

Published: August 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 27, 2011 04:04 IST BANGALORE,
August 27, 2011

Modify rural job scheme for attracting youth to farming: Planning Commission

The Planning Commission has initiated consultations with the Union Rural Development Ministry on the possibility of slightly modifying Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGS) Scheme in the proposed 12th Five-Year Plan so that it can be used not only for providing a thrust to sustainable agriculture, but also to attract youth back into the farming sector.

Disclosing this at the inaugural session of a three-day national seminar on “Attracting farm youth to sustainable agriculture,” organised by the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bangalore (UAS-B) and the Indian Society of Extension Education in Bangalore on Friday, Planning Commission member Abhijit Sen said: “The main intention is to attract youth to agriculture not merely as manual labourers, but as “agents of change.”

Pointing out that one of the missions of the MGNREGS was to focus on land and water, he said: “With a focussed attention on land and water, and a little bit of the large amount of money [in the scheme], we can convert this into a massive programme for sustainability of agriculture.”

Referring to the proposed changes in the scheme, he said the scheme should have an additional component that dealt with designing programmes for sustainability of agriculture and also providing training on skills to the enrolled job-seekers so that they could get some expertise.

The aim of the Commission was to bring sustainable agriculture under the agenda of rural development. “The rural development schemes have much more funds than agricultural schemes,” he pointed out.

Youth participation

The number of youth (in the age group of 15 to 24 years) engaged in agricultural work declined from 47 million in 1999 to 33 million in 2009. But the number of youth in the labour sector had declined by about six lakh in the last five years as a large number of them had continued their education. It was evident from statistics that number of youth pursuing education had doubled from 30 lakh in 2004-05 to 60 lakh in 2009-10, he said.

This may lead to the problem of employment as this additional 30 lakh youth, who are presently in educational institutions, may enter the labour sector in the next five years, he said.

The former UAS-B Vice-Chancellor, R. Dwarakinath, stressed the need for making agriculture a profitable venture so that it would be attractive for youth. He opposed the trend of corporate farming by expressing the fear that it would be detrimental to the interests of small and marginal farmers. In fact, European countries themselves were now doing away with corporate farming, he said.

UAS-B Vice-Chancellor K. Narayana Gowda listed several steps for making agriculture a sustainable activity, including focussing on value addition and marketing.

Published: August 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 27, 2011 03:58 IST ERODE, August 27, 2011

Farmers urge authorities to monitor fertilizer trade



Assuring swift action: Collector C. Kamaraj speaking at the farmers' grievances redressal day meeting in Erode on Friday. - PHOTO: M. GOVARTHAN

Farmers in the district have appealed to the authorities to closely monitor the fertilizer trade as many private outlets were selling the fertilizers at higher rates.

Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam T. Suppu, pointing out various issues in the fertilizer trade, claimed that traders, particularly those in the Thalavadi block, were collecting Rs. 50 to Rs.100 more than the price fixed by the government. A majority of the traders were also refusing to give receipts to the farmers while purchasing fertilizers.

Many farmers also felt that the government-fixed rates of a few varieties of fertilizers including the DAP were higher. They wanted the government to revise the prices and make them affordable to the farming community.

A few farmers also alleged that the traders were producing mixed fertilizers without obtaining any licence from the government and selling them to the farmers. The application of these illegally-produced fertilizers often led to drastic fall in the crop yield. Traders were also selling a few varieties of fertilizers, which were banned by the Government, farmers claimed and urged the district administration to initiate stern action against the traders violating the rules.

Collector C. Kamaraj, responding to the questions, assured the farmers that the administration would initiate immediate efforts to sort out the problems. "We will initiate a concrete action within two days," he promised.

The Collector also asked the public works department officials to identify encroachments in the Lower Bhavani Project canal and the branch channels and take steps to remove them without any further delay. "Allot funds for the removal of encroachments immediately and ensure adequate water supply to the farmers in tail end areas," he told the officials.

Meanwhile, farmers urged the administration to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the agriculture sector as farmers in the district were preparing for cultivation.

Published: August 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 27, 2011 04:01 IST MADURAI, August 27, 2011

Collector directs Aavin to raise milk procurement

Says it must be increased by 32,040 litres a day by August 31

Shortage: 14,194 litres in Madurai; 17,846 in Theni “Approach banks to avail loans for buying cattle”

Collector U. Sagayam has directed the Madurai Aavin Union to increase the milk procurement level by 32,040 litres a day by August 31, failing which he warned that memos would be issued. The present procurement level at Madurai Aavin, which also covers Theni district, is 1.93 lakh litres a day.

The Collector, who is also the Special Officer of Madurai Aavin, warned the officials of stringent action if the targets were not during a review meeting on Thursday. The meeting was attended by the Madurai Aavin Union General Manager V. Muthiah, officials from Procurement Department, Procurement and Input (P and I) wing, section heads of other wings such as finance marketing and production.

According to officials who attended the meeting, the Collector said that milk procurement was short by 14,194 litres a day in Madurai and 17,846 litres in Theni. He directed the officials to address the issues within four days.

He also instructed the Marketing Department officials to conduct regular raids on Aavin Depots and ensure that the milk was not being siphoned off to private shops for higher prices.

These moves create an artificial scarcity of Aavin milk, which was much sought after by people for its high quality and affordable costs. The officials were told to ensure that all consumers were able to buy Aavin milk from the depots and also present vendors and concessionaries from overcharging the public.

Mr. Sagayam had cancelled the license of Aavin depot no. 680 located at TVS Nagar, which he inspected on the early hours of Thursday, after complaints of such irregularities.

He also told the Aavin officials to approach banks through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to avail loans for purchase of milch cattle. Informing the officials that he had already instructed banks to be cooperative in this regard, the Collector said that such initiatives would strengthen the Milk Producing Cooperative Societies and increase the milk supply to Aavin.

The Madurai Aavin Union had a sales level of around 1.35 lakh litres a day. Even through procurement was 1.93 lakh litres, sales had been restricted. The remaining milk was being converted into milk powder and butter and was being stored for the lean months of November, December and January. Around 200 tonnes of butter and 400 tonnes of milk powder were being stored at the Madurai Aavin.

Published: August 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 27, 2011 04:01 IST MADURAI, August 27, 2011

Foodgrains merchants' association meets Vasan

A delegation of office-bearers from the Tamil Nadu Foodgrains Merchants Association and the Tamil Nadu Rail Passengers Right's Tribune met Union Minister for Shipping G.K. Vasan recently to discuss the issue of conversion of Royapuram as the third railway terminal of Chennai.

The associations have been carrying out a campaign against any move to develop Tambaram as the third railway terminal of Chennai and terminate all train from the southern districts there.

Citing the availability of 72 acres of railway land and inconvenience likely to be caused to passengers by terminating trains at Tambaram, the associations have been calling for developing Royapuram as the third railway terminal of the State capital.

Published: August 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 27, 2011 04:01 IST Kozhikode, August 27, 2011

Budget stresses on farm sector, women's welfare

Rs.10.18 crore for agricultural development in district

The district panchayat's budget for 2011-2012 lays stress on the development of agriculture and welfare schemes for women, children, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The budget, which shows a revenue of Rs.94.179 crore and a surplus of Rs.11.481 crore, was presented on Thursday. It provides Rs.10.18 crore for agricultural development, particularly for

boosting paddy yield and mechanisation of paddy cultivation that has run into trouble because of labour shortage.

Development programmes envisaged during 2011-12 included establishment of four model anganwadis, a ward to be built at a cost of Rs.1.06 crore at the District Ayurveda Hospital for the aged, Rs.12 lakh worth equipment needed by the physically challenged, and schemes to attract women to agriculture and electronics sectors.

Women would also get financial support to start footwear industries, sanitary napkin manufacturing units, and 'Nutrimix' manufacturing centres. They could also get support for taking up training in web designing and DTP. The district panchayat budget also has provision to set up napkin vending machines, toilets, and rest rooms for girls in schools.

Pain and palliative care

Rs.15 lakh has been earmarked for a pain and palliative care project and a token provision of Rs.10 lakh has also been made to provide dialysis facilities for kidney patients.

The budget, presented by district panchayat vice-president P. Sasi at a meeting presided over by president Kananthil Jameels also sets aside about Rs.2 crore each for grama panchayats to ensure drinking water for the Scheduled communities. They would also get funds for housing schemes

Published: August 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 27, 2011 04:03 IST

Thiruvananthapuram, August 27, 2011

On machines' role in farming

The role of mechanisation in improving crop yield and making agriculture more profitable and environment-friendly will be the focus of an all-India seminar to be held here on August 29 and 30 under the auspices of the Institution of Engineers, Kerala Agricultural University and Department of Agriculture.

The seminar on 'Recent trends in agricultural mechanisation for efficiency improvement' will provide a platform for discussions on the relevance of machinery in irrigation, soil and water conservation, agricultural processing, dairy farming, fodder cultivation and waste management.

Addressing reporters here on Friday, S. Radhakrishnan, chairman of the Kerala chapter, Institution of Engineers (India), J. Umasankar, secretary and K.S. Udayakumar, member, Division of Agricultural Engineering, said the shortage of agricultural labour, increase in wages, poor efficiency in production and the hike in the cost of fertilizer and pesticides were responsible for the crisis facing the agricultural sector in India. They said mechanisation offered a means to reduce the cost of production and increase yield. They said the seminar would also focus on value-addition of farm produce and marketing through a network. An exhibition of modern farm equipment would be organised in connection with the event. The exhibition would seek to popularise mechanised equipment, ergonomically-designed tools and modern irrigation systems. The organisers stressed the need for a 25-year plan for the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors in Kerala. The plan included interest-free loan and subsidy for farm equipment, agricultural engineering workshops in all districts, conservation of water bodies, harnessing non-conventional sources of energy, low cost methods for procurement and marketing of farm produce, watershed development and development of silos and biogas plants.

Published: August 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 27, 2011 04:03 IST

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, August 27, 2011

Paddy procurement price up by Re.1 a kg

The State Cabinet decided on Friday to raise the procurement price of paddy by Re.1 a kg.

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy told the media after a Cabinet meeting that the procurement price would go up from Rs.14 to Rs.15 a kg. Arrears due to farmers for last year's procurement had been cleared.

The Chief Minister said that the Kerala State Electricity Board would incorporate provisions for payment of a 5 per cent annuity on electricity generated from windmills on tribal land in its policy statement on wind energy. The amount would be collected by the board and disbursed to the tribes as part of a package for the tribes in Attappady whose land had been encroached upon by a wind power company, Suzlon.

Mr. Chandy said the ownership of the land encroached upon by the company would be restored to the tribes. If any tribal had lost his/her ownership documents, the government would issue

fresh documents. If the company claimed ownership on any land, the onus of presenting the proof would be on it. If any document produced by the company was found to be dubious, the benefit of doubt would go to the tribes.

He denied that the government proposed to spend any money from the exchequer for the package other than for promotion of agriculture by the tribes. Compensation would have to be paid by the company.

The Chief Minister announced that 5 acres would be granted for starting the proposed Judicial Academy at Nedumbassery village near Kochi.

Published: August 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 27, 2011 04:04 IST VIJAYAWADA, August 27, 2011

National seminar on biotechnology

Director of Global Medical Education and Research in the Hyderabad-based Global Hospitals K.S. Ratnakar, on Friday spoke about the ethics of human cloning and stem cell research.

Delivering key note address in a national seminar on “Youth Towards New Trends in Biotechnology” organised by the departments of biotechnology, botany and zoology of Maris Stella College, Prof. Ratnakar said that biotechnology could be effectively used for pathological treatment of diseases like cancer.

S. Ignacimuthu, Director of Entomology Research Institute, Loyola College, Chennai, in his inaugural address, spoke at length about the current research topics on biotechnology like comparative genomics, stem cell culture, genes slicing, transgenic animals and importance of cloning. He said developments in future depended on aspects like gene therapy, cell-based therapy, pharmacogenomics and immunotherapy and its diagnosis.

Chairman of the Laila Group of Industries G. Ganga Raju spoke about the need for curing ailments, like diabetes, through extraction of insulin from pig and sheep.

The seminar was sponsored by the University Grants Commission, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board and Andhra Pradesh Council of Science and Technology.

Published: August 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 27, 2011 04:04 IST NEW DELHI,
August 27, 2011

Seafood exports cross the \$2.8-billion mark

Buoyed by seafood exports crossing \$2.8-billion mark in 2010-11, the Central Government on Friday set an ambitious target of \$4 billion for this fiscal.

In an official statement here, the Commerce Ministry, citing figures from Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), said seafood exports grew 33.95 per cent in dollar terms in 2010-11. During the fiscal, seafood exports aggregated 8.13 lakh tonnes, a growth of 19.85 per cent in quantity over the previous fiscal. "MPEDA envisages an ambitious target of \$4 billion marine products exports for the year 2011-12," it added.

The growth was despite continuing recession in the international markets, debt crisis in EU economies, continuing anti-dumping duty in the U.S., sluggish growth in the U.S. economy and political instability in the Arab world, it said.

The EU continued to be the largest market with a share of 26.78 per cent in dollar terms, it said.

Southeast Asia was second accounting for 16.43 per cent, followed by China 15.41 per cent, and the U.S. 15.35 per cent. Japan and the Middle East were the other significant markets.

Frozen shrimp was the major export value item accounting for 44.17 per cent of the total earnings, followed by shrimp.

Exports of marine products have strengthened India's presence in Southeast Asia and the Middle East where the increase in quantity has been 57 per cent and 26 per cent respectively. There is a significant increase in exports to African countries in comparison to the previous year, it said.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 7 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 63%

Wind: Normal

Saturday, Aug 27

Max Min

34.2° | 23.5°

Sunrise: 5:57

Sunset: 18:24

Barometer: 1006

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Sunday, Aug 28

Max Min

35° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday

Aug 29



31° | 26°

Cloudy

Tuesday

Aug 30



28° | 25°

Cloudy

Wednesday

Aug 31



30° | 25°

Rainy

Thursday

Sep 1



31° | 26°

Rainy

Friday

Sep 2



31° | 27°

Rainy



UP fish farmers visit GADVASU

Express news service Posted online: Sat Aug 27 2011, 03:52 hrs

Ludhiana : A group of 15 fish farmers along with officers of State Fisheries Department from Ghaziabad district, Uttar Pradesh, visited College of Fisheries, GADVASU. Dr Asha Dhawan, the dean of the college discussed fish farming activities and the problems encountered by the farmers. Farmers were given information regarding different fish farming operations and management strategies to get maximum fish production. The concept of integrated fish farming to achieve maximum profit by reducing input cost was demonstrated by Dr Ajeet Singh, through adoption of fish-cum-duck farming. Information was also given on the upcoming field of ornamental fish farming.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Sat, Aug 27, 2011 | Updated 05.38AM IST

27 Aug, 2011, 03.06AM IST, Bloomberg

Sugar jumps on further downgrade of Brazil crop

LONDON: Sugar jumped in London on Friday, trimming the first weekly drop in three days, as further downgrades of the crop in Brazil, the biggest producer, added to supply worries. Coffee and cocoa also gained.

Brazil's sugar cane production in the Center South, the world's biggest producing region, will be

498 million tonne in the 2011-12 season, down from 525 million tonne estimated in July after last year's drought and heavy rains this year, Kingsman said. The sugar production estimate was reduced to 30.63 million tonne by Kingsman. "The reduction of the Center South Brazil production this year has taken many of us by surprise," Jonathan Kingsman, managing director of the consulting group, wrote in the report.

White, or refined, sugar for October delivery rose \$10.40, or 1.3%, to \$781.60 a tonne by 10:37 am on NYSE Liffe in London. Raw sugar for October delivery advanced 0.27 cent, or 0.9%, to 29.93 cents a pound on ICE Futures US in New York. Investment bank Macquarie Group lowered their estimates for the Center South crop on August 22. Sugar output in Brazil's Center South fell 3.4% in the first half of August, industry association Unica said on Thursday. Farmers in the Center South have reaped 297.6 million tonne of cane in the harvest so far, a drop of 12% from last year.

26 Aug, 2011, 03.33PM IST, PTI

Cardamom brown declines on sluggish demand

NEW DELHI: Cardamom brown prices declined by Rs 20 per kg in the wholesale kirana market today due to sluggish demand amid adequate stock availability.

In contrast, prices of other spices moved in a narrow range on alternate bouts of buying and selling and settled around their previous levels.

Traders said subdued demand from retailers due to sufficient stock availability led to the fall in cardamom brown prices.

In the national capital, cardamom brown-Jhundiwarli and cardamom-Kanchicut declined by Rs 20 each to Rs 1,150-1,260 and Rs 960-1,050 per kg, respectively.

The following are today's quotations (in rupees): Ajwain 17,500-23,000, black pepper common 29,700-30,200, betelnut (kg) 110-120, cardamom brown-Jhundiwali (kg) 960-1,050, cardamom brown-Kanchicut (kg) 1,150-1,260.

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

26 Aug, 2011, 03.30PM IST, Reuters

Chana, guar futures buoyed by festive demand

MUMBAI: India's chana futures were trading up in Friday afternoon trade on strong demand from consumers in the on-going festive season, reflecting the firm trend of other pulses, analysts said.

At 3:19 p.m., the most active chana for September delivery on National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) was trading up 1 per cent at 3,218 rupees per 100 kg.

"Prices of all pulses have gone up due to festive season, and the impact is visible on chana also. Chana prices are expected to remain firm for the next two months and it's only after Diwali, there could be some decline in prices," said Ranjit Mankharia, a trader based in Bikaner, Rajasthan.

India celebrates a series of festival in August and September.

In New Delhi, a key spot market, chana fell 25 rupees to 3,125 rupees per 100 kg.

* GUAR:

India's guar seed futures rose more than 1 per cent tracking bullish cues from the spot, where demand was good from millers and exporters amid thin supplies, traders and analysts said.

As on Aug 23, area under guar seed in Rajasthan stood at 2.608 million hectares against 2.398 million hectares till Aug 16, a rise of nearly 9 per cent in over a week. However, in 2010, guar seed was sown under 3 million hectares.

"Demand from millers in the local market is offsetting the pick-up in the area under cultivation. Sowing has improved in the last 8-10 days due to recent rains in the state," said Surendra Kumar Yadav, a trader from Hanumangarh, Rajasthan.

At 3:19 p.m., the most active guar for September delivery on NCDEX was trading 1.14 per cent higher at 4,506 rupees per 100 kg. At Jodhpur, a key market in Rajasthan, guar seed was trading higher by 69 rupees to 4,366 rupees per 100 kg.



Jajpur farmer hosts Baya fleet in coconut grove

August 27, 2011 12:01:51 AM

AKSHAY ROUT | Jajpur

Mani Panda (57) of Kuakhia village in Jajpur district feels himself to be a proud owner of a long line of tall coconut trees, not only because they bear fruits to generate income for him, but because the trees have turned out to be safe haven for a fleet of beautiful Baya Weavers birds.

A bird lover, Mani has been protecting the Baya birds by saving their nests and providing them

food. The avian creatures throng the village every year to build nests on the coconut trees between May and October. Mani is a farmer and owner of 45 coconut trees. The Baya birds find his coconut grove a perfect place for nesting and breeding. About 500 birds have arrived on the coconut trees of Mani since second week of May.

“I provide rice, paddy, black gram, green gram and other foods to the birds. I also guard the birds. The presence of the Baya weavers is a good sign for us. I get all supports from my fellow villagers in the whole exercise,” confided Mani. Many villagers uprooted coconut and palm trees due to expansion of industries in our areas as a result of which the birds are not getting long trees to nest.

Fertilisers scarcity despite good supply

August 26, 2011 10:24:28 PM

Pioneer News Service | Lucknow

The Agriculture department has been flooded by complaints of acute scarcity of fertilizers across the state during the kharif season.

Surprisingly, the complaints continue to pour in despite supply of sufficient amount of fertilizers by government agencies.

According to sources in the Agriculture department, after the state government's assurance in the Assembly to ensure supply of adequate quantity of fertilizers during kharif season, 9.05 lakh metric tons of diamonium phosphate (DAP) and 5.18 lakh metric tons of nitrogen based fertilisers had been supplied to cooperative committees.

However, refuting the claims of the government officials, complaints about shortage of fertilisers are coming to the department from every corner of the state.

Most of the complainants say that the fertilisers supplied by the government agencies have reached the open market and are being sold at higher than the fixed prices.

Sale of fake fertilizers has also been reported from some districts.

Admitting shortage of fertilisers, an official at the Agricultural directorate said it was true that every season, fertilisers meant to be sold through agencies authorised by the government reach the blackmarket. He blamed the nexus between traders and some government officials to be responsible for the present situation.

According to sources, the worst hit are eastern UP districts sharing border with Nepal as the fertilisers supplied to them are reportedly being smuggled to the neighbouring country by small traders of the area. The sources point out that in Nepal, each bag of Indian fertiliser fetches double or more of its original price.

An official in the Agriculture department said that following the intervention of Agriculture Minister Lakshmi Narayan, the state administration had directed all district magistrates of border districts to ensure verification of all shops selling fertilisers.

Besides, the local police have also been ordered to check smuggling of fertilizers within a week, he added.

60,000 acres of agriculture land under water in Punjab

August 26, 2011 11:35:23 PM

Alok Singh | Chandigarh

Incessant downpour in hilly areas and continuous release of water from the dams has marooned 25 per cent of agricultural land of Punjab leading to extensive damage.

As of now, 60,000 acres of agricultural land is under flood water, leading to apprehension that it could destroy huge quantity of paddy this season. "It is not easy to estimate the total quantity of crops which would be affected as more water is expected in this season," said AR Talwar, Financial Commissioner Revenue. So far crops worth `55.58 crore have been damaged.

Talwar said that the weather department has predicted more rains in September and feared that

the cumulative damage could be more. "We, however are taking all possible measures to prevent more damage of agricultural as well as residential land," he added that all deputy commissioners of the flood affected districts have been instructed to put on watch for all canals and rivers.

According to the report of revenue, rehabilitation and disaster management department, at least 17 districts out of 22 have been affected in this monsoon season into which land of 846 villages have been submerged under water.

Nearly two lakh acres of land is under water, 11,073 acre area in Sangrur, 900 acre in Faridkot, 1,400 acre in Muktsar, 11,735 acre in Patiala, 5,540 acre in Moga, 1,07,608 acre in Ferozepur, 490 acre in Amritsar, 19,000 acre in Tarn Taran, 10,182 acre in Jalandhar, 3,100 acre in SBS Nagar, 11,249 acre in Fazilka and 2,742 acre in Hoshiarpur.

At least 38 persons have died so far and more than 50 injured due to floods in various parts of the State. The districts of Ferozepur and Fazilka remain the worst affected.

Continuous release of water from dams is the main reason for the flood. The water level in Bhakra Dam has been increasing continuously. The water level at Bhakra Dam on Friday touched 1,671.16 feet water mark whereas its capacity was 1,680 feet. The water level on the same day during the previous year was recorded at 1,674.53 feet. According to the data released by the Irrigation Department, water level at Pong Dam has touched the level of 1,383.93 feet whereas its capacity was 1,390 feet. Water level on this same during the previous year was recorded at 1,379.68 feet.

The water level at Ranjit Sagar Dam has touched 520.72 metre whereas its capacity was 527.91 metre.

CSD decries Participatory Forest Management Resolution

August 26, 2011 11:04:49 PM

PNS | BHUBANESWAR

Campaign for Survival and Dignity (CSD), Odisha, a large network of tribals and forest-dwellers, which struggled hard to get the historic Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 enacted by the Parliament, has vehemently criticised the State Forest Department for attempting to dilute the community rights over Community Forest Resources (CFR) recognised under the FRA.

Addressing the media on Friday, the CSD members sharply reacted to the recently proposed "Participatory Forest Management Resolution, 2011" uploaded in the Forest Department's website. The members were of the view that the proposed resolution is illegal and contradictory to the FRA.

"When the FRA does not mention any role of the VSS and the FD in the protection and management of CFR areas, the Forest Department, after losing its power, is trying to re-establish its colonial control over forest by revising the JFM," the members said.

Commenting on implementation of the FRA in the State, the CSD alleged that while the State Government is claiming to be No 1 in the country in recognising individual forest rights, the recognition of community forest rights is lagging way behind due to the non-cooperation of the Forest Department.

Challenging the legality of the proposed 'Participatory Forest Management Resolution', the CSD urged the State Government to withdraw it and cautioned the Forest Department that it would move the court if the FD continued violating the FRA.

For effective implementation of community rights over the CFR, the CSD has demanded, among others, immediate withdrawal of the 'Participatory Forest Management Resolution, 2011, recognition of the 'CFR Area' as new forest land typology where community people would have exclusive right to protect and manage the forest as per Section -3(1)(i) of FRA and the role of the Forest Department would be of technical support as per community demands, recognition

and settlement of community forest rights by issuing community forest rights titles and stopping of using forest working plan in these areas, handing over the forest protection and management power to the Gram Sabhas/Palli Sabhas, review of faulty Community Forest Rights titles issued in different districts, recognition of the community ownership rights over Kendu leaf and Bamboo, distribution of the royalty earned from Kendu leaf from last 2008 amongst the KL pluckers, identification of all forest villages/habitations in forest areas and their conversion into revenue villages and, last but not least, respecting the authority, resolutions, recommendations and opinion of the Gram Sabhas/Palli Sabhas in the implementation of the FRA.

'Trees play major role in maintaining environment'

August 27, 2011 12:40:46 AM

Staff Reporter | Bhopal

Urban Administration and Development Minister Babulal Gaur said the plantation of trees and their care is a pious work because trees play an important role in maintaining the environment.

Gaur requested the residents to plant more trees during rain in order to maintain the environment. The UAD Minister expressed these views while planting trees in Saket Nagar.

Gaur and the Chairman of Bhopal Development Authority Surendranath Singh planted trees in Bhimsen Joshi residential premises and the under construction premises of Ravindranath Tagore located in sector 2C of the Saket Nagar.

Gaur spoke to the residents of the area and also instructed the officials concerned to improve the roads of Shankardayal Sharma Park.

The member of Mayor-in-Council Narayan Singh Pal, Chief Executive Officer of Bhopal development Authority (BDA) Kumar Purshottam, Corporator TR Mishra, Alderman Sanjay Kunwar and other officers of BDA were also present during the event.

Business Standard

Saturday, Aug 27, 2011

Surge in onion price to continue

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai August 27, 2011, 0:45 IST

Onion prices jumped 50 per cent in the last one week in Nashik and Vashi wholesale commodity markets in Maharashtra. Across all other mandis, the prices rose around 20 per cent.

Traders said prices would continue to rise til September-end, when the new season crop from Nashik, the country's largest onion producer, reaches the market.

In Vashi, onion was traded between Rs 12-16 a kg on Friday, against Rs 9.50 a kg a week ago. In Kolkata, onion prices rose to Rs 15-16 a kg from Rs 13-14 a kg a week ago. A similar trend was seen in major markets in Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai, where prices rose by 20-25 per cent in the last week. In Nashik, however, the commodity was sold between Rs 12-14 a kg — a rise of nearly 40 per cent in the last one week.

Traders said the rise in prices was due to farmers' unwillingness to release their stock, decay of existing stocks due to high moisture content and supply disruption. "According to estimates, 20-25 per cent of overall stocks was damaged this year," said Yusuf Rizvi of Rizvi Exports, a Vashi-based trader.

"There was no need to panic like last year. So far, the situation is under control. In case of an increase in the intensity of rain, farmers will try to clear the stocks in a hurry, which will pull the prices down," he added.

Echoing Rizvi's views, Ashok Walunj, director of Vashi Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee, said: "Onion price goes up generally in the three-month lean period ending August, as farmers start supplying from warehouses. No new season crop is harvested anywhere in the country. But, new crop will arrive in the Bangalore market to ease overall prices across India."

Arrivals were reported as usual in Vashi mandi at nearly 1,000 tonnes, while in Nashik an

estimated 1,200 tonnes of onion hit the mandi on Friday. Nashik contributes nearly 30 per cent of India's total onion output. In 2010-11, total acreage under onion production was estimated at 414,000 lakh hectares, with the overall output at 148,000 lakh tonnes.

Many traders, however, felt that onion price will continue to move upwards on the back of rising demand during the festive season. The harvesting season has also been extended by a month in many smaller growing areas and the new season crop still remains premature because of late sowing.

The government is monitoring the situation closely and has already raised the minimum export price of onion in July and twice in the current month. The last revision, which increased the export price of onion to \$300 a tonne, was aimed at discouraging exports and boost domestic supply. While releasing the food inflation data, the government had declared a staggering 44.42 per cent rise in onion prices for the week ended August 13.

“Since supply will not be more than the demand at least for one more month, farmers will continue to release in small quantity. This would result into a further supply squeeze in the coming days,” said Chandrakant Sutar, a Vashi-based onion trader.

Markets remained closed intermittently in the last few weeks due to festivals. Apart from that the commodity stored in open warehouses or plinth under asbestos shed was exposed to moisture due to the monsoon.

India's marine products export rises to \$2.8 bn in FY11

BS Reporter / New Delhi August 27, 2011, 0:14 IST

Exports of marine products crossed the \$2.85 billion mark in 2010-11 on the back of sharp increase in the demand for frozen shrimp in European and South East Asian markets.

Shipments carried 8,13,091 tonnes of marine products to foreign destinations. The increase in production of Vannamei or the exotic South American species of shrimp in southern India and Black tiger shrimp, along with better price realisation of major items like Cuttlefish, Shrimp and Squid resulted in high export turnover in FY11, said a Ministry of Commerce and Industry statement.

According to Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) data, the main revenue earner within the basket of marine exports was frozen shrimp, which accounted for 44.17 per cent of the total revenue earned. Fish retained its position as the principal export item in quantity terms and the second largest export item in value terms accounting for a share of about 38.42 per cent in quantity and 20.42 per cent in dollar earnings.

Top destinations for the items were EU accounting for 26.78 per cent in revenue realisation, followed by South East Asia, China, US, Japan and West Asia. Exports to the US grew by a whopping 50 per cent. Growing demand was also noticed in the African markets in the period under consideration, compared to previous years. According to MPEDA, export of marine products could reach \$4 billion this financial year.

“Increased production of Vannamee shrimp, increase in infrastructure facilities for production of Value added items and the regaining pace of Japanese market after tsunami are the helping factor to achieve this target,” MPEDA said in the statement.

Rising onion prices bringing back tears

Sanjeeb Mukherjee / New Delhi August 26, 2011, 0:40 IST

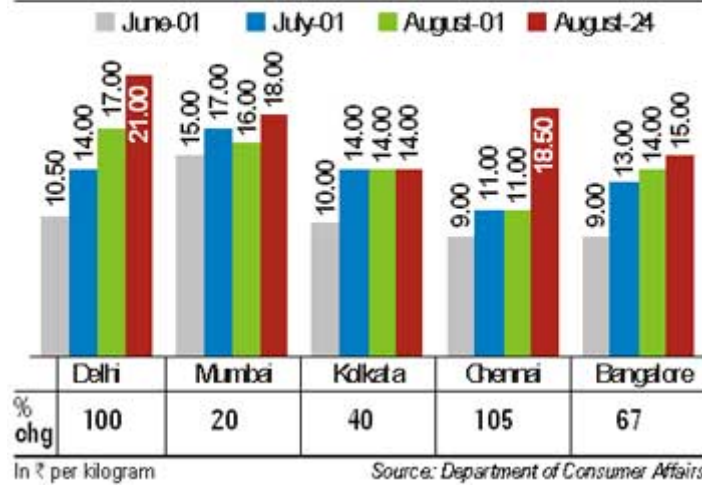
In a span of less than four months, retail prices of onions have once again started moving upwards.

Since June, as per the data furnished by the department of consumer affairs, the retail prices of the tear-jerker vegetable in most major cities across the country have risen by almost Rs 5 to Rs 10 per kilogram. In Delhi, the retail price of onions doubled from from Rs 10.50 per kg in June to over Rs 20 per kg now. In fact, in August alone retail price of onion has gone up by Rs 3-4 per kg.

The price spiral is largely because of hoarding by farmers as they are releasing their stocks slowly in anticipation of further rise in prices. This has further aggravated the shortage which was expected because of the 10-15 per cent drop in kharif onion acreage this year. National Horticulture Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) said the area under early kharif onions will drop because of low initial rains in Maharashtra and Karnataka — the country's two main states that grow the bulbous vegetable.

UPSWING

Since June



In Maharashtra, which produces more than 30 per cent of the country's annual onion crop, acreage under early sown kharif onion crop has dropped by 15-20 per cent, the Nasik-based NDRDF said in a report.

In Karnataka, the area and production of onions is expected to be at least 50 per cent as compared to the same period last year. Till the middle of July, the southwest monsoon was almost 25 per cent below normal in some parts of Maharashtra. The India Meteorological Department said rains over much of southern India till mid-July were almost 6 per cent below normal.

In 2010-11, onions were sown in 414,000 hectares in the entire last year, while in Karnataka the crop was sown in around 148,000 hectares. This year, experts foresee a 10-15 per cent fall in production that could bring down production by at least 5 per cent. Onion is usually cultivated four times in a year — early kharif, kharif, early rabi and rabi.

Currently, the domestic demand for the crop is met through stocks stored in various warehouses across the country. Thanks to good production last year, onion stocks in the country are almost 10-15 per cent more this year. This has prevented the situation from going out of control.

In 201-2011, the country produced around 1.48 million tonnes of onions in 2010-2011, which was 24 per cent more than the previous. Of the stored onions, almost 30-35 per cent has

already exhausted, while the remaining should be available till the middle of November. After this, the kharif harvest will start coming into the market.

This should cause some concern as festivals like Dussehra and Diwali will fall during the intervening period.

A worried government, which was reducing the minimum export price (MEP) of onions ever since the ban on exports, was removed in February this year, took a U-turn since June as retail prices started moving upwards. Since June 8, the MEP of onions was raised four times, the latest being on Wednesday. From a low of \$170 per metric tonne, the MEP of onion now stands at \$300 per tonne, even though exports were less as compared to last year.

Official figures show that till July 2011, the country had exported 452,409 tonnes of onions, almost 34 per cent less than the same period last year.

However, last year's experience has made the consumers jittery about slightest spike in prices. That time the retail price of onions zoomed to almost Rs 90 per kg in some centres owing to damage to standing crop in Maharashtra. The spurt in onion prices then led to the constitution of an inter-ministerial group on inflation.

Refined soya oil down marginally on sluggish demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 26, 2011, 15:26 IST

Refined soya oil futures fell by 0.15% to Rs 660 per 10 kg in range-bound trade today due to sluggish demand in the spot market and adequate stocks availability.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, September delivery was trading Re 1, or 0.15%, lower at Rs 660 per 10 kg in a single lot.

Traders attributed the fall in refined soya oil futures prices to sluggish demand in the spot market and the adequate stocks position.

Jeera futures up on firm spot demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 26, 2011, 15:22 IST

Jeera prices rose by Rs 80 to Rs 15,644 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions, driven by a pick-up in spot market demand. At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, September delivery rose by Rs 80, or 0.51%, to Rs 15,644 per quintal, with an open interest for 17,256 lots. The October contract moved up by Rs 75, or 0.47%, to Rs 16,091 per quintal, with an open interest for 17,010 lots.

Analysts said fresh buying by speculators on the back of a pick-up in spot market demand mainly led to the rise in jeera futures prices.

THE HINDU Business Line

Area under kharif pulses, coarse cereals drops

Farmers shift to crops such as cotton, castor, soya

Kharif sowing progress			
		(in lakh hectares)	
	Normal*	2011	2010
1. Rice	393.620	348.780	312.760
2. Coarse Grains	219.944	189.070	202.373
(a) Maize	68.654	72.006	72.744
(b) Bajra	91.523	76.524	84.489
(c) Jowar	35.984	25.473	29.227
3. Pulses	107.953	102.641	115.658
(a) Arhar	35.530	37.017	44.192
(b) Urad	23.147	21.968	23.824
(c) Moong	26.136	22.918	27.673
4. Oilseeds	174.250	173.096	166.560
(a) Groundnut	51.540	41.922	49.013
(b) Soyabean	88.330	103.093	92.852
(c) Sesamum	15.360	14.496	13.451
(d) Sunflower	7.540	2.128	2.571
(e) Castor	7.850	10.015	7.061
5. Cotton	97.100	118.051	107.528
6. Sugarcane	47.460	51.670	49.320
7. Jute & Mesta	9.199	9.177	8.482

*Full year average for 2005-06 to 2009-10.

Chennai/New Delhi, Aug. 26:

A shift towards commercial crops such as cotton, castor and soyabean has resulted in the kharif area under coarse cereals, pulses and groundnut dropping.

According to data from the Agriculture Ministry, even the area under maize, which witnessed record production as well as price last year, has declined this kharif season.

gainers

Rice, cotton, soyabean, sesamum, sugarcane, jute and castor are the crops that have gained this year.

Despite farmers going on a crop holiday in coastal Andhra Pradesh this year, the area under rice is up at 348.78 lakh hectares (lh) against 312.76 lh during the same time, a year ago.

Higher acreage of rice has been reported from Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

In the case of coarse grains, area under maize, bajra and jowar are lower. The drop is higher in the case of bajra and jowar.

record high

This is because in Rajasthan, which accounts for most of the area under jowar, farmers have opted for soyabean. In some cases, they have also gone in for guar even as guarseed and guar gum prices touched record high earlier this month.

In the case of bajra, in Maharashtra, farmers have shifted to soyabean.

Area under maize has dropped since some farmers in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have shifted to cotton.

In the case of oilseeds, while soyabean has gained, groundnut has taken a hit. Farmers in Gujarat have shifted from groundnut to cotton for two reasons.

One, last year the groundnut crop has hit by unseasonal rain. The other reason is that cotton prices, despite sharp fall since April, are still higher than last year. Hopes of the Centre allowing unlimited exports are also seen as another source of encouragement.

A record area has come under castor this year with some of groundnut farmers in Gujarat choosing to go in for the commercial crop. India dominates castor oil trade and accounts for over 50 per cent of the global production and nearly 80 per cent of the trade.

Andhra Pradesh, too, has seen a rise in area under castor as also Rajasthan.

cab meet

The area under cotton has been reported at 118.05 lh against 107.53 lh. Whether this will translate into a record production remains to be seen.

The Cotton Advisory Board meeting scheduled for August 30 should throw some light on the crop's progress. Area under sugarcane has increased as also under jute, thanks to good rains in Bengal. Meanwhile, the water level in the 81 major reservoirs in the country is 26 per cent higher at present compared with the year-ago period.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 27, 2011)

Groundnut oil rises above Rs 100 a kg



Mumbai, Aug. 26:

Groundnut oil shot up by Rs 15 for 10 kg in Mumbai edible oils market on Friday, the highest in this year tracking firm trend in Saurashtra market where loose groundnut oil (10 kg) rate crossed the Rs 1,000-mark or Rs 100 a kg.

Palmolein continued to slide for the second consecutive day. It dropped by Rs 4 due to lack of demand and despite rebound in Malaysian palm oil futures. Rapeseed oil rose by Rs 7 for 10 kg, erasing previous days loss of Rs 8. Sunflower oil, soya oil and cotton oil ruled steady.

According to a local wholesaler, there were few buyers ahead of *Ganeshotsav* festival next week. About 200-250 tonnes of palmolein were traded at Rs 548. For indigenous oils, lack of demand continued as their prices are far higher than palmolein. Price discount of Rs 90-100/10 kg for palmolein kept traders interested in buying. Towards the day's close, resellers were quoting palmolein at Rs 548-Rs 550.

Liberty's rates for palmolein was Rs 553, soya oil Rs 638, sunflower oil Rs 695. Ruchi was quoting palmolein Rs 554, soya refined oil Rs 635 and sunflower oil Rs 697.

Malaysia's CPO futures and NBOT futures: Malaysia's BMD CPO futures, September-11 closed at 3,094 (3,108), October-11, 3,016 (3,030) and November-11, 2,975 (2,994) MYR a tone. Indore, NBOT soya oil September -11, futures was steady at Rs 658.50 (Rs 658) and October-11, at Rs 645.20 (Rs 645).

Mumbai Commodity Exchange spot rate (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil 985 (970), soya refined oil 638 (638), sunflower exp. ref. 660 (660), sunflower ref. 705 (705), rapeseed ref. oil 692 (685), rapeseed expeller ref. 662 (655), cotton ref. oil 655 (655) and palmolein 553 (557).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 27, 2011)

World sugar market seeks direction

Washington DC, Aug. 26:

Sugar markets in London and New York have been rather choppy in the last few days, experiencing extreme intra-day volatility with macro factors, the technical picture and fundamentals all exerting their respective influences at varying times and in varying degrees.

During the last two weeks, nearby contracts have gained as much as 5 cents a pound, with the October high at 3,168 and March at 3,025.

How crazy commodity trading can get is anybody's guess.

RELATION WITH EQUITIES

If at one stage, global sugar prices escalated with the sharp rise in gold prices; on another occasion, news that Mr Warren Buffet had made a \$5-billion investment in Bank of America sent prices soaring, although no one has been able to explain the correlation between US stock valuations and sugar market fundamentals. Among the non-fundamental factors, the weak dollar, crude prices and stronger grains markets have contributed to sugar market gyrations.

However, notwithstanding the market shenanigans of this week, the one single factor that is expected to impact prices is the problem with Brazil's cane crush and strong possibility of a downgrade to Brazilian sugar production.

LOWER CRUSHING

The latest Unica (centre-south Brazil) report shows that the latest fortnightly cane crush is down 3 million tonnes from the previous period and 1.5 million tonnes lower than the corresponding period last year.

But the most pessimistic of Brazilian production is Canaplan's recent forecast of 476 million tonnes of cane output and only 28 million tonnes of sugar production for the year.

But there is also a sense that the market has already priced in the Brazilian scenario. In the event, can there be a further rally and what can trigger it?

According to global sugar market specialists, the next rally would have to be fuelled from a fundamental perspective by downward revisions to either Thailand's production or India's exports. Concerns over next year's Brazil centre-south issues can also potentially affect the market; but, at the moment, they are near-impossible to quantify.

TECHNICAL PICTURE

As for the near-term, downside issues could probably be triggered by deterioration in the macro-economic picture and/or a steep fall in crude prices.

It is also possible, if the market fails for any reason to sustain the rally, the technical picture may deteriorate and prompt long liquidation. In sum, moves in either direction cannot be ruled out.

Meanwhile, the physical market is expected to sort out whether the ongoing concerns about Brazilian centre-south crop will continue to offset the mostly negative influences of improved crops in Thailand, India and Russia.

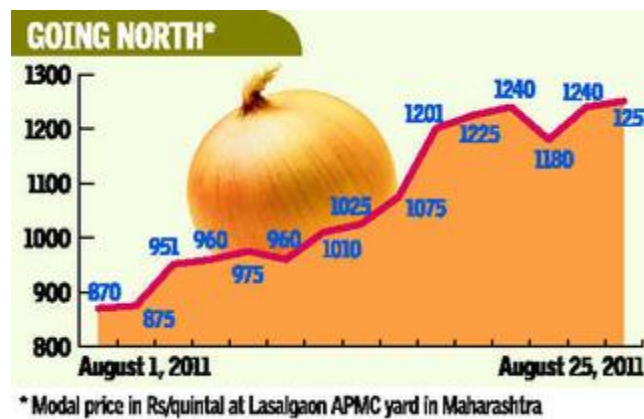
Also, the question is how much China could import given its degraded domestic output, and at what price.

So, it is going to be an interplay of fundamental and non-fundamental factors in the sugar market over the coming weeks.

Trading in such a market is likely to rather tricky.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 27, 2011)

Gulf offtake supports onion surge



Chennai, Aug. 26:

Onion prices continued to surge in markets near growing areas in Maharashtra and Gujarat, mainly on export demand.

On Friday, the modal price or the rate at which most trades took place increased to Rs 1,251 a quintal at Lasalgaon Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) yard in Maharashtra. Prices have surged about Rs 380 a quintal since the beginning of the month.

The rise is despite the Centre raising the minimum export price twice since August 12 to \$300 a tonne.

“Prices have gained because of demand from the Gulf,” said Mr Rupesh Jaju, Director of Nashik-based United Pacific Agro Pvt Ltd.

“Due to rain in Karnataka, demand from South is being met by Maharashtra and Gujarat onions,” said Mr Madan Prakash, Director of Chennai-based Rajathi group of companies.

According to Mr Jaju, rain in Maharashtra is also aiding the rising trend.

Barring the Gulf, demand from other countries is lukewarm.

“Only after *Ramzan*, countries such as Malaysia will begin buying. Sri Lanka will enter the market only next month,” said Mr Prakash.

Exports during April-July this fiscal are lower at 4.52 lakh tonnes valued at Rs 379.87 crore against 6.84 lakh tonnes valued at Rs 846.82 crore during the same period a year ago. The unit-value realisation is down to Rs 8,306 a tonne from around Rs 12,000 last year.

Average quality onions are ruling between Rs 700 and Rs 1,200 a quintal, while quality ones are fetching as high as Rs 1,400.

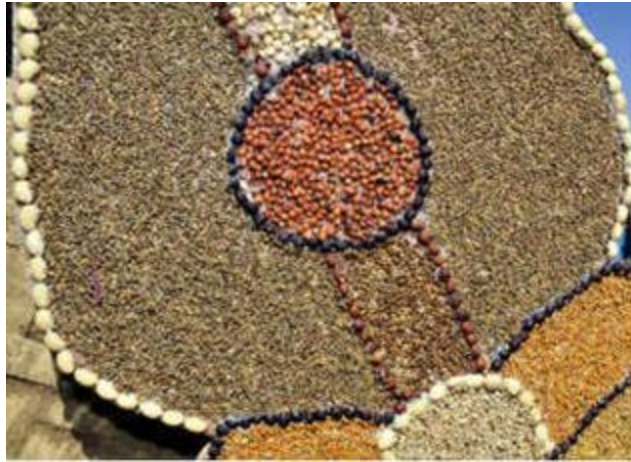
“Increased arrivals in the markets are not having much effect since whatever is coming to the yard in Maharashtra is being lapped up,” said Mr Jaju.

Kharif crop arrivals have begun but in a small way. “Kharif onions cannot be stored unlike rabi onion. However, the quality of kharif onion is such that it can be consumed only in the local markets here,” Mr Jaju said.

Prices could surge further and trade sources see a rise of another Rs 200 a quintal.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 27, 2011)

Rain affects pulses trading



Indore, Aug. 26:

Barring tur and its dal, pulses and pulse seeds ruled sluggish as trading activities in Indore and surrounding mandis remained affected owing to incessant rain lashing various parts of the State for the past few days.

Arrivals in Mumbai declined. Tur and its dal prices perked up in local mandis.

In the physical market, tur (Maharashtra) increased up to Rs 3,150-3,200 a quintal against Rs 3,125-3,150 a quintal on Thursday, while tur (Nimari) ruled flat at Rs 2,300-2,600 a quintal. Tur dal also saw an uptrend with tur being quoted at Rs 6,000-6,100, tur dal (full) at Rs 5,300-5,350 and tur dal (sawa no.) at Rs 4,300-4,350 a quintal.

On the other hand, uptrend in chana and masoor has come to a halt on slack buying support. Spot chana (kanta) ruled flat at Rs 3,100-3,150 despite slack demand, while chana (desi) ruled at Rs 3,050 and chana (mausmi) at Rs 3,350 a quintal.

Despite weak demand, bullish futures kept chana prices firm, said, Mr Sanjay Bansal, a chana trader. Chana dal gained marginally with chana dal (bold) being quoted at Rs 3,950-3,975, chana dal (medium) at Rs 3,850-3,875 and chana dal (average) at Rs 3,725-3,750 a quintal.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 27, 2011)

Sugar turns sour on mills' offloading, resales



Mumbai, Aug. 26:

Sugar prices continued to decline for the third consecutive day on Friday as resellers continued to sell in naka delivery and mills persisted with offloading.

Spot prices decreased by between Rs 5 and Rs 20 a quintal for S-grade and between Rs 10 and Rs 40 for M-grade. Mill tender rates declined by Rs 10 for S-grade and by Rs 20 for M-grade sugar. Quality sugar in both grades ruled almost steady.

According to traders, increased fresh local retail demand for *Ganeshotsav* along with need-based buying by neighbouring States continued to support market sentiment. In the last three days, sugar prices have come down by Rs 80-90 a quintal in spot market. Demand from neighbouring States also held firm in Maharashtra. Traders expect buying inquiries from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to increase soon.

Arrivals at the Vashi market were about 52-53 truckloads (each 100 bags of 100 kgs) and local dispatches were about 48-50 truckloads. On Thursday evening, 20-22 mills sold about 75,000-80,000 bags through tender offer to local traders in the range of Rs 2610-2640 (Rs 2620-2650) for S-grade and Rs 2650-2750 (Rs 2670-2750) for M-Grade. **Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates** : S-grade Rs 2751-2825 (Rs 2756-2845) and M-grade Rs 2796-2921 (Rs 2806-2961).

Naka delivery: S-grade Rs 2700- 2740 (Rs 2710 – 2750) and M grade Rs 2750- 2850 (Rs 2760-2870).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 27, 2011)

Slack overseas demand hits aromatic rice



Karnal, Aug. 26:

Slack overseas demand pulled down a few aromatic varieties by Rs 50-115 while non-basmati varieties remained range-bound on limited trading on Friday.

Lower demand, ample stocks, rain in growing areas and prospects of a better crop have put pressure, said Mr Tara Chand Sharma, a rice trader. Because of payment issues with Iran, exporters are not signing new contracts and only old contracts are being executed at present, he said. Warhouses are already full and new paddy will be in the market within next 20 days. This will drag rice prices further down, said Mr Sharma.

Pusa-1121 (steam) shaved off Rs 100 at Rs 4,950-5,050 a quintal, Pusa-1121 (sela) was around Rs 3,830-3,900, and Pusa-1121 (raw) quoted at Rs 4,300 a quintal.

Pure basmati (raw) went down by Rs 115 at Rs 5,820 a quintal while basmati (sela) quoted around Rs 3,950-4,000 a quintal.

Among the broken of Pusa-1121, Tibar was at Rs 3,100-3,400, Dubar at Rs 2,600-2,690 and Mongra was trading at Rs 1,900-2,210 a quintal.

PR-11 (sela) decreased by Rs 35 at Rs 2,100-2,305 a quintal, while PR-11 (raw) quoted at Rs 1,925-2,135 a quintal. Permal (sela) sold at Rs 1,800-1,930 a quintal while Permal (raw) sold at Rs 1,900-2,025 a quintal, down Rs 15.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 27, 2011)

Poor arrivals lift turmeric



Erode, Aug. 26:

Spot turmeric prices rose on Friday in the regulated market due to poor arrivals.

According to Mr R.V. Ravishankar, President of Erode Turmeric Merchants Association, owing to the poor arrival of about 7000 bags, the price rose by Rs 365 a quintal in the Regulated Marketing Committee and by Rs 100 a quintal in the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society.

The price of spot turmeric in the two local markets at Erode was steady on Friday, but for want of demand, bulk buyers purchased little, Mr Ravishankar said . The sales were only 30 per cent of arrivals.

“No fresh orders were received by traders here as prices are lower in other turmeric sales centres as also for the futures market. Everyone is expecting fresh orders from North India from next week. Arrivals may increase as also sales.

“Prices next week are likely to rule steady or drop marginally,” he said.

Turmeric farmers say that “already eight months have been completed and within the next two/three months we have to sell all turmeric.” They feel that turmeric prices may crash next year due to heavy production in Erode and its surrounding areas.

The price of the root variety was lower by Rs 100-200 a quintal on Friday. (Of the total bags that arrived, 20-25 per cent was root variety turmeric.)

Salem crop: The finger variety sold at Rs 5,266-6,619, and the root variety, at Rs 4,674-5,594.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 27, 2011)

Spot pepper prices rise to record

Kochi, Aug. 26:

Pepper market continued to increase on good buying support and reported supply squeeze in the global market. Spot prices rose to a record. The market opened on a slow note and in the afternoon, witnessed high volatility. It hit the highest price of the day and then declined. Still it ended much higher than the previous close. Local arms of international players bought farm grade pepper at Rs 303-Rs 312 a kg. Investors and exporters were buying. Local dealers in the primary markets sold pepper from Rs 300 a kg onwards. Karnataka pepper is reportedly moving into various trading centres in Wayanad. Processors and inter-State dealers there are in the market buying the farm-grade Karnataka pepper and selling on the exchange platform as MG-1 after processing.

Reported financing problems in Brazil has led to some uncertainty in the market there, resulting in a supply squeeze, trade sources here said.

Besides, a firm trend in Vietnam and Indonesia made Indian pepper cheaper leading to inquiries now coming to India. All these factors aided the price rise, market sources told *Business Line*.

September contract on the NCDEX increased by Rs 435 to Rs 33,335 a quintal. October and November contracts went up by Rs 384 and Rs 288 respectively to Rs 33,783 and Rs 34,094 a quintal. The turnover fell by 2,308 tonnes to 8,287 tonnes.

Open interest increased by 316 tonnes indicating additional purchases. September open interest moved up by 19 tonnes to 8,344 tonnes. October and November and went up by 260 tonnes and 32 tonnes respectively to 3,098 tonnes and 229 tonnes.

Spot pepper increased by Rs 200 on buying interest to close at Rs 30,300 and Rs 31,300 a quintal.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 27, 2011)

Buyers switch from groundnut to cotton oil

Rajkot, Aug. 26:

A 15-kg new tin of groundnut oil rose by Rs 20 to Rs 1,660-1,665 on Friday when markets opened after *Janmashtam* holidays. . Cotton oil remain unchanged.

Loose groundnut oil increased by Rs 10 to Rs 980-985 for 10 kg. Small groundnut traded at Rs 850-860 for 20 kg while bold groundnut was at Rs 820-830 for 20 kg. While 5,000-7,000 bags of groundnut of 40 kg each arrived in the market here, five to seven tankers of groundnut oil were traded.

Cotton oil was offered at Rs 1,105-1,115 for 15 kg while cotton oil (wash) was at Rs 637-640 for 10 kg. Fifteen to 20 tankers of cotton oil were traded.

Buyers have switched to cotton oil as groundnut oil remains costly, bringing down demand for the latter, a Rajkot-based retailer said.

Prices will remain high until the new arrivals begin as there is a shortage of nuts for crushing, millers said.

Groundnut oil has remained high for two months now as most of the groundnut crop has been used up for other products like peanut butter.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 27, 2011)

Spot rubber pares gains as futures drop

Kottayam, Aug. 26:

Physical rubber prices showed a mixed trend on Friday. The market opened better and improved further, tracking gains in domestic futures. But it failed to sustain at higher levels, following late declines on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

According to traders, sheet rubber finished unchanged at Rs 205.50 after hitting an intra-day high of Rs 207 a kg in the morning session. The grade improved to Rs 205.50 (205) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as quoted by the Rubber Board.

In futures, the September series declined to Rs 207.25 (211.04), October to Rs 205 (209.02), November to Rs 205 (208.92), December to Rs 205.15 (209.63), January to Rs 208.99 (211.44) and February to Rs 209 (212.65) a kg for RSS 4 on the NMCE.

RSS 3 (spot) increased to Rs 214.78 (213.14) a kg at Bangkok. The September futures for the grade slipped to ¥352.3 (Rs 211.27) from ¥354 a kg during the day session but then finished unchanged in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 205.50 (205.50); RSS-5: 198 (198); ungraded: 188 (187); ISNR 20: 198 (197) and latex 60 per cent: 127.50 (127.50).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 27, 2011)