

# THE HINDU

Online edition of India's National Newspaper

Monday, January 29, 2011

Date:29/01/2011 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/01/29/stories/2011012951120300.htm>

---

## Crop insurance disbursed

Special Correspondent

---

*Amount is decided, based on average yield for the past five years*

---

VILLUPURAM: Collector R. Palanisamy on Thursday disbursed crop insurance of Rs. 6 lakh to farmers, who suffered loss due to various factors.

In a statement here, he said that farmers in the Marakkanam, Thirunavalur, Chinna Salem, Sankarapuram, Ginjee, Vanur and Maiylam blocks benefited from the insurance scheme.

There were two types of crop insurance schemes: one for damage caused by natural disasters such as floods, drought, pest attacks and diseases, and another for loss owing to weather factors such as excessive rainfall, high temperature and high moisture level.

The size of insurance amount would be decided on the basis of average yield of the past five years.

The automatic weather forecasting stations set up by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in 22 blocks of the district were assessing weather-related damage by taking into account input costs.

The government was giving a grant ranging from 50 to 76 per cent of the premium to be paid by the farmers for the insurance scheme. The premium payment date had been extended to February 2011, the Collector said.

**Date:**29/01/2011 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/01/29/stories/2011012960150300.htm>

---

## **Stress on integrated farming**

Special Correspondent

---

*Seminars and sessions to clarify farmers' doubts Students' role in extension activities highlighted*

---

TIRUCHI: Farmers should take to integrated farming for ensuring assured revenue throughout the year, said Collector Mahesan Kasirajan.

Speaking after inaugurating the four-day agro exhibition organised by 'Dinamalar' here on Friday, the Collector said that integrated farming, with a variety of activities in agriculture, veterinary, herbal horticulture, poultry, and fishing, ensured an assured revenue to the farmers. .

Despite constraints and challenges such as scarcity of agricultural labourers for performing crop protection techniques during harvest season, farmers took special

efforts for increasing productivity of various crops in the district, he said. He called upon the farmers to take to mechanisation of farming.

K.P.T. Ganesan, chairman of Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Committee, underlined the role of students of agricultural colleges in popularising the fruits of research activities taken up by the agricultural universities and research and development units of industries and sugar factories.

He highlighted the steps being taken by the Committee for providing adequate infrastructure like cold storage facility, godowns, value-addition techniques in various parts of the State for ensuring more attractive returns for tomato cultivators, banana farmers and chilli growers.

He also underlined the role of agricultural college students to contribute their mite for agriculture extension projects and transfer the benefits of research projects from laboratory to land.

Stalls on value-addition of various crops; importance of precision farming and other schemes were organised. Seminars and sessions to clarify farmers' doubts would be held as part of the exhibition, according to R.Ramasubbu, Associate Editor, 'Dinamalar'.

**Date:29/01/2011 URL:**

**<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/01/29/stories/2011012961290300.htm>**

---

## **Red gram growers to protest**

Special Correspondent

**GULBARGA:** The Gulbarga District Raita Horata Samiti on Friday threatened to revive its agitation seeking market intervention to arrest the sharp fall in the prices of red gram in the wholesale market.

President of the samiti Kedarlingaiah Hiremath said here that he, along with a few other farmers, would begin a relay fast in front of the tahsildar's office at Jewargi from January 31 to protest against the failure of the Government to purchase the red gram directly from the farmers at Rs. 4,000 a quintal, as announced earlier.

The Government should immediately set up procurement centres throughout the State and start purchasing the red gram directly from farmers, he said.

**Date:29/01/2011 URL:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/01/29/stories/2011012963200500.htm>

---

### **'Dark days ahead of farmers'**

Staff Reporter

GUNTUR: Former chairman of Agricultural Market Committee L. Appireddy has predicted gloomier days for farmers in Andhra Pradesh in view of the "insensitivity" of the State government.

Speaking to mediapersons here on Friday, Mr. Reddy said farmers, who benefited from a slew of welfare measures during the YSR regime, were now feeling the pinch.

If the government continued to be intolerant towards the plight of farmers, they would have to brace up for dark days, he said. The government had not even bothered to provide compensation to farmers as assured in the Chief Minister's package.

**Date:29/01/2011 URL:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/01/29/stories/2011012960870300.htm>

---

### **Bamboo clumps withering away in Kodagu forests**

Jeevan Chinnappa

*They die after gregarious flowering once in 44 years*



**A cause for concern: The dead bamboo clumps in the forests of Kodagu**

Madikeri: The drying and decaying of bamboo clumps in the forests of Kodagu, thanks to the gregarious flowering that would come about once in 40 to 44 years, is indeed a cause for concern. Bamboo clumps will die after flowering. Non-removal of the clumps could result in huge loss to the State Government and their removal could adversely affect the prospects of elephant fodder. A balance needs to be struck.

Bamboo plays a vital role in the socio-economic life of people in rural areas and in cottage industries in the State. It is the chief raw material for paper industry. In Kodagu, the last gregarious flowering of bamboo in the Thithimathi range forests, adjoining the Nagarahole National Park, occurred in 1965-66, while in the Makutta and Mundrote ranges in 1974, according to information in the Working Plan for Virajpet Forest Division.

Bambusa Arundinaceae species of bamboo is found prominently along the streams and valleys, while Dendrocalamus Strictus is seen in the dry areas of Kodagu.

Dendrocalamus Brandisii (Burma bamboo) introduced in the past too have come up well. Bamboo was mainly used by artisans and the Medar community in Kodagu and Mysore in the past. The last gregarious flowering of bamboo in the Madikeri Forest Division is said to have occurred in 1972.

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, Somwarpet (in Madikeri Division), suggested to the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Madikeri, in March last year that 91,214 clumps could be removed from the Kushalnagar range and 3,337 from the Somwarpet range. He had also pointed out that dead bamboo could be given to certain organisations in lieu of some grants or tender invited to sell them to paper industry.

Dead bamboo clumps could aid forest fires, especially in view of summer. Forest fires are common every year in the wildlife sanctuaries and reserve forests in Kodagu and dead bamboo could pose potential danger. The Forest Department too is seized of the matter. Deputy Conservator of Forests (Madikeri Division) K.S. Anand told The Hindu that the Government had ordered removal of dead bamboo, entrusting it to the Karnataka State Forest Industrial Corporation (KSFIC). The KSFIC team was yet to arrive here. Over 600 tonnes of bamboo was available in Madikeri Division and more in Virajpet Division, Mr. Anand said.

Forest Minister C.H. Vijayashankar, who was here recently, said the Government had passed an order to remove dead bamboo without causing harm to the green clumps. He had also instructed the forest staff and officials to collect bamboo seeds after flowering so that they could be used for regeneration.

The Conservator of Forests, Kodagu, wrote to the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Resources and Management) on October 28 last seeking permission to remove the dead bamboo from the forests in Kodagu.

**Date:**29/01/2011 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/01/29/stories/2011012950970300.htm>

---

**'Sericulture gives quick, remunerative returns'**

Staff Correspondent

---

*'It has made farmers economically strong' "Silk prices have gone up, weavers happy'*

---

MYSORE: Describing sericulture as an important avenue for poverty alleviation and rural employment generation, Central Silk Board Chairman H. Hanumanthappa on Friday claimed that no sericulture farmer had committed suicide in the State due to debt or crop loss as the returns are highly remunerative which made them economically strong. In his presidential address at the national conference on "Sericulture innovations: before and beyond" on the occasion of the golden jubilee of Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute (CSRTI) here, he said silk prices have gone up and weavers and reelers are elated. "In a way, prices of all commodities have gone up and so are the prices of silk. However, there are apprehensions that the industry may collapse. In reality, silk prices have gone up by 23 per cent, while prices of other commodities have risen by over 30 per cent," he said.

In an indirect reference to the demand for ban on silk imports from China, Mr. Hanumanthappa said that India is importing silk that is not grown in India. Only 3 A grade silk is imported from China as India produces 2 A grade silk, he said. Stating that the import of silk will not affect the Indian silk industry, he said weavers need not have to bother at all as they were wage earners. It is the middlemen, master weavers, businessmen and bureaucrats who are supposed to look into the issue, he said.

**Date:29/01/2011 URL:**

**<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/01/29/stories/2011012960980300.htm>**

---

**Farmers demand new district**

Staff Reporter

*'Neglect' of Mayiladuthurai and closing of bridge, cited as reasons*

---

*'Conduct weekly grievance meet at Mayiladuthurai''Strengthen Kittiennai culvert in Pudumanai river'*

---

— Photo:B.Velankanni Raj



**Making a point: Farmers speaking at the grievances day meeting in Nagapattinam on Friday.**

NAGAPATTINAM: Redefining the borders of Nagapattinam, by creating Mayiladuthurai as a separate district , was among the pertinent demands put forth by the people at the monthly farmers' grievances meeting held here at the Collectorate on Friday.

Closure of small units, including a paper mill, in and around Mayiladuthurai; the long distance to Nagapattinam from Kollidam, which makes it inaccessible for people and administration; and the 'neglect' of Mayiladuthurai, were the reasons put forth for the demand for a separate district.

A demand was made for conduct of the weekly grievance meeting at Mayiladuthurai.

The closure of the Thirumalairajanar bridge for heavy vehicles, has restricted the people of Mayiladuthurai from participating in the weekly grievances meet.

Farmers sought distribution of saplings and seeds by the horticultural department. A.Alexander, a resident of Mayiladuthurai, requested an additional harvester for the Mayiladuthurai area from the Agricultural Engineering Department , as the single harvester currently available on hire does not meet the demand.



R.Kodandaraman, member, Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), called for strengthening of Kittiannai culvert in Pudumanai river.

According to him, Pudumanai river supports a watershed of over 28,000 acres and its chief drainage channel from Puthur to Pazhayar flows through the culvert. However, the culvert has been damaged due to the tsunami, and the breach of Kollidam river.

He demanded that the culvert be strengthened on a priority basis to prevent a breach that could affect the movement of people from Puthur to Pazhayar.

The meeting was presided over by V.Rajendran, District Revenue Officer.

Date:29/01/2011 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/01/29/stories/2011012962000300.htm>

---

## Farmers demand compensation for crop loss

Staff Reporter

*Urge MLAs and MPs to desist from enhancing their salaries and perks*

Photo: Lingaraj Panda



**IN AGITATION MODE:** Farmers taking part in a rally demanding compensation and relief for the lost paddy crops due to unseasonal rains, in Berhampur on Friday. —

BERHAMPUR: Farmers demanded the government to stop enhancement of salaries and perks of MLAs and MPs of Orissa as well as their hefty pensions till peasants of this poor State could get social security.

This demand was made at a farmers' meet organised by Orissa Chasi Surakhya Abhiyan in the city on Friday. Former union minister Brajakishore Tripathy, MLA of Biramitrapur George Tirkey, convener of Orissa Lokshakti Abhiyan Prafulla Samantra, peasants' activist Digambar Mohapatra, convenor of 'Jal Surakshya Jana Manch' of Cuttack Akhaya Kumar Das, labour leader Santosh Mohapatra etc attended this meet as guests.

They also took out a rally and handed over a memorandum addressed to the Governor at the office of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC), southern division.

Through this memorandum they demanded the government to provide compensation to the farmers who have incurred extreme crop loss due to untimely cyclonic rains in December. They also demanded immediate procurement of salvaged paddy from the affected farmers irrespective of its quality, at the minimum support price (MSP) without taking into account norms and standards of the fair average quality (FAQ).

A public meeting was also held at ITI ground in relation to the plight faced by peasants in Orissa due to recent Kharif crop loss. Most speakers were too critical of the alleged MLAs and MPs of Orissa towards the plight of peasants. They criticised the efforts elected representatives to enhance their own salaries, perks and pensions at time when farmers are committing suicide following crop loss. "In a State where farmers have no social security in old age, how can the elected representatives take away heavy pensions," asked Mr. Samantra.

The farmer activists criticised both Centre and State government for neglecting agricultural sector.

They wanted the provision of subsidised rice at Rs. 2 per kilo to the peasant families who have faced crop loss till the harvest of next crop.

This along with procurement of salvaged paddy at minimum support price can stop increasing trend of suicidal tendency among the affected farmers of Orissa.

It was also pointed out that Orissa is yet to have a long term policy for development and sustenance of agriculture sector in the State.

**Date:29/01/2011 URL:**

**<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/01/29/stories/2011012962760400.htm>**

---

### **New law on contract farming?**

Chandigarh: Despite modest results in contract farming in the State, Punjab Government has decided to come out with a new law on contract farming that will legally bind companies to honour the terms of agreement with the farmers for growing a crop.

“We are working on bringing a new legislation on contract farming and we are hopeful that it will be introduced in coming State budget session,” a senior official of Punjab Agriculture Department told PTI here on Friday.

“The agreement signed by the company to procure crop from a particular farmer will be legally binding on it,” he said, adding if a company did not pay or procure crop from farmers as per the signed agreement, it will be blacklisted and barred from partaking in the State farming activity.

However, the agreement may not be binding on the farmers.

There have been cases in the past in which various companies either refused to lift crop or pay the agreed price to farmers in the absence of any effective dispute settlement mechanism or regulation.

Under the proposed Act, the State Government will also notify crops which could be brought under contract farming.

© Copyright 2000 - 2009 The Hindu

**express**<sup>™</sup>  
buzz

*By PTI*

*29 Jan 2011 09:03:05 PM IST*

### **Pawar 'helpless' over high food inflation**

KANPUR: Expressing his "helplessness" on high food inflation, Union Agriculture minister Sharad Pawar on Saturday said the farmers must get right value for their produce so that they are encouraged to increase production of essential farm commodities to rein in price rise.

He, however, said that it was states' responsibility to ensure proper distribution of foodgrains to the people through ration shops while the centre is responsible for production, procurement and moving the produce to godowns.

Speaking on high inflation mainly due to soaring vegetables prices, Pawar said, on the one hand he has to answer for escalating vegetable prices and on the other hand farmers are complaining of not getting adequate price.

"On the issue of high inflation, I am cornered by fellow Parliamentarians and media in Delhi who ask when the prices of vegetables will fall...on the other hand when I go to villages farmers complain that they are not getting adequate price for their produce."

"I get beating from both sides. Urban population is unhappy over rising prices while farmers in the villages complain for not getting adequate price," he said and posed question "you tell me what shall I do?"

Pawar was speaking at a function in Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur. The minister noted that if farmers would not get proper price than how their families will survive.

"Priority of our government is that the farmers shall get adequate price for their produce. For this the government is making efforts like providing cheaper farm loans," he said. Pointing out that land is getting scarce and population is increasing fast, Pawar urged farm scientists to come up with new variety of seeds and technology which will help farmers grow more on lesser area of land.

The Union Agriculture minister said it's priority of the government to ensure increase in production, procure them at adequate price and then move it to godowns. From there it goes to state governments which ferry them to ration shops.

"It's duty of the state governments to ensure that foodgrains reach beneficiaries in a proper manner," he added.

Pawar paid a visit to IIPR to discuss latest research works and interact with pulses' farmers.

On government measures in the field of agriculture, he said earlier the Union government was providing Rs 80,000 crore as farm loans at a relatively higher interest rate, but now it has raised the loan amount to Rs 3.70 lakh crore on which only 4 per cent interest rate is charged.

Ten years back the government used to provide subsidy amount of Rs 20,000 crore which now has increased to Rs 80,000 crore, the minister said.

The minister noted that while the country has adequate production of foodgrains like sugar, wheat and rice, but expressed concern over fall in domestic production of pulses and edible oil due to which the country has to import them.

"India is producing 14 million tonnes of pulses while the consumption of the commodity is 18 million tonnes. The shortage of 4 million tonnes is met through imports," he said. Likewise, due to shortage of production of edible oil the country has to go for its import, he added.

Pawar is paying a visit to all the agricultural research institutes of the country to boost farm production.

Local MP Rajaram Pal urged Pawar to set up either a potato food processing plant or a mega food park at Kanpur, an important city of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Pawar felicitated six farmers for record pulses cultivation.

© Copyright 2008 ExpressBuzz

## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Mon, Jan 31, 2011 | Updated 11.01AM IST

29 Jan, 2011, 05.25AM IST, Bloomberg

### Sugar has biggest 2-day rally since Oct; coffee slips

NEW YORK: Sugar rose, capping the biggest two-day advance in three months, on signs that the European Union will increase purchases and demand may rise in Russia, a leading importer. Coffee and orange juice fell.

The EU may allow additional import quotas to boost supplies, and Russia may reduce its import tax on raw sugar in March, two months earlier than planned. Prices have more than doubled since the end of June on signs that global supplies will trail demand.

“The EU may try to cool off domestic sugar prices, and the potential of lowering the Russian duty is looking more realistic,” said Jeff Bauml, a senior vice president at RJ O’Brien & Associates, a broker in New York. “These are fundamental tones that could run the market up.” Raw sugar for March delivery gained 1.05 cents, or 3.2%, to settle at 34.18 cents a pound on ICE Futures US at 2 pm in New York, bringing the two-day rally to 7.3%, the most since early October.

Earlier, the price reached 34.54 cents, the highest for a most-active contract since

December 29. On that date, the commodity climbed 34.77 cents, to a 30-year peak.

In London, refined-sugar futures for March delivery rose \$25.40, or 3.2%, to \$825.40 a tonne on NYSE Liffe . Russia's raw-sugar imports advanced to 2.1 million tonne in 2010 from 1.44 million tonne a year earlier, the Institute for Agricultural Market Studies , based in Moscow, said Friday.

Arabica-coffee futures for March delivery fell 0.55 cent, or 0.2%, to \$2.3695 a pound in New York. Robusta-coffee futures for March delivery dropped \$6, or 0.3%, to \$2,090 a tonne in London.

29 Jan, 2011, 04.31AM IST,ET Bureau

### **Better days seen as area under wheat, pulses goes up**

NEW DELHI: The area under wheat, oil seeds and pulses increased substantially from a year ago, giving the hope that these essential items of consumption will not add to inflation pressures. The government is battling a high food inflation, triggered largely by expensive fruits and vegetable prices.

The inflation in cereals and vegetables has been subdued even as overall food inflation is in excess of 15%.

However, the increase in the wheat acreage by almost 9 lakh hectares from a year ago has triggered apprehensions among analysts that a bumper crop is likely to create a huge storage problem for the government.

The wheat yield is also expected to be higher because of the good weather conditions.

"Storage is going to be a killer. Wheat production will be around 82 million tonnes or

even higher this winter. Where will they store the new crop?" a sectoral monitor dealing with the food sector said.

The government has estimated a 82 million tonnes of wheat production this year. Last year, wheat production was at 80.17 million tonnes.

"Even pushing out existing crop at very cheap rates through the OMSS (open market sale scheme) is not working fast enough to help matters. There is urgent need for a long term grain storage policy which can be implemented at the earliest," he said. The Crop Weather Watch Group ( CWWG ) data submitted to the government on Friday on the basis of inputs from states on acreage this winter also pointed to pulses acreage having gone up by 11.11 lakh hectare to 148 lakh hectare.

The acreage under oilseeds has risen 3.23 lakh hectares.

However, there was a corresponding decline in area under other marginal rabi crops rice, jowar and maize were lagging behind from the year-ago period.

# Business Standard

Monday, Jan 29 2011

Castor prices remain high in January

Vimukt Dave / Mumbai/ Rajkot January 29, 2011, 0:49 IST



Extending the upward journey, castor prices have further shot up during January amid short supply in the market. So far, the prices have surged by over Rs 880 per 100 kg in the spot markets, while taking a cue from the physical markets, the futures prices are also ruling high.

On January 1, spot castor traded at Rs 3940 per quintal, which rose by Rs 887.50 per quintal to trade at Rs 4827.50 per quintal on January 25. Similarly, the castor seed future has also shown steep rise of Rs 557 per quintal to trade at Rs 4229 per quintal on January 25 at the Rajkot Commodity Exchange (RCX). Meanwhile, on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) the February contract of castor seed rose by Rs 666 per quintal to trade at Rs 4580 per quintal from Rs 3914 during the month.

According to industry experts, in order to meet the current demand, the arrivals need to be around 75,000-80,000 bags per day, but presently the arrivals are lower at approximately 40,000-50,000 bags per day. They further mentioned that castor crop for the previous year stood at around 9.3 lakh tonnes, while for the current year, the crop expectation is above 12 lakh tonnes, showing a growth of about 30-35 per cent.

In the wake of good demand, the industry is anticipating prices of castor seed to go up. Last year, the average price of castor seed was between Rs 30,000-33,000 per tonne. This year we expect the prices to get close to Rs 50,000 per tonne. "The main reason behind the jump in castor prices is the demand-supply mismatch. The international demand is very high, especially from China. Against it, the supply is lower," said BV Mehta, executive director of Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA).

Raju Pobaru, president, RCX said, "Demand in spot is huge as shippers are buying to complete their export orders. But the supply is poor. The prices in futures market has increased on the back of higher spot prices. It will not come down till the spot prices decline." "Cold and untimely rains had affected yield of the castor crop this year. At present, lower arrivals are pushing up the castor futures and spot prices. There are no

chances in the near future for prices to cool down,” said Harilal Chaganlal, a senior member of RCX.

According to industry sources, good price is benefitting the farmers and will encourage them to more grow castor. Ajay Kumar Kedia of Kedia Commodity from Mumbai said, “Overall the outlook remains firm on the back of heavy buying and a fall in the supply in physical markets. This is mainly influenced by trading sentiments.” Resistance is now likely to be seen at Rs 4642 per quintal, a move above could see prices testing Rs 4682 per quintal, he added. As per the data issued by the agriculture department of government of India, castor sowing in India increased during 2010 at 9.05 lakh hectares from previous year's 7.64 lakh hectares.