

Published: August 6, 2011 17:37 IST | Updated: August 6, 2011 17:37 IST Ludhiana, August 6, 2011

Special attention to post harvesting in 12th plan, says ICAR

Special focus would be given to post harvesting for curbing losses in food grain, vegetables and fruits in the 12th five year plan (2012-2017), a senior Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) has said.

“Post harvest losses stands around 4 to 6 per cent in food grains and these are estimated to be as high as 16 to 18 per cent in fruits and vegetables and these losses occur at various stages from harvesting, storage to processing,” ICAR Additional Director General K K Singh said here during a Institute Research Council (IRC) meeting held at Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET).

Emphasizing that processing could open up new avenues of growth in agriculture while checking losses, he said, “In India, processing is as low as 10 to 12 per cent, while developed countries process up to 70 per cent of their food”.

Speaking on nutritional status in the country, he lamented that according to National Family Health Survey (NFHS) sizeable population of children below three years was underweight. “We need to work on health foods,” he suggested.

CIPHET Director CIPHET R K Gupta said that they would focus on how scientific manpower could be suitably used in different divisions of institute.

Published: August 6, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 6, 2011 04:11 IST New Delhi, August 6, 2011

Panel to suggest terms for export of endosulfan

The Supreme Court, while continuing the ban on production of endosulfan on Friday directed an expert committee to suggest the terms under which the existing stocks with manufacturers could be exported.

A Bench of Chief Justice S.H. Kapdia and Justices K.S. Radhakrishnan and Swatanter Kumar took on record the committee's interim report which said public health concern or hazard associated with the pesticide was not reported from any State barring Kerala and Karnataka,.

On May 13, the court, acting on a writ petition from the Democratic Youth Federation of India, banned the use of endosulfan all over India. The court also constituted the expert committee to go into all aspects of the pesticide and asked the Centre to submit a report.

No negative impact

During the resumed hearing, the Centre maintained that except in Kerala and Karnataka no negative impact of this pesticide on crops, human and animal health and environment was reported anywhere and the ban should not be imposed in other States.

The Bench, after hearing senior counsel Harish Salve, appearing for the manufacturers, Krishnan Venugopal for the petitioner and Additional Solicitor-General Gaurab Banerjee for the Centre, asked the Joint Expert Committee to tell the court “what is the total quantity of the manufactured endosulfan in various companies, etc. in the country; what is the quantity of the stock out of the total quantity manufactured in India which can be exported in terms of pending orders, to which countries and on what conditions.”

The committee would examine the relevant material, including international conventions, and suggest the conditions on which exports could be made; what steps the government should take to dispose of the balance quantity of the manufactured endosulfan and at what stage the material/product could be destroyed. While deciding these questions, the committee would keep in mind the environmental norms.

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Sowing of kharif rice, oilseeds improves

The cultivation of kharif rice, sugarcane and oilseeds has improved over the last week, but that of pulses and coarse cereals is lagging due to deficient rain in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

As per the data released by the Ministry of Agriculture here on Friday, the area under rice cultivation is 260.36 lakh hectares against 244.79 lakh hectares sown this time last year. Sown area has increased in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam. However, it is lower in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab due to insufficient rain.

In the case of pulses, the sown area is lower by 9.31 lakh hectares at 81 lakh hectares due to erratic monsoon in parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh.

The area under coarse cereals is reported to be lower by 18.06 lakh hectares at 163.38 lakh hectares compared to 181.44 lakh hectares cultivated last year. The shortfall has occurred due to lesser area under coarse cereals in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The sowing is higher in Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand this season.

Compared to last year, the area under oilseeds is 4.85 lakh hectares, higher than last year in the corresponding period, mainly on account of higher coverage under soyabean, sesamum and castor. The area under groundnut and sunflower, however, remains lower than last year. The total area under oilseeds has improved in the last week to 157.9 lakh hectares compared to 153.06 lakh hectares in the corresponding period last year.

Published: August 6, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 6, 2011 04:11 IST Nagercoil, August 6, 2011

Water released from Poigai dam for irrigation

For the benefit of farmers in Aralvoimozhi, among others



good flow: Forest Minister K.T. Pachaimal (right) releasing water from Poigai dam in Kanyakumari district on Friday.

Forest Minister, K.T.Pachaimal released water from Poigai dam, situated near Aralvoimozhi on Friday for irrigation purpose.

The Minister threw flower petals in the dam as a mark of releasing water.

At first 20 cusecs of water would be released for irrigation purpose for the benefit of farmers belonging to Aralvoimozhi, Kuttikulam, Poigaikulam, Periyakulam, Vaigaikulam, Thovalai, Chenbagaramputhur and one more Periyakulam to undertake agriculture operation on over 498 acres.

The tail-end farmers would be benefited with the release of water from the Poigai dam. Around 18 feet of water was available in the dam and the full capacity of the dam was 42 feet.

The water would be released for 30 days and on the basis of availability of water in the dam, necessary steps would be taken to release water for irrigation purpose in future, said the Minister.

The MLA, Nagercoil Assembly segment, Nanjil A Murugesan, Collector, S. Madumathi, the executive engineer, Public Works Department (Irrigation), Subramanian, and others participated the function.

Rain continues

However widespread rain continued to lash different parts of the district particularly the catchment areas for the second day on Friday.

The sky remained overcast throughout the day.

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 32.05 feet, 47 feet in Perunchani, 6.40 feet in Chittar I and 6.49 feet in Chittar II.

Published: August 6, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 6, 2011 04:07 IST Namakkal, August 6, 2011

Farmers face 25 paise loss per egg as production cost goes up

Hike in chicken feed prices hits industry badly



Eggs kept at a poultry farm in Namakkal. — Photo: P. Goutham

The increase in diesel price by Rs. 3 a litre has led to a 10 per cent increase in the feed prices for chicken, says Namakkal Zone Chairman of the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) Dr. P. Selvaraj.

The industry was already hit badly by the manifold increase of chicken feed prices over the last one year and the increase had added to it, he added. This was because 80 per cent of the feed ingredients were procured from other States. Dr. Selvaraj said that 60 per cent of maize requirement – the main ingredient – was brought from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka as only 40 per cent was produced in Tamil Nadu. For soya meal, rice bran and kambu we were completely dependent on Karnataka, he added.

Dried fish meal was the only ingredient of chicken feed that was completely available in this State – at Tuticorin – and transported for a distance of 320 km, he lamented. All these were brought to Namakkal to feed the nearly 4.65 crore egg laying birds (layer birds) every day.

Loss

NECC had fixed wholesale price of egg at Rs. 2.37 but farmers got only Rs. 2.17 – 20 paise was set aside as transportation and handling charges for the egg traders, the Chairman said. The production cost stood at nearly Rs. 2.42 an egg and poultry farmers had been incurring a loss of nearly 25 paise per egg, he said.

On the indefinite lorry strike call by the All India Motor Transport Congress from August 18 condemning diesel price hike, the NECC Chairman said that they would take part in it for a day. This would lead to stagnation of close to 2.85 crore eggs on that day, he said and added that they cannot take part in it for more days as clearing them would take really long.

According to him, if the trucks go off the roads, it will badly affect the transport of feed. “We can manage with the available stock for one week during the strike after which we have to start bringing feed to prevent the birds from starving,” he noted. He said that they were planning to represent the issue to the lorry owners if they confirmed the strike as there had been many incidents when the strike had been called off.

Published: August 6, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 6, 2011 04:09 IST PANAJI, August 6, 2011

ICAR drafts blueprint to increase cashew nut production

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the apex body of agricultural research, has drafted a blueprint to increase the cashew nut production in the country in a phased manner to make the country self sufficient in cashew nut production.

At present the country imports over 6 lakh million tonnes of cashew nut from African countries, which was equal to the domestic production, said a release of the ICAR on Friday.

The move was aimed at tightening the belt to plug demand-supply gap of cashew nut in the country, said an official of the ICAR. Productivity abysmally low at 695kg/ ha was the biggest challenge. "We have prepared a detailed Action Plan (AC) in consultation with all the stake holders including scientists and private sector to increase the production of cashew nut in a phased manner. We have estimated that by 3013-14 we will be able to increase production by 2.5 times which will be sufficient to plug the demand and supply gap," said N. P. Singh, Director, ICAR Research Complex, Goa, who chaired the committee.

The blue print was prepared in a recent brain storming session held at the Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development, Kochi, Kerala. It was pointed out that world cashew kernel imports had increased

from 319.19 million tonnes in 2005 to 403.03million tonnes in 2009 and it was expected to increase.

Growth rate of global cashew industry was put at eight-10 per cent per annum, whereas the growth rate of domestic cashew industry was put at 12-15 per cent per annum.

Agricultural scientists feel it was a big challenge to boost the domestic production. But the country had the processing capacity of 12 lakh tonnes annually. Hence the processors were depending on the imports of raw nuts from other African countries for the remaining 50 per cent of the requirement.

ICAR's Initaitives

As for Goa, cashew is the main economic crop of the coastal State with over 50 per cent of cultivated area (55000ha) under cashew and annual production of 26,000 tonnes.

But the productivity is far less therefore, the ICAR scientists feel, there is need to create awareness about among the farmers for adopting the scientific cultivation of cashew in Goa.

The scientists recommended use of multi-cropping and need to develop technologies to use cashew nut waste to increase the income of farmers and make it more profitable for farmers.

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Onion prices soaring

Onion prices surged following poor arrivals due to rains in growing areas. At Lasalgoan APMC, prices were up nearly Rs 100 a quintal. There is not much export demand. But will the prices continue to shoot up?

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Brewing record



Favourable conditions: Rain drop on a coffee bean at a plantation in Wayanad, Kerala. The Coffee Board has projected a record 3.22 lakh tonnes output for the season beginning October. Favourable weather conditions have helped the crop development . — K.K. Mustafah

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated August 6, 2011)

Offerings at N. Indian tea auctions rise

Kolkata, Aug. 5:

This week at sale no 31, the total offerings (packages) at three North Indian auction centres were 3,94,808 compared with 3,31,054 in the corresponding sale of last year, according to J Thomas & Company Pvt Ltd, the tea auctioneers.

At Kolkata, the total offerings were 1,88,572 (1,64,604), comprising 1,48,570 (1,07,696) of CTC/dust, 31,378 (50,381) of orthodox and 8,624 (6,527) of Darjeeling.

Assam CTC leaf teas continued to ease in value while Dooars were irregularly lower. Dusts met with better demand at irregularly lower rates. Tata Global was active for dusts but offered only fair support in the leaf category. There was fair enquiry from Hindustan Unilever. Western India dealers were active at lower levels for liquoring sorts.

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Weak futures market saps spot rubber

Kottayam, Aug. 5:

The domestic rubber market lost ground on Friday. On the spot, prices fell following declines on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).

Another weak closing in the Tokyo Commodity (TOCOM) futures weighed on the market on early trades while the absence of covering purchases took it further down during closing hours.

There was no selling pressure in the market but major grades slipped mainly on buyer resistance.

Sheet rubber dropped to Rs 208.50 (210.50) a kg, as quoted by the traders.

The grade moved down to Rs 209 (211) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to Rubber Board.

RSS 4 declined with the August dropping to Rs 208.80 (210.89), September to Rs 208.50 (210.99), October to Rs 208.50 (210.95), November to Rs 208.99 (211.77), December to Rs 212 (214.50) and January to Rs 212.85 (217.01) a kg on the NMCE.

Futures

RSS 3 (spot) slipped to Rs 215.58 (216.36) a kg at Bangkok.

The August futures declined to ¥372.5 (Rs 212.50) from ¥381.5 a kg during the day session but then recovered partially to ¥373.1 (Rs 212.85) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 208.50 (210.50); RSS-5: 206 (206.50); ungraded: 199 (200); ISNR 20: 206 (207.50) and latex 60 per cent 135 (135).

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Industry, Board showcase speciality coffees in Europe

Bangalore, Aug. 5:

For the first time the Coffee Board, Coffeelab Pvt Ltd (run by Ms Sunalini Menon), and a group of speciality coffee growers from the country have made a combined bid to promote India's speciality coffees on the global platform.

The three groups came together and organised a session on 'Flavourful coffees of India' at the Speciality Coffee Association of Europe (SCAE).

At the SCAE meet held at Maastricht, Netherlands recently, a dedicated session on India's coffees, cupping of single origin speciality coffees and direct interaction with growers and prospective buyers were organised.

Meet To get feedback

About 30 participants, mainly roasters, buyers and quality experts from 15 to 18 countries from Europe, US, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan and Israel took part in the exclusive session on India. The participants had one-one meet after the coffee cupping to get a feedback.

To keep up with the changes happening in the coffee industry, the Coffee Board has made a beginning by showcasing speciality coffee grown in India. The board has classified Monsooned Malabar (both arabica and robusta), Mysore Nuggets and Robusta Coffee Royale as speciality coffees.

According to traders, there are about 20 to 25 coffee estates in the country that are promoting their coffees in different geographies in the world. The quantity exported by them range between 800 and 1,200 tonnes. Since it is an individual effort the exact quantity is not clear.

Intention and aim

A senior Coffee Board official said: "The main intention was to expose some of the finest coffees India grows in addition to commercial coffees which European countries sources."

"The trend in the coffee market is to move towards single origin estate specific coffees. Here the consumers are willing to pay 25 to 30 per cent premium," said Mr Nishant Gurjer, Managing Partner, Sethuraman Estates and Kaapi Royale Coffee.

"When consumers are willing to pay a huge premium for the coffee they buy, they want to know the region it is coming and some even ask for a particular block," he said.

The Indian delegation was led by Ms Vijayalakshmi Joshi, Additional Secretary, Union Commerce Ministry. The Coffee Board was represented by its Chairman, Mr Jawaid Akhtar, the Director-Finance, Ms Roop Rashi, and the Head (Quality), Dr Basavaraj.

The growers and industry were represented by Mr D.M. Purnesh, Managing Director, Classic Group; Mr S Appadurai, Managing Director Sangameshwar Coffee Estates; Mr V. Murali, Director Lingapur Estate; Mr Nishant Gurjer, Managing Partner, Sethuraman Estates; Mr K.D. Thimmaiah, General Manager, Aspinwall & Company; and three winners of Coffee Board's 'Flavour of India competition'.

Speciality Coffee Exports

According to Coffee Board statistics, of the 8,405.8 tonnes exported in the first six months of this calendar year (2011), Mysore Nuggets EB was 696.9 tonnes, Monsooned Malabar AA 1,721 tonnes, Monsooned Robusta AA 663.2 tonnes, Monsooned Arabica Triage 129 tonnes, Monsooned Robusta Triage 12 tonnes, Monsooned Basanally 357.2 tonnes, Robusta Kapi Royale 4,826.5 tonnes.

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Most farmers unaware of fertiliser maximum retail price: CAG

New Delhi, Aug. 5:

Over 56 per cent of Indian farmers are not aware about the maximum retail prices (MRP) of fertilisers they buy, while 45 per cent fork out more than the MRP and 59 per cent face problems in getting their season's full requirement in time.

These are the startling findings of a countrywide survey of 5,498 farmers conducted by field audit teams of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and reported in its 'Performance Audit of Fertiliser Subsidy' tabled in the Parliament on Friday.

The survey, conducted during June 2009 and March 2010, reveals marked inter-State disparities with regard to pricing and availability of fertilisers at the farmer level.

Absence of awareness

The absence of awareness about MRP of fertilisers is as high as 98 per cent in Jharkhand, 97 per cent in Bihar and Assam, 96 per cent in West Bengal, 89 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 79 per cent in Rajasthan, 68 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, 64 per cent in Kerala, 60 per cent in Jammu & Kashmir and 59 per cent in Tamil Nadu.

The levels of ignorance are somewhat lower in Chhattisgarh (35 per cent), Maharashtra and Orissa (24 per cent each), Andhra Pradesh (20 per cent), Karnataka (19 per cent) and Gujarat (17 per cent).

The awareness among farmers about MRPs is, not surprisingly, the highest in the two Green Revolution States of Punjab and Haryana. 89 per cent of farmers in Haryana and 100 per cent in Punjab knew the MRPs from the list shown to them by the CAG field audit teams.

Moreover, not a single surveyed farmer in Punjab reported buying fertilisers at above the MRP. In 99 per cent of cases, they got receipts from the dealers on their purchases.

Artificial shortages

In contrast, almost all farmers in West Bengal complained of artificial shortages created by dealers during peak seasons, forcing them to purchase fertilisers above the MRP. In Bihar, 71 per cent of farmers bought fertilisers from unregistered dealers and 99 per cent did not get any receipts.

The other significant finding of the CAG survey is the apparently lower extent of short-changing of farmers in States, where fertiliser sales take place through cooperative societies rather than private dealers.

Thus, in Orissa, 93 per cent of farmers buy from cooperative outlets and, probably as a result, only 24 per cent reported making purchases at above the MRP. A similar situation prevails in Chhattisgarh, where 65 per cent of farmers accessed fertilisers from cooperatives and 87 per cent did not pay more than the MRP.

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W. Bengal tea workers' wage talks deadlocked

Kolkata. Aug. 5:

Tea unions have called for a three-day strike in estates in Dooars and Terai regions in West Bengal from August 10. The strike has been called after failure of another round of wage negotiation. According to industry sources, a section of workers have also imposed blockade on tea despatches from several gardens beginning this evening.

Tea unions have also invited the workers of tea estates in Darjeeling to join the strike. According to the State Labour Minister, Mr Prunendu Basu, the State Government had proposed a

minimum wage of Rs 130 on a par with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. This is nearly double the current wage of Rs 67.50 a day.

Tea industry – represented by the Consultative Committee of Plantation Associations (CCPA) – declined to accept such a steep hike. The CCPA offered a hike at the rate of Rs 8 a year for the next three years from the existing wage of Rs 67.50 a day.

The CCPA and the labour unions were engaged in a tripartite negotiation involving the State Labour Commissioner on Thursday. This was followed by a bi-partite negotiation on Friday.

“I am told that the negotiations ended inconclusive with the industry not accepting such a steep hike. The unions have threatened to go on a strike from August 10. I have assured unions to take up the issue with the tea garden owners again on August 9,” Mr Basu told *Business Line*.

Confirming the development, industry sources said that the tea unions demanded increase in wages from Rs. 150 to Rs 350 a day as part of the negotiation to implement a wage pact with effect from this April. The Progressive Tea Workers Union (PTWU) backed by Adivasi Vikash Parishad, enjoying popular support in the tea growing region of the state, previously imposed blockades on tea despatches demanding wage hike in end July.

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Global cues cool edible oils



Mumbai, Aug. 5:

Prices of edible oils weakened during the day tracking weak global markets on Friday. However, the domestic futures markets rebounded late in the evening.

Crude palm oil (CPO) futures on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives (BMD) fell to a month's low, mirroring a broad selloff across commodity markets. Local refiners reduced prices of palmolein, soya oil and sunflower oil in line with the foreign markets. Volumes remained need-based in the physical market, even though new retail demand ahead of festivals beginning next week was good.

Palmolein dropped by Rs 3, soya oil by Rs 2 and rapeseed oil by Rs 2 for 10 kg in Mumbai. Groundnut oil, sunflower oil and cotton oil ruled steady despite weak reports from producing centres. Resellers traded 150-200 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 554-555 on Friday as demand in the local ready market was need-based after most traders covered requirements in advance. There was talk of a Gujarat-based importer selling a thousand tonnes of palmolein at Rs 550-552 on Friday.

Retail demand is set to increase because of Ramzan, though the wholesale market will toe the foreign line until then, said a Nullbazar-based wholesaler. Liberty' offered palmolein at Rs 559, soya oil at Rs 640 and sunflower oil at Rs 695. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 557, soya refined oil at Rs 636 and sunflower oil at Rs 695. Allana offered palmolein at Rs 560 for delivery in the second half of August. In Rajkot and Saurashtra, groundnut oil declined by Rs 15 to Rs 1,485 for a *telia* tin and by Rs 10 to Rs 965 for loose (10 kg).

Malaysia's BMD CPO September contract closed at MYR 3,079 (MYR 3,121), October at MYR 3,051 (MYR 3,101) and November at MYR 3,044 (MYR 3,091) a tonne. August contract of soya oil on National Board of Trade in Indore closed at Rs 661 (Rs 662.20) and September at Rs 652 (Rs.657.50).

Mumbai Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg): Groundnut oil 970 (970), soya refined oil 640 (642), sunflower exp. ref. 655 (655), sunflower ref. 705 (705), rapeseed ref. oil 695 (697), rapeseed expeller ref. 665 (667), cotton ref. oil 670 (670) and palmolein 556 (559).

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Onions gain on lower arrivals

RISING TREND*		
Date	Arrivals	Modal price
Aug 1	728.3	852
Aug 2	645.6	825
Aug 3	655	825
Aug 4	724.1	975
Aug 5	772.1	975

Arrivals in tonnes; price in Rs/quintal at Pune APMC yard in Maharashtra.
Source: NHRDF

Chennai, Aug. 5:

Onion prices surged this week on lower arrivals due to rain in growing areas.

“Rain lashed growing areas such as Ahmednagar and Nashik, affecting onion arrivals. Demand, on the other hand, was good,” said Mr Rupesh Jaju, Director of Nashik-based United Pacific Agro Pvt Ltd.

“There is good demand in South. Also, the crop in South India, expected to arrive in the markets now, has been delayed,” said Mr Madan Prakash, Director of Chennai-based Rajathi Group of Companies that exports agri-products.

The modal price or rate at which most trades took place was Rs 975 a quintal at Pune Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) yard. Compared with last week, prices are higher by Rs 150.

At Lasalgoan APMC, Asia's biggest market for onion, prices were up at Rs 951 against Rs 861 last week.

Arrivals averaged around 750 tonnes each in major markets.

Demand for onion is coming from West Bengal and Bangladesh, said Mr Jaju. "Export demand from the Gulf countries is also there," he said. "Barring the Gulf, there is not much of export demand," said Mr Prakash. Still, export-quality onion costs Rs 1,100 a quintal. "Prices usually rule at Rs 10-12 a kg during Diwali. But they have increased to that level now itself," said Mr Prakash.

"The reason is that there is a huge supply gap. People in the Gulf, too, have begun to build stock for Ramzan," said Mr Jaju. In the export market, China and Pakistan have begun to compete with India, especially in the Far-East market. "The quantity that countries such as Malaysia are buying from China or Pakistan is not much," said Mr Prakash. "In the Gulf, people don't buy Chinese onion. They do buy Pakistani onions a little," said Mr Jaju. With rain continuing in the growing areas, onion prices could firm up in the next week to 10 days.

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Weak offtake keeps pulses sluggish



Indore, Aug. 5:

Pulses and pulse seeds remained sluggish on weak demand. Besides, hope of a bumper pulse-seeds crop this year has also made pulses bearish.

Chana recovered on Friday with slightly improved buying. In the spot market, chana (kanta) sold at Rs 2,925-2,950 a quintal, while chana (desi) ruled at Rs 2,875. On the other hand, chana dal

declined with chana dal (bold) commanding a price of Rs 3,675-3,700 a quintal, chana dal (medium) Rs 3,575-3,600 and chana dal Rs 3,450-3,475 a quintal.

Masoor ruled steady at Rs 2,800 despite subdued demand and masoor (medium) was quoted at Rs 2,500 a quintal. Weak demand for masoor also dragged down masoor dal, with masoor dal (bold) being quoted at Rs 3,375-3,400, masoor dal (medium) at Rs 3,275-3,300 and masoor dal (average) at Rs 3,150-3,175 a quintal.

Tur ruled sluggish on increased selling in Maharashtra. While tur (Maharashtra) declined to Rs 2,950 a quintal, tur (Nimari) declined to Rs 2,300-2,400 a quintal. Sluggish demand also pulled down tur dal by Rs 100, with tur marka being quoted at Rs 5,800 a quintal, tur dal (full) at Rs 5,250-5,300 and tur dal (sawa no.) at Rs 4,300-4,350.

Moong and urad remained stable despite lack of buying.

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Domestic demand pushes up rice



Karnal, Aug. 5:

Some good domestic buying pushed PR-11 and Permal varieties up by Rs 20-135 a quintal, while all other aromatic and non basmati varieties ruled almost unchanged on Friday.

PR-11(Sela) increased further by Rs 135 and sold at Rs 2,000-2,250 while PR-11(Raw) quoted at Rs 1,925-2,150 a quintal, Rs 50 up from previous level.

After ruling firm for almost a week, Permal varieties went up by Rs 20-60; Permal (sela) quoted at Rs 1,750-1,900 a quintal while Permal (Raw) sold at Rs 1,900-2,035 a quintal. Mr Amit Chandna, Proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told *Business Line* that despite the fact that traders are holding huge stocks and new stock will be in the market in this month, prices are moving upwards.

“Market may rule firm on current levels for next few days and then it may witness some correction,” he added.

After witnessing an uptrend earlier this week, Pusa-1121(steam) ruled flat and sold at Rs 4,940-5,190 a quintal, Pusa-1121(sela) was at Rs 4,000 and while Pusa-1121(raw) ruled at Rs 4,400 a quintal. For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar sold at Rs 3,100-3,335, Dubar ruled at Rs 2,600-2,660 and Mongra was trading at Rs 1,900-2,145 a quintal.

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Sugar flat on poor consumption



Mumbai, Aug. 5:

Sugar prices ruled steady on Friday as supply from mills eased. Arrivals and dispatches were at the usual level with normal business activity .

A wholesaler in the Vashi wholesale market said from next week festivals start, but the demand from sweet, confectionary and snacks makers is not as expected. Other side smooth supply from mills and routine demand kept sentiment steady. In spot, fair quality sugar continues in

demand with the a marginal rise of Rs 5-10 a quintal. Good quality M-grade fetched Rs 8-10 higher. Naka and mill tender rates were unchanged, as mills continued selling at present price level .

Retail demand

Inventory building among stockists was lacking as market has sufficient stocks to fulfil the demand. There is no big development in the export front which can lift the sentiment. Freight rates are also steady. Retail demand is also less than expected as Ramzan fasting has begun. Steady sentiment prevailed in other producing centers such as Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

On Thursday, about 19-20 mills offered tenders and sold 75,000-80,000 bags (each 100 kgs) to local buyers in the range of Rs 2,575-2,615 (Rs 2,575-2,615) for S-grade and Rs 2,630-2,700 (Rs 2,630-2,700) for M-grade. Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates : Spot: S-grade Rs 2,721-2,821 (Rs 2,721-2,811) and M-grade Rs 2,761-2,921 (Rs 2,766-2,911). *Naka* delivery rates: S-grade Rs 2,670-2,710 (Rs 2,670-2,710) and M-grade was Rs 2,700-2,860 (Rs 2,700-2,860).

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Heavy arrivals pound turmeric



Erode, Aug. 5:

Arrivals of over 11,000 bags on Friday dented prices of turmeric in Erode markets.

“The price of turmeric decreased by over Rs 200 a quintal on Friday in Erode as arrivals shot up to more than 11,000 bags. Only about 40 per cent of the arrivals were sold. Limited stocks were bought as there were no new orders,” said Mr RV. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Futures, too, decreased sharply as the price fell below Rs 6,700 a quintal, he said. Even the hybrid variety decreased by Rs 1,000 a quintal on Friday as the quality of arrivals remained between poor and average.

Farmers said they are unable to sell their huge accumulated stocks because of such low prices. This year is a bad year for them as they could not get good price for the turmeric. Few bulk orders were placed to fulfil local commitments as there was no demand from North Indian merchants.

In the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the hybrid variety was sold at Rs 7,100 a quintal, against Rs 8,037 a quintal sold on Thursday. The finger variety fell Rs 200 a quintal. However, prices of a few bags of quality crop rose by Rs 300 a quintal at the Regulated Marketing Committee and by Rs 100 a quintal at the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society.

In the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales Yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,009-6,469 and the root variety at Rs 4,799-6,059.

Salem Crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 6,160-7,100 and the root variety at Rs 5,589-6,200. Only 498 of the 2,639 bags that arrived were sold.

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