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Farmer's Notebook: There is value-addition potential in jackfruit



The Hindu Prof. K.B. Munishamanna with the new jackfruit wine developed at the University.

Photo: M.J. Prabu

Post Harvest Technology Department is eager to impart training

Be it a fruit crop or any other food crop, it must offer possibilities of making new products from it.

By doing so, the income of the farmers can be considerably raised.

“Take the example of the jackfruit. One finds it almost in any place in southern parts of India.

The fruit is available in large quantities during season and can be effectively processed into

many value added products,” says Dr. K. Narayana Gowda, Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore.

Supplementary crop

Though till now, the fruit was only grown in marginal areas, wastelands and backyards, “the development of rural processing industry may turn it into a commercial crop that can be grown more extensively as a supplementary tree crop,” says Dr. B. Ranganna, Emeritus scientist and former head, Division of Agricultural Engineering Sciences.

And adds: “As scientists, we hope that growers and entrepreneurs would take note of the immense potential of the fruit and work towards exploiting it for generating higher income.”

Short shelf life

In general, the fresh deseeded sweet bulbs are consumed as such by the people and the bulbs cannot keep it for long time because of high perishability and as a result there are huge post harvest losses (30 – 35 per cent) occurring during the season and also the usefulness of the seeds and rind is not known to the growers and consumers.

Several products

Researchers at the Post Harvest Technology Scheme, at the University have developed several value-added products from jackfruit bulbs, seeds and the rind.

“Many value added products like halwa, finger chips, ready-to-serve (RTS) beverage, candy bar, papad, dehydrated flakes, wine, vinegar, dairy based products like srikhand, kulfi, ice-cream and bulb flour have been prepared by the department of post harvest technology department.

“Several bakery products such as biscuits, muffins masala vada, flour and chapathi were developed from the seed. The rind is also a very good source of pectin which was extracted from it. Also, pickle was developed from the rind,” explains Dr. Ranganna.

Commercial production

The process protocols of these products have been standardized for commercial production and promotion at the University research station.

“Apart from the above products our team has for the first time made wine from the fruit. The wine has been developed by processing deseeded bulbs through microbial fermentation.

Huge demand

“The developed wine is slightly yellowish in colour, acidic in taste and low in alcohol content. There is a huge demand from consumers for this wine due to its special taste and aroma,” says Prof. K.B. Munishamanna.

The University has been working on the popularisation and promotion of the developed jack products by organising series of special training programmes, demonstrating in krishimelas organised in the states of Karnataka and Kerala.

Further it also organised a National level seminar on ‘Jackfruit and its value added products’ in Bangalore during May 2010.

Proposal

“We have also submitted a proposal to the Department of Biotechnology, GoI, New Delhi, to fund for promoting this value addition technology in the North Eastern States since, jack is widely grown in those states and are eagerly awaiting for entrepreneurs to visit us and buy the technologies,” sums up Dr. Ranganna.

For more information and training readers can contact Dr. B. Ranganna at rangannab@gmail.com at the Post Harvest Technology Scheme (ICAR), University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore 560 065, phone: 080-23330153 extn 345 or Prof. K.B. Munishamanna, at telephone 080-23330153 – Extn 346.

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National project on climate resilient agriculture launched

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The National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project was launched at Vadavathur village, Erumapatti block, Namakkal district recently.

NICRA has been promoted in the XI five year plan by ICAR constituent unit Central Research Institute for Dry Land Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad.

This project is being implemented in 100 districts in India and four districts in Tamil Nadu. At Namakkal district, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra is the project implementing agency for the programme.

NICRA is implemented at Vadavathur village, Erumapatti block, Namakkal district which has recorded an average rainfall of 400 mm for the past 20 years when compared to 750 mm in the district.

Aim

The project aims to enhance the resilience of agriculture through development and application of improved production and risk management technologies.

The following technological interventions were inaugurated at the village.

— Inauguration of manually operated weather station to record daily rainfall, minimum and maximum temperature, relative humidity and wind speed.

— Stocking of fish fry in temporary water ponds. Artificial insemination centre for cows and buffaloes. Improved water harvesting structure at senguttai, a public pond.

— Protray nursery for hybrid vegetable seed multiplication. Custom hiring of farm machineries and implements

— Distribution of drought resilient sorghum Co-30, Groundnut (TMV-13), Green gram (VBN-3), Black gram (Co-6), Red gram (Co-7), Vegetable cow pea seed (Arka suman), Bush type Lab Lab seed (CoGb14), onion seed (Co-6), turmeric seed rhizome (Alleppy supreme).

Fodder slips

—Distribution of fodder slips (Co-4), Multi cut fodder sorghum, Hedgelucerne, Fodder tree plants viz., Agathi, Subabul and Glyricidia.

— Distribution of backyard chicks (Namakkal chicken-1, Aseel cross), large White Yorkshire piglets, Khakki campbell ducks, Nandanam-1 Turkeys. Boer Tellicherry cross rams, NARI Swarna cross Tellicherry rams and eves and carp fingerlings.

During the inaugural speech, Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and Director General, ICAR highlighted the importance of water conservation and adoption of new technologies for improving the productivity and profitability of the farmers through the group approach.

Vice-Chancellor Dr.R. Prabakaran, TANUVAS, Chennai and Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore also spoke. A total of 1112 farmers and school children participated in the programme.

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The beauty of a garden is its theme

Madhavi Shivaprasad

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Culture comfort: B.N. Sathanarayana (left) and Bharath Kag at the tissue culture lab at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore. Photo: Varsha Yeshwant Kumar

Horticulture expert B.N. Sathanarayana wants to make Bangalore the bougainvillea city of the world

Tucked away in the vast campus of the University of Agricultural Sciences, not far from the century-old banyan tree, is a rather unique botanical experiment of Professor of Horticulture B.N. Sathanarayana.

Within row upon row of glass bottles grow a multitude of plants of horticultural importance. Banana, ginger, patchouli, grape, anthurium and orchids — they are all sold large-scale to farmers and horticultural entrepreneurs on prior booking.

Saplings to be ready

By the end of this year, around 50,000 of the unique Nanjanagudu Rasabale tissue cultured saplings are to be distributed to farmers with the hope of reviving its production in the State.

“We have helped hasten the shoot proliferation of this variety under laboratory conditions and it is on its way to be patented,” says Bharat Kag, senior research fellow who works with the professor. The laboratory produces some 500,000 plants a year.

This, apart from Prof. Sathyanarayana's passion for landscape gardening, culminated in the creation of the world's first 'theme garden' on plant tissue culture called 'Sasyagara', in front of his laboratory.

“The idea behind landscaping is to make the place seem bigger than it is. Every component, including the choice of flora or the placing of a bench must be strategic and minimal,” says Charan A., a doctoral student working on theme gardens.

Dr. Sathyanarayana has been part of BBMP's core committee for beautifying Bangalore and believes the potential for gardens in Bangalore is immense, but if only the government and public would realise their importance.

“In Bangalore, if you've seen one garden, you've seen them all. No doubt, each one of them seems beautiful, but in truth, no one notices anything different in any of them. Planning a garden does not involve simply creating a large space of lawn and throwing in shrubbery, flower beds and hedges; there is a great measure of scientific input apart from aesthetics that is largely ignored,” he explains.

He, along with Charan, intends to build a few theme gardens in the city with the help of the BBMP and the Bangalore Development Authority, with the vision of putting the city on the garden map.

According to him, making uniquely different gardens does not necessarily mean huge expenditure. “For instance, bougainvillea is ideal for planting on medians. They do not require a great deal of maintenance, nor do they require regular watering.” He says, just one little change and the city could well be on its way to be called the bougainvillea city of the world!

Published: August 11, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 11, 2011 04:13 IST Chennai, August 11, 2011

Five farm schools to be set up

Initiative by MSSRF, IOB



Nupur Mitra, Executive Director, IOB, handing over a cheque of Rs. 25 lakh to M.S. Swaminathan, chairman, MSSRF, in the presence of Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, at the foundation day of MSSRF in Chennai recently. — Photo: Bijoy Ghosh

M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in association with Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) will launch five farm schools in five States where progressive farmers will train other farmers.

At present, the transfer of technology is mainly from the lab-to-land in farming but the new concept of land-to-land is gaining ground. In this concept, farm schools with residential facility will be set up in the lands of progressive farmers where farmers from the region could come, stay and learn the techniques, said Ajay K Parida, Executive Director, MSSRF.

One farm school each will be set up in Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Kerala, Maharashtra and Puducherry. The criterion for selecting progressive farmers for setting up the schools is that they should have won a national award or regional recognition. For instance, Kalaivani Rajendran, a farmer in Thanjavur, has received a national award for her pioneering efforts in SRI and rice cultivation, he said.

The idea was floated by M.S. Swaminathan when he was at the helm of National Commission on Farmers. Later, MSSRF also recommended that governments try this new, emerging concept to attract and retain youth in farming. While the governments have taken time to ponder over, IOB has stepped in by contributing Rs 25 lakh for setting up the farm schools.

“A year after functioning of the farm schools, steps will be taken to take it to more States. Once the results show a positive outcome, it will be taken up with governments,” said Mr. Parida.

Published: August 11, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 11, 2011 04:06 IST COIMBATORE,
August 11, 2011

Training in plant tissue culture techniques

The Department of Botany of Karpagam University will conduct a three-day hands-on training from August 12 to 14 in plant tissue culture techniques.

According to a release, the training will be for research scholars and post-graduate students of biotechnology programmes. This hands on training exercise will enable students to disinfect and culture plant leaves (organogenesis), auxiliary buds (multiple shoots induction) and orchid seeds (asymbiotic seed germination), in addition to rooting and hardening.

Micro-propagation

This initiative aspires to emphasise the wide-ranging techniques involved in the micro-propagation of Monocots (Orchids, Palms, Arums, Rice) and Dicots (Asters, Legumes, Asclepiadaceae, Celastrales, Lamiales, Cactuses, Myrtales) covering aspects such as embryo culture, anther culture and haploid production, seed germination, etc.

Contact

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Published: August 11, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 11, 2011 04:13 IST VILLUPURAM,
August 11, 2011

Cane farmers moot profit-sharing formula

Sugarcane farmers here are demanding, among other things, profit-sharing with sugar mills.

Farmers' representatives mooted the idea at a tripartite meeting held here on Wednesday, with Collector C.T. Manimekalai in the chair, that mills should share 50 per cent of the profit with

sugarcane suppliers. Such a move would improve the economic condition of farmers and help them to adopt new technologies.

They also wanted sugar mills to supply sugar to them at subsidised rate, equivalent to the price of sugar available through the Public Distribution System, and at the convenience of the farmers.

Besides providing for crop insurance, the mills should also bear cutting charges and accept weighing of loads by private weigh bridges. Sugar mills should also make arrangement for the supply of fertilizers to sugarcane farmers.

The representatives also said that ever since the 100-day job scheme was implemented, there has been a dearth of farm hands which affected operations. Hence, they suggested inclusion of farm component in the scheme, or in other words, farm jobs should also be allowed under the scheme.

As shortage of labour had unduly delayed cutting of sugarcane, and this, in turn, affected the recovery rate, the sugar mills ought to procure harvesting equipment. The representatives also urged the sugar mills to set up effluent treatment plants.

Ms. Manimekalai called upon the sugar mills to have talks with the representatives of cane farmers to sort out the issues before September 10 and submit a report to her. She directed the management of Sengalvarayan Cooperative Sugar Mills to construct a cement parking lot for tractors bringing in sugarcane.

She also called upon the sugar mills to deploy harvesting machinery to ensure uninterrupted supply of cane. The sugar mills should update the farmers about the latest farm technology.

Ms. Manimekalai called upon the farmers to adopt drip irrigation method as it would improve the yield two-fold and for which 100 per cent grant was available for small and marginal farmers and 75 per cent grant for big farmers.

She directed the Agriculture Department to distribute handbills among the farmers delineating the advantages of drip irrigation. District Revenue Officer N. Venkatachalam, Joint Director (Agriculture) H. Rajendran and others participated.

Published: August 11, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 11, 2011 04:12 IST Shimoga, August 11, 2011

Yeddyurappa calls for ban on ginger cultivation

Growing ginger has made soil infertile: former Chief Minister



HONOURING THE TRADITION: The Former Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa and MP B.Y. Raghavendra offering bagina to Ambligolla reservoir in Shimoga district on Wednesday.

The former Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa has stressed on the need to ban cultivation of ginger crop in the State.

He was speaking after offering bagina to Ambligolla reservoir near Shikaripur on Wednesday.

Paddy which was the traditional crop of Malnad region was being replaced by ginger. Cultivation of ginger had rendered the soil infertile. Restrictions were imposed against the cultivation of ginger in Kerala. A similar model needs to be adopted in Karnataka also.

Mr. Yeddyurappa assured that he would raise the issue in the Assembly and speak to Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda in this regard.

The climate of Malnad region was conducive for the cultivation of horticulture crops.

He emphasised the need to establish cold storage units and promote food processing industries in Malnad region.

Mr. Yeddyurappa claimed that during his tenure as Chief Minister, he took bold decisions to ban iron ore export, to prevent illegal mining and was targeted by persons involved in illegal mining.

“Sustained efforts were made to destabilise my government,” he stated.

“Being a sincere worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party, I quit the post of Chief Minister as per the instruction from central leaders of the party,” the former Chief Minister said.

Mr. Yeddyurappa promised to visit Shikaripur taluk at least twice a month.

B.Y. Raghavendra, MP, MLAs Belur Gopalakrishna and K.G. Kumaraswamy, Chairperson of Malnad Area Development Board Padmanabha Bhat and president of zilla panchayat Shubha Krishnamurthy were present.

Published: August 11, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 11, 2011 04:13 IST KASARAGOD,
August 11, 2011

NABARD proposes schemes for endosulfan-hit panchayats

A master plan prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for implementing various schemes proposed to improve the basic infrastructure facilities in the 11 endosulfan-hit panchayats in the district was submitted to Chief Minister Oommen Chandy on Wednesday.

A team from the district led by Kasaragod MP P. Karunakaran submitted the list of projects to Mr. Chandy in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. The NABARD proposal, which includes projects to evolve comprehensive schemes to improve health, education, drinking water and social welfare schemes, was submitted by the team that included

NABARD chairman Prashant Bakshi, Thrikkarippur MLA, K. Kunhiraman, district panchayat President P. P. Shyamala Devi and Collector K. N. Sathish, an official release here said.

The scheme also suggested better treatment facilities in the Kasaragod District Hospital in Kanhangad and General Hospital here, setting up of special blocks with state-of-the-art equipment in the hospitals. The project has earmarked a major portion of the Rs.450-crore share of the NABARD in the State.

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, August 11, 2011

Utsa Patnaik slams supporters of GM crops

Utsa Patnaik, professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, has termed support for genetically modified (GM) crops from a section of pro-Left intellectuals in the country the result of 'naive technological illusion' and regretted the influence of neo-liberal theories on progressive intellectuals who are broadly with the Left movement.

"It is unfortunate that the ideological hegemony exercised by incorrect neo-liberal theories appears to have affected many of those progressive intellectuals who are broadly with the Left movement. The main form taken by their succumbing to this ideological hegemony is to close their eyes to adverse developments on the food front – they have nothing to say about the type of undermining of food security we have been discussing – to close their eyes to the adverse developments on the land front, where a process of dispossession is going on which they refuse to recognise, and instead even try to justify implicitly by saying that landholding data are not comparable over time. Of late, to some extent a new type of naive technological illusion has affected many such intellectuals who are supporting the introduction of genetically modified plant seeds into Indian agriculture," Prof. Patnaik said here on Wednesday.

She was delivering a special lecture on 'Two Decades of Neo-Liberal Reforms – Intensified Struggle for Land and Livelihoods' to mark the 75th anniversary of the formation of the All India Kisan Sabha.

She said the argument that the introduction of GM plant seeds should not be opposed since in the long run they benefit the people forgot that the type of technological change embodied in the genetically modified organisms was determined by transnational companies that were interested in profits and not in people. The GM plants had not been tested for a long-enough period to establish the health dangers they could pose, she said.

"Even advanced industrial countries have insufficient testing of new products over long periods and insufficient regulation," she said.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Rainy

Thursday, Aug 11

Max Min

36.1° | 26.2°

Rain: 0.2 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 89%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:55

Sunset: 18:32

Barometer: 1002

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Friday, Aug 12

Max Min

37° | 27°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday

Aug 13



31° | 26°

Rainy

Sunday

Aug 14



32° | 26°

Rainy

Monday

Aug 15



31° | 26°

Rainy

Tuesday

Aug 16



30° | 26°

Rainy

Wednesday

Aug 17



31° | 25°

Rainy

11 Aug, 2011, 02.06AM IST, Sutanuka Ghosal & Madhvi Sally,ET Bureau

Tea companies hesitant to raise prices

KOLKATA/AHMEDABAD: Tea companies have decided not to increase prices even though domestic tea is becoming expensive because they fear a fresh price revision might slow down the demand.

They are now piling up stocks to meet the expected demand during the festive and winter months. At present, the domestic consumption of tea is growing at a rate of 3-3.5% annually.

Companies which own tea estates are in an advantageous position as the procurement cost is lower for them than those who buy it from auctions for value addition.

11 Aug, 2011, 02.04AM IST, Madhvi Sally & Sutanuka Ghosal,ET Bureau

Traders expect cheaper wheat

AHMEDABAD/KOLKATA: Traders are expecting the Centre to lower prices of wheat sold through the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to retail consumers as pressure is mounting on the government from FCI and states.

"There has been a recommendation to the Centre to reduce wheat prices under the OMSS," said a Delhi-based trader who added that prices could be Rs 1,170 to Rs 1,190 per quintal from the current price of Rs 1,255 per quintal in Delhi. Prices in spot market are in the range of Rs 1,170 to Rs 1,185.

"Hence, lower prices are justified," he said. Wheat prices under OMSS are fixed at the minimum support price and the freight charges of the state. In 2009-10, wheat offload under OMSS was at 16.41 lakh tonne and in 2010-11 it was 11.54 lakh tonne.

The off-take was largely from New Delhi, Karnataka and Maharashtra in 2010-11, said an FCI official. As on August 1, wheat in FCI godowns was at 35.87 tonne and rice was at 25.27 tonne. Wheat prices in Khanna mandi (Punjab), Asia's largest grain market, were ruling at Rs 1,283.90 per quintal.

"The demand is negligible with daily arrival of 50 bags to the mandi," Sood Brothers owner Raj Sood said.

Business Standard

Thursday, Aug 11, 2011

Orissa hopes to achieve 8% higher grain output

Dillip Satapathy / Kolkata/ Bhubaneswar August 11, 2011, 0:56 IST

Foodgrain output in Orissa has been pegged at 9.4 million tonnes (mt) in the current financial year, including both the kharif and rabi agriculture seasons, eight per cent higher than 8.79 mt produced in 2010-11.

Of the overall target, rice production is expected to be 7.3 mt, with the balance coming from foodgrain like wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi and small millets and pulses such as tur, urad, moong, cowpea, kulthi, lentil, fieldpea, other pulses and gram.

Foodgrain production in 2009-10 and 2008-09 stood at 8.7 mt and 8.63 mt, respectively. About 25 per cent of the total targeted areas for kharif-2011 were covered by the end of July 15. The

coverage of paddy area was 16.29 per cent by that period. The government has targeted to cover 5.88 million hectares during the current kharif season for various crops.

Production during the kharif season this financial year has been projected at 7.63 mt, marginally higher than 7.2 mt in the same season last year.

Rice would have the dominant share of production in the kharif at 6.3 mt, a little higher than 6.05 mt in the same period of previous financial year.

The area earmarked for foodgrain cultivation this season stands at 4.9 million hectares, slightly less than 5.08 million hectares in the same season in 2010-11.

“We are confident of achieving the overall food grains target for the current fiscal despite deficient rains recorded in the districts of Boudh, Nuapada and Bolangir. The less than normal rain in these districts has not impacted sowing operations so far”, R S Gopalan, director (agriculture & food production), told Business Standard. The yield of rice during this kharif is set to go up to 1,750 kg per hectare from 1,539 kg per hectare in the last kharif.

Total cereal output is set to reach 7.19 mt this kharif, with area under production at 4.09 million hectares as against 6.83 million tonnes raised over 4.37 million hectares of land in last kharif. Of the overall cereals production target of 7.19 mt, rice production is pegged at 6.3 mt, maize at 614,000 tonnes, ragi at 172,000 tonnes, jowar at 7,000 tonnes, bajra at 2,000 tonnes and small millets at 10,000 tonnes.

In the last kharif season, paddy production stood at 9.03 mt, rice 6.05 mt, maize (600,000 tonnes), ragi (165,000 tonnes) and small millets (8850 tonnes).

The total pulses production is set to go up from 375,000 tonnes in the last kharif to 439,000 tonnes during the current kharif, growth of 17.06 per cent. Of the total projected pulses output of 439,000 tonnes, arhar production is pegged at 128,000 tonnes, moong at 105,000 tonnes, birir at 125,000 tonnes, cowpeas at 52,000 tonnes and other pulses at 29,000 tonnes. In the kharif season of last year, tur dal production stood at 123,000 tonnes, urad dal (110,000 tonnes), mung (96,000 tonnes), cowpea (17,000 tonnes) and other pulses (27,000 tonnes).

The area under pulses production during the current kharif is set to go up to 801,000 hectares from 715,000 hectares last year. Total productivity for pulses is also set to move up to 550 kg per hectare from 525 kg per hectare a year ago.

In the non-food grain bracket, oilseeds production during this kharif has been projected at 321,000 tonnes, meaning a growth of 43.3 per cent over last kharif season's output of 224,000 tonnes. To the overall oilseeds output of 321,000 tonnes, groundnuts is set to contribute 153,000 tonnes, sesamum (107,000 tonnes), castor (7,000 tonnes), niger (52,000 tonnes) and sunflower (2,000 tonnes).

In the last kharif, groundnuts contributed 108,000 tonnes, castor (5,000 tonnes), sesamum (63,000 tonnes), niger (37,000 tonnes) and sunflower (32,000 tonnes). While 370,000 hectares was devoted to oilseeds production in last kharif, this season, the acreage has been raised to 472,000 hectares.

Total fibre production this kharif including jute (14,000 tonnes), mesta (109,000 tonnes), sunhemp (47,000 tonnes) and cotton (335,000 tonnes) has been projected at 631,000 tonnes. Fibre production during last the kharif was 463,000 tonnes.

Haryana woos farmers to grow moong

BS Reporter / New Delhi/ Chandigarh August 11, 2011, 0:03 IST

Haryana is expecting a production of 40,000 metric tonnes of 'summer moong' this year, as it has been cultivated over an area of 50,000 hectares in the state.

Summer moong is being promoted in a big way in the state as an alternative to 'saathi' (summer paddy), which is a water guzzling crop.

While stating this, a spokesman of agriculture department said that the department has a plan to bring about one lakh hectares of area under cultivation of moong during summer 2012 season. The Central Government has announced MSP of moong for the year 2011-12 as Rs 3500 per quintal. An additional incentive of Rs 500 per quintal will also be available for two months during the harvesting or arrival period. This, he said, would further motivate the farmers for cultivation of summer moong in larger area.

He said that summer moong being a crop with very short duration of maturing in 60 to 65 days, fits well in paddy-wheat cropping system and it yields eight to ten quintals per hectare. The cultivation of summer moong provided an additional income of about Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000 per hectare to the farmers in a short span of 60 days. Certified seeds of SML-668 variety of Summer Moong have been provided to the farmers with 50 per cent subsidy through the sale outlets of Haryana Seeds Development Corporation under Seed Village Programme.

He said that the Central Government had fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) of moong as Rs 3170 per quintal for the crop season 2010-11. An additional incentive of Rs 500 per quintal was also payable for two months on the produce arriving in the market from October 1, 2010. He added that Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda had taken up this issue with the Central Government as summer moong was cultivated in the State from March to May. Therefore, the Central Government had also allowed an incentive of Rs 500 per quintal for two months during harvesting or arrival period prior to October 1, 2011. Consequently, the State Government notified harvesting period of summer moong from May 1 to June 25, 2011.

He said that this decision would help the farmers in availing the incentive of Rs 500 per quintal on the moong crop during summer 2011. He advised the farmers that in case the market price fell below the MSP, they should contact HAFED or NAFED to sell their produce on MSP.

While describing moong as an important pulse crop, he said that being leguminous in nature, it fixes atmospheric nitrogen and improves the soil fertility. Being rich in protein, moong is an important component of diet and its consumption helps in reducing malnutrition to some extent.

He said that summer moong would be an appropriate alternative to summer paddy. With the enactment of the Haryana Preservation Water Act, 2009, the cultivation of summer paddy has already been prohibited before May 15.

In the State. A campaign was launched for the promotion of this crop during summer 2011.

THE HINDU Business Line

White areca hits record high on 'paan' chewing boost

Old stock ruling at Rs 175 a kg; new ones quote Rs 160-165



Mangalore, Aug. 10:

The price of old stocks of white arecanut has touched a record of Rs 175 a kg in the regulated APMC (agriculture produce market committee) markets in Dakshina Kannada district. However, in the un-regulated markets, dominated by private traders, the old stocks are getting over Rs 180 a kg. According to the arecanut growers, the old stocks of the commodity commanded a maximum price of Rs 172 a kg in 1999.

Mr Ramesh Kaintaje, who was a member of the G.V. Joshi panel to fix the production cost of arecanut and grower, told *Business Line* that this is the highest price for old stocks of the commodity in the last 12 years.

The prices are ranging at Rs 170-175 a kg for old stocks of white arecanut and Rs 160-165 a kg for new stocks in the different APMC markets in white arecanut growing regions in the country.

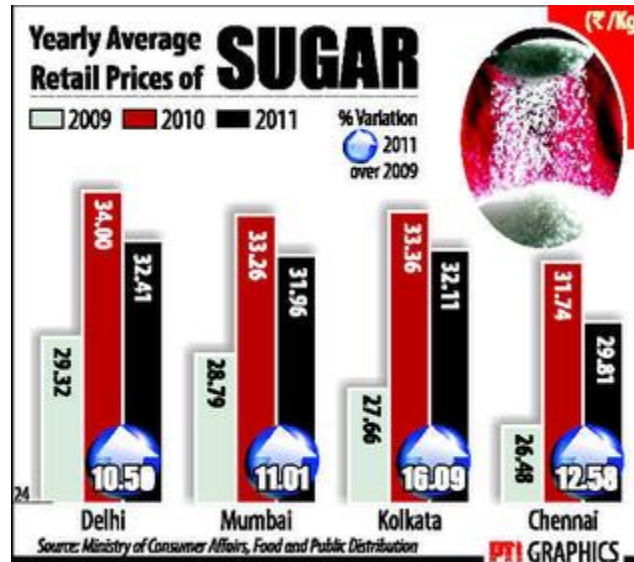
Mr A.S. Bhat, Managing Director of Central Arecanut and Cocoa Processing and Marketing Cooperative Ltd, said that this increase in price is purely due to the demand-supply situation of the commodity in the market. The ban of plastic sachets in the packaging of gutkha by Supreme

Court has made many consumers switch over to 'paan'(betel leaves) consumption. (Red arecanut is used in the manufacture of 'gutkha'. White arecanut is a major ingredient in the preparation of 'paan').

Mr Ravish Hegde, Managing Director of the Sirsi-based Totagars' Cooperative Sale Society, said that the decline in production of white arecanut is one of the reasons for this price rise. Mr Kaintaje said that the price of the commodity, which was at Rs 65 a kg for new stocks and Rs 85 a kg for old stocks last year, has doubled this year. With the every increase in the price, growers started releasing the commodity to the market. With this, nearly 70 per cent of old stocks and nearly 50 per cent of new stocks have already been sold by growers this year. The growing demand for the commodity is pushing the price up, he said. The fruit rot disease is likely to reduce the crop production by another 30 per cent this year also. Some of the plantations in the growing regions have already been witnessing the onset of fruit rot disease, he said.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 11, 2011)

Retail demand sweetens sugar in restricted trade



Mumbai, Aug. 10:

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market improved by Rs 15-20 a quintal in the morning session on Wednesday.

The market closed at 1 p.m. as traders took part in a rally against FDI in retail sector. Arrivals and dispatches slightly improved on festival demand.

The market will remain closed from Saturday to Monday, said traders.

According to sources, ahead of festivals, retail demand improved as expected. Bulk buyers also came forward with some fresh buying. Neighbouring States also started enquiring at lower rates.

Mills continued to sell at the present rates. The demand from sweet, confectionary and snacks makers, is expected from Thursday.

On Tuesday, about 20-21 mills offered tenders and sold about 75,000-80,000 bags (each 100 kgs) in the range of Rs 2,570-2,625 (Rs 2,555-2,615) for S grade and Rs 2,630-2,720 (Rs 2,620-2,700) for M grade.

Arrivals in the market were 48-50 truckloads (each 100 bags) and local dispatches were 50-52 truckloads.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates : S-grade Rs 2,716-2,841 (Rs 2,700-2,831) and M-grade Rs 2,761-2,951 (Rs 2,741-2,941).

Naka delivery rates : S-grade Rs 2,660-2,700 (Rs 2,650-2,700) and M-grade Rs 2,720-2,850 (Rs 2,710-2,880).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 11, 2011)

Coconut oil eases as stocks mount



Kochi, Aug. 10:

With most traders and packers of coconut oil having stocked up for the upcoming Onam festival in Kerala, coconut oil prices eased a shade both in the Kerala and Tamil Nadu markets.

Prices were quoted at Rs 98 a kg in Kerala's wholesale markets and at Rs 96 a kg in Tamil Nadu. Demand was muted and there were arrivals in Tamil Nadu's major production centres, sources in the trade said.

Indicating that traders and packers of coconut oil have built up sufficient stocks for the Onam season, they said coconut oil arrivals in Kerala's markets have shrunk to almost a fourth.

Bulk coconut oil purchased from Tamil Nadu has been repackaged into smaller retail packets for the Onam season, sources in the trade said. Demand from Kerala seems to have wound up for the moment and further demand is expected from upcountry buyers during the festival season of *Dasara* and Diwali.

But the demand is yet to manifest and prices are expected to remain at their current levels or drop lower for now. Industrial buyers are also keeping to the sidelines, making coconut oil prices tentative.

Palm oil and palm kernel prices have been battered in the global markets on the back of global uncertainties. Palm oil was quoting at Rs 58 a kg in the wholesale market and palm kernel oil at Rs 78 a kg.

The marked price difference between coconut oil and palm oil as well as palm kernel oil is likely to contain any immediate rise in coconut oil prices. If the price differentials widen further,

industrial producers are likely to shift to palm kernel oil and retail consumers to palm oil. The better conversion ratio of palm kernel oil into soap and cosmetic is an added incentive, trade sources said.

Copra was quoting at Rs 65 a kg in the Kerala markets, while it was at Rs 63 a kg in Tamil Nadu.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 11, 2011)

Fertiliser industry seeks Govt funding to acquire assets abroad



Chennai, Aug. 10:

The fertiliser industry is lobbying for a sovereign fund to support acquisition of assets overseas to bring down dependence on imports, according to Mr A. Vellayan, Chairman, The Fertiliser Association of India.

Continued dependence on imported raw material for domestic fertiliser production makes the industry susceptible to international price fluctuations.

Without raw material security, India will 'import inflation,' he said.

China, which has as much arable land as India, is set to achieve fertiliser self-sufficiency within a couple of years as it has continuously acquired assets in Africa and Latin America and is now about 90 per cent self-sufficient, he said.

India needs an additional 7-8 million tonnes a year of production capacity and about 4-5 million tonnes of phosphatic fertiliser capacity.

A million tonnes of urea production could involve investments of about Rs 4,000-5,000 crore and about Rs 600 crore for a million tonnes of DAP.

Rising Subsidy

It would not be viable for India to continuously depend on imports as costs are spiralling upwards.

For instance, urea prices range around \$550 a tonne against \$350 last year; DAP around \$640 (\$500) and potash \$470 (\$370).

This also means that the subsidy bill continues to rise. A portion of the subsidy could be earmarked for funding overseas assets which would go towards bringing down subsidy in the coming years.

Mr Vellayan, also Executive Chairman of Murugappa group, addressing a seminar organised by the fertiliser association, said that the industry has been freed from controls in stages leading up to implementation of Nutrient Based Subsidy last year and partial decontrol of urea.

The coming years, when it would be completely freed, will pose a challenge.

The industry has faced strict controls and made little investments due to the policy regime.

However, for the same reasons the industry has managed to get the capacity in terms of efficiency to control costs and world class product quality.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 11, 2011)

Private dairies sulk as Aavin dips its hand in their milk-can

Chennai, Aug. 10:

The private dairy industry in the State is sulking with the cooperative dairy, Aavin's move to procure milk from the private sector to meet its demand. According to private dairy industry representatives who do not want to be named, the authorities are asking the private dairy companies to part with about 20 per cent of the milk they procure from farmers to the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation. The move is to augment supply to Aavin, the cooperative milk brand, in line with plans to grow the business.

When contacted by *Business Line*, the concerned authorities declined to comment. Private dairies lose money on the deal as they procure milk from farmers, transport it to the chilling centre before supplying to the cooperative.

The payment to farmers is based on the milk fat content, which works out to Rs 18-18.20 a litre. But when they supply to the cooperative they lose over Rs 2 a litre including the transport and chilling costs, they say. The dairies plan to take up the issue with the State Government and seek relief. Dairy companies point out that the industry's regulator is also its competitor. Traditionally, the role of dairy regulator that is the Commissioner of the Milk Production and Dairy Development Department is also played by the Head of Aavin, so it is up to the Government to help them out. The move by the cooperative could prove detrimental in the long run as the private sector has contributed significantly to the growth of dairy in the State.

Of the 110 lakh litres a day (llpd) of milk produced daily in the State, Aavin accounts for about 20 llpd and the private sector account for 40-45 llpd. The balance is directly consumed.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 11, 2011)

Palmolein extends loss; soyabean oil rises



Mumbai, Aug. 10:

Edible oil prices witnessed a mixed trend on Wednesday with palmolein extending its loss further by Re 1, despite improvement in Malaysian CPO futures.

Rapeseed oil declined by Rs 3 for 10 kg. Soya oil rose by Rs 2 as local refineries increased selling rates in line with the firm foreign market. Groundnut oil, sunflower oil and cotton oil ruled steady.

According to traders, the volume was thin. Premium quality oils were in demand. About 80-100 tonnes of palmolein were traded in the range of Rs 547-548. About 40-50 tonnes of soya oil and 40-50 tonnes of super palmolein were sold directly by refineries. Local refineries increased the rates for palmolein and soya oil by Rs 1-2 in the evening in line with the foreign market.

In domestic market at the end of the day, resalers were offering palmolein at Rs 550. Liberty's rates for Palmolein was Rs 553, soya oil Rs 631, sunflower oil Rs 695. Ruchi was quoting palmolein at Rs 551, soya refined oil Rs 630 and sunflower oil Rs 695. Allana's palmolein was Rs.552 for 20-31 August delivery.

Malaysia's BMD CPO September contracts closed at MYR 3,000 2970), October at MYR 2,937 (2,920) and November at MYR 2,907 (2,895) MYR a tonne.

Mumbai Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) : Groundnut oil 965 (965), soya refined oil 632 (630), sunflower exp. ref. 650 (650), sunflower ref. 700 (695), rapeseed ref. oil 682 (685), rapeseed expeller ref. 652 (655), cotton ref. oil 660 (660) and palmolein was 549 (550).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 11, 2011)

Castor futures pare gains on improved sowing



Rajkot, Aug. 10:

The castorseed market witnessed a mixed trend as demand remained limited and good monsoon coverage. Market analysts said castorseed futures gave up gains made on Tuesday

as area under kharif sowing rose sharply. On the other hand, demand from traders and exporters was restricted.

August contract of castorseeds gained Rs 14 at Rs 5,081 a quintal on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, with an open interest of 11,400 lots. September contract increased by Rs 11 to Rs 5,095, with an open interest of 11,740 lots.

September contract of castorseeds shaved off Rs 3 at Rs 5,062 a quintal on Rajkot Commodity Exchange. Spot castor declined by Rs 95 to Rs 4,835 a quintal.

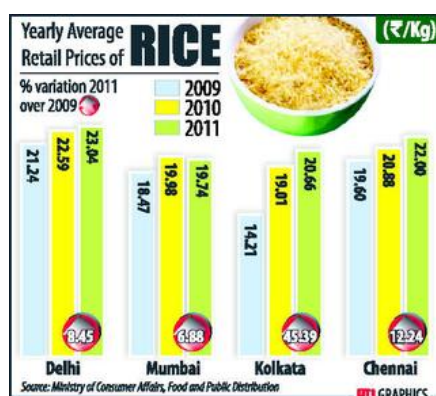
August contract of castor decreased by Rs 84 to Rs 4,970 a quintal on Ahmedabad Commodity Exchange, with an open interest of 355 lots, while September contract rose by Rs 23.50 to Rs 5,095, with an open interest of 139 lots.

While the 15,000-16,000 bags that arrived in Gujarat were quoted at Rs 950-975 for 20 kg, 1,800-1,900 bags arrived in Saurashtra and were quoted at Rs 940-975 for 20 kg.

According to latest data released by Solvent Extractors' Association of India, sowing acreage of castorseed rose by almost 62 per cent to 6.6 lakh hectares as on August 4.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 11, 2011)

Mixed trend in rice market



Karnal, Aug. 10:

Rice prices witnessed a mixed trend. PR-11 (Sela) and Pusa-1121 went up, while all the other aromatic and non-basmati rice varieties ruled flat on previous levels.

On Wednesday, Pusa-1121 (steam) rose marginally by Rs 30 and sold at Rs 4,950-5,220 a quintal, Pusa-1121 (sela) at Rs 3,950-3,985 and Pusa-1121 (raw) ruled at Rs 4,395.

Equal demand and supply kept prices of almost all varieties firm, good quality stocks lifted the Pusa-1121 variety while some buying pushed PR-11 (sela) upwards, said market sources.

The demand for brokens is good in domestic market and prices may continue to rule firm, said Mr Amit Chandna.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar sold at Rs 3,100-3,350, Dubar Rs 2,600-2,660 and Mongra Rs 1,900-2,150 a quintal.

Duplicate basmati quoted at Rs 3,430 a quintal, pure basmati (raw) Rs 5,850-5,870 and sela Rs 3,940 a quintal.

After witnessing a downtrend earlier this week, sharbati varieties remained unchanged. Sharbati (steam) ruled at Rs 2,850 while sela was at Rs 2,730 a quintal.

Among the Sharbati brokens, Tibar quoted at Rs 2,350-2,500, Dubar Rs 2,100-2,240 and Mongra Rs 1,730-1,750.

PR-11 (sela) went up Rs 25 and sold at Rs 2,000-2,275 and PR-11(raw) Rs 1,925-2,150 a quintal.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 11, 2011)

Turmeric pales further as traders shy from bidding



Erode, Aug. 10:

Spot turmeric prices decreased further on Wednesday by Rs 200-400 a quintal as traders kept away from bidding.

“Growers and bulk buyers are disconcerted over declining prices. Some traders have decided to keep away from placing tenders. Some turmeric farmers visited the auction centres and did not provide samples. They preferred to only watch the situation. Due to the downtrend in prices, no North Indian trader placed orders,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

The turmeric second sale season started from August 1, but initially prices were poor that was a blow to farmers. They said though the current price is not profitable, they are forced to sell at the prevailing low price, as they have huge stocks piled up.

Mr Ravishankar also said on Wednesday that over 8,500 bags of turmeric arrived for sale, but only 40 per cent stocks were sold at a low price. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, turmeric fell by Rs 200 a quintal. At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing society, the commodity dropped by Rs 397 a quintal. Similarly, at the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the price dropped by Rs 300 a quintal.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,119-5,709 a quintal, the root variety at Rs 4,064-5,389.

Salem Crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 5,609-6,810, the root variety Rs 5,096-5,810. Of 2,183 bags that arrived for sale, 355 bags were sold.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 11, 2011)

Chana recovers as futures improve

Indore, Aug. 10:

Chana, which had declined to Rs 2,925 a quintal on Monday evening, gained marginally at Rs 2,950 a quintal on higher futures on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange and lower selling. Chana (desi) sold at Rs 2,850 a quintal.

Chana dal, however, remained unchanged. Chana dal (bold) quoted at Rs 3,675-3,700, chana dal (medium) at Rs 3,575-3,600 and chana dal (average) at Rs 3,450-3,475 a quintal.

Steady demand kept dollar chana or chickpea prices firm at Rs 7,400-7,700 a quintal in local *mandis*.

Arrivals dropped to 500-600 bags against 1,000 on Monday.

Masoor declined marginally at Rs 2,800 a quintal on slack demand, while masoor (medium) was quoted at Rs 2,500 a quintal.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 11, 2011)

Spot rubber stays steady

Kottayam, Aug. 10:

Spot rubber closed unchanged on Wednesday. The market lost its direction as sellers stayed back following the marginal improvement in the domestic and international futures. There were signs of recovery across the board as the US Federal Reserve assured that it would maintain the benchmark interest rate at record low level of 0.25 per cent at least till mid-2013. The transactions were dull.

According to traders, sheet rubber closed flat at Rs 204 a kg amidst scattered transactions. The grade finished unchanged at Rs 203.50 a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as quoted by the Rubber Board.

RSS 4 improved with the August series rising to Rs 206 (204.37), September to Rs 204.10 (201.36), October to Rs 204.30 (201.26), November to Rs 204.50 (201.60), December to Rs 204.70 (202.85) and January to Rs 207.50 (203.87) a kg on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) weakened to Rs 209.93 (212.10) a kg at Bangkok. The August futures recovered partially to ¥352 (Rs 207.81) from ¥349.8 a kg during the day session and then to ¥356.2 (Rs 210.35) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 204 (204); RSS-5: 200 (200); ungraded: 192 (192); ISNR 20: 203 (203) and latex 60 per cent: 132 (132).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 11, 2011)

12-week low offering at Coonoor tea sale

Coonoor, Aug. 10:

An analysis of tea brokers' listing indicates that 15.33 lakh kg is being offered this week at Sale No: 32 of the auctions of Coonoor Tea Trade Association to be held on Thursday and Friday. This is the lowest volume of the last 12 weeks. It is 98,000 kg less than last week's offer and 87,000 kg less than the offer this time last year. Of the 15.33 lakh kg on offer, 10.53 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 4.80 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 14.13 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 1.20 lakh kg, orthodox variety.

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Steady demand kept dollar chana or chickpea prices firm at Rs 7,400-7,700 a quintal in local *mandis*. Arrivals dropped to 500-600 bags against 1,000 on Monday. Masoor declined marginally at Rs 2,800 a quintal on slack demand, while masoor (medium) was quoted at Rs 2,500 a quintal. Masoor dal ruled flat, with masoor dal (bold) being quoted at Rs 3,375-3,400, masoor dal (medium) at Rs 3,275-3,300 and masoor dal (average) at Rs 3,150-3,175 a quintal.

Tur remained unchanged at Rs 3,000 a quintal on weak arrivals, while tur (Nimari) ruled at Rs 2,500 a quintal. Tur dal also ruled steady, with tur (marka) being quoted at Rs 5,800 a quintal, tur dal (full) at Rs 5,200-5,250 and tur dal (*sawa* no.) at Rs 4,300-4,350.

Weak buying dragged down moong by Rs 100. Moong (bold) fetched Rs 4,000-4,300 and moong (medium) Rs 3,600-3,700 a quintal. Urad, on the other hand, gained Rs 100 on improved demand. Urad (bold) sold at Rs 3,900-4,100 and urad (medium) at Rs 3,500-3,700 a quintal.

Global coffee exports up 9% in June: ICO



New Delhi, Aug 10:

World coffee exports rose by nine per cent to 8.76 million bags of 60 kg each in June this year on the back of increasing global demand.

The global export of the brew stood at 8.02 million bags in the year ago period, according to the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) data.

In the first nine months of the current coffee year (October—September), coffee shipments rose by 16 per cent to 80.7 million bags compared to 69.7 million bags in the same period of the previous year.

In the twelve months ending June 2011, exports of Arabica totalled 68.4 million bags compared to 59.6 million bags in the year—ago period, ICO said.

Robusta exports amounted to 36.5 million bags compared to 32.6 million bags in the period under review, it added.

The global body on coffee has pegged the world output of the brew at 133 million bags in the 2010—11 coffee year.

ICO expects the coffee output in 2011—12 period at 130 million bags, while the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in its recent report has forecast the global production at 135 million bags.

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This is the lowest volume of the last 12 weeks. It is 98,000 kg less than last week's offer and 87,000 kg less than the offer this time last year.

Of the 15.33 lakh kg on offer, 10.53 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 4.80 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 14.13 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 1.20 lakh kg, orthodox variety. The proportion of orthodox teas continues to be low in both the leaf and dust grades. In the leaf counter, only 0.60 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 9.93 lakh kg to CTC. Among the dusts, only 0.60 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 4.20 lakh kg to CTC. Of the 15.33 lakh kg, fresh teas account for as much as 13.57 lakh kg. About 1.76 lakh kg comprises teas which remained unsold in previous auctions.

Amidst assurance from the Commerce Minister, Mr Anand Sharma, that he would provide stimulus to the country's exporters if the situation demands in the wake of the recession in importing nations following last week's Standard and Poor's downgrading of US credit rating, tea producers are awaiting export purchases at Sale No: 32 of the auctions of Coonor Tea Trade Association to be held on Thursday and Friday.

Last week, nearly a quarter of the offer remained unsold and in the last few days, uncertainty loomed with tea traders forced to absorb the trade shock arising from the volatility in stock markets. Indications of recovery in the bourses were visible on Wednesday and tea producers cited Mr Sharma's description of volatility as 'temporary turbulence' to woo exporters to auctions on Thursday.

Fertiliser industry to seek sovereign fund for acquiring assets abroad



(From right) Mr T. Nagendra Rao, Head-Plant Nutrition Services of Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals, Mr A. Vellayan, Chairman of Fertilizer Association of India and Mr M. Remold, Regional Executive of FAI-Southern Region Chennai, at a programme on `Fertilizer Policies – Financial and Marketing Management' held in Chennai on August 09, 2011 - Photo: S.S. Kumar Chennai, Aug. 10:

The fertiliser industry is lobbying for a sovereign fund to support acquisition of assets overseas to bring down dependence on imports, according to Mr A. Vellayan, Chairman, The Fertiliser Association of India.

Continued dependence on imported raw material for domestic fertiliser production makes the industry susceptible to international price fluctuations. Without raw material security, India will 'import inflation,' he said.

China, which has as much arable land as India, is set to achieve fertiliser self-sufficiency within a couple of years as it has continuously acquired assets in Africa and Latin America and is now about 90 per cent self-sufficient, he said.

India needs an additional 7-8 million tonnes a year of production capacity and about 4-5 million tonnes of phosphatic fertiliser capacity. A million tonnes of urea production could involve investments of about Rs 4,000-5,000 crore and about Rs 600 crore for a million tonnes of DAP.

Rising Subsidy bill

It would not be viable for India to continuously depend on imports as costs are spiralling upwards. For instance, urea prices range around \$550 a tonne against \$350 last year; DAP around \$640 (\$500) and potash \$470 (\$370).

This also means India's subsidy bill continues to rise. A portion of the subsidy could be earmarked for funding overseas assets which would go towards bringing down subsidy in the coming years.

Mr Vellayan, the Executive Chairman, Murugappa group, who was addressing a seminar organised by the fertiliser association said that the industry has been freed from controls in

stages leading up to implementation of Nutrient Based Subsidy last year and partial decontrol of urea. The coming years, when it would be completely freed, will pose a challenge.

The industry has faced strict controls and made little investments due to the policy regime. However, for the same reasons the industry has managed to get the capacity in terms of efficiency to control costs and world class product quality.
