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Seminar on post-harvest technology on December 12

Staff Reporter

Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture and Writtle College, the United Kingdom, will jointly organise a seminar on “Post-harvest Technology and Cool Chain Management” on December 12 at the institute in Pollachi.

According to a release, the morning session will be attended by students of the NIA Educational Institutions. Students of biological sciences from colleges in and around Coimbatore can attend the seminar that will be held at Kumaraguru College of Technology in the afternoon.

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Adopt modern technologies in cultivation: farmers told

Staff Reporter

It will help improve standard of living, says Collector

Farmers should adopt modern technologies in cultivation of crops, said Collector C.N. Maheshwaran at the SRI – Mechanical ‘Yanchi’ Rice transplanter Harvest Field Day at Pillaikotthur village in Shoolgiri block in Krishnagiri district on Friday.

Mr. Maheshwaran said that this would help farmers improve their standards of living.

Diaries

Farmers should develop the habit of writing diaries, as it would help them know the pattern of cultivation in the past and plan for the future. Dr. S. Chellamuthu, Director and Nodal Officer, TNIAMWARM project, said that the Krishnagiri district was in the forefront in adopting SRI method of cultivation of paddy through mechanisation in the State.

Farmers from far away places like Kanyakumari were visiting the agriculture fields in Krishnagiri. Because of adapting modern technologies, the 115 million tonne target for production of food crops fixed by the state government could be achieved in a short time.

There are 12 technologies being adopted in SRI method of cultivation. The Agriculture Engineering Department has 63 mechanised equipments.

Due to the advent of these, the farmers have upgraded from Subsistence Agriculture method to Commercial Farming.

With a view to improve agriculture production, the Chief Minister has announced issuance of 75 lakh Soil Health Cards to farmers.

Proper use of technology will give good yield, Dr. Chellamuthu said.

Dr. B.J. Pandiyan, Professor and Head IAMWARDM Cell in Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, said though farmers initially resisted to adopt modern farm technologies, now do it.

Very low

The cost for the SRI method of paddy cultivation was very low compared to the conventional method of cultivation. It was planned to bring 200 acres under the SRI method of cultivation in Shoolagiri block, but half of the farmers implemented the SRI method.

This method of cultivation would be introduced in Tiruvallur district on 700 acres, he said.

Dr. T. Sundarraj, programme coordinator, Dr. Perumal KVK, said farmers need not be afraid of adopting modern technologies.

Experience

Some of the farmers who had undertaken SRI method of cultivation explained their experience during the programme.

G. Chidambaranathan, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, spoke.

Farmers who had excelled in SRI, usage of Rice Transplanter, SRI Hybrid rice, Best SRI farmer, best precision village and farmer and intelligent farming were given prizes and certificates.

Dr. K.N. Budhar, Professor and Head In charge, RRS, Paiyur, welcomed the gathering.

Dr. S. Vijayabaskaran, Associate Professor, Agronomy, RRS, Paiyur proposed a vote of thanks.

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Experts call for achieving higher cashew production

Special Correspondent

It is a myth that cashew contains cholesterol, says expert



ON RIGHT APPROACH: Gale McGranahan, right, US representative of International Society for Horticultural Science, releasing a souvenir which is received by Horticulture expert S. Sambandamurthy at Agricultural College and Research Institute in Madurai on Friday. — Photo: G. Moorthy

There must be a technological approach in cashew crop production since despite India being one of the largest producers in the world and a foreign exchange earner, it lacked expertise on the productivity front, speakers said here on Friday on the first day of a four-day international symposium on cashew nut.

Around 150 delegates from various countries, including Sri Lanka, USA, Italy, Brazil and some African nations, besides scientists, research scholars and horticulture students from Indian universities are participating in the conference organised by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and International Society for Horticultural Science at the Agricultural College and Research Institute (ACRI) here.

Horticulture expert S. Sambandamurthy said that there was a myth that cashew contained cholesterol. "Many doctors are wary of cashew nuts and prescribe almonds instead for their patients suffering from cardiac ailments. In fact no plant produced cholesterol."

Agreeing that technology had to be introduced which would enable in increased productivity, Dr. Sambandamurthy also stressed on the need to bring all cashew workers under one umbrella and give a thrust to research activities.

He also called for studying the physiology of cashew as the leaf fall was different from other fruits such as mango. Cashew, no doubt, was a foreign exchange earner. But the cultivable area must be expanded, he said.

Venkatesh N. Hubballi, Director and Transparency Officer, Directorate of Cashew Nut and Cocoa Development, Cochin, said that during 2009-10, cashew products worth Rs. 2905.82 crore were exported against Rs. 3037.35 crore of imports. Cashew, an important horticulture crop, provided employment to 1.5 million people directly and indirectly; a large number of women had been depending on the processing sector for their livelihood.

While production was forthcoming from non-traditional areas of Chattisgarh and some north eastern States, focus had to be given to eastern States and non-traditional cashew areas such as Jharkhand, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam.

“Cashew nut sector is dominated by half-a-dozen countries. When it comes to productivity, India is not in a better place. Even Vietnam which entered into this business recently has achieved better results in the international markets. If we can achieve seven to eight per cent increase in production, we will be able to maintain our status in the ever growing global market,” he said.

The State-level Cashew Corporations had been taking steps to get better yields from cashew plantations with financial assistance from the National Horticultural Mission, he added.

Earlier, ACRI Dean and convenor K. Vairavan welcomed the gathering. N. Kumar, Dean, Horticultural College and Research Institute (HCRI), TNAU, Coimbatore; P. Banumathi, Dean, Home Science College and Research Institute, Madurai; I. Irulappan, former Dean, HCRI, Coimbatore; and Pino Calcagni, Advisor, International Nut Council, Italy, offered felicitations.

Gale Granahan, US representative of the International Society for Horticultural Science released the souvenir and the first copy was received by Dr. Sambandamurthy.

Experts would present papers during the next three days. V. Ponnusamy, Dean, HCRI, Periyakulam, proposed a vote of thanks.

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Give international status to airport: foodgrains merchants

Staff Reporter

Tamil Nadu Foodgrains Merchants Association has urged the Central government to accord 'international' status to the Madurai airport soon.

It would facilitate airlines that touch Tiruchi to extend their services to Madurai as well.

A delegation led by association president S.P. Jeyapragasam met Union Minister for Civil Aviation Vayalar Ravi in New Delhi on December 1 and submitted a memorandum pressing various demands.

In the memorandum it was pointed out that offices of Immigrations and Customs had been established at the Madurai airport. International flight connectivity to Madurai would boost industrialisation of southern districts.

The State government must expedite land acquisition process near the airport as the Airport Authority of India was planning to increase the runway length from 7,500 feet to 12,500 feet in stages. Permanent hangars must be established for aircraft maintenance. Aerobridges must be installed at the new terminal since provision for the same had already been made.

About 40 per cent of passengers using airports in Tiruchi, Chennai, Coimbatore and Thiruvananthapuram were from Madurai and other southern districts.

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Rs.3.12 crore subsidy for small onion farmers

Special Correspondent

Chief Minister Jayalalithaa has ordered allocation of Rs.3.12 crore to be disbursed as subsidy to promote small onion cultivation in the district.

Cultivation of high-yielding small onion would be promoted in about 2,500 hectares utilising the subsidy, according to Collector Darez Ahmed.

The Chief Minister, Mr.Ahmed said, had announced at the recent Collector's conference that subsidy would be given to farmers of the district to increase small onion production in the district.

Accordingly the allocation of Rs.3.12 crore has been made from the National Agriculture Development Programme. Perambalur district is the largest producer of small onions in the State.

Onion growers would be extended a subsidy of Rs.12, 500 a hectare. The programme would be implemented in Chettikulam, Perambalur and Kurumbalur firkas primarily. About 1,500 hectares would be covered in Chettikulam, 650 hectares in Kurumbalur, 100 hectares in Perambalur and about 200 hectares in other parts of the district.

The programme would seek to increase productivity by distribution high-yielding Ko-5 variety seeds to the farmers. The Agriculture, Horticulture and Agriculture Marketing departments besides the Roever Agricultural Science Centre would take up a campaign to sensitise farmers to the programme and the best cultivation practices.

Farmers who wish to avail the scheme should apply immediately at the offices of the Assistant Directors of Horticulture, Horticulture Officers or Assistant Agriculture Officers along with copies of the chitta adangal, ration cards and passport size photograph. Further information can be had by dialling 04328-291099/9847156511.

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Training on groundnut cultivation

A training on groundnut cultivation would be held at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Vamban near here on December 13. In a press release here on Friday, B. Maheswari, Collector, said the training aimed at explaining sowing techniques, seed processing, proper selection of season-specific seeds, and marketing avenues to farmers. Details could be had by dialling 04322-290321 or Suresh, assistant professor of KVK, on 95783-05324.

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Efforts on to improve vegetable production

Staff Reporter

Seminar focuses on various aspects of farming



For bountiful harvests: C.Devi, Senior Technical Officer, NHRDF speaking at a district level seminar on vegetable production in Palladam on Thursday. – Photo: M.Balaji

To improve vegetable production from the district, the National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), a Central Government undertaking, and Department of Horticulture, conducted a seminar on 'Application of hi-tech technologies in vegetable production' at Palladam on Thursday.

M. Saravanan, technical officer of NHRDF, said the event, conceptualized under National Horticulture Mission, was primarily aimed at providing technology empowerment to farmers to overcome the shortage of labourers encountered and to minimize the post-harvest losses.

“The topics deliberated have been selected to address area-specific problems with the commitment to enhance the production and yield of vegetables,” he added.

Resource persons from different segments of horticulture activities talked on subjects like 'importance of precision farming', 'micro irrigation and nutrient management for vegetable cultivation', 'organic certification in vegetable crops' and 'disease management techniques'.

In addition to this, the farmers were also taught the methods to manage the weed menace during the raising of the crops.

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Farmers protest against fall in prices of onion

Auction suspended at the APMC yard in Amaragol



Demand: Farmers staging a dharna in Hubli on Friday.

A sudden slump in onion prices at the Agricultural Produce Market Committee yard at Amaragol here forced farmers to resort to protest on Friday.

On Friday morning, several farmers from various villages in Dharwad, Bagalkot and Bijapur districts brought their onion yield to the Hubli APMC with the hope that high quality onions would fetch them good prices.

Expectations

However, soon after the auction of the onion crop began at the yard, their expectations were dashed as those bidding for the crop submitted their bids in the range of Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per quintal, even for the good quality onions.

At this, the farmers decided to resort to agitation and marched towards the old national highway to stage a 'rasta roko'.

However, immediate intervention from the police prevented them from going ahead with their plan.

The police convinced them not to block the road and promised that they would arrange a meeting with the APMC office-bearers and merchants.

However, the farmers staged a dharna for sometime before the meeting began.

Meanwhile, the farmers demanded Rs. 1,500 a quintal for good quality onions and suggested that the merchants could start bidding for other qualities from Rs. 300. However, the merchants were reluctant to quote any price. After a heated discussion, the auction of the onion crop was suspended for the day.

It was decided that the auction would be resumed on Saturday, when the purchasers of onion arrive in good number from other places as well.

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- *Meeting of farmers and merchants held*
 - *Auction to resume today*
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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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10 DEC, 2011, 03.00AM IST, BLOOMBERG

Cocoa rebounds from longest streak of fall in 50 years

LONDON: Cocoa rebounded from the longest slump in 50 years in New York on speculation lower prices would prompt processors to buy. Cocoa fell 19% in New York and 20% in London over the past two months as supplies from West Africa were better than initially estimated. Bean arrivals at the Ivory Coast ports of Abidjan and San Pedro were 4,28,200 tonne in the week ended December 4, up 16% from a year earlier, Natixis Commodity Markets said in a report on Thursday.

"After having corrected by such a degree in the past two months, I think the market is attracting attention from speculators who may see the price as undervalued and by the industry, which is interested in covering at these levels," Keith Flury, an analyst at Rabobank International in London, said on Friday by e-mail.

Cocoa for March delivery advanced 0.6% to \$2,143 a tonne on ICE Futures US in New York by 10:42 am London time. Before Friday, the price fell for 11 consecutive days, the longest slump since at least 1961, according to Bloomberg data.

Cocoa for March delivery rose 0.6% to 1,377 pounds (\$2,154) a tonne on NYSE Liffe in London. Output in Ivory Coast, the world's top producer, may be 1.43 million tonne in the year ending September 30, up 3.2% from its prior forecast, Ecobank Transnational, based in Lome, Togo, said in a report.

THE HINDU Business Line

Crashing prices



Heavy arrivals: A worker takes rest on a pile of onion sacks at Hubli Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee yard on Friday. Sudden slump in the onion prices in the country has forced farmers to resort to snap protests again, particularly in Karnataka. The average price for onion has dropped to Rs 600 a quintal. — Kiran Bakale

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated December 10, 2011)

Chana falls on poor demand; urad gains

Our Correspondent

Indore, Dec. 9:

Pulses and pulse seeds witnessed a mixed trend in mandis here on Friday.

While chana fell on lower demand, masoor, tur and urad gained on improved buying.

Chana (kanta) slipped to Rs 3,300-3,325 a quintal as demand declined at the higher price.

Chana (desi) also declined to Rs 3,275 a quintal on lower demand.

Taking cues from a weak spot chana, chana dal dropped, with chana dal (average) being quoted at Rs 3,975-4,000 a quintal (Rs 4,000-4,025), chana dal (medium) at Rs 4,075-4,100 (Rs 4,100-4,125) and chana dal (bold) at Rs 4,300-4,325 (Rs 4,325-4,350).

Buying support also perked up urad by Rs 50, with urad (bold quality) being sold at Rs 3,400-3,550 a quintal, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 2,800-3,100 a quintal.

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Spot rubber slips on global cues

Our Correspondent

Kottayam, Dec. 9:

The rubber market turned weak on Friday. On the spot, prices slipped following declines in domestic and international futures.

According to observers, the market lost ground on buyer resistance though there was no selling pressure from dealers or growers.

“We expect the commodity to stabilise around Rs 200- mark in short term” an analyst said.

Sheet rubber dropped to Rs 202 (205) a kg, according to traders.

The grade weakened to Rs 201.50 (204) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as quoted by the Rubber Board.

The December series closed at Rs 202 (203.21), January at Rs 203.77 (204.94), February at Rs 205.95 (207), March at Rs 208.75 (209.35), April at Rs 212.42 (212.27) and May at Rs 215 (216.50) a kg for RSS 4 on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) improved to Rs 183.30 (181.94) a kg at Bangkok.

The December futures declined to ¥260.3 (Rs 174.27) from ¥272.1 a kg during the day session but then recovered partially to ¥261 (Rs 174.74) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 202 (205); RSS-5: 199 (200); ungraded: 193 (195); ISNR 20: 189 (190) and latex 60 per cent: 110 (110).

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Millet group wants local sourcing clause in Food Security Bill

Our Bureau

Hyderabad, Dec. 9:

The Millet Network of India (MINI), a group of associations that is promoting consumption of millets, has expressed concern about non-inclusion of local procurement provision in the latest version of the National Food Security Bill.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh and Ms Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of United Progressive Alliance, the network has demanded that this clause should be included again in the draft bill. This, it said, would go a long way in promoting production of millets.

“The first version of the bill had made two major recommendations that could have changed the fortunes of millions of millet growing farmers in the dryland areas mostly populated by Adivasi and Dalits,” Mr P V Satheesh, National Convenor of MINI, said in the letter.

While appreciating the move to include millets in the public distribution system in National Food Security Bill, he said the grain could address the issues of food security and nutrition.

“The logical next step should be to make local procurement as a requirement. All millets meant for PDS should be sourced within 10 km radius wherever possible. This will encourage local farmers to grow millets. But surprisingly the new draft doesn't contain this important provision,” Mr Satheesh, who is also the Director of Deccan Development Society, said.

The network, comprising 140 non-governmental organisations, organisations and individuals, has been lobbying for some time for inclusion of millets in PDS.

It circulated a note 'Why Millets' among 500 MPs, telling them how lopsided the decision that kept millets out of the system.

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Favourable weather lifts rubber output 4.3% in Nov

C J Punnathara

Consumption increases on improving automobile sales

Kochi, Dec. 9:

Due to favourable weather conditions and increased intensity of tapping by farmers, rubber production in the country increased by 4.3 per cent to 94,400 tonnes (90,500 tonnes) in November.

Sources in the Rubber Board said that the average rainfall for November in the environs of Kottayam was 11 cm, while the ideal precipitation for rubber is estimated around 10 cm.

Last year, 20.6 cm of rainfall was recorded. It was substantially higher than ideal conditions.

IMPROVED YIELD

With prices climbing above the Rs 200-a-kg mark, farmers have increased tapping intensity and yields have also improved.

After the lull of October, demand for automobiles has begun to look up and rubber consumption has also improved, sources said. Rubber consumption increased by 5.1 per cent to 82,000 tonnes (78,010 tonnes).

Going by the early indications, both production and consumption are expected to be higher this month as well.

PEAK SEASON

December and January also happen to be the peak rubber production season in the country with virtually no rainfall, cold nights and bright, sunny days. The soil humidity which built up over the North-East monsoon is expected to aid rubber production.

Although rubber import was up a tad for November, overall imports for April-November period remained significantly lower.

Exports have remained substantially higher than last year, both for November as well as for first eight months of the current fiscal. Production continued to be higher during April-November against the corresponding period of last year, while consumption significantly lower, reflecting the production numbers of the automobile industry.

According to the revised estimates, the stock of natural rubber at the end of November was down at 2,55,000 tonnes against 2,80,728 tonnes last year.

However, there is absolute shortage of rubber in the domestic market, Mr N Radhakrishnan, Advisor to Cochin Rubber Merchants Association, said. Although domestic rubber prices are ruling higher than international prices, farmers are holding on to their stocks.

Despite the marked disparity between the domestic and international prices, industry has not resorted to wholesale imports because of the huge erosion in the value of the Indian rupee against major currencies.

This has made imports tricky. However, Mr Radhakrishnan said that the situation may not prevail for long and that industries might resort to huge imports that could be detrimental to farmers.

Since imports would require a lead time of around one month, he said that rubber imports might soon commence in earnest unless the situation on the ground improve fast.

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Areca body recasts group to review output costs for red, white varieties

Our Bureau

Mangalore, Dec. 9:

The Arecanut Research and Development Foundation (ARDF) has reconstituted a committee to fix the production cost for red and white arecanut.

The committee is expected to submit its report by February.

Mr K. Padmanabha, Managing Trustee of the foundation and President of Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative (Campco) Ltd, said input costs have increased, necessitating a review of production costs for red and white arecanut.

ARDF had in September 2010 fixed the production cost for white arecanut at Rs 114 a kg and Rs 148 for the red variety. The committee — headed by Prof G.V. Joshi, then Member of the Karnataka Planning Board — had included the annual maintenance cost of the arecanut plantation, interest expenses and establishment cost while calculating production costs.

Mr Padmanabha said the reconstituted committee first met on December 7 in Mangalore.

Besides, steps to determine production cost, the committee also discussed issues related to diseases in arecanut plantations.

The expert committee will visit growers in the coming days and submit its report to the Karnataka Government by February 10, he said.

Growers in Karnataka and Kerala can send their suggestions to research@arecanut.org before December 30, he said.

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Sowing lower in rabi crops, barring pulses

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Dec. 9:

Wheat sowing has been complete in about three-fourth of the normal area as of December 9, broadly in line with last year's coverage.

Total wheat acreage has been reported at 209.55 lakh hectares, marginally lower than the previous year's 211.34 lakh hectares, according to the Agriculture Ministry's latest crop sowing data.

States such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Chhattisgarh have reported higher coverage this year.

At the same times, lower sowing has been reported from Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Gujarat compared with the corresponding last year.

Wheat was planted in 294.02 lakh hectares last year. The Government is targeting wheat output of 84 million tonnes, similar to that of 85.95 million tonnes produced last year.

Sowing in pulses has been higher, while that of oilseeds, coarse cereals and rice is lower compared with last year.

Pulses coverage has increased 1.39 lakh hectares compared with last year.

Total area under pulses, led by higher area under gram, stood at 120.60 lakh hectares as against 119.20 lakh hectares. Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have reported higher coverage, while Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh reported lower sowing.

Oilseed sowing is marginally lower at 73.83 lakh hectares against 73.99 lakh hectares. West Bengal, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Assam have reported higher coverage of oilseeds as of December 8, whereas Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat reported lower areas.

Rice transplanting has seen a sluggish progress in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and only 1.45 lakh hectares has been covered as against 1.8 lakh hectares.

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Sugar prices continue to slide on poor demand

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Dec. 9:

Sugar prices continued to drop across the country on lack of demand on Friday.

In Uttar Pradesh, prices on Friday dropped by Rs 5 a quintal, while in Maharashtra, prices in the spot market slipped by Rs 25-40 a quintal. In Naka, rates slipped by Rs 20-25 on selling pressure from resellers.

Maharashtra mill tender rates dropped by Rs 20-25 a quintal. "We are seeing feeble domestic demand in central Uttar Pradesh. Buyers are still wary to buy," said a trading source.

Prices for sugar produced last season that ended in September were Rs 2,950 a quintal. Sugar produced this season ruled at Rs 3,055.

At Vashi market on Thursday 16-18 mills offered tenders and sold about 45,000-50,000 bags in the range of Rs 2,875-2,950 (Rs 2,900-2,960) for S-grade and Rs 2,975-3,040 (Rs 2,990-3,050) for M-grade.

Arrivals in Vashi market were higher 50-52 truck loads and local dispatches were around 48-50 truck loads.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates : S-grade — Rs 3,032-3,111 (Rs 3,040-3,150), and M-grade — Rs 3,126-3,211 (Rs 3,136-3,236).

Naka delivery rates : S-grade — Rs 2,965-3,000 (Rs 2,990-3,030), and M-grade — Rs 3,070-3,160 (Rs 3,090-3,160).

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Onion crashes on heavy arrivals

M.R. Subramani



Chennai, Dec. 9:

Attempts by growers to dispose of their old crop and flooding arrivals pounded onion prices in markets around growing centres, particularly in Maharashtra and Gujarat, this week.

“The old crop that was held back cannot be stored any more. Therefore, farmers were trying to clear old stocks leading to huge arrivals. That resulted in prices crashing,” said Mr Rupesh Jaju, Director of Nashik-based United Pacific Agro Pvt Ltd that exports onions.

“Farmers had held back their produce expecting prices to sky-rocket like last year. But this year, the kharif crop is good despite erratic rain. With the crop running out of its shelf life, farmers have begun to clear stocks,” said Mr Madan Prakash, Director of Chennai-based Rajathi Group of Companies that exports agricultural produce.

In Pimpalgaon Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee yard, the modal price or the rate at which most trades took place dropped to Rs 600 a quintal from Rs 800 last week.

“Most of the trades are taking place in the Rs 550-630 range, though quality onions are commanding Rs 1,200,” said Mr Jaju.

Arrivals are so huge that in the last three days 30,000 tonnes have arrived in Maharashtra markets. "In Sholapur, arrivals in the last two days have been in the excess of 3,000 tonnes each, while 1,400 tonnes arrived in Mumbai on Thursday," said Mr Jaju.

Export demand, on the other hand, is low in view of the quality that is available.

"You cannot be exporting the old crop. Sri Lanka should be buying in a big way within a month, while buying by Malaysia is normal," said Mr Prakash.

Onion prices are likely to remain under pressure as long as the old crop is not cleared.

"Once old stocks are cleared, prices could see improvement," said Mr Jaju.

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Cotton seen falling on lower offtake



Rajkot, Dec. 9:

Cotton brokers said there was limited demand from local millers and exporters on Friday. New export enquiries from China were reported at 90-91 cents a pound. However, traders and ginners see prices declining.

The Sankar-6 variety was traded at Rs 35,200-35,300 a candy of 356 kg while *kapas* or raw cotton price sold at Rs 850-860 for a *maund* of 20 kg. *Kapas* for delivery to ginners traded at Rs 875-880 a *maund*. While 45,000-50,000 bales of 170 kg each arrived in Gujarat, 1.5 lakh bales arrived in rest of the country.

From Maharashtra, around 500-600 trucks arrived in Gujarat and quoted Rs 870-880 a *maund*.

In Maharashtra, average new cotton quoted at Rs 33,700-34,100 a candy and A-grade 29-plus mm quoted at 34,700-34,700 a candy.

In Madhya Pradesh, average new cotton quoted at Rs 33,500-34,000 a candy and A-grade 29-plus mm quoted at 34,200-34,700 a candy.

Cotton may fall to Rs 34,000 a candy in December because of low demand and as disparity at the current prices has brought down ginning volumes by a half this year in Gujarat, said Mr Arvind Raichura of Balkrishna Ginning.

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Mixed trend in edible oils

Our Correspondent



Mumbai, Dec. 9:

Groundnut, rapeseed and palmolein were unchanged while sunflower, cotton and soya refined oil increased by Rs 5 for 10 kg each on Friday.

Lack of demand, local and from other States, and weak Malaysian palm oil and overnight Chicago futures weighed on the market. Low volumes in the resale market indicate a bearish sentiment. Battered by low demand, refiners had to offer imported edible oils at lower prices despite a stronger dollar against the rupee making imports costlier.

Only repackers bought small quantities directly from refiners in the physical market, where 100-150 tonnes of palmolein were traded. Crude palm oil (CPO) futures fell a little on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives (BMD) Exchange as investors liquidated long positions on concerns about

euro zone. Liberty offered palmolein at Rs 588-590 and super palmolein at Rs 600. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 584, soya refined oil at Rs 635 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 700 for January delivery. Allana offered palmolein at Rs 586 for delivery on December 20.

Malaysia's BMD CPO's January contracts settled at MYR3,083 (MYR3,083) and February at MYR3,084 (MYR 3,089) a tonne. Soya oil for December delivery closed higher at Rs 649.50 (Rs 646.60) and for January closed up at Rs 661.20 (Rs 658.70) on the National Board of Trade in Indore.

Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil — 865 (865), soya refined oil — 635 (630), sunflower exp. ref. — 650 (645), sunflower ref. — 710 (705), rapeseed ref. oil — 730 (730), rapeseed expeller ref. — 700 (700), cotton ref. oil — 621 (616), and palmolein — 585 (585).

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N. India demand lends gloss to turmeric

Our Correspondent



Erode, Dec. 9:

Spot turmeric prices increased due to sudden demand received from North India on Friday.

“Prices of both varieties of turmeric improved by Rs 100-200 a quintal, as exporters purchased good number of bags on Friday. Further usually on Fridays, traders buy to fulfil pending orders, received during the week,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants' Association.

He said that turmeric exporters have received some orders from north Indian towns. Merchants in North India, after watching the turmeric markets at Erode, Nizamabad and Sangli, placed orders at the prevailing price. Though current prices are not feasible, farmers are selling as they require money, he said.

Though prices have improved, they are still below Rs 4,300 a quintal.

On Friday, 12000 and odd bags arrived for sales, 50 per cent of the stock was sold.

Due to arrival of good quality turmeric in the Regulated Marketing Committee, prices increased by Rs 400 a quintal and sales were encouraging, as 80 per cent of the arrived turmeric were sold.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3 362-4,241 a quintal, the root variety Rs 3,209-4,086.

Salem crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 4,698-5,526, the root variety Rs 4,209-4,509. Of 2,782 bags that arrived, 702 bags were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,700-4,316, the root variety Rs 3,609-4,189. Of 394 bags that arrived, 365 were sold.

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Mills' lower offer affects paddy arrivals

Our Correspondent



Karnal, Dec. 9:

Following low prices offered by rice mills, paddy arrivals remained sluggish at the Karnal grain market on Friday.

PR varieties are drying up, while arrivals of aromatic paddy varieties will continue as farmers are holding huge stocks with them, said Mr Tara Chand Sharma, proprietor of Tara Chand and Sons.

Farmers are not getting fair prices for their produce and stocks brought to the market are few and far between due to this, he added.

In the rice market, the trade witnessed a mixed trend. Pure basmati (sela) increased by Rs 200 and was sold at Rs 3,700 a quintal, while basmati (raw) was sold at Rs 4,400 a quintal.

Pusa-1121 (steam) ruled flat and was quoted at Rs 4,300 a quintal while Pusa-1121 (sela) stood at Rs 3,440 a quintal.

Among the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar was sold at Rs 3,100, Dubar at Rs 2,850 while Mongra was trading at Rs 2,150 a quintal.

Non-basmati varieties were quoted with marginal variations. Sharbati (steam) was quoted around Rs 2,900 while Sharbati (sela) was between Rs 2,750 and 2,800 a quintal.

PR-11 (sela) was sold at Rs 2,100-2,240 a quintal and PR-11 (raw) was quoted at Rs 1,900-2,180 a quintal. Permal (sela) was sold at Rs 1,800-1,950 a quintal and Permal (raw) was around Rs 1,900-1,950 a quintal.

Paddy arrivals

Around 35,000 bags of paddy varieties arrived at the Karnal grain market terminal. Around 10,000 bags of PR arrived and were sold at Rs 950-1,070. About 1,000 bags of Sharbati variety arrived and was quoted at Rs 1,330-1,375, About 5,000 bags of DB arrived and were sold at Rs 1,300-1,560. Around 15,000 bags of Pusa-1121 arrived and were sold at 1,670-1,800 a quintal while around 5,000 bags of pure basmati arrived and were sold at Rs 1,720-1,770 a quintal.

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