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Papaya and guava survive pest attack



Staying alive: A papaya plant and fruits infested with the Papaya mealybug.

Papaya and guava plants have recovered from Papaya mealybug (PMB) attack in Kerala and started bearing fruits once again.

The infestation has been fully controlled using a parasitoid released by Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) as part of a biological control drive, said P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension of the University. (A parasitoid is an organism that lives attached to a host ultimately sterilising or killing the host). The use of parasitoid combined with the good rain that the State received has fully washed out the disease. In case of recurrence of the disease, the control measures could be successfully used again, he said.

PMB, an invasive insect pest, had wreaked havoc in the agriculture sector of the State and brought down fruit and vegetable production in 2009 and 2010. It had infested more than 70 species of plants, including vegetables like amaranthus and brinjal and fruit trees like papaya, guava, sapota, mango, jack, and amla. It had also affected ornamental plants like hibiscus and plantations of teak and rubber. It was the papaya plant that came under severe attack.

Widespread agriculture and horticulture crop loss was reported in other parts of the country, including Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tripura. There were reports of the pest attacking

tapioca, pigeon pea, cotton, okra, tomato, silk cotton, jatropha, and mulberry. The attack had resulted in huge financial loss to farmers

The affected plants developed chlorosis (discolouration of leaves due to insufficient production of chlorophyll which led to the eventual death of the plant), crinkling, and drying. Sooty mould was found on affected plants and those in its surroundings. The pest, which remains slightly withdrawn during the rainy season, resurface as the rain recedes.

The parasitoid *Acerophagous papayae*, imported from Puerto Rico, was mass-reared and acclimatised in the laboratories of the College of Horticulture and released, said Mani Chellappan, officer in charge of the All India Network Project on Agricultural Ornithology of Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur.

Evaluations carried out in Thrissur, Palakkad, Ernakulam, and Malappuram districts, where severe attack of the pest was reported, indicated that the pest was reduced to insignificant levels. There was not even 10 per cent possibility of the recurrence of the attack, Dr. Chellappan said. The papaya plants had recovered from the onslaught of the bug and were bearing fruits. The leaves of papaya were found free from any damage, he said.

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“Food Safety Act will hit small traders”

The Tamil Nadu Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said that the Food Safety and Standards Act would adversely hit lakhs of small traders and food business operators owing to its stringent and “impracticable” provisions. Addressing a meeting on the act held here on Friday by the TN Chamber and the Agro Food Chamber of Commerce and Industry, senior president S. Rethinavelu said that the Food Safety Act, which replaced the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, levied penalties in the range of Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh besides prescribing jail terms for some offences.

Small traders such as the street vendors and stalls must register themselves mandatorily while major operators could not proceed without obtaining licences under this Act, which is being enforced from August 5 by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Terming this as “resurrection of Inspector Raj,” he said that it would take a minimum of three years to create widespread awareness. The Centre should defer its enforcement till such time, he said.

Chief guest of the function P.C. Duraisamy, managing director of Sakthi Masala Group, said that the act contained would subject tiny food business operators to “misery and hardships.” TN Chamber president N. Jegatheesan presided over the meeting. Agro Food Chamber joint secretary N. Senthilnathan gave a clarification on the procedures of the Food Safety Act.

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Technology to improve bio-safety of GM crops

A research group in the Madurai Kamaraj University here has successfully developed a technology to improve the bio-safety of Genetically Modified (GM) crops.

The novel technology was first developed/deployed in rice plants and it can be readily applied for all other crops also so that it would have ‘enormous impact’ in improving the bio-safety value.

“The presence of an antibiotic resistance gene was viewed as an important bio-safety concern of GM crops. Our research group has addressed that critical question or concern by developing a technology wherein only the useful transgenic trait is retained in the GM crop,” K. Veluthambi, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Biotechnology, MKU, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

He explained that the university's research group has, through its research initiatives, now developed ‘Selectable Marker Elimination’ technology and it was successful in coming out with marker-free GM rice with sheath blight disease resistance.

“Introduction of useful pest resistance and disease resistance genes in a crop always requires the simultaneous introduction of an antibiotic resistance gene which enables the plant to grow on a medium containing antibiotic such as ‘kanamycin’ or ‘hygromycin.’ Through our marker

elimination technology, only the useful transgenic trait is retained in the GM crop,” Dr. Veluthambi said. According to Dr. Veluthambi, the novel process has enabled the MKU group to develop the first example of marker-free GM rice with sheath blight disease resistance. It took about seven years for the MKU research group to come out with this technology after conducting laboratory studies and experiments.

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Water level in major North India dams reaching maximum limit

The water level in major dams, including the Pong and Bhakra dams, is on the verge of touching its maximum limit due to heavy rains in North India.

The level in Pong Dam is 1,387.48 feet against the maximum limit of 1,390 feet; while it touched 518.69 feet in Ranjit Sagar Dam, where its capacity is 520.94 feet.

The Bhakra dam saw the level touch 1,667.35 feet against the limit of 1,680 feet, an official spokesperson said on Sunday.

Water has also been discharged from the Pong dam in Beas and Satluj rivers, the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Haryana Irrigation Department released 250 cusecs of water in Dadupur-Nalwi canal from the Hathni Kund Barrage for the first time.

Out of the 250 cusecs, 100 cusecs has been released in the Nalwi distributary for the farmers the Ambala district on an experimental basis.

The first phase of the Dadupur-Nalwi canal, with a total water carrying capacity of 538 cusecs, had been completed at a cost of about Rs.276 crore.

The Nalwi distributary, with a total capacity of 179 cusecs, was constructed to provide irrigation in the Ambala district.

Rain claims two

lives in Uttar Pradesh

Two children were killed in rain-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh, where major rivers on Sunday continued to swell at a number of places.

According to reports, a six-year-old boy and a two-year-old girl were killed in wall collapses in Jaunpur and Badlapur respectively.

Due to the heavy rain and release of water from flooded Nepal rivers, the Ganga, Sharda, Ramganga, Yamuna and Ghagra were flowing above the danger mark at several places, submerging several villages.

A Central Water Commission report said the Ganga was flowing above the danger mark at Fatehgarh and Ballia, while rising alarmingly in Guntia (Kannauj) Kanpur, Phahphamau (Allahabad) Varanasi and Mirzapur.

The Yamuna was flowing above the danger mark at Mathura and rising at Agra, Etawah and Baghpat.

The Ghagra was flowing above the danger mark at Elgin Bridge (Barabanki), Turtipar (Ballia) and Ayodhya.

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Adulterated food products seized

Corporation Health officials recently seized adulterated food products in Ayanavaram and Kodambakkam zones. According to a release, action has been initiated against retail outlets under provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. The products include bengal gram flour, pepper powder and egg masala powder.

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Collective approach needed to weed out parthenium: TNAU experts

The weed had affected 35 million hectares in the country

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University experts say an integrated and collective approach are needed to weed out parthenium.

It has been identified as one of the seven most dreaded weeds in the world, said C. Chinnusamy, Professor, Agronomy, Department of Agronomy, Directorate of Crop Management, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

Launch

He and his team members were in Arasur, near Coimbatore, where State Agriculture Minister K.A. Sengottaiyan on Saturday launched the programme to root out the weeds.

The weed, said to have entered the country in 1955 with the import of wheat from the U.S., did not find a mention in the list of world's worst weeds till 1977. It turned out to be one of the worst seven weeds only in the last decade.

He said the Directorate of Weed Science Research, an Indian Council of Agricultural Research organisation, had estimated that parthenium had affected 35 million hectares in the country.

“Absence of natural agents that restrict the spread of this plant, high fecundity, efficient seed dispersal mechanism, allelopathic impact, unsuitability for grazing, etc. are some of the factors for the spread of the plant.”

Survival

In a study Mr. Chinnusamy and Jay G. Varshney carried out for the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University with funds from the Department of Biotechnology of the Government of India, he had said that parthenium could germinate, flower and set seeds within four weeks. And, once established, it could even survive severe drought and frost.

Management of the weed had posed a serious challenge to the scientists, who, despite using manual, chemical and biological approaches, had failed to control it. But they have achieved success through integrated management approach.

Justifying the need for such an approach, he said within a span of its lifetime of 120 days, parthenium produced up to 30,000 seeds, which had cent per cent germination capacity for nearly 30 years. It would start flowering on the 18 {+t} {+h} day of germination and continued till the 90 {+t} {+h} day.

Parthenium affected agriculture production and also biodiversity. It had also entered forest areas, threatening the ecology there.

It caused dermatitis, asthma and other health problems in humans.

He said the University had been working on destroying parthenium for the last 10 years by conducting various studies and awareness campaign.

Herbicide

The University recommended the use of atrazine, a herbicide, before germination of parthenium and common salt and teepol, 2,4-D plus ammonium sulphate plus soap solution, glyphosate plus ammonium sulphate plus soap solution and metribuzin and soap solution after parthenium had spread on a field.

In addition to the use of herbicides, cultivation of *Cassia sericea* (adar avarai in Tamil), *Cassia tora* (kuthavarai in Tamil), *Abutilon indicum* (thuthi in Tamil), *Gynandropsis pentaphylla* (naivelai in Tamil) and *Tagetes erecta* (sevanthi in Tamil) should be taken up.

Mr. Chinnusamy said they were good competitors and prevented the growth of parthenium.

Bug

He also recommended deploying Mexican beetle (*Zygogramma bicolorata*) to destroy the weed. The bug, though active only for three months a year, would help control growth.

The University was working in close co-ordination with the Directorate of Weed Science Research to breed the bug.

He said that the University had also come out with a recommendation on the dosage of herbicides to be used.

“At the recommended dosage, they will not pollute the soil and have no residual effect,” he stated. “As mentioned earlier, the recommendations come after a decade of research and also field trial.”

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- *Parthenium could germinate, flower and set seeds within four weeks*
 - *The weed causes dermatitis, asthma and other health problems in humans*

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'Beneficiaries identified for free cattle distribution'

The district administration has identified beneficiaries in A. Nagoor and Athipalayam villages for the State Government's free cattle distribution programme, said Collector M. Karunakaran.

Speaking at a special grievance meeting, held on Saturday in Thondamuthur, he said that the administration, as per the Government's instruction, was selecting villages based on population. Beneficiaries in villages with fewer people would benefit first. The administration was also engaged in preparing the list of higher secondary and college students who would benefit from the State Government's free laptop distribution scheme.

Poultry farmers urged to upgrade to Environmentally Controlled Houses

These modern structures can help increase production

It is time for poultry farmers to move to the next level of good poultry farming practices by upgrading their raised poultry sheds to Environmentally Controlled Houses (ECH), says Vice Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) Dr. R. Prabakaran.

The Vice-Chancellor spoke about this to *The Hindu* after laying the foundation stone for the ECH at the Veterinary College and Research Institute (VC&RI), recently.

Almost all the poultry farms in developed countries have adopted ECH after realising its advantages such as increased production and quality sustenance, he said.

He noted that only two of the nearly 1,100 poultry farms in Tamil Nadu have adapted ECH – both are in Namakkal – but there is not much awareness on its benefits among farmers.

The raised sheds have played a significant role in maintaining the farms cleaner and thereby reducing spread of diseases, he said.

Factors

But those sheds are open on all sides and this leaves no room for the owners or workers to have control on the various factors that influence feed consumption, egg production and maintenance of quality of the eggs, the VC said.

“The ideal temperature for chicken to yield good production is 20 degrees Celsius to 25 degrees Celsius but ours is a tropical country where the mercury level mostly remains higher,” he stated.

An increase or decrease in the temperature by 15 percent will not bring much change in production but anything more or less than that would lead to drop in egg production, poor feed efficiency, drop in egg and shell quality. The worst case scenario could be death of the birds, he added.

Dr. Prabakaran said that other micro climatic factors that influence egg production are percentage relative humidity, wind speed, rate of ventilation and lighting.

Saying so, he observed that these factors could be monitored and controlled in an ECH.

“The investment for an ECH is nearly twice compared to a raised shed but it can be taken back with increased production, better quality eggs and less feed wastage,” he added.

Talking about the ECH for which the foundation stone was laid, the VC said that it has been funded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

The Rs. 45 lakh building with a capacity to accommodate 5,000 birds is expected to be completed in six months.

It will be used for carrying out research activities on improving performance of layer birds and as a model farm for the poultry farmers, he concluded.

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- *Only two of the nearly 1,100 poultry farms in Tamil Nadu have adopted the system*
 - *Humidity, wind speed, ventilation and lighting can be monitored and controlled*
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Published: August 22, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 22, 2011 04:07 IST PUDUKOTTAI, August 22, 2011

Fertilizer stocked

A total of 3,545 tonnes of urea, 1,517 tonnes of DAP and 890 tonnes of potash and 1,896 tonnes of complex fertilizer have been stocked at private and cooperative outlets, B. Maheswari, Collector, said.

She said that the District administration has also made arrangements for stocking agricultural inputs and seeds, a release said.

Published: August 22, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 22, 2011 04:12 IST TIRUCHI, August 22, 2011

Banana farmers honoured

Six banana farmers and an entrepreneur were honoured at the foundation day of the National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) at Thayanur village near here on Sunday. They were each presented with a shawl and an award in recognition of their achievement in banana cultivation or value addition by adopting various techniques suggested by the NRCB.

A citation presented on the occasion described a banana cultivator from Theni, D.Balamurugan's efforts in cultivating G-Naine variety on 75 acres. The farmer has been earning an annual profit of Rs.5crore by adopting drip irrigation and application of micro-nutrients.

K.N.Selvakumar from Theni had brought 50 acres under the Grande Naine variety. His annual profit was about Rs.1crore. Minimum labour and optimum utilisation of technology was the key to his success.

T.K.Chandrasekaran from Thottiyam in the district had brought 20 acres under banana. His annual profit margin stood at several lakh of rupees.

M.Paramasivam another farmer from Theni, earns an annual profit of Rs.1.5crore. Application of bio-fertiliser to Grande Naine on 30 acres and the involvement of all his family members in the cultivation had been the secret behind his success.

S.Tamilarasan from Thottiyam is one of the farmers who raised the 'udhayam' variety introduced by the NRCB a few years ago. Post-harvest management of plantain has been his special endeavour.

The centre of attraction was Balachandran Nair from Thiruvananthapuram. A citation presented to him said that he had been cultivating 'nendran,' 'kaveri,' and 'neipoovan' on his 20 acres for the three decades. The high density technique he has been adopting with the guidance of NRCB has been fetching him attractive returns.

The lone entrepreneur honoured was a youth N.Karthikumar. He has been producing and marketing value-added banana products. Most popular product is banana flower pickles and his firm had got FPO 2010 certification.

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Oyster farming awards presented

The award instituted by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute for the best oyster farming group in value added products category went to Keerthi group. Theeram group won the award in the live oysters category.

The awards were presented at a function organised to distribute the sale proceeds of the oysters produced by women's self-help group members from Moothakunnam-Sathar Island region.

V.D. Satheesan, MLA, presented the awards.

G. Syda Rao, director of the institute, gave away the sale proceeds.

K. Sunil Kumar, head, Molluscan Fisheries Division of the institute, and S. Girija, director of the National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training spoke.

Published: August 22, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 22, 2011 04:11 IST NIZAMABAD,
August 22, 2011

'Don't get panicky for fertiliser'

Collector D. Varaprasad has appealed to the farming community in the district to not get panicky for fertilisers as 8,000 tonnes of fertiliser was on its way for distribution.

At a review with the agricultural officers here on Sunday, he said that 2,500 tonnes had already arrived on Sunday and an equal amount would come on August 23 and the rest will reach on August 26.

About 250 lorries and hamalies were kept ready to unload the fertiliser from the rakes, he said.

'Fair distribution'

The unloaded fertiliser would be sent directly to the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) and registration numbers of trucks carrying fertiliser to the particular PACS were given to the respective societies. This measure would ensure fair distribution and check any irregularities.

The district administration was taking all steps to provide the required quantity of fertiliser as the crop grows and in accordance to the cultivation, he said adding that the problem had arisen after some farmers took the fertiliser and stocked it before-hand anticipating future necessity.

'Show restraint'

The Collector said that the farmers could use urea in three phases and need not be in apprehension about its scarcity. In an oblique reference to the recent violent incident at

Lingampet mandal headquarters over the distribution of fertiliser, he called upon farmers to show restraint and co-operate with the authorities to ensure equal distribution.

hindustantimes

Mon, 22 Aug 2011

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Monday, Aug 22

Max Min

33.8° | 22.5°

Rain: 58.0 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 79%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:57

Sunset: 18:27

Barometer: 1005

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Tuesday, Aug 23

Max Min

33° | 26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Wednesday

Aug 24



30° | 26°

Rainy

Thursday

Aug 25



31° | 26°

Rainy

Friday

Aug 26



31° | 26°

Rainy

Saturday

Aug 27



31° | 27°

Rainy

Sunday

Aug 28



31° | 27°

Rainy

Not a pie to unseasonal rain hit farmers: Cong

August 21, 2011 10:30:54 PM

PNS | BHUBANESWAR

The Pradesh Kissan Congress president, Amiya Kumar Patnaik, has alleged that though the State Government had declared in 2010 to provide a package of `900 crore to the farmers affected by unseasonal rainfall in the State but till date no farmer has received a rupee out of the package.

The Union Government rather provided `815.43 crore financial assistance to the farmers for their losses in Kharif and Rabi. It is a fact that the State Government even failed to distribute the Central funds properly among the affected farmers and only `200 crore has been disbursed out of the Central funds of `815.43 crore. Though the drought situation in 35 blocks of eight districts is grave, the Government even has failed to take a statistics to know the exact number of farmers affected in drought in the State.

If the Naveen Patnaik-led- BJD Government has confidence, it should directly go and meet the affected farmers, said Patnaik. The Government should asses the crop losses due to drought within a week and provide financial assistance by August 31, waive all loans of farmers, immediately repair all lift points, waive out all agricultural electric bills and provide high quality seeds for the coming Rabi crops, demanded Patnaik.

Business Standard

Refined palmolein edges up on buying support

Press Trust of India / Mumbai August 20, 2011, 17:06 IST

Refined palmolein edged up in oils and oilseeds market here today on renewed buying support. Castorseeds futures moved down further due to lack of export enquiries.

Meanwhile, groundnut oil, castorseeds bold, castor oil commercial and linseed oil all closed steady in the absence of any major buying activity. In the edible oil section, refined palmolein inched up to Rs 553 per 10 kg from yesterday's closing level of Rs 552, while groundnut oil remained unchanged at Rs 970 per 10 kg.

Turning to futures section, castorseeds for September delivery opened slightly higher at Rs 4,980 and traded in a range of Rs 4,990 and Rs 4,960 before settling at Rs 4,970 as against Rs 4,975 previously, showing a marginal loss of Rs 5 per tonne.

However, castorseed bold, castor oil commercial and linseed oil all ended unaltered at Rs 5,100, Rs 1,050 and Rs 720 respectively.

Almond weakens on sluggish demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi Aug 20, 2011, 17:01



Almond and its kernel prices declined up to Rs 50 on the local dry-fruits market today on sluggish demand at prevailing higher levels.

Almond (California) declined by Rs 50 to Rs 10,800 per 40 kg, while its kernel shed Rs 5 to Rs 377-387 per kg respectively.

Following are today's quotations:

Almond (California) Rs 10,800 Almond (Gurbandi-new) Rs 5,400-5,700; Almond (Girdhi) Rs 2,800-3,000; Abjosh Afghani Rs 9,000-22,000 Almond Kernel (California) Rs 377-387 per kg,

Almond Kernel (Gurbandi-new) Rs 400-440 per kg

Chilgoza (Roasted) (1 kg) Rs 1,400-1,500 Cashew Kernel 1 kg (no 180) Rs 700-710 Cashew

Kernel (no 210) Rs 645-665 Cashew Kernel (no 240) Rs 605-635 Cashew Kernel (no 320) Rs

545-590 Cashew Kernel Broken 2 pieces Rs 445-525 Cashew Kernel Broken 4 pieces Rs 425-

495

Cashew Kernel Broken 8 pieces Rs 395-475 Copra (qtl) Rs 7,700-7,900 Coconut Powder (25

kg) Rs 2,900-3,600 Dry Dates Red (qtl) Rs 3,500-7,500 Fig Rs 7,000-15,000 Kishmish Kandhari

Local Rs 10,500-11,000 Kishmish Kandhari Special Rs 15,000-30,000

Kishmish Indian Yellow Rs 4,000-5,200 Kishmish Indian Green Rs 5,800-8,000 Pistachio Irani

Rs 680-730 Pistachio Hairati Rs 950-1,060 Pistachio Peshawari Rs 1,160-1,260 Pistachio Dodi

(Roasted) 500-580 Walnut Rs 150-250 Walnut Kernel (1 kg) Rs 400-700

Makhana, cardamom rises as demand picks up

Press Trust of India / New Delhi Aug 20, 2011, 16:47

Makhana and cardamom prices rose by up to Rs 25 per kg on the wholesale market today on pick up in retailers demand. Also, restricted arrivals in the market too supported the upside in select commodity prices.



Makhana shot up by Rs 25 to 300-330 per kg on paucity of stocks.

Cardamom small, chitridar, colour robin, bold and extra bold were up by Rs 5 each to Rs 565-595, Rs 595-625, Rs 585-635 and Rs 855-885 per kg respectively.

Following are today's quotations:

Ajwain 17,500-23,000, black pepper common 29,600-30,100, betelnut (kg) 110-120, cardamom brown-Jhundiwali (kg) 980-1,070, and cardamom brown-Kanchicut (kg) 1,170-1,280

Cardamom small (kg): Chitridar 565-595, cardamom (colour robin) 595-625, cardamom bold 585-635, cardamom extra (bold) 855-885 and cloves (kg) 950-1,000

Chirounji (new) (kg) Rs 580-680 Dry mango (raipur) Rs 9,000-10,500 Dhania Rs 6,700-10,200

Dry ginger Rs 15,300-22,000 Kalaunji Rs 9,500-10,000 Mace-Red (kg) Rs 1,800-1,900 Mace-

Yellow (kg) Rs 1,850-1,950

Methiseed Rs 3,300-4,600 Makhana (kg) Rs 300-330 Nutmeg Rs 750-800 Poppyseed (KG Turkey) Rs 175 Poppyseed (KG MP-RAJ) Rs 175-225 Poppyseed (KG Kashmiri) Rs 170 Red chillies Rs 9,400-13,500 Saffron (kg) Irani Rs 80,000-90,000 Saffron (kg) Kashmiri Rs 1,20,000-1,35,000 Soanf-bold Rs 8,500-13,500 Turmeric Rs 7,900-12,100 Tamarind Rs 3,600-3,800 Tamarind without seed Rs 5,000-8,500 Tea (kg) Rs 70-220 Watermelon kernel (Kg) Rs 145 Jeera common Rs 15,600-15,900 Jeera best Rs 17,900-18,100

Urad and its dal weaken on subdued demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi Aug 20, 2011, 16:33



Prices of urad and its dal weakened by up to Rs 150 per quintal in the wholesale market here today on subdued demand at prevailing higher levels.

Other pulses moved in a narrow range and settled at around previous

levels. Urad declined by Rs 50 to Rs 3,750-4,150 while its dal dhoya lost Rs 150 to Rs 4,900-5,000 per quintal respectively. Following are today's quotations per quintal:

Urad 3,750-4,150, Urad chilka (local) 4,580-4,980, best 5,200-5,700, Dhoya 4,900-5,000, Moong 3,700-4,700, Dal moong chilka local 4,770-5,170, Moong Dhoya local 5,200-5,300 and best quality 5,900-6,100 Masoor small 2,670-2,970, bold 2,820-3,070, Dal Masoor local 3,450-3,550, best quality 3,620-3,920, Malka local 3,300-3,350, best 3,450-3,550, Moth 2,100-2,500,

Arhar 2,900-3,400, dal arhar dara 4,300-4,700 Gram 2900-3000, gram dal (local) 3,300-3,400, best quality 3,500-3,600, besan (35 kg) Shakti bhog 1,440, Rajdhani 1,440, Rajmah chitra Pune 4,050-4,350, China 4,100-4,300, red 4,300-4,500 kabli gram small 5,500-7,900, dabra 2,700-2,800, imported 4,700-5,100, lobia 4,700-5,200, peas white 2,400-2,450 and green 2,500-2,575

Bajra remains weak on sluggish demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi Aug 20, 2011, 16:20



Bajra prices fell further by Rs 50 per quintal on the wholesale market here today owing to slackened demand against adequate stocks.

On the other hand, other grains remained steady.

Traders said subdued demand against sufficient stocks position mainly put pressure on bajra prices which fell further by Rs 50 to Rs 850-860 per quintal.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Wheat MP (desahi) 1,550-1,800, Wheat dara (for mills) 1,175-1,180 Chakki atta (delivery) 1,185-1,190, atta Rajdhani (10 kg) 180, Shakti bhog (10 kg) 180, Roller flour mill 650-670 (50 kg), Maida 750-780 (50 kg) and Sooji 830-845 (50 kg)

Basmati rice (Lal Quila) 9,500, Shri Lal Mahal 9,300, super basmati rice 9,000, Basmati common 5,200-5,300, rice Pusa-(10121) 4,150-4,800, Permal raw 1,850-1,900, Permal wand 2,000-2,100, Sela 2,150-2,200 and Rice IR-8 1,775-1,825 Bajra 850-860, Jowar yellow 920-1,000, white 1,750-1,875, Maize 1,190-1,200, Barley 1,200-1,250 and Rajasthan 1,080-1,090

Edible oils remain weak on sluggish demand, global cues

Press Trust of India / New Delhi Aug 20, 2011, 16:14



Select edible oils declined further by up to Rs 50 per quintal on the wholesale market here today following sluggish demand at prevailing higher levels amid weakening global trend.

Castor oil in the non-edible section also eased due to reduced industrial offtake. Traders said subdued demand from retailers and stockists at prevailing higher levels and reports of weakening global trend mainly led to fall in wholesale edible oil prices. They said reduced offtake by industrial units and other consuming industries kept pressure on the castor oil prices. Mustard expeller oil (Dadri) shed Rs 20 to Rs 5,980, while sesame and cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) oils traded lower by Rs 50 each to Rs 6,200 and Rs 5,520 per quintal respectively.

Palmolein (rbd) and palmolein (Kandla) remained under selling pressure and lost Rs 50 each to Rs 5,850 and Rs 5,550, while crude palm oil (ex-kandla) shed Rs 20 to Rs 5,200 per quintal,

respectively. Soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) and soyabean degum (Kandla) oils declined by Rs 50 each to Rs 6,470 and Rs 5,920 per quintal, respectively. In the non-edible section, castor oil eased by Rs 50 to Rs 8,350-8,450 per quintal.

Following are today's quotations:

Oilseeds: mustard seed 2,525-2,655 and Groundnut seed 2,100-2,850

Vanaspati ghee (15 litres tin) 1,065-1,140

Edible oils: Groundnut mill delivery (Gujarat) 8,500, groundnut Solvent refined (per tin) 1,450-1,460, Mustard Expeller (Dadri) 5,980, Mustard Pakki ghani (per tin) 760-915, Mustard kachi ghani (per tin) 915-1,015

Sunflower 6,300, Sesame mill delivery 6,200, soybean Refined mill delivery (Indore) 6,470,

Soyabean degum (Kandla) 5,920, Crude Palm Oil (Ex-kandla) 5,200, Cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) 5,520

Palmolein (RBD) Rs 5,850 Palmolein (Kandla) 5,550, Rice bran (phy) 3,750 and Coconut (per tin) 1,720-1,780

Non-edible oils: Linseed 4,500, Mahuwa 4,000, Castor 8,350-8,450, Neem 4,050-4,150, Rice bran 3,300-3,400 and palm fatty 3,225-3,300

Oilcakes: groundnut dehusk 800-850, sesame 950-1,150, Mustard (new) 1,000-1,025, Mustard 1,200-1,210 and Cottonseed 1,075-1,175

Gur prices close flat

Press Trust of India / New Delhi Aug 20, 2011, 15:21

Gur prices closed flat on the wholesale market here amid thin trade. Muzaffarnagar and Muradnagar gur markets also ended flat on some support.

Marketmen said adequate stocks position along with small buying support mainly held gur prices unaltered.

Following are today's quotations per quintal:

Chakku Rs 2,800-2,900, pedi Rs 3,000-3,100, Dhayya Rs 3,200-3,300, and Shakkar Rs 3,200-3,300

Muzaffarnagar: Raskat Rs 2,350-2,450, chakku Rs 2,425-2,500 and Khurpa N.T

Muradnagar: Pedi Rs 2,750-2,800 and Dhaya Rs NA

THE HINDU Business Line

Pepper to remain hot as demand outstrips supply

Kochi, Aug. 21:

A disequilibrium in the demand and supply with the former outstripping the latter at the moment has pushed up the pepper prices to the highest ever levels last week.

At the weekend closing spot prices hit the historical high of Rs 305 a kg for MG 1 and Rs 295 a kg for ungarbled on good buying support amid limited supply.

Reports of a supply squeeze in the world market, at present, coupled with firmer markets in other origins seems to have influenced the primary market dealers and growers to hold back their stocks.

At the same time, many of the overseas buyers who had been postponing their coverage or buying only hand to mouth hoping the prices would decline once the Vietnam and Indonesian crops hit the market, will have to enter the market to cover for their requirements now as their wait has turned out to be futile, the trade claimed. Moreover, many have not been maintaining any inventory because of the high prices prevailing for long.

Domestic demand is also expected to pick up in the coming days as the festival is round the corner.

Meanwhile, according to reports from overseas, Vietnam is said to have finished its current crop while remaining harvesting in Indonesia would commence only after the Ramzan month. If the earlier projections are turned out to be true then the Indonesian crop is likely to be less, market sources told *Business Line*. Brazil which have been offering at lower levels recently is said to have started holding back and raised its B Asta prices, they said.

Thus, the overall scenario indicates of a hot pepper market in the coming days, the sources claimed. The futures market was highly volatile with the prices shooting up last week. All contracts showed a substantial rise. Aug contract matured. September, October and November

contracts increased by Rs 1,955, Rs 2,068, Rs 2,043 respectively to close at the weekend at Rs 32,403, Rs 32,852 and Rs 33,104 a quintal.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 22, 2011)

More rains forecast for west, central India

Thiruvananthapuram, Aug. 21:

The upper air cyclonic circulation that has been triggering sustained rainfall over southeast peninsular coast has managed to claw its way up to southwest Madhya Pradesh.

Corresponding activity over the west coast and adjoining west and peninsular India has brought in moderate to heavy rainfall over parts of interior peninsula also.

WIDESPREAD RAIN

An India Meteorological Department (IMD) update said that widespread rainfall broke out over Konkan, Goa, coastal Karnataka, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the 24 hours ending Sunday morning.

It was fairly widespread over Himachal Pradesh, east Rajasthan, east Gujarat, west Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathawada, Telengana, Rayalaseema and Kerala.

Scattered rain fell during this period over Uttarakhand, west Rajasthan, the Northeastern States, Saurashtra, Kutch, east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gangetic West Bengal, Orissa, Vidarbha, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

WEATHER WARNING

A weather warning valid for Monday said that isolated heavy rainfall would occur over Gujarat and north interior Karnataka.

Isolated heavy rainfall has also been forecast over Konkan, Goa, coastal Karnataka and Kerala on both Monday and Tuesday.

A forecast by the Climate Prediction Centre of the US National Weather Services said that cross-equatorial monsoon flows into Arabian Sea would hold moderately strong until Friday.

Forecast for the next five days said that the flows could get even stronger leading to formation of 'twin lows' over the northwest Pacific.

STRONGER FLOWS

This would be followed a couple of days by the initiation of a potent upper air cyclonic circulation upstream over coastal Bay of Bengal.

Models differed in their interpretation of the area of formation, with the seas off Andhra Pradesh and Orissa variously being suggested as likely sites.

The net result is that there is another round of precipitation likely to be had for the west coast, west India and adjoining central India and holding forth until the end of the month.

This is expected to help prevent the rain deficit, having been contained at one per cent for over a week now, from deteriorating further.

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Offerings at N. Indian tea auctions rise

Kolkata, Aug. 21:

Last week at sale no. 33, the total offerings at three North Indian tea auction centres at Kolkata, Guwahati and Siliguri were 4,22,023 kg as compared to 3,55,080 kg in the corresponding sale of last year, according to J Thomas & Company Private Limited, the tea auctioneers.

Of this, the share of Kolkata was 2,08,164 kg (CTC/Dust 1,60,994, Orthodox 41,209 and Darjeeling 5,961) as compared to 1,75,522 kg (CTC/Dust 1,16,188, Orthodox 53,287 and Darjeeling 6,047) in the corresponding sale of last year.

The offerings at Guwahati were 1, 26,106 kg (99,233) and at Siliguri 87,753 kg (8,325).

Corporates

Selected Assam CTC teas maintaining quality were around last while the remainder eased in value.

Fannings were an easier trend. Dooars were irregular around last levels.

Tata Global was the mainstay while there was good enquiry from Hindustan Unilever on the dust grades but less support for the leaf.

Western India dealers were active for the liquoring sorts. There was fair support from local and other internal sections.

Exporters operated primarily on bolder brokens.

Tippy sorts

Tippy Orthodox offerings were readily absorbed while the remainder were irregularly lower.

Continental buyers operated for the tippy sorts.

Darjeeling whole leaf varieties witnessed useful enquiry from traditional exporters and Hindustan Unilever.

Prices were irregular in line with quality. Brokens and fannings saw selective export enquiry. The remainder were absorbed readily by Bazaar. Tata Global lent fair support.

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Prices ease at Kochi dust tea auction

Kochi, Aug. 21:

There was a surge in arrivals at the Kochi tea auction with 12, 45,000 kg of dust and 4, 25,000 kg of leaf tea on offer.

Meanwhile, prices eased at the dust auction. High priced teas quoted lower at the CTC dust auction where medium grades remained barely steady even as plain grades declined by Rs 2-3

a kg. AVT, Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation and Tata Global continued to be active. Hindustan Unilever remained selective while export enquiry was lower than last week. There were several withdrawals from the orthodox dust auction where prices quoted lower.

Leaf Auction

Nilgiri teas remained firm to dearer at the orthodox leaf auction even as most other grades remained barely steady. Medium whole leaf and broken grades quoted lower. There was improved demand from CIS countries and traditional exporters.

Exports to Tunisia remained subdued. High grown fannings were sought after by tea bag manufacturers and exporters. There was a fair demand on whole leaf grades. Hindustan Unilever was not active. CTC leaf auction was barely steady, tending lower. Tata Global and AVT remained selective. Exporters were active on medium and smaller grades as well as fannings. There was fair amount of upcountry demand.

Top Prices

Pasuparai FD fetched the top price at Rs 131 at the dust auction followed by Pasuparai SFD at Rs 129, Injipara SRD at Rs 125 and Injipara RD at Rs 122. At the leaf auction Pascoe's green tea fetched the top price at Rs 302 followed by Chamraj OP and Havukal BOPF at Rs 209 and Chamraj OP at Rs 208.

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Strong business mood at Coonoor tea auction

Coonoor, Aug. 21:

Unmindful of the lorry strike, buyers exhibited strong business mood at sale no: 33 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions resulting in around 82 per cent of the 19-week low offer of 12.38 lakh kg being absorbed.

Strong export purchases helped average prices rise Rs 3 a kg over previous auction.

“High-priced CTC leaf and mediums gained Rs 1-2 a kg but better mediums lost Rs 2-3. Orthodox leaf eased Rs 1-3. Primary orthodox dusts irregularly gained up to Rs 5.

Better medium CTC dusts gained Rs 2-3 while plainers up to Rs 5. Cleaner blacker sorts were favourites,” an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

Among CTC teas, Vigneshwar Estate auctioned by Paramount Tea Marketing, topped at Rs 141 a kg. Homedale Estate got Rs 139, Darmona Estate Rs 136, Shanthi Supreme Rs 133 and Blue Mont Speciality Rs 130.

In all, 62 marks got Rs 100 and more.

Among orthodox teas from corporate sector, Chamraj got Rs 191, Havukal and Kairbetta Rs 159 each and Curzon Rs 158. In all, 19 marks got Rs 100 and more.

Among Green tea, Wood Bridge Estate, auctioned by Paramount tea Marketing, got Rs 211.

exports

On the export front, Pakistan bought strongly in wide range – Rs 40-71 a kg and the CIS Rs 40-62.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 35-40 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 80-130 for brighter liquoring sorts.

They ranged Rs 40-45 for plain dusts and Rs 85-135 for brighter liquoring dusts.

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