bales was arrived at.

The CAB comprises representatives from the Agriculture Ministry, Textiles Ministry, trade, growers, textile mills and exporters. Sources said projections are arrived at through consensus at the Board meeting.

The Agriculture Ministry does not have such a process to make its projections, sources said.

Some ginning mills purchase cotton directly from farmers. This, sources said, is hardly taken into account by the Agriculture Ministry. The Ministry either goes by arrivals at the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee yards or information from its field staff, particularly extension workers.

“Till now, 285-290 lakh bales have arrived throughout the country. Gujarat farmers are holding at least 15 lakh bales of cotton with them,” said Mr Poppat.

However, sources put arrivals at 271 lakh bales. Assuming the Agriculture Ministry's projection is right, then arrivals should be higher by another 40 lakh bales, sources said, adding that they have been only 2.2 per cent higher this year.

Maharashtra growers, too, are said be holding back some of their produce.

On the other hand, Mr Nair said lack of stocks in the market is a clear indication of production being lower than estimates. “CITI's estimate of the cotton crop is 308 lakh bales,” he said.

On the other hand, Mr Ramani said the Agriculture Ministry's figures on the area under cotton is ‘close to reality'.

Sources said a more accurate figure of cotton production could be got at the stage where raw cotton is ginned and pressed into bales.

Though raw cotton prices have witnessed a drop this week, industry players do not attribute it to the Agriculture Ministry's projection. Traders in Gujarat attributed the fall to farmers' resorting to sales.

On Friday, raw cotton was quoted between Rs 4,250 and Rs 6,795 a quintal, based on quality. Most of the trades took place at Rs 5,000. On Tuesday, prices ruled between Rs 4,500 and Rs 6,750 with most trades taking place at Rs 5,625.

Global prices for comparable quality are 35 cents lower than domestic rates.

“There is a general lack of demand for cotton. Spinning mills are not buying since they have ample stocks of yarn,” said Mr Poppat.

The 10.5 excise duty slapped on branded garments and the closure of units in Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu are affecting yarn and fabric demand.

“Prices are maintaining a range despite lukewarm demand,” said Mr Ramani.

Sources said cotton prices surged last week on rumours of fresh export quota being opened. The Union Agriculture Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, has also sought allowing further exports of cotton.

The Government had fixed a ceiling of 55 lakh bales of cotton for export this season ending September and entire quota was exhausted by December.

The textiles industry is opposed to further export of cotton since prices have increased by over 70 per cent this year. Cotton prices have increased on cues from the global market, which has been driven by demand from China.

Lower rainfall in Nilgiri tea plantations

Coonoor, April 8:

Tea plantations in all agro-climatic zones except the Nilgiris, the largest tea producing district in the South, had received lower rainfall this March than March 2010. The rainfall was lower than the decennial average (10-year average) for the month in all agro-climatic zones.

Highest rainfall

According to Dr B Radhakrishnan, Assistant Director, UPASI Tea Research Foundation Nilgiris Regional Centre, Kullakamby received the highest rainfall of 1.3 cm (March 2010: Nil, decennial average: 8) followed by Udhagamandalam 1 cm (1.1, 4), Coonoor 0.7 (nil, 8.7), Kundah 0.7 (3, 6.7) and Kotagiri 0.4 (0.1, 10.2).

The cumulative rainfall in the first quarter was the highest in Kotagiri at 23.1 cm (6.5, 17.7), followed by Coonoor 17.8 (3.6, 16), Kullakamby 16.9 (2.3, 14.7), Kundah 10.5 (3.8, 11) and Udhagamandalam 2.8 (1.2, 5.2).

The minimum temperature in tea plantations fluctuated between 8.2 and 16.2 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature varied from 20.4 to 24.3 degrees Celsius.

The average sunshine was 8.8 hours a day, which was more than the average recorded in 10 years.

Buying, hike in stock limit lift chana

Indore, April 8:

A mixed trend was seen in pulses with chana showing an uptrend on stockists' buying spree and enforcement of stock limit in Rajasthan from 300 tonnes to 500 tonnes with its duration being increased from 45 days to five months.

According to traders, with the stock limit, traders in Rajasthan are not hurrying to sell, leading to a slight decline in arrival. Added to this, millers' buying also lent support to chana prices in the spot. As a result of this, prices in the spot gained Rs 25-30 to Rs 2,340-2,350 a quintal.

Chana (Desi) also gained Rs 25 to Rs 2,300 a quintal, while chana (mausmi) quoted at Rs 2,300-2,400.

Rise in chana also perked up chana dal with the bold variety in the spot quoting Rs 25 up at Rs 2,975- 3,000, while chana dal (medium) quoted at Rs 2,875-2,900 and chana dal (average) quoted at Rs 2,750-2,775 a quintal.

On the other hand, tur and urad are being traded lower on lack of buying support. Weak demand in the physical market dragged tur on Friday by Rs 100 with the price of tur (Maharashtra) in the spot quoted at Rs 3,700-3,725. Similarly, tur (red) quoted Rs 50 down at Rs 3,600, while tur (Nimari) quoted at Rs 3,400-3,500 a quintal. In the past two-three days, tur has declined by Rs 200 a quintal in absence of trading. Tur dal however, ruled firm with tur dal (marka) in the spot quoting at Rs 6,600 a quintal, tur dal (full) quoted at Rs 5,800-5,900 and tur dal (sawa no.) quoted at Rs 5,250-5,300 a quintal.

Weak arrival and poor demand also dragged urad with its prices in the spot showing a decline of Rs 50-100 to Rs 4,200-4,250 a quintal, urad (medium) quoted at Rs 3,800-4,000. Urad dal on the other hand ruled steady with urad mongar in the spot quoting at Rs 6,900-7,200, urad dal (bold) quoted at Rs 6,100 and urad dal (chilka) quoted at Rs 5,000-5,100 a quintal.

Masoor ruled firm at Rs 3,300 a quintal on limited queries, while masoor (medium) quoted at Rs 3,050 a quintal. Scattered trading was witnessed in masoor dal as well with masoor dal (bold) in the spot ruling firm at Rs 3,975-4,000 a quintal, masoor dal (medium) quoted at Rs 3,850-3,875 a quintal and masoor dal (average) quoted at Rs 3,750-3,775 a quintal.

Moong also declined by Rs 50 on slack trading. In the spot, moong (best quality) quoted at Rs 5,050-5,100 a quintal, while moong (medium) quoted at Rs 4,500-4,800 a quintal. Demand in moong dal remained steady with moong mongar in the spot quoting at Rs 6,500- 6,600 a quintal, moong dal (chilka) quoted at Rs 5,900 a quintal.

Spot rubber rules firm

Kottayam, April 8:

Physical rubber prices finished almost unchanged on Friday. The market activities were in a low key as there were no buyers or sellers to trigger a definite direction. The trend was partially mixed since ISNR 20 lost ground on a comparatively low demand. The market seemed to be suffering from short supplies and the arrivals were reported to be dull even in village markets. In fact a firm closing in domestic futures failed to make any visible impact in prices.

According to traders, sheet rubber finished flat at Rs 239 a kg amidst scattered transactions. The grade slipped to Rs 239 (240) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to the Rubber Board.

The April series improved to Rs 239.40 (234.94), May to Rs 246.22 (241.40), June to Rs 250.34 (245.14) and July to Rs 251.50 (246.43) while the August series declined to Rs 242.01 (244.65) and September to Rs 242.27 (252.36) a kg on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) closed at Rs 270.39 (268.05) a kg at Bangkok. The April futures for the grade was steady at ¥480 (Rs 248.35) during the day session but then improved to ¥485.4 (Rs 251.17) a kg in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 239 (239); RSS-5: 235.50 (235.50); ungraded: 231 (231); ISNR 20: 234 (235) and latex 60 per cent: 140 (140).

Export demand lifts onions

What's happening at Lasalgaon*

Date	Arrivals	Modal price
April5	1256.5	500
April6	1314.5	460
April 7	1328	520
April 8	1050	520

*Arrivals in tonnes; price in Rs/quintal
Source: NHRDF

Chennai, April 8:

Onion prices improved this week as demand for exports picked up with the lowering of the minimum export price.

On Friday, onion prices at Lasalgaon, Asia's largest market for the vegetable, ruled between Rs 400 and Rs 670 a quintal. The modal price or rates at which most trades took place was Rs 520.

“Export demand helped prices increased Rs 100-150 a quintal this week,” said Mr Rupesh Jaju, Director of United Pacific Agro Pvt Ltd.

“We are getting good enquiries from Dubai and Malaysia,” said Mr Madan Prakash, Director of Rajathi Group of Companies that is into shipments of agricultural produce.

Export demand has picked up after the Centre on March 31 cut the floor price for onion exports to $175 a tonne from $225 a tonne. The minimum export price for onion exports has been cut four times after it was fixed at $600 a tonne when a ban on shipments was lifted in February.

The ban was imposed in December after onion prices surged to near Rs 100 a kg in retail outlets.

“The old crop is fetching around Rs 400 a quintal, while the new one between Rs 625 and Rs 640,” said Mr Jaju.

“Export demand is for pink onions that are arriving now from the rabi crop,” said Mr Prakash.

Prices improved this week despite huge arrivals, though in some markets the inflow sagged a bit.

Rabi crop arrivals are expected to peak in a fortnight but Mr Jaju said farmers may prefer to hold back their produce since these onions can be stored. Last year, growers had held back rabi onions and sold them when prices surged.

“A correction in prices is likely since there is no domestic demand,” said Mr Jaju.

Mr Prakash said prices were expected to drop particularly in view of rabi arrivals.

“Prices could correct by Rs 50-70 a quintal next week,” Mr Jaju said.

Cotton wilts on selling by farmers

Rajkot, April 8:

Cotton prices fell more than Rs 2,000 a candy of 356 kg in the week as farmers started selling their stocks. Moreover, demand reduced as prices reached all-time highs.

During the week, cotton price came down by more than Rs 2,000 a candy from Rs 61,000-62,000 to Rs 58,000-59,500. Raw cotton also dropped by Rs 60 to Rs 1,350-1,380 from Rs 1,420-1,440 for a *maund* of 20 kg in Gujarat.

Arrival increased to 20,000-22,000 bales against 15,000-18,000 bales last week. Around 55,000 bales arrived in the rest of the country.

Cotton arrival from Maharashtra is also high. About 300-400 trucks arrive every day, and price was at Rs 1,250-1,275 for 20 kg. However, the quality is poorer than that of the Gujarat arrival.

“People are expecting further downfall, and that's why nobody is buying. Demand of cotton came down sharply in this week. Moreover, selling by farmers will reduce prices in the coming days,” said a Rajkot-based cotton broker.

Mr Avadhesh Sejpal, a cotton trader, said, “Farmers don't think the Government will allow any more exports, so they offloading stocks in the market. Arrival from Maharashtra further pushes down prices.”

Edible oils steady on global cues

Mumbai, April 8:

The edible oil market witnessed steady trend taking cue from the firm Malaysian market. Palmolein, soya oil, groundnut oil and sunflower oil ruled unchanged despite crude palm oil (CPO) futures closing higher on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives (BMD) on Friday. Stockists have covered palmolein in ready and forward markets. Cotton refined oil increased by Rs 2 and rapeseed oil declined by Re 1 for 10 kg. Sources said volume was thin in spot in the local market. About 140-150 tonnes palmolein was resale-traded at Rs 558-564. About 1,200-1,300 tonnes of palmolein were sold by refineries in the ready market and for forward delivery. In Mumbai, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 557. Ruchi's rate for palmolein was Rs 557, for soya refined oil Rs 606 and sunflower oil Rs 660. Allana was offering palmolein at Rs 555 for 10 kg. Resalers were quoting palmolein at Rs 558-560.

Mumbai commodity exchange spot rate (Rs/10kg): Groundnut oil 810 (810), soya refined oil 605 (605), sunflower exp. ref. 630 (630), sunflower ref. 675 (675), rapeseed ref. oil 609 (610), rapeseed expeller ref. 579 (580), cotton ref. oil 600 (598) and palmolein was 563 (563).

Mills' sales continue to pressure sugar

Mumbai, April 8:

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market continued to decline on Friday on selling by mills.

Mills were offloading/dispatching balance of last month's one lakh tonnes carryover stock for which the time limit expired on Thursday. Most of the current month's 16 lakh tonnes normal sugar quota is pending, hence, the overall sentiment was weak, said traders.

Mr Harakhchand Vora, Vice-President of Bombay Sugar Merchant Association, told *Business Line*: “At the producing level, prices further fell by Rs 10-15 wherein spot less-than-expected demand keeps prices down by Rs 5-10. Naka rates also declined Rs 10 on higher resale selling. Higher arrivals resulted in increase of inventory in the market and indirectly arrested fresh stock buying."

He said production data of sugar industry up to March indicate, sugar production will be higher than local consumption. On Thursday, about 8-10 mills have sold about 75,000-80,000 bags (100 kg each) of sugar in the range of Rs 2,620-2,650 for S-grade and Rs 2,670-2,700 for M-grade to local stockists. Arrivals in the markets today were 44 /45 truckloads (100 bags each) and local dispatches were 38/40 truckloads.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were : S-grade Rs 2,766 -2,820 (Rs 2,771-2,825) and M-grade Rs 2,810 -2,911 (Rs 2,815-2,911).

Naka **delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 2,720-2,740 (Rs 2,730-2,750) and M-grade Rs 2,750-2,800 (Rs 2,770-2,860).

Turmeric hits Rs 11,000 a quintal on bulk buying

Erode, April 8:

Spot turmeric prices improved by Rs 600-750 a quintal in Erode on Friday and they touched Rs 11,000 a quintal after a week.

"Because of the closure of the market for seven days continuously from Saturday, buyers purchased heavy stocks to fulfil their orders. Because of the competition among bulk buyers, the prices were improved by Rs 600-750 a quintal," said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said: “Other markets, including Nizamabad, ruled steady and there was no change in price quoted in futures. Therefore, buyers purchased the produce at Erode. The farmers were happy due to increased price and also heavy sales. Out of the stocks of about 15,000 bags arrived 70 per cent were sold.”

In Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 8,199 to Rs 11,065 a quintal, the root variety Rs 8,009 to Rs 10,400.

Salem Crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 10,791 to Rs 12,109, root variety Rs 9,509 to Rs 10,520. Out of arrival of 6,354 bags, 719 were sold.

In the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 9,966 to Rs 10,969, the root variety Rs 9,538 to Rs 10,588. Out of arrival of 536 bags, 535 were sold. In Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 9,999 to Rs 11,010, the root variety Rs 9,868-10,789. Out of 1,041 bags kept for sale, 1,037 were sold.

Little interest in new wheat crop with high moisture

Karnal, April 8:

Arrivals of new wheat crop started at the Karnal grain market terminal with just around 40 tonnes arriving for the first time in this new season on Thursday.

As expected, there was high moisture in the crop and because of this traders were not showing much interest in buying.

Government-owned procurement agencies have not started lifting the crop as they lift only dried produce, while traders bought only around 18 tonnes at Rs 1,120 a quintal, which is also the minimum support price. To make the moisture evaporate, both the sold and unsold crop was spread out in the market.

Harvesting work is going ahead briskly and the wheat season may be in full swing from next week, said Mr Sewa Ram, a wheat trader.

Last year on April 7 around 700-800 tonnes wheat arrived in the market, he said.

Panic has gripped the farmers as there were clouds in the sky all day, affecting harvesting.

In the desi wheat varieties, Tohfa variety ruled flat at around Rs 2,300 a quintal, Doodh Malai was quoted around Rs 2,300 a quintal while the Aaj Tak variety traded at Rs 2,310 a quintal.

Flour Prices

After the arrival of new wheat, flour prices dropped by Rs 20 and quoted at Rs 1,140 for a 90-kg bag against the levels of Rs 1,160 quoted at the beginning of this week. Chokar dropped by Rs 15 and ruled at Rs 540 for a 49-kg bag.

Meanwhile with trading being lukewarm, prices of aromatic and non-basmati rice ruled flat on Friday.

After witnessing a good uptrend at the beginning of this week, prices are ruling firm on current levels, said Mr Tara Chand Sharma, a rice trader. Market has not seen much buying this year as compared to the same season last year, he added.

Prices of aromatic rice have increased by Rs 80-130 while the prices of non basmati rice increased by Rs 30-60 a quintal in this week.

Pusa 1121 rice (steam) ruled at Rs 5,150-5,380 a quintal, Pusa-1121(sela) was quoted at Rs 4,150-4,360, and Pusa-1121(raw) was at Rs 5,100-5,160. Prices of duplicate basmati quoted at Rs 3,700-4,075 a quintal. Pure Basmati (Raw) was quoted at Rs 7,525 a quintal.

Brokens such as, Tibar was quoted at Rs 3,050-3,360, Dubar at Rs 2,350-2,610 and Mongra was at Rs 1,850-2,130.

Sharbati (steam) was quoted at Rs 3,030-3,080 while the Sharbati (Raw) was at Rs 2,800-2,925 a quintal.

PR-11 (sela) ruled at Rs 2,020-2,080 and PR-11(Raw) was quoted at Rs 2,000-2,150 a quintal. Permal (sela) quoted at Rs 1,650-1,940 a quintal while Permal (Raw) traded at Rs 1,800-1,910 a quintal.

For the brokens of Sharbati variety, Tibar was quoted at Rs 2,375, Dubar was at 2,100-2,140 and Mongra was at Rs 1,450.