

THE HINDU

Published: August 24, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 24, 2011 04:04 IST TIRUNELVELI,
August 24, 2011

Flower cold storage can be utilised by banana growers

There is also scope for going for value addition in banana



UNDERUTILISED: The cold storage facility at Kaavalkinaru Junction. File photo

Banana growers of the district, who are badly in need of cold storage facility to get competitive price, may put into use the underutilised cold storage in the sagging flower market at Kaavalkinaru Junction.

As the hamlets around Nanguneri, Radhapuram, Panagudi and Valliyoor produce huge quantity of flowers and the farmers have to sell their produce to the buyers, mostly from neighbouring Kerala, at the price fixed by middlemen, a flower market was established at Kaavalkinaru Junction, a highly advantageous point, with cold storage facility.

Subsequently, the floriculturists, who had to hitherto sell their produce to the middlemen of Thovaalai Market for the price fixed by the trader-middlemen cartel, could fix the right price for their produce. \

However, the joy was only short-lived as the cartel won the battle against the farmers and took the mainstream flower market once again to Thovalai, leaving the two-year old flower market in the lurch.

Since the cold storage facility in this market is underutilised now, it can be used by the banana growers cultivating the crop between Thirukkurunkudi and Cheranmahadevi and transact business to the tune of over Rs. 50 crore annually.

When the farmers' grievance day was held recently, the farmers from Kalakkadu region appealed to Collector R. Selvaraj to initiate serious steps for the construction of a cold storage facility at Kalakkad.

Even as Dr. Selvaraj was keen on identifying a land for the project, the agricultural marketing department officials, who were not very much enthusiastic about this proposal, repeatedly said getting a land from the revenue department for 50 year lease was not possible.

Land identification

However, the Collector asked the farmers as well as the officials to identify a land for the cold storage.

“Now, this is a biggest opportunity to put into use the sparingly used cold storage facility at the flower market. If the banana growers can bring their produce to this market and keep it in the cold storage, they can get the best price from the traders. Since there is no cold storage facility now, the farmers, who take advance from the traders, have to sell their produce at the price fixed by the traders even as banana price in the open market is quite high. If the cold storage is put to use, the banana growers will be the happiest lot,” said a senior official from the Department of Agriculture.

Though the farmers are in favour of a cold storage at Kalakkad area, most of them are prepared to use the Kaavalkinaru cold storage.

“Apart from keeping our produce in the cold storage, there is more scope for going for value-addition in banana, with which the traders earn in crores of rupees. So the government should also establish a centre at Kaavalkinaru market for banana value-addition also,” said K. Murugan, a banana grower.

Published: August 24, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 24, 2011 04:02 IST
Udhagamandalam, August 24, 2011

Wheat Field Day observed

'Nilgiris ideal for cultivating wheat'



Scientists participating in a Wheat Field Day programme in Wellington. — Photo: Special Arrangement

Wheat Field Day was observed under the aegis of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) at the Regional Station of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Wellington, near here, on Sunday.

Among the 50 scientists from various ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities who participated were J.S. Sandhu, Additional Director General (Seeds), ICAR, New Delhi and Indu Sharma, Project Director (Wheat), Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal.

Stating that the objective of the programme was to display 17,000 germ plasm raised at the station and regenerated after being stored for 30 years in the NBPGR. Principal Scientist and Head of the station Jagdish Kumar said that the germ plasm selected by the participants would be used in breeding programmes.

He added that the scientists were of the view that the conditions in the Nilgiris and adjoining areas were ideal for cultivating wheat.

The regional station in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, had recently released a samba wheat variety Cow (W) 2 for cultivation exclusively in the Nilgiris and its surroundings.

Published: August 24, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 24, 2011 04:03 IST BELLARY, August 24, 2011

Environment impact study in Bellary forests from tomorrow

As per the directions of the Supreme Court, a team of experts, headed by V.K. Bahuguna, Director-General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), will conduct its macro-level Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study in the forest area in the State, Bellary region, caused due to mining, from August 25 to August 28.

Report

The Supreme Court, which is hearing a writ petition filed by the Samaj Parivarthan Samudaya against illegal mining in the forest areas of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, had sought within three months a macro-level Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of the region from the ICFRE in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, the Forest Survey of India and such domain experts as may be decided by the ICFRE in consultation with the Environment Ministry.

S.S. Negi, S.C. Joshi, S.D. Sharma, A.N. Arun Kumar (all forestry research), Dharmendra Verma, Sudhir Kumar, V. Jeeva, H.V. Vashistha, (all from ICFRE), N. Rama Rao (Taxonomy), Babji (Aquatic Environment), Anish Pachu (Aquatic Fisheries), Kunshi Kanam (Biodiversity), V. Mohan (Soil Micro Flora), V.B. Mathur, Asha Rajvanshi, Karthik Vasudevan (all wildlife management) and M.L. Srivastava (Forest Resource Assessment) are the other members of the team.

The team is expected to participate in an interaction with various environmental and other organisations, including Samaj Parivarthan Samudaya, Federation of Indian Mining Industry (FIMI), Mine Owners Associations, other stake holders, and the media on August 25 in Hospet.

On August 26, the team will go round the forest areas in Ramgadh, Swamimalai, Donimalai and the north eastern block that is spread over the two taluks of Sandur and Hospet.

On August 27, the team will visit Gunda forest area and Bellary reserve forest area in Hospet and Bellary taluks, according to the team's itinerary released by Deputy Commissioner Amlan Aditya Biswas.

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- *Supreme Court has sought report in three months*
 - *Team will visit Ramgadh, Swamimalai, etc.*

Published: August 24, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 24, 2011 03:59 IST DHARWAD, August 24, 2011

Fruit and flower show

A fruit and flower show will be held as part of the Krishi Mela-2011 at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad, from September 9 to 12. Various display competitions relating to fruits, flowers, vegetables, flower arrangements, bonsai, bouquets, flower garlands, dried flowers, flower vases, vegetable carving and so on will be held. Those interested can enrol on or before September 8. For more information, contact A.A. Patil (9448495310), S.M. Mantur (9448902525) or M.S. Biradar (9449771370).

Published: August 24, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 24, 2011 03:59 IST GULBARGA: “, August 24, 2011

Agro-forestry programme gets good response

The response to the agro-forestry programme in the Gulbarga Forest Circle has been overwhelming,” said Conservator of Forests A. Radhabai here on Tuesday. The Gulbarga Forest Circle includes Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur and Yadgir districts.

She said the programme was a new initiative launched by the State Government to increase green cover by encouraging farmers to plant trees on wasteland.

Ms. Radhabai said workshops had been organised in Gulbarga, Bidar and Raichur districts to create awareness among farmers about the programme.

She said another such workshop would be organised in Yadgir district soon.

In the three districts, 3,557 farmers had registered for the programme and demanded 6.35 lakh saplings for planting. The department had supplied 1.24 lakh saplings already, she said. Ms. Radhabai said 1,477 farmers had registered for it in Gulbarga district, 1,029 had registered in Bidar, 791 in Raichur and 260 in Yadgir.

She said 66,575 seedlings have been distributed in Bidar district, followed by 28,863 seedlings in Yadgir district and 20,835 seedlings in Raichur and 8,270 seedlings in Gulbarga district.

Published: August 24, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 24, 2011 04:04 IST KARIMNAGAR, August 24, 2011

Rasta roko for fertilizer

The incessant rains which had rekindled the hopes of the farming community had again forced the farmers to come on to the roads and resort to panic purchases of fertilizer to meet the demand in the fields.

Worried over the reported shortage of fertilizer stocks at the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS), the farmers including womenfolk have staged a rasta roko on the busy Rajiv Rahadhari at Nusthullapur of Thimmapur mandal on Tuesday.

The authorities have received fertilizer stocks of around 300 bags on Monday night and were planning to distribute the same to the villagers on Tuesday.

When the news broke out about the reported shortage and inadequate quantity to meet the demand of farmers, the villagers raised a voice of revolt and staged a rasta roko on the state highway obstructing the traffic.

The villagers also locked up the PACS authorities in their rooms.

The police team led by LMD SI Srinivas rushed to the spot and pacified the agitationists and regulated the traffic movement.

Later, the SI held discussions with the farmers and the authorities concerned and promised to distribute the fertilizer from Wednesday onwards after the arrival of remaining stocks.

The police said that they would issue tokens to the farmers for the collection of fertilizer bags and appealed them not to panic about the situation as they were expecting arrivals of huge quantity of fertilizer stocks to meet the growing demand in the farm sector following incessant rains.

Published: August 24, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 24, 2011 04:03 IST KARIMNAGAR, August 24, 2011

Coop. societies to distribute 50 p.c. fertilizer

Joint Collector H. Arun Kumar has said that 50 per cent of fertilizer would be distributed through cooperative societies and the remaining 50 per cent through dealers for the benefit of farmers.

Earlier, the dealers used to sell about 70 per cent of fertilizer and 30 per cent of stocks through cooperative societies. In order to benefit the farmers, the administration had decided to distribute 50 per cent of fertilizer through cooperative sector. At a meet on Tuesday, he told the authorities to utilise the opportunity and provide better services to the farmers and also strengthen the cooperatives.

Published: August 24, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 24, 2011 04:04 IST RAJAHMUNDRY, August 24, 2011

New system for paddy procurement on the anvil

Minister for Civil Supplies D. Sridhar Babu has announced that the State government is contemplating introducing a new system for procurement and purchase of paddy for the benefit of farmers. As a part of it, the government will appoint a committee with farmers, agriculture experts, and journalists and it will tour Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab states and give its report on paddy procurement and purchase system there. Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, Mr. Sridhar Babu said that the government was awaiting Mohan Kanda Committee's report on crop holiday. After Mohan Kanda Committee's recommendations, the government would take a decision.

Published: August 24, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 24, 2011 04:02 IST CUDDALORE, August 24, 2011

Saplings planted

The St.Anne's Girls Higher Secondary School here has taken efforts to expand the greenery not only on the school premises but also in the houses of students and the adopted village.

In a statement released here, Headmistress and Correspondent Rev.Sr.Ermin Ignatius stated that 10 saplings were planted on the school campus recently.

The school also handed over 10 saplings to the students hailing from Periyakuppam to be grown in their houses.

Again, at Periyakuppam, which the school has adopted, National Service Scheme volunteers led by NSS Programme Officer Lilly Christine planted the saplings at the government high school there in the presence of headmaster Ravichandran and vice-principal of St.Anne's school Rv.Sr.Amalpavam.

Published: August 24, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 24, 2011 04:03 IST TIRUCHI, August 24, 2011

Mettur level

The water level at the Mettur Dam stood at 79.24 feet on Tuesday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 9,234 cusecs and the discharge 10,005 cusecs.

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Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Aug 24

Max Min

34.1° | 25.9°

Rain: Trace

Sunrise: 5:57

Humidity: 84%

Sunset: 18:25

Wind: Normal

Barometer: 1005

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Thursday, Aug 25

Max Min

34° | 26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Aug 26

Aug 27

Aug 28

Aug 29

Aug 30



30° | 26°

30° | 26°

30° | 27°

30° | 26°

31° | 26°

Rainy

Rainy

Rainy

Rainy

Rainy

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Wed, Aug 24, 2011 | Updated 07.35AM IST

24 Aug, 2011, 02.34AM IST, Sutanuka Ghosal & Jayashree Bhosale, ET Bureau

Vegetable prices rise on strike, damage by rains

KOLKATA | PUNE: Vegetable prices are again on the rise. Prices have appreciated in almost all metros as quite a large number of vegetables have perished due to heavy rains.

Retail onion prices have now increased to Rs 20/kg while the wholesale prices are up from Rs 8/kg about a fortnight ago to Rs 11/kg to Rs 12/kg now, a rise of 35%. But the price movement is being considered as 'normal' for the current month.

Growers attribute the spurt in the retail prices of tomato, gourd, cauliflower and cabbage to the handiwork of middlemen. "Apart from Bengal, there has been no major monsoon-related disaster in any part of the country. Despite this, retail prices are on the rise though producers are getting 15%-20% less compared to the previous year. There is a strong chain of middlemen, which are playing a major role in this," said Shriram Gadhave, president of All India Vegetable Growers Association.

In Kolkata and Bangalore, prices have gone up steeply for different reasons. In Kolkata, prices have appreciated anywhere between 50% and 75% as a large number of vegetables have perished due to monsoon. In Bangalore, prices have shot up due to a truckers' strike. While potato prices have risen from Rs 10-12 per kg last week to Rs 16 per kg, that of onions have shot up from Rs 13 per kg to Rs 24 per kg. Garlic and ginger, too, have seen a steep rise of Rs 20 per kg. A vendor at Bangalore's Russel Market said prices will appreciate further if the strike continues.

Gopal Mondol, advisor to West Bengal Potato Traders Association, said 70%-80% of

vegetables produced in West Bengal have perished due to rains. "New saplings have been planted now and they will start producing vegetables within the next fortnight provided there is no rain. The prices of vegetables are expected to go down from the second week of September," he added.

In Delhi, prices of onion and tomatoes are going up. Narayan Das, a trader at the Azadpur mandi, said while wholesale onion prices were hovering around Rs 15-17 per kg, consumers were paying Rs 22 per kg. Similarly, tomato prices have shot up to Rs 20 per kg at the retail end.

The retail price of onions has touched Rs 20/kg in metros. Wholesale prices in the major onion-growing regions in Maharashtra have gone up by about Rs 3/kg in the last fortnight, a jump of 35%. The average wholesale onion price in the last week of July at Lasalgaon, Pimpalgaon, Pune and Nashik APMCs was Rs 8.50/kg. Last week, the average prices at these markets jumped to Rs 11.30/kg.



Less rainfall creates drought-like situation in Ganjam

August 23, 2011 11:37:36 PM

Hemanta Kumar Pradhan | BERHAMPUR

As rains have been the lifeline for farmers in Ganjam district, erratic and less rainfall this year has left them sulking.

They are still awaiting a good rainfall to salvage them from a ruinous situation.

A district-level review meeting on Monday revealed that Rangeilunda and Belaguntha blocks are severely hit by scanty rain. At the review meeting, the officials discussed about the alarming situation in the field of agriculture in Ganjam. On instructions from the State Government, district Collector Dr Krishan Kumar called all Sub-Collectors, tehsildars, BDOs, statistics and agriculture officers and Irrigation Department officials to attend the meeting and present clear pictures on the status of crops.

Agriculture and statistics officials informed that the district has received 489 mm rainfall against 650 mm till August 3rd week of the current season, which is 25 per cent less.

In the month of April the district received 33 per cent less rains while it was 22 per cent less in May, 34 per cent less in June, 19 per cent less in July and 22 per cent less in August till the 3rd week.

Two blocks were severely affected by less and erratic rainfall this season. Except Buguda, the rest 21 blocks have received less rainfall, the officers informed in the meeting.

Among others, DRDA Project Director M Muthukumar, ADM Sashibhushan Padhi, Sub-collectors of the district were attended the meeting.

The Collector directed all tehsildars, statistics and agriculture officers to submit their detailed reports before 29 of this month on this matter

Home Minister takes stock of water treatment plant

August 24, 2011 12:51:14 AM

Staff Reporter | Bhopal

Home Minister Uma Shankar Gupta on Tuesday took the stock of BHEL water treatment plant where chlorine gas leaked on Monday night.

He sought information about the leakage and instructed the officials to take preventative measures to avoid such incidents in future. On this occasion, Bhopal Collector Nikunj Shrivastava, BHEL General Manager Girish Shrivastava and Assistant General Manager Town Administration Alok Chaturvedi were present.

Plant in-charge Mukesh Shrivastava informed that this plant is used for treatment of raw water of Upper Lake. Presently, water from Kolar project is being treated here and two unused tanks of chlorine gas are lying therein. Chlorine gas was leaked from one of them.

It was immediately sealed to quell the leakage of gas. The rest of the tank containing of chlorine gas will be shifted to other place. Gupta also visited new chlorine feeding system plant. BHEL General Manager SAA Naqvi informed that with the functioning of this new modern plant, the use of chlorine gas will be safer with having no threat of leakage. Home Minister visited Bhim Nagar slum cluster and talked to the people affected by the gas. Gupta assured that preventive measures would be taken so that such incident does not occur in future. He then inquired about the health of gas affected people admitted to Hamidia hospital and JP hospital. Gupta also visited CSP Rajesh Mishra at City hospital where he was admitted after getting affected from the gas. Earlier in the day, Bhopal Commissioner Manoj Shrivastava, IG Vijay Yadav, Collector Nikunj Shrivastava, SSP Yogesh Chowdhry, BMC Commissioner Manish Singh and ADM Uma Shankar Bhargav inspected the BHEL water plant.

Commissioner Manoj Shrivastava instructed the Collector to constitute teams to check the safety measures in the industrial units of the State capital.

Business Standard

Wednesday, Aug 24, 2011

Pulses set to get costlier this year

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai August 24, 2011, 0:13 IST

Prices likely to rise 25% on festival demand, fall in imports due to low global output.



The price of pulses is likely to rise by at least 25 per cent this year, on a steep fall in estimated output in other major producing countries such as Australia, Canada, US and Myanmar.

The prices here are determined by global developments, as nearly 17 per cent or three million tonnes of India's yearly pulses'

consumption of 18.5-19 mt is imported.

Excessive rain caused inundation in the major sowing area in Australia and Canada, the two major exporting countries to India. Consequently, the crop is likely to decline by 50 per cent in Australia, as farmers could not sow the seeds in time. Although farmers in Canada aggressively re-planted the crop damaged in the flood, output is estimated to decline by at least 20 per cent this year.

Myanmar is another supplier of urad and tur to India, which are 60-65 per cent of our total annual import. But the crop is likely to remain low in Myanmar as well. Consequently, overall supply here from abroad is estimated to decline to half the norm, or around 1.5 mt this year.

According to an estimate by the Union agriculture ministry, total sowing of pulses fell 11 per cent to 9.93 million ha as on August 18, as compared to 11.16 m ha around the same time last year. This was despite a record rainfall this season. The India Meteorological Department reported 26 per cent above normal rain and the highest weekly fall during the current season for the week ended August 19.

THE GLOBAL SCENARIO

Balance sheet of pulses (2010-11)

Country	Acreage (mn ha)	Percentage of global acreage	Production (mn tonnes)	Percentage of global production	Yield (ha/kg)
India	26.0	75	16	56	600
Canada	2.6	8	5.2	18	1,900
Australia	1.5	4	1.8	6	1,100
US	1.1	3	2.3	8	1,900
Myanmar	3.3	10	3.5	12	980

“Many farmers migrated to other more remunerative crops this year, including cotton and soybean, as the price of pulses remained low this season after hitting a high last year,” said Pravin Dongre, president of the India Pulses and Grains Association, earlier known as the

Pulses Importers Association.

When prices of major varieties of pulses, including tur and urad, hit a record high of around Rs 100 a kg in retail markets, the government intervened and started selling imported pulses of these varieties at Rs 40 a kg through the ration shops of the Public Distribution System (PDS). The intensified import at the government subsidised rates resulted in a dramatic price decline.

“The lower acreage is the result of government intervention to pull the price down. Therefore, we urge the government to procure pulses at the minimum support price (MSP) and allow nationwide distribution through PDS,” said Dongre.

In the past three days, lemon tur has surged Rs 175 a quintal; it traded at Rs 2,875 a qtl on Tuesday at the Vashi wholesale market due to fear of low supply from abroad and rising festive demand from local markets.

Similarly, imported urad of the Burmese variety has risen by Rs 100 a qtl to trade at Rs 3,700 a qtl. In New Delhi, wholesale tur and its dara variety moved up by Rs 100 each to Rs 3,000-3,500 and Rs 4,400-4,800 per qtl, respectively.

“Meanwhile, the gradual reduction in areas under pulses cultivation has prompted a number of Indian companies to look for large land holdings in African countries. Many are in talks with the government of Ethiopia to buy land to plant pulses there.

Since, the agronomical condition is similar to India, growing of pulses would help reduce dependence on existing suppliers,” said Bimal Kothari, vice-president of IPGA. He emphasised the need to increase yield in India, currently the lowest in the world.

Sudha Acharya, an analyst with Kotak Commodities Services, said, “The prices of pulses are likely to rise by at least 25 per cent this year on sustained festival demand and lower supply from overseas.”

Cotton farmers stay away from forward trading

Vimukt Dave / Rajkot August 24, 2011, 0:17 IST



Last year's price swings in cotton have discouraged the decades-old practice of cotton farmers to selling their crop in forward deals before harvesting. This season, no forward deals have happened so far, due to heavy defaults and losses incurred by ginners and traders last year.

"The experience was not good in forward trading last year. That is why traders and ginners are not doing any," said Rakesh Rathi, president, North India Cotton Association. Last year, prices started rising from July-end. From August, export possibilities and prices in international market were both rising. Cotton prices were around Rs 33,000 a candy (356 kg) and then rose to Rs 63,000 in six months.

During the course, especially from November to December, farmers preferred to default in honouring their forward deal commitments, as those deals were at quite low prices compared to the market prices. Ginners and traders that had purchased cotton in forward trades and then sold it to exporters also defaulted.

"People fear price fluctuations. Last year, about 1.6-2 million bales (170 kg) cotton forward trading contracts were cancelled or settled at a loss," Rathi said. Those contracts that were registered with industry bodies were settled at 10-15 per cent losses.

"At present, domestic and international demand is low and requirement for the new season is not clear, as there is fear of slowdown. Hence, industry players are also staying away from buying cotton in forward deals," said Saurashtra Ginners Association vice-president, Arvind Patel.

Most traders and ginners believe that entering into forward trading two to three months before crop arrivals is risky due to fear of price volatility amidst slowdown.

“Most of the forward trading was done at Rs 28,000-32,000 a candy in July-October last year, but the price increased to Rs 45,000 a candy at delivery. In such cases, sellers did not fulfill the orders to buyers and then buyers suffered losses,” said Arun Dalal of Arun Kumar & Co from Ahmedabad.

Now cotton prices are around Rs 34,000, but no one is sure if these would sustain.

Rajkot-based cotton trader Bipinbhai Bodar of Mahadev Trading Company, said “Most deals were cancelled last year. Only about 10 per cent forward trading commitments were fulfill. This time, no one wants to take a risk and as a result, no forward trading in cotton so far. Moreover, market is still not stable, everybody is interested in day-to-day business. In this situation there is no chance for forward trading in cotton.”

Jute industry under CCI lens for alleged cartelisation

Ajay Modi / New Delhi August 24, 2011, 0:04 IST

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) will investigate an alleged cartelisation charge on the domestic jute industry. Prima facie, the regulator has found substance in the complaint and last week decided to initiate a probe, said a sugar industry official.

The sugar industry had filed a complaint with CCI through two apex associations claiming that the jute industry had abused its dominant position by charging excessive price in the absence of competition.

It had appealed to the commission to use its advocacy role and advise the textile ministry to suitably relax the mandatory jute packaging requirements for sugar. The textile ministry, the administrative ministry for jute industry, and the two jute industry bodies have been made parties in the case.

The sugar industry consumes around 300,000 tonnes of A Twill jute sacks at Rs 1,650 crore at the Rs 55,000 a tonne. “The Indian Jute Mills Association and Gunny Traders Association have cartelised the market for packaging material for sugar thereby infringing section 3(3) of

the CCI Act by jointly deciding sale prices and limiting technical development of the industry,” the Indian Sugar Mills Association and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories have alleged. The All India Flat Tape Manufacturers Association, which produces plastic sacks, has also joined hands since the reservation given to jute industry has restricted their growth.

The Jute Packaging (Mandatory) Act of 1987 had made use of jute bags mandatory for packing sugar, foodgrain, fertiliser and cement. But, the supply of jute bags failed to keep up with the growing output. As a consequence, cement and fertilisers were exempted. An exception is given to sugar mills on sugar meant for export and bags of up to 25kg.

In international trade, the accepted practice is to pack sugar in high-density polyethylene (HDPE) bags. The Centre has the power to decide on the quantum of sugar that should be packed in jute. However, the government has repeatedly overruled the recommendations of the Standing Advisory Committee that sugar factories be allowed to pack 25 per cent of their production in non-jute bags.

The situation, the sugar industry argues “has encouraged the creation of a dominant position of the jute industry, whereby they are misusing the position by taking undue advantage of their monopolistic and dominant position in the absence of any competition from non-jute suppliers”.

The associations have argued that since grains are procured by the government for PDS, sugar is the only commodity handled by the non-government body that is forced to use jute.

The sugar industry argued that by making jute bags mandatory, the sweetener consumers are penalised in two ways: First, they are made to pay an extra 40 paise for a kg of sugar since cost of jute bag is higher and second, that the sugar is not as clean as it would have been if it had been packed in HDPE bags.

Cotton seed futures down on profit-booking

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 23, 2011, 13:54 IST

Cotton seed oilcake futures prices fell by Rs 14 to Rs 1,299 per quintal today on profit-booking by traders, in tandem with the weak spot market sentiment.

Market analysts said a fall in demand and increased arrivals in physical markets led to the fall in cotton seed oilcake futures prices here.

At the National commodity and Derivatives Exchange, cotton seed oilcake prices for September delivery went down by Rs 14, or 1.07%, to Rs 1,299 per quintal, with an open interest for 50,340 lots.

Similarly, cotton seed for December delivery eased by Rs 3, or 0.27%, to Rs 1,121 per quintal, with a trading volume of 14,770 lots.

Mustard seed futures up on rising demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 23, 2011, 12:21 IST

Mustard seed futures prices strengthened by Rs 28 to Rs 3,082 per quintal today, driven by a pick-up in demand in the physical market amid low stock availability.

Market analysts said increased demand from the vanaspati and oilmill industries, coupled with restricted supply in the spot market, boosted the trading sentiment in mustard seed futures.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, December contract rose by Rs 28, or 0.92%, to Rs 3,082 per quintal, with an open interest of 550 lots.

September contract also moved up by Rs 18, or 0.61%, to Rs 2,945 per quintal, with an open interest for 1,30,880 lots.

Coriander futures shed 1.56% on profit-booking

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 23, 2011, 12:18 IST

In range-bound trade, coriander shed Rs 88 to Rs 5,565 per quintal in the futures market today as speculators booked profits at existing higher levels, driven by weak spot market demand. At the Multi Commodity Exchange, coriander for delivery in September shed Rs 88, or 1.56%, to Rs 5,565 per quintal with a business turnover of two lots.

Market analysts said besides profit-booking by speculators at existing higher levels, sluggish demand in the spot market led to the fall in coriander futures prices.

Chana futures down on sluggish demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 23, 2011, 12:16 IST



Chana prices declined by Rs 8 to Rs 3,317 per quintal in futures trade today on sluggish demand at prevailing higher levels against adequate stock availability.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, October delivery declined by Rs 8, or 0.24%, to Rs 3,317 per quintal with an open interest for 124,040 lots.

September delivery shed Rs 6, or 0.19%, to Rs 3,227 per quintal in 317,000 lots.

Traders said sluggish demand at prevailing higher levels against adequate stock availability mainly led to the decline in chana futures prices.

Spices close steady in thin trade

Press Trust of India / Mumbai August 23, 2011, 16:39 IST

An overall steady trend was noticed at the spices market here today due to lack demand from stockists and retailers amid adequate stock availability.

The following are today's closing rates for various spices in rupees, with the previous rate given in brackets:

Black pepper (per kg) 318/340 (318/340), ginger bleached (per kg) 165 (165), ginger unbleached (per kg) 180 (180)

copra office Alapuzha (per quintal) 6,300 (6,300), copra office Kozhikode (per quintal) 6,100 (6,100), copra Rajapur Mumbai (per quintal) 9,600 (9,600) and copra edible Mumbai (per quintal) 7,600 (7,600)

Select edible oils rise on fresh buying support, global cues

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 23, 2011, 15:38 IST



Select edible oil prices rose by up to Rs 30 per quintal in the oils and oilseeds market today on fresh buying support from vanaspati millers for the ongoing festive season amid a firming global trend.

However, non-edible oils moved in tight range and settled around their previous levels.

Traders said fresh buying by vanaspati millers for the ongoing festive season amid a firming global trend led to the rise in select wholesale edible oil prices.

In the national capital, soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) and soyabean degum (Kandla) oil prices rose by Rs 30 each to Rs 6,500 and Rs 5,950, respectively, while crude palm oil (ex-Kandla) was trading higher by Rs 20 at Rs 5,220 per quintal.

Palmolein (rbd) and palmolein (Kandla) were also in demand and gained Rs 20 each to Rs 5,870 and Rs 5,570 per quintal, respectively.

The following are today's quotations in rupees:

Oilseeds: Mustard seed 2,525-2,655, groundnut seed 2,100-2,850

Vanaspati ghee (15-litre 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) 6,500, soyabean degum (Kandla) 5,950, crude palm oil (ex-Kandla) 5,220

cotton seed mill delivery (Haryana) 5,520, palmolein (RBD) Rs 5,870, palmolein (Kandla) 5,570, 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 cotton seed 1,075-1,175.

Select pulses rise on pick-up in demand from retailers

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 23, 2011, 15:29 IST



Select pulses rose by up to Rs 200 per quintal in the wholesale pulses market today on the back of a pick-up in demand from retailers for the ongoing festive season amid a slow down in arrivals.

Market analysts said a pick-up in demand from retailers in view of the ongoing festive season amid a decline in arrivals from producing regions mainly pushed up the rates of select wholesale pulses.

In the national capital, the price of kabli gram small variety shot up by Rs 200 to Rs 5,700-8,100 per quintal. Arhar and its dal dara variety moved up by Rs 100 each to Rs 3,000-3,500 and Rs 4,400-4,800 per quintal, respectively.

Gram, its dal local and best quality varieties also rose by Rs 100 each to Rs 3,000-3100, Rs 3,400-3,500 and Rs 3,600-3,700 per quintal, respectively.

The 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 3,000-3,500, dal arhar dara 4,400-4,800

Gram 3,000-3,100, gram dal (local) 3,400-3,500, best quality 3,600-3,700, 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 5,700-8,100, dabra 2,700-2,800, imported 4,700-5,100, lobia 4,700-5,200, peas white 2,400-2,450, peas green 2,500-2,575

Sugar recovers in futures trade on festive demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 23, 2011, 12:30 IST



Supported by a pick-up in demand in the spot market for the ongoing festive season, sugar futures recovered by 0.21% to Rs 2,797 per quintal today.

However, ample supply in the market limited the gains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, October sugar rose by Rs 6, or 0.21%, to Rs 2,797 per quintal, with an open interest for 4,590 lots.

September sugar also edged up by Re 1, or 0.04%, to Rs 2,738 per quintal, with an open interest for 32,180 lots.

Analysts said sugar futures prices recovered as speculators enlarged their positions, driven by a pick-up in spot market demand for the ongoing festive season. However, the adequate

stocks position in the market restricted the gains, they added.

Wheat futures up marginally in thin trade

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 23, 2011, 12:40 IST



Wheat futures prices edged up by 0.03% to Rs 1,149.50 per quintal in range-bound trade today as speculators enlarged their positions at prevailing levels.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, September delivery moved up by 30 paise, or 0.02%, to Rs 1,149.50 per quintal, with an open interest for 29,620 lots.

October delivery was trading 40 paise, or 0.02%, higher at Rs 1,168 per quintal, with a trading volume of 11,590 lots.

Market analysts said bargain buying by speculators on the back of a persistent fall in prices in the several past sessions helped wheat prices to rise in futures trade here.

Maize futures up on increased buying

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 23, 2011, 12:08 IST

Maize prices hardened by Rs 13 to Rs 1,205 per quintal in futures trade today as traders increased their holdings, tracking a firming trend in the spot markets.

Marketmen said low supply and better offtake in physical markets, triggered by increased demand from bio-fuel making industries, mainly influenced the trading sentiment in maize futures here.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, September delivery advanced by Rs 13, or 1.09%, to Rs 1,205 per quintal, clocking an open interest of 20,520 lots.

Near-November maize futures gained Rs 7.50, or 0.63%, to Rs.1,195.50 per quintal, with an

open interest for 18,410 lots.

Coffee Board, planters differ on output

Mahesh Kulkarni / Bangalore August 23, 2011, 0:00 IST

The Coffee Board estimates of 322,000 tonnes of coffee production (post-blossom estimates) for the crop year 2011-12 beginning October is unlikely to be achieved, as bumper crop in robusta for two consecutive years would not be possible, say industry analysts.

“Last year, we saw a bumper robusta crop and, going by the record, we can conclude that it would not be possible to achieve one more year of bumper crop this year. The Coffee Board seems to be little ambitious this year. Unless new areas come up for harvest this year, we cannot expect bumper crop in robusta,” Sahadev Balakrishna, chairman, Karnataka Planters Association (KPA) told Business Standard.

While, the KPA agrees with the Coffee Board as far as 10 per cent growth trend in arabica coffee production for the current crop year, it does not agree with the Board with regard to robusta coffee output for the year. It also does not agree with the Board as regards to the harvested crop for last year.

KPA also does not agree with the board for the harvested crop for 2010-11. According to KPA, the harvested arabica crop was 85,000 tonnes and robusta was about 205,000 tonnes.

The Coffee Board has estimated 105,000 tonnes arabica crop for the year 2011-12, a growth of 10.5 per cent over the harvested crop in 2010-11. The Board has pegged the robusta crop for the current year at 217,000 tonnes, a growth of 4.8 per cent over the harvested crop last year. The total coffee production for the year 2011-12 is estimated at 322,000 tonnes, a growth of 6.62 per cent.

However, the KPA estimates the arabica output at 95,000 tonnes for the year 2011-12, a growth of 11.7 per cent over the harvested crop for 2010-11. It estimates the robusta production to be around the same level as seen during the last year or it may even drop by 10 per cent, Balakrishna said.

“The Coffee Board is little over ambitious in its estimates. Unless we see the new area

converted for robusta from arabica coming to the market this year, we cannot expect bumper output for two consecutive years,” he said.

A large number of growers had converted their arabica gardens into robusta between 2000 and 2005 following white stem borer pest attack. However, there is no official estimates available as to the extent of new area under Robusta, he said adding that 5,000-10,000 tonnes or additional robusta coffee could come to the market this year. “There are several constraints to achieve bumper crop in Karnataka this year. The growers are facing difficulties like shortage of electricity and irrigation facilities that would act as impediments to growth in output,” he added.

THE HINDU Business Line

CAG slams lax Board for Indian tea's poor show

Four out of five small growers still out of its ambit



Chennai, Aug. 23:

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has found the Tea Board ineffective in exercising its role as regulator of the commodity in the country.

“This has had an adverse impact on the effectiveness of its functioning in other areas of development such as research, marketing and promotion of tea in India,” the CAG said in its performance audit of “Role of Tea Board in tea development in India”. The audit was done for the 2008-09 fiscal.

Regretting that 80 per cent of small growers in the country continued to be outside the ambit of the Tea Board's regulation, it said the Board's system of inspecting for regulating activities of stake holders was weak and non-transparent.

Ageing plantation is one of the main reasons for declining productivity and the total area under commercially unproductive bushes has increased substantially, it said.

Programmes for replantation, rejuvenation and pruning were necessary but the targets set for these are low. At current rates, it would take 149 years to wipe off the backlog for replanting and replacement-planting up to 2008, the CAG said.

Below targets

Expressing concern over low prices realised by Indian teas compared with other competitors, the CAG said it was primarily due to its inferior quality and adverse product mix. “Production of orthodox tea has not increased and actual production of orthodox tea has fallen substantially below the targets set,” it said.

The Tea Board has failed to lay down enhancement in orthodox-tea production as a pre-requisite for eligibility for subsidy, it said.

The audit found that the Board had neither fixed any target in any of its subsidy schemes nor laid down any mechanism to measure impact of such schemes. “There are deficiencies in implementation of various other activities aimed at increasing productivity,” it said.

Costly methods

The cost of producing tea was the highest in the country compared with other nations and the cost of sales were often higher than realisations at the auctions. Yet, the Tea Board did not prescribe regular cost studies to identify components that would help cut costs.

Research activities were not fruitful and it could be attributed to inadequate monitoring and shortage of manpower and resources. The CAG also slammed the Board for not working in consonance with the industry in implementing the e-commerce initiative of the IT portal project as well as securing financial commitment for operating the portal.

Govt at fault too

The audit also found fault with the Government for providing inadequate budgetary support for effective discharge of functions of the Board such as market diversification. It also said that generation of resources as cess on all teas produced was inadequate. "The ceiling of cess at rate not exceeding 50 paise a kg was fixed way back in 1986. Internal generation of funds was also not adequate," the audit report said. In conclusion, the CAG said that the Tea Board should carry out major structural and strategic changes in its policies and plans to perform its regulatory functions more efficiently and effectively.

The Government should also review the entire functioning of the Board and take a holistic view of its existence and role in the future. The Government could redesign its programmes, schemes and delivery mechanisms, and allocate higher financial outlays to address the problems plaguing the tea industry, as well, it said.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 24, 2011)

Lorry strike shuts Erode turmeric markets



Erode, Aug. 23:

Turmeric markets in Erode will remain closed until the lorry strike is called off, according to Mr R.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Farmers are unable to bring the produce to markets and buyers are unable to send consignments outside Erode due to the strike, he said. Markets, which were supposed to open on Tuesday after being closed for four days, could not reopen as the strike continued, he said. Farmers said they are facing a double whammy as apart from the strike, lack of demand has pulled down turmeric below Rs 6,000 a quintal.

Reuters reports: In the futures market, turmeric contract hit a new low as the market fretted about higher stocks and favourable weather in cultivating regions that brightened output prospects.

Weak exports and local demand also weighed on sentiment, they said.

The benchmark September contracts on the NCDEX closed 3.99 per cent lower at Rs 5,920 a quintal. It hit a contract low of Rs 5,920 earlier in the day.

In Nizamabad, a key market in Andhra Pradesh, turmeric fell Rs 48 to Rs 6,598 a quintal in the spot market.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 24, 2011)

Q1 tobacco exports up 9%

Hyderabad, Aug. 23:

Despite unfavourable weather conditions in Andhra Pradesh this year, tobacco exports from the country increased by 9 per cent in quantity and value (dollars).

For the quarter ended June 30, exports increased to 64,392 tonnes against 59,263 tonnes in the same period a year ago.

With export markets offering promise, the Tobacco Board is hopeful of reviving Chinese opportunity this year.

The Board is sending a team of traders and officials in September to discuss the issue with the Chinese Government.

China, which used to import 10 million kg (mkg) from India, had put a clamp a few years ago due to quality issues. The two countries, however, have signed a quality assurance pact in 2008 that facilitated exports to China.

“China would be a great opportunity as it imports 300 mkg every year,” Mr G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, Chairman of Tobacco Board, which works under the Union Ministry of Commerce, told *Business Line*.

performance

Value wise, exports in the first quarter shot up by 9 per cent to \$232 million as against \$212.50 despite strengthening of the rupee. In rupee terms, exports accrued Rs 1,038 crore (Rs 970 crore).

In the comparable quarter last year, rupee revenues saw a dip of 7 per cent and dollar revenues a marginal decline by one per cent.

“We are happy that exports went up. Good export record will help farmers get better prices next season. Last year, we witnessed a decline in the same quarter. Western Europe continues to contribute over 35 per cent,” the Chairman said.

Products

Tobacco industry had another reason to cheer about. Tobacco products saw a significant growth.

Export of tobacco products went up to 9,713 tonnes (7,906 tonnes), earning \$52 million (\$45.48 m).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 24, 2011)

Wheat traders halt work to support Anna Hazare



Karnal, Aug. 23:

With trading being tepid, the wheat market witnessed a steady trend with the *dara* and *desi* varieties ruling flat on Tuesday.

Due to uncertain weather and sluggish demand, traders did not place bulk orders and prices were range-bound, said Mr Sewa Ram, a wheat trader.

Social activist Anna Hazare's indefinite fast also affected business on Tuesday as traders suspended work to support Team Anna, he said.

After witnessing an uptrend last week, the *dara* variety remained unchanged and quoted at Rs 1,090 a quintal.

Because of heavy rainfall early in the morning, the arrivals remained low on Tuesday.

Just around 500 quintals of *dara* arrived from Uttar Pradesh and the stocks were directly offloaded at the mills.

Similarly, *desi* wheat ruled firm. The *Tohfa* variety quoted at Rs 2,130 a quintal; *Maruti* at Rs 1,800 a quintal and *Lal Quila* at Rs 1,930. *Kangan* traded at Rs 1,950 a quintal.

On the other hand, on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange wheat for September delivery rose by Rs 3.80 to Rs 1,153 a quintal after touching a low at Rs 1,148 a quintal earlier on Tuesday.

Flour Prices

Following a steady trend in wheat prices, flour was ruling at the same price and quoted at Rs 1,160 for a 90-kg bag.

Similarly, after a good rally last week, Choker prices also ruled flat at Rs 490-500 for a 49-kg bag.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 24, 2011)

Mamata seeks bonus for raw jute

Kolkata, Aug. 23:

The West Bengal Chief Minister, Ms Mamata Banerjee, on Tuesday urged the Union Agriculture Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, to increase the minimum support price (MSP) of raw jute to protect the interest of farmers.

The Centre had earlier announced MSP ranging from Rs 1,700 to Rs 1,738 a quintal of the TD-5 variety of jute in West Bengal.

Ms Banerjee has, in a letter to Mr Pawar, requested for a bonus of about Rs 400 a quintal for the current jute season.

“The cost of production of jute is much higher in comparison to the MSP announced. Though the prevailing market price is higher than the MSP, it is lesser than the cost of production, thereby causing immense distress to the farmers,” said a press release issued by the State Government.

Jute prices have been dropping on account of a good crop this year. “Prices have dropped from about Rs 3,000 a quintal just about three months ago to Rs 2,200 a quintal at present on account of a good crop this year,” said a senior industry official.

Sowing witnessed a rise of 20 per cent this year and it could lead to a production of 120 lakh bales against 100 lakh bales last year due to favourable weather.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 24, 2011)

Global markets buoy edible oils



Mumbai, Aug. 23:

Edible oils rose on Tuesday as local refiners raised prices of palmolein and soya oil by Rs 4-6 for 10 kg, tracking bullish trend in Malaysian and Chicago markets.

However, volumes were negligible in absence of demand. Stockists preferred deliveries of pending contracts. Crude palm oil (CPO) futures rose on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives (BMD) as soya oil gained overnight in Chicago and on reports of crops deteriorating in the US. In Mumbai, groundnut oil rose by Rs 5, soya refined oil increased by Rs 6, palmolein gained Rs 4 and rapeseed oil was up by Rs 4 for 10 kg despite poor demand. Cotton and sunflower oils ruled steady.

Resellers traded 80-100 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 555-557. Market sentiment was firm as new demand is expected to rise during *Ganeshotsav* that begins next month.

Liberty offered palmolein at Rs 565, soya oil at Rs 639 and sunflower oil at Rs 700. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 560, soya refined oil at Rs 637 and sunflower oil at Rs 700. Allana offered palmolein at Rs 560 for delivery between September 10 and September 30.

Groundnut oil was up by Rs 5 to Rs 1,500 for a *telia* tin and to Rs 980 for loose (10 kg) in Rajkot where markets opened on a firm note after holidays.

Malaysia's BMD CPO September contract closed at MYR3,161 (MYR3,125), October MYR3,104 (MYR3,056) and November MYR3,068 (MYR3,022) a tonne. September contract

of soya oil on National Board of Trade in Indore shot up to Rs 664 (Rs 656.60) and October closed at Rs 651.20 (Rs 643).

Mumbai Commodity Exchange spot prices (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil 970 (965), soya refined oil 640 (634), sunflower exp. ref. 660 (660), sunflower ref. 705 (705), rapeseed ref. oil 695 (691), rapeseed expeller ref. 665 (661), cotton ref. oil 655 (655) and palmolein 558 (554).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 24, 2011)

Jeera futures slump as investors book profits



Rajkot, Aug. 23:

Jeera futures fell by 1.73 per cent as investors booked profits after they rose by over 7 per cent since August 9.

Spot markets in Gujarat were closed for a week for *Janmashtami* festival.

September contract of jeera decreased by Rs 280 to Rs 15,890 a quintal on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), with an open interest of 18,255 lots.

October contract dropped by Rs 283 to Rs 16,350, with an open interest of 16,551 lots.

Stocks in NCDEX-accredited warehouses rose by 82 tonnes to 11,463 tonnes.

Jeera gained Rs 50.5 at Rs 15,636.45 a quintal at Unjha.

recovery hopes

Hopes of a recovery in export demand as supplies from other producing centres were disrupted helped traders restrict losses, said a report from Kedia Commodity.

Stockist demand has risen in the domestic market ahead of the festival season and tight international supplies may boost it further, said market sources.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 24, 2011)

Sugar gains on tight supply



Mumbai, Aug. 23:

Sugar prices, on Tuesday, extended gains on tight supply from producing centres due to transporters' strike

Spot price further increased by Rs 20-30, while naka rates improved by Rs 25-30 a quintal in the absence of resellers. Mill tender rates ruled steady, producers continued selling at current price level to avoid stock building due to the transporters' strike.

According to market sources, with transporters on strike from last Thursday, sugar prices have gone up by nearly Rs 100 in consuming markets on disturbed dispatches from mills. There is no sign of the strike being called off. It could result in decline in market inventory.

Local transporters, who are not on strike, have kept local supply smooth till date but disturbance to new arrivals will affect routine business in the coming days. Freight rates also

increased by Rs 40-50 a bag at producing level on shortage of trucks. Neighbouring States buying through rail rake increased.

From next week, local demand for sugar is expected to rise on account of *Ganeshotsav*.

Arrivals in the market were lower at 28-30 truckloads (each 100 bags) while local dispatches were about 38-40 truckloads.

According to traders, mills have sold about two rail rakes (each of 27,000 bags) of S-grade sugar at Rs 2,625-2,650 to neighbouring States. On Monday evening, about 17-18 mills offered tenders and sold about 75,000-80,000 bags to local traders in the Rs 2,650-2,700 range (Rs 2,650-2,700) for S-grade and Rs 2,710-2,780 (Rs 2,710-2,780) for M-grade.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot prices : S-grade Rs 2,826-2,905 (Rs 2,801-2,895) and M-grade Rs 2,846-3,031 (Rs 2,831-3,001).

Naka delivery rates: S-grade Rs 2,760-2,800 (Rs 2,730-2,770) and M-grade Rs 2,820-2,900 (Rs 2,800-2,880).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 24, 2011)

Stockist demand, speculation lift spot chana



Indore, Aug. 23:

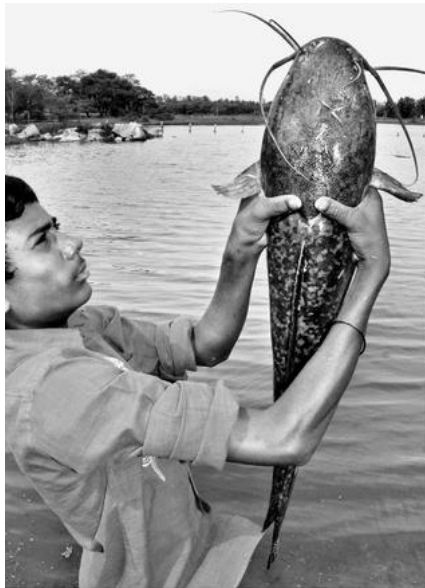
Even as spot chana and masoor in local mandis rose, trading in pulses and pulse seeds remained sluggish on lower buying.

Trading at local mandis, which opened on Tuesday after two days of holidays, was dull in

absence of active buying. Notwithstanding slack demand and weak chana futures on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, speculation and demand from stockists perked up spot chana by Rs 50 at Rs 3,150 a quintal. However, chana (kanta) had few takers as demand from millers and traders dropped at the higher rate. Chana (desi) also perked up to Rs 3,050 a quintal. Traders hope chana will open lower on Wednesday because of weak demand at the higher rate. Rise in spot chana also perked up chana dal by Rs 50, with chana dal (bold) in the spot market being quoted at Rs 3,900-3,925 a quintal, chana dal (medium) at Rs 3,800-3,825 and chana dal (average) at Rs 3,675-3,700 a quintal. Masoor also gained Rs 25-50 on weak arrivals and increased demand. In the spot market, masoor (bold) quoted at Rs 2,875-2,900, while masoor (medium) was at Rs 2,600.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 24, 2011)

Prized catch



Conducive weather: An angler holds a Wels Catfish (*Silurus glanis*) caught from a lake on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Tuesday . Copious rain in the last few days has helped in filling water bodies and improving production of such species. The catfish is sold for Rs 200-250.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 24, 2011)

Spot rubber back above Rs 200 a kg



Kottayam, Aug. 23:

Rubber prices improved further on Tuesday. In the spot market, they extended gains following consistent recovery on the National Multi Commodity Exchange(NMCE).

According to sources, the widening gap between the domestic and international prices and the weakening rupee against dollar may have initiated the recent buying pressure which took RSS 4 back above the Rs 200 level. The trend was partially mixed.

Sheet rubber improved to Rs 200.50 (198.50) a kg, according to traders.

The grade firmed up to Rs 200 (198) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board.

The September series increased to Rs 205.10 (204.16), October to Rs 203.32 (201.37), November to Rs 203.50 (200.83), December to Rs 203.49 (201.71), January to Rs 204.25 (203.12) and February to Rs 204.52 (202.11) a kg on the NMCE.

The August futures dropped to ¥349.5 (Rs 208.08) from ¥351 a kg during the day session but then bounced back to ¥351 (Rs 208.91) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) closed firm at Rs 213.01 (211.12) a kg at Bangkok.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 200.50 (198.50); RSS-5: 193 (190); ungraded: 184 (182);

ISNR 20: 195 (195) and latex 60 per cent 127 (129).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 24, 2011)

Dr B.C. Sekhar award for rubber scientist Alan N. Gent

Kochi, Aug. 23:

Dr Alan N. Gent, world-renowned polymer and rubber scientist, has been selected for the prestigious Tan Sri Dr B.C.Sekhar Gold Medal 2010, instituted by *Rubber Asia* magazine. Dr Alan N. Gent, who is at present Research Professor at the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, US, has been awarded for his outstanding contributions to the global rubber industry over the years.

He is well-known for his multi-dimensional contributions to the rubber industry in various capacities such as consultant to leading global tyre and rubber companies and institutions and as an academician and scholar on polymers and all rubber-related materials and their engineering. The award has been instituted to honour the memory of late Dr Sekhar, the internationally acclaimed rubber scientist and administrator, who devoted his entire life for the promotion of the rubber industry, especially natural rubber.

The Gold Medal will be presented by noted agricultural scientist Prof M.S. Swaminathan at the India Rubber Summit & Dinner 2011 to be held in Kochi on September 3. The international jury for the award is headed by Mr P.C. Cyriac, former Chairman of the Indian Rubber Board and former Additional Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The jury comprised dignitaries such as Dr Stephen Evans, Secretary-General, International Rubber Study Group; Dr Abdul Azeez S.A Kadir, Secretary-General International Rubber Research and Development Board; Ms Sheela Thomas, Chairman of the Rubber Board; Datuk Dr Salmiah Ahmad, Director-General, Malaysian Rubber Board; Mr Vinod Simon, President of the All-India Rubber Industries Association; Mr Kurian Abraham, Editor & Managing Director of Rubber Asia; and Mr John S. Powath, Executive Director, Rubber Asia.

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