

Published: July 20, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 04:20 IST COIMBATORE, July 20, 2011

### **Minister to release new crop varieties at 'Kisan Mela' in TNAU**

A three-day State-level Farmers' Meet will begin at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University here on July 22.

According to Director of Extension Education of the university P. Kalaiselvan, Agriculture Minister K.A. Sengottaiyan will inaugurate the 'Kisan Mela' and release new crop varieties, farm implements and management technologies.

Minister for Industries S.P. Velumani will inaugurate the exhibition which will showcase advanced technologies on farm and non-crop options like animal husbandry, fisheries, besides others. These have been released or promoted by the Research Stations or Krishi Vigyan Kendras of the university.

Private sector participation is also expected. The expo will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on all three days.

Five farmers have been selected by the university to be given the 'Velaan Chemmal' awards, sponsored by C.R.I. Pumps Private Limited.

The farmers will be given a citation and cash prize in recognition of their progressive farming practices and contribution to agriculture.

Another highlight will be the seminars that will cover the latest developments in farming. Live and practical demonstrations on use of farm implements, e-extension, production technologies, value-addition and post-harvest techniques, will be held.

Field visits have also been arranged.

For details, contact R. Vijayaraghavan, Head, Training Division, Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore – 641003, on 98947 41144, or e-mail to dee@tnau.ac.in.

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Published: July 20, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 04:06 IST BANGALORE, July 20, 2011

## **GM crops: meeting on issuing NOC for trials put off**

Decision taken following threats by farmers' organisations



The GEAC will approve field trials of GM crops only after State Governments issue NOC to institutions or companies that wish to undertake field trials.

A high-level meeting convened by the Agriculture Department on Wednesday to discuss issuing of no-objection certificate (NOC) for trial and research on biosafety evaluation of genetically modified (GM) crops has been put off indefinitely, following threats by farmers' organisations.

The meeting, which was to be chaired by the Chief Secretary, was scheduled to discuss the requests of University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur; Association of Biotech-Led Enterprises-Agriculture Group and other agencies that have sought NOC from the State Government.

The discussion was necessitated after the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) decided to approve field trials of GM crops only after State Governments issued NOC to the institutions/ companies/ universities that wished to undertake field trials.

“The Chief Secretary's office intimated the cancellation of the meeting to us but attributed no reason,” a senior Agriculture Department official told *The Hindu*. “We don't know if it has been rescheduled or cancelled.”

The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha had threatened to stage a protest on Wednesday as farmers had not been invited to the meeting.

### **Disappointed**

Expressing disappointment over the development, another official said the meeting would have initiated a discussion on whether to give the NOC to undertake field trials.

“The State has to decide whether it will allow field trials or not. This discussion would have provided a platform for all stakeholders to place scientific facts and data before the Government.”

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Published: July 20, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 04:13 IST MADURAI, July 20, 2011

### **Meet on global warming**

Madurai Declaration on final day of 3-day meet

A 'Conference against warming the globe (Tamil Nadu) 2011,' with the participation of delegates from various States and countries, will be held here at Tamukkam Ground from June 22 to 24 by a group of non-governmental organisations, trade unions and other 'socially concerned' people. Freedom fighter and former Madurai Collector Lakshmi Kanthan Bharathi would lead a rally to be flagged off by present Collector U. Sagayam.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, conference convenor Y. David said that drastic changes in climate were occurring across the world. Snow was melting faster off mountains and ice off glaciers, thus increasing the sea level.

It could submerge coastal areas. Climate change had also led to decline in agricultural productivity.

These facts had been revealed by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a scientific body established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had issued a warning that by the turn of this century the average temperature of the atmosphere would rise between 1.1° C to 6.4°C.

The main reason behind the increasing change in climate was the use of fossil fuels upon which the current model of global economic development had been based. The conference was being organised to create awareness of these facts among people and to bring out a sustainable model of development.

Mr. David said that delegates from other States and countries had been invited. The event had been preceded by planning meetings and theme-based seminars in all districts being held between December 2010 and mid-March 2011. Competitions in essay and verse writing besides painting were held for school and college students in the State. Theatre teams would perform in Madurai, Sivaganga, Theni, and Dindigul districts in March.

A procession highlighting the land of ancient times and what is happening to land owing to various factors would be taken out and a public meeting would follow the event on the second day, and theme-based sessions followed by Madurai Declaration on the final day, he said.

The Madurai Declaration was an effort to lay emphasis on what measures should be taken to put pressure on the government and tackle the threats of global warming and also to talk about the role of economics which was no more welfare oriented but corporate driven, Mr. David said.

Organisers Fatimson and Napoleon were present.

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Published: July 20, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 04:19 IST THRISSUR, July 20, 2011

### **Training for officers in food security project**

A 15-day training programme for agricultural officers of Palakkad district is on at the Kerala Agricultural University (KAU).

Officers of Thrissur and Malappuram districts will be trained later.

The programme is an extension of the Food Security Army (FSA) project implemented by the KAU in which youth were trained for farming. The officers are being trained to lead FSA members.

Under the scheme, 60 agricultural officers of Palakkad, Thrissur and Malappuram districts are being trained with the support of the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA). Officers of each district will be trained for 15 days.

“Only efficient agricultural officers can get the best out of FSA members. Hence, the officers are being trained in all aspects of agriculture. They are being taught operation, service and maintenance of farm machines,” said U. Jaikumaran, professor and head of the Agricultural Research Station, Mannuthy. The training will help officers choose the right machinery for the agro-ecological location they are working in. It will also help them prepare location-specific projects. “While FSA cadets will solve the problem of labour shortage in the agricultural sector, the officers will provide qualitative leadership,” he said.

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Published: July 20, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 04:19 IST KARIMNAGAR, July 20, 2011

### **Entering record book by growing vegetables**

In a rare achievement, an employee of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Ramagundam, had entered into Limca Book of Records for growing a giant snake gourd measuring 10.5 meters length in his backyard at NTPC township in Ramagundam industrial area.

NTPC employee Moola Bhagavantha Reddy and his wife Saroja, have grown various vegetables in their backyard last year. They also planted seeds of snake gourd.

Surprisingly, over 25 snake gourds measuring 10.5 feet and weighing 4 to 5 kg each were grown in March 2010.

Bhagavantha Reddy, a senior assistant working in electrical maintenance wing of the NTPC, informed the same to the agricultural authorities, who in turn sent the report to the Limca Book of Records for entering the feat last year.

Interestingly, the family had grown the snake gourd without using any fertilizers or chemicals.

### **Organic manure**

They had grown the snake gourd by using only organic waste.

The Limca Book of Records have announced entry of their feat as national record and informed the same to the couple on Monday.

Buoyed over entering into the Limca Book of Records, Bhagavantha Reddy and his wife have now planted brinjal and other seeds in their backyard.

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Published: July 20, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 04:20 IST TIRUCHI, July 20, 2011

### **Farmers get mini kits to boost millet cultivation**

Demonstration plots to be set up in about 2,000 hectares

Input to spur output: T.P.Poonatchi, MLA, Manachanallur, handing over farm inputs and mini kits to a farmer under Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion scheme at T.Pudupatti on Monday.

The Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP), a centrally-sponsored scheme aimed at giving a thrust for increasing yield in millets, has got underway in Tiruchi district with the Agriculture Department commencing the process of establishing demonstration plots. The project aims at improving production of millets, which have high nutritional value, by promoting improved agricultural practices.

In Tiruchi the project has been sanctioned to promote sorghum (chollam) in dry lands.

The project targets to achieve a yield of 1,250 kg a hectare from the current average of 694 kg a hectare. Compact demonstration plots would be set up in about 2,000 hectares across the district.

On Monday, T.P.Poonatchi, MLA, Manachanallur, distributed the mini kits and inputs to farmers at a function held at T.Pudupatti under the project in the presence of Rajasekaran, president, T.Pudupatti Panchayat. Hundred farmers were given the mini kits in the first phase.

J.Sekar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Tiruchi, explained the salient features of the project and said it would be implemented in Manachanallur, Musiri, Thathaiyengarpet and Thottiyam blocks. The demonstration plots would be set up at Ponnampalayam and Sirupathur in Manachanallur block; T.Pudupatti, Manparai and Sukkampatti in Musiri block; Valasiramani, Jambunodai and Oorakarai in Thathaiyengarpet block; Thottiyam, M.Puthur, Tholurpatti Natham, and Appanallur in Thottiyam block have been selected for the implementation of the project. About 3,250 farmers are expected to benefit from the programme in the district and 790 farmers have been selected in T.Pudupatti, Manparai and Sukkampatti village in Musiri Taluk.

The selected farmers would be provided subsidised inputs, totally worth Rs.3,000 a hectare. The inputs would include seed treating chemicals, bio-fertilizers, micro nutrients, weedicides, plant protection chemicals and fertilizers, said R.Chandrasekaran, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Central schemes).

About 2,000 mini kits comprising four kg of seeds, seed dresser, bio-fertilizer and pamphlet on cultivation practices would be supplied to the farmers, he said.

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Published: July 20, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 04:20 IST TIRUCHI, July 20, 2011

### **Mettur level**

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 82.90 feet on Tuesday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 15,118 cusecs and the discharge, 12,005 cusecs.

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Published: July 20, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 04:20 IST TIRUCHI, July 20, 2011

### **Discussion with bankers on seizure of tractors**

Collector Jayashree Muralidharan held discussion with the farmers' representatives, bankers and agriculture department officials on the steps to be taken to defer the seizure of tractors by banks from farmers for defaulting on loan payment dues.

The farmers and farmers' representatives during the last farmers' grievances day meeting had complained about the seizure of tractors by the banks and auctioning the same for very low amount, following which the Collector convened today's meeting.

## **Repayment**

After detailed discussion, it was decided at the meeting to settle the issue of those farmers who come forward to repay the loan dues within prescribed timeframe through people's courts. The farmers could also approach bank officials to ascertain and remit the dues, which will enable to defer seizure of tractors.

## **Minimum sum**

The bank officials too could hold discussion with their higher ups to fix the minimum sum to be paid by the farmers for avoiding the seizure and inform the same to the defaulters.

Since a few days were needed to discuss and finalise the above points, it was decided at the meeting to defer the seizure and auctioning of the tractors of the defaulters by ten days.

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Published: July 20, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 04:08 IST TIRUVARUR, July 20, 2011

## **Sewing machines distributed**

Collector C.Muniyanathan distributed motor fitted sewing machines to eight differently abled beneficiaries at the collectorate, here on Tuesday. These machines have been supplied by the department for the welfare of differently abled persons. He also distributed benefits worth Rs 2.10 lakh to nine persons under various social welfare schemes implemented by the social welfare department, said a release on Tuesday.

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**Zia Haq, Hindustan Times**

Email Author

New Delhi, July 19, 2011

First Published: 23:42 IST(19/7/2011)

Last Updated: 23:46 IST(19/7/2011)

## **Food output rises 11% to touch all-time high**

India's production of food has reached a historic all-time high, rising 11% over last year's. Yet, food inflation continues to edge above 8% — a result of production not keeping pace with demand.

The Reserve Bank of India has been citing a shift in consumption pattern as one of the main reasons for high food prices. With expanding incomes, demand has shifted to richer diets, creating pressure on common food articles.

The government's fourth of the quarterly projections for the year show record output of eight commodities – wheat, coarse cereals, maize, soyabean, cotton and three varieties of lentils. Yet, the food price index rose 8.31% in the year to July 2.

According to official estimates, the country has produced 241.56 million tonnes of foodgrains during 2010-11 — producing 23 million tonnes more than the last crop year and missing the government's target of 244 million tonnes by a whisker. This is highest ever foodgrain production, outstripping the earlier record of 234.47 million tonnes achieved in 2008-09.

Wheat output is projected to be 85.93 million tonnes, an all-time record and a jump of 18% over last year's. Production of pulses has improved considerably to reach 18.09 million tonnes. With this, the country may not have to import costly lentils — a staple for most Indians — for the first time in many years to meet domestic demand, pegged at 18 million tonnes a year.

Farmers in some parts also beat back a partial drought in major rice-producing states to post robust output of winter-sown rice.

However none of this is to say that India's food crisis has eased.

The total demand for foodgrains is expected to touch 280 million tonnes by 2020-21, for which food output must grow at least 2% on average annually, while it has grown only 1% on average between 1998 and 2007, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Sunday.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/723151.aspx>

## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Rainy

**Wednesday, Jul 20**

Max Min  
37.4° | 27.6°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 94%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:51

Sunset: 18:39

Barometer: 1004

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

**Thursday, Jul 21**

Max Min  
36° | 27°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Friday

Jul 22



32° | 27°

Rainy

Saturday

Jul 23



32° | 27°

Rainy

Sunday

Jul 24



32° | 26°

Rainy

Monday

Jul 25



31° | 26°

Rainy

Tuesday

Jul 26



31° | 27°

Rainy

20 Jul, 2011, 05.51AM IST, Jayashree Bhosale,ET Bureau

## **Maharashtra cane farmers gear up to fight for a higher price**

PUNE: The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices ( CACP ) is getting farmers' inputs before deciding the fair and remunerative (FRP) price of sugar cane for the 2012-13 crushing season. But farmer organisations are gearing up to fight for a higher price for the 2011-12 crushing season which is three months away.

The union government has fixed an FRP of Rs 1,450/tonne for sugar recovery of 9.50% and Rs 153/tonne for every 1% rise in recovery above 9.5%. As the average recovery in Maharashtra is 11.5%, the average FRP for the state is Rs 1,756/tonne.

Sugar mills have paid the first advance of around Rs 1,500/tonne to Rs 2,000/tonne to farmers in the current 2010-11 crushing season. The co-operative banking system, the backbone of the co-operative sugar industry, is going through financial difficulties.

Many co-operative sugar mills have overdrawn from banks because the mills had agreed to pay a higher first advance to farmers at a time when sugar prices had fallen below the production cost. Industry sources say the approximate first advance for cane payment without including the transporting and harvest cost is likely to be Rs 1,300/tonne to Rs 1,600/tonne.

Sugar price in the domestic market is currently ruling at Rs 26/kg ex-mill without duty. If local prices rise to Rs 28/kg by Diwali following global cues, the industry expects that farmer organisations may demand a first advance similar to the one given during the current 2010-11 crushing season.

There is also a political twist to the story. Zilla parishad elections in Maharashtra are scheduled to take place in February 2012. Agitations over cane price have been routine during elections. "We are taking out our first agitation in Maharashtra on August 9 while the national one will follow in September or October in New Delhi," Raghunath Patil, president of the Maharashtra unit of the farmers' organisation Shetkari Sangathana.

Maharashtra co-operation secretary Rajagopal Devara said, "the industry demanded that sugar cane prices should be linked with sugar prices while farmers demanded that the input costs should be taken into account while fixing the FRP." Patil said: "we brought to the notice of the commission that the actual cost of sugar cane production is Rs 3,000/tonne and that the Swaminathan committee had recommended that the price of agricultural commodity should be decided by considering the actual cost of production and 50% profit on that."

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20 Jul, 2011, 05.19AM IST, PK Krishnakumar,ET Bureau

### **Shortage of pepper as traders hold on to stocks**

KOCHI: The spice route is deserted. There is a shortage in the Indian pepper market as traders hold on to stocks in expectation of higher prices. The shortage has directly affected export shipments as no one is keen to sign contracts in such a situation. India is the world's fourth largest pepper exporter.

In the world market, Indian pepper prices, which were ruling at around \$6,900 per tonne, have declined by \$400 to \$500 now. This has narrowed the price difference India has with other major suppliers such as Vietnam and Brazil considerably. Vietnam, the largest producer, with 1.10-1.20 lakh tonne has exported most of its stocks and has been less active in the market. India too has been a buyer of Vietnam pepper.

In the local market, the average price in June was at 279.50 per kg. It dropped to 273 per kg in

the first week of July before rising to 280 per kg on July 18. The prices have been hovering around the 270-280 range for some days now.

"The market is likely to remain sluggish till August without much activity. Everything will depend on the Indonesian crop which is due in August," said Kishor Shamji. Though the Indonesian crop comes in August, traders start forward-selling in May and June. But this time traders haven't taken any position, leaving the importing countries clueless about the Indonesian crop size.

"With the shortage situation, exporters are forced to lead a hand-to-mouth existence," said Jojan Malayil, former president of All India Spices Exporters Forum. The Indian pepper production was initially estimated to be at around 48,000 tonne. But traders say it has fallen short by 3,000 to 4,000 tonne due to inclement weather conditions in Kerala. Output in Karnataka is better.

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20 Jul, 2011, 05.22AM IST,PTI

### **Textiles Min favours move to permit more cotton exports**

NEW DELHI: Textiles Ministry on Tuesday favoured the move to permit more cotton exports beyond the current cap of 65 lakh bales during the season in the wake of slowdown in demand for the natural fibre in the domestic market. Cotton season starts from October to September.

Last year, the government had put a cap of 55 lakh bales (170 kg each) on natural fibre exports for the current season to protect domestic textiles industry in the wake of rising raw material prices. In June this year, the ceiling was again increased by another 10 lakh bales.

"...certainly if there is a slow off take by the domestic mills (as they already have a huge stock of cotton yarn)...we could consider (more exports)," Textiles Secretary Rita Menon said.

An inter-ministerial panel, which is chaired by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, would review

crop arrivals in the mandis, availability and exportable surplus of the fibre next month. Other members of the committee are Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma, who has also given the additional charge of the Textiles Ministry.

According to Cotton Advisory Board figures, the crop forecast for the current season has been lowered at 312 lakh bales in April from 329 lakh bales due to unseasonal rains in states like Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra in last December. "We are very clear that the production is not going to be 312 lakh bales. Our arrivals till now have not more than 307 lakh bales," Menon said.

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# DECCAN Chronicle

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## **Price paid to farmers for giving up land**

Indian National Congress general secretary Rahul Gandhi is clear that land acquisition is going to be a major plank in his party's electoral campaign against the BSP regime led by Ms Mayawati in Uttar Pradesh. The newly-appointed Union minister for rural development, Mr Jairam Ramesh, has said that the proposed bill to amend the antiquated Land Acquisition Act of 1894 would ensure land-losers receive better compensation than what is currently being given by the government of UP — and presumably the Congress-ruled Haryana government as well. Across the length and breadth of the country, from West Bengal to Maharashtra, from Haryana to Orissa, the one politico-economic issue that has arguably inflamed passions the most in recent times is the acquisition of farmland for non-agricultural purposes. The contentious set of circumstances that relate to the manner in which state governments have been acquiring land to set up a wide variety of projects is undoubtedly going to pose the biggest challenges for political leaders in the months ahead. In the past, agricultural land would be acquired by state governments or their agencies for "public purposes" under the principle of "eminent domain"

embodied in the act for building roads, bridges, railway tracks, hospitals, schools, power plants and so on. The opposition to such acquisitions was relatively muted and usually considered “politically manageable” even if the already-underprivileged land-losers and those who were deprived of their livelihoods were, in the process, pushed further to the margins of society. Their interests were sacrificed for so-called wider public interests. What has changed? The obvious answer is that governments have increasingly been using the ambiguities and “emergency clauses” — call them loopholes, if you like — in the act to acquire land ostensibly for public purposes but actually diverting it for the benefit of private entrepreneurs, sometimes in the name of public-private partnerships. The Posco steel project, the special economic zones (SEZs) at Raigad in Maharashtra and Gurgaon in Haryana, the Yamuna and Ganga “expressways” in UP, the Delhi airport are a few prominent examples of this phenomenon. Why has there been an apparently sudden rise in the number of violent protests by farmers over the last five years? Why are farmers willing to go behind bars and face bullets at a time when agriculture has become so unprofitable and real incomes of farmers have plummeted? Is the solution to the land acquisition problem just one of providing land-losers higher rates of compensation? The questions are simple but the answers complex. The views of Ram Singh, a person who has studied the subject in depth and who teaches at the Delhi School of Economics, are worth summarising. He points out that over and above the fact that land is being acquired for activities that have nothing even remotely to do with public purpose, judicial apathy has also facilitated ruthless trampling of farmers’ rights. Unlike its generous approach to the question of compensation, the judiciary, according to Prof. Singh, has by and large left the issue of whether land acquisitions are in the public interest to the discretion of the states. Courts have annulled a few acquisitions on procedural grounds, but they have not questioned the legitimacy of acquisitions. After a tract of land is acquired and control rights transferred to private companies on long-term leases, typically the “excess” portion of the land is used for real estate or other commercial purposes, enabling the concerned companies to earn fortunes that are between 100 and 150 times the price paid for the land. Prof. Singh points out why the compensation paid — even by relatively “generous” states like Haryana and UP — is invariably a minuscule proportion of the true market value of the land. First, there are restrictions imposed by the change in land-use regulations for agricultural land that acutely suppress the market price. But, more importantly, the very basis and process of determining the compensation amount is flawed. Under Section 23 of the Act that entitles land-losers to receive the market value of the land plus a solatium of 30 per cent, compensation has to be determined on the basis of a floor price or

“circle rate” fixed by the state government (that is way below market value) or the average of registered sale deeds of similar land (which often do not exist or cannot be found due to the thin markets for agricultural land). The UP and Haryana governments offer 33-year annuity schemes with starting rates of `20,000-21,000 per acre and annual increments of `600-750. In certain cases, a proportion of the number of residential or commercial plots is reserved for land-losers. Additional one-time payments, re-training facilities and employment opportunities are promised but these benefits often do not reach the affected people, and when they do, they are very late. The Haryana government gives a “no-litigation” bonus of 20 per cent to make the compensation amounts appear deceptively attractive, says Prof. Singh. A study done by him of judgements delivered by the Punjab and Haryana high courts in 2009-10 indicates that in 96 per cent of the cases, the compensation was far higher — an average of 342 per cent — than the one-fifth extra paid by the state government.

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**Source URL:** <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/editorial/dc-comment/price-paid-farmers-giving-land-524>

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## **State sets target to produce 95 lakh MT grain in 2011-12**

July 19, 2011 11:54:32 PM

### **PNS | Bhubaneswar**

Agriculture Minister and senior department officials on Tuesday met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the State Secretariat and showed him the cheque of Rs2 crore, trophy which the State had got from the Prime Minister as prize for success in agricultural production on July 16 and also discussed on various steps taken in field of agriculture.

In the meeting it was stated that Odisha had bagged the prize for the State producing between 1 million tonnes to 10 million tonnes of food grains. In 2011 despite unseasonal rains and other natural calamities the State had produced 87 .96 lakh metric tonnes of food grains. In the year 1297 kg of food grains were produced per hectare. Notably, in 2006 -07 82.97 lakh MT, IN



2007-08 92.54 MT , in 2008-09 86.33 lakh MT and 2009-2010 87.07 MT of food grains were produced. Despite repeated natural calamities , the State performance was consistent in producing food grains for which it was highly praised.

In 2011-12 a target of 95 lakh MT of food grains have been maintained. The Chief Minister congratulated the officials of the department for the success. Among others, Agriculture Secretary Rangalal Jamuda and Director R Gopalan were present.

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# Business Standard

Wednesday, Jul 20, 2011

## Natural rubber output up 5.4% in April-June

George Joseph / Kochi July 20, 2011, 0:59 IST



Natural rubber (NR) production rose 5.4 per cent during April-June, while the slowdown in the growth of consumption continued.

Consumption grew 3.9 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year, according to the provisional figures of the Rubber

Board.

The total production in the period was 175,700 tonnes, as against 166,750 tonnes in the corresponding period of the last financial year. Consumption increased to 242,000 tonnes as against 232,850 tonnes.

The export of rubber almost doubled during the period at 8,189 tonnes against 4,323 tonnes in April-June 2010-11. A marginal rise was recorded in imports, as 41,929 tonnes were brought in as against 38,233 tonnes. The Board's data also estimates a total stock of 247,442 tonnes at the end of the first quarter of 2011-12, while this was 180,697 tonnes in June 2010.

The production of NR in June increased 4.1 per cent to 59,200 tonnes compared to 56,850 tonnes during June 2010. Consumption in June increased marginally (0.6 per cent) to 80,500 tonnes compared to 80,000 tonnes during the same month last year, the Board data showed.

Bloomberg adds: NR prices may remain “strong” until next year, as persistent rain in key producing nations limit gains in output, while demand remains robust for the commodity used in tyres, the Thai Rubber Association said. Rubber futures on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange have expanded 44 per cent this year, helped by rising demand from China, the largest user. The Asian nation, the world’s largest automobile market, will consume 3.5 million tonnes of rubber this year.

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### **Italian debt crisis casts shadow over coffee exports from india**

**Debasis Mohapatra / Bangalore July 20, 2011, 0:56 IST**



India exports 200,000 tonnes annually and around 25 per cent of this is routed towards Italy.

The Italian debt crisis is casting a shadow over the prospects of coffee exports from India, as this European country is the largest importer of coffee from this region. Indian exporters are keenly watching the situation in Italy before taking any supply obligation and hope domestic demand will remain robust.

India exports around 200,000 tonnes of coffee annually and around 25 per cent of this is routed towards Italy, which buys robusta parchment at a premium from the country. Portugal and Greece, also hit by the crisis, account for around 1.5 per cent and 2.35 per cent of the export pie, respectively. India exports close to 70 per cent of its produce, pegged at 300,000 tonnes. In value terms, the exports bring in around Rs 2,000 crore.

“We don't see an immediate impact, as most of the Indian coffee has already been exported. However, there will be a definite fall in demand for Indian coffee in the next season if this situation continues,” Ramesh Rajah, president of the Coffee Exporters' Association of India said. He said in case the debt crisis continued, the fall would be substantial.

Barring a dip in demand, exporters are also apprehensive about the possibility of default in payments for their consignments. "There are reports suggesting that some importers have already defaulted on Vietnamese consignments. So, it is risky to take supply obligations to these countries in this scenario," Rajah said.

Referring to this matter, Sahadev Balakrishna, chairman of Karnataka Planters' Association, said there was no impact on the demand for Indian coffee due to this crisis. "Coffee is an essential commodity in Italy and there is less chance of fall in demand due to this crisis. It's a different matter in case of Greece and Portugal, as they are relatively smaller clients," he said.

He, however, said India was the market leader in the robusta parchment variety, procured by these European nations and any dip in demand would adversely impact production of this variety domestically.

Robusta parchment is exclusively used by the Italian and other quality-conscious European roasters as a blend in the preparation of 'espresso' and 'capuccino' coffees. India, the market leader of this variety, produces 20,000-30,000 tonnes per annum and determines the price trend globally.

However, all are not agreed on the possible impact of the euro zone crisis on coffee exports and prices. "Impact will be minimal on coffee in the international market, as there will be supply issues to drive demand and price of the commodity," Biren Vakil, director of Paradigm commodities, said.

He also said that despite the euro zone crisis, the long-term outlook on coffee remained bullish. However, he said financial institutions would not be forthcoming in taking exposure to these regions in the short term.

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**Foodgrain production jumps to record 241.56 mt**

**BS Reporter / New Delhi July 20, 2011, 0:34 IST**

Bolstered by record output of rice, wheat and, most important, pulses, India's foodgrain production in the 2010-11 crop marketing year ending this month is estimated to have jumped to 241.56 million tonnes (mt), 10.75 per cent more than last year.

Production of pulses, which has seen a jump in prices in recent years, as demand outstripped supplies, is estimated to be a record 18.09 mt, up 23.3 per cent from last year.

Agriculture ministry officials believe if the trend continues, India could stop importing pulses in the next few years.

### FARM OUTPUT

Crops	2009-10	2010-11	% Change
Rice	89.09	95.32	6.9
Wheat	80.80	85.93	6.3
Coarse cereals	33.55	42.22	26
Pulses	14.66	18.09	23.3
Oilseeds	24.88	31.10	25
Cotton*	24.22	33.42	38
Jute**	11.23	9.99	-11.04
Sugarcane	292.30	339.16	16.03

NOTE: All production figures are in million tonnes

\*In million bales of 170 kilograms each

\*\*In million bales of 180 kilograms each

SOURCE: Ministry of Agriculture

Already, there are some encouraging signs. Between 2009-10 and 2011-12 financial years, imports of pulses dropped by 1.5 mt because of bumper harvest.

“The country has the potential to produce 20 mt of pulses annually, which should bring down import dependency to almost

nil in the next few years,” agriculture

secretary P K Basu told reporters after releasing the fourth advanced estimates of foodgrain production for 2010-11.

Even in bad monsoon years, he said, pulses production should not go down below 17-18 mt.

Among other crops, production of wheat is estimated to be a record 85.93 mt, about 6.3 per cent more than last year. Production of rice is also estimated at a record 95.32 mt, up 6.9 per cent.

“We have fixed a target of producing 102 mt of rice in 2011-12, and are confident of achieving this, as the southwest monsoon has been good in eastern India till now,” Basu said.

Estimated coarse cereals’ production stands at 42.22 mt, 26 per cent higher than last year.

Among coarse cereals, production of maize has been estimated at 21.28 mt, up 27.27 per cent.

Production of cash crops has touched a new record in 2010-11. Oilseeds production is estimated to be 31.1 mt, 25 per cent higher than last year. Among oilseeds, production of soybean and groundnut have been at record levels of 12.65 mt and 7.53 mt, respectively.

Estimated cotton output has increased 38 per cent from last year to 33.42 million bales (1 bale =170 kg). “There has been a slight downward revision in cotton production when we compare it

with the third advanced estimate released in April, but that is because of reporting problems in states," Basu said.

Sugarcane production is estimated to be 339.16 mt, 16.03 per cent higher than last year.

"We have fixed a target of producing 84 mt of wheat, 21.5 mt of maize, 42 mt of coarse cereals, 17 mt of pulses, 34 million bales of cotton, 33.6 mt of oilseeds and 350 mt of sugarcane in the next crop year," Basu said.

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### **Centre does a U-turn on wheat exports**

**Anindita Dey / Mumbai July 20, 2011, 0:27 IST**

The Centre has put on hold the decision to allow wheat exports, citing unfavourable global market conditions. The move comes barely 48 hours after Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar announced that the four-year ban on wheat exports had been lifted.

However, export of rice and wheat products (maida and atta) will resume soon and the commerce ministry was working on last-minute modalities for facilitating the move.

Ministry officials said the decision on wheat exports comes in the backdrop of Russian black sea wheat flooding the global markets. While Russia is selling its wheat for \$244 per tonne, Indian wheat would have been priced at \$300 per tonne.

"Even if wheat export was allowed, shipments would further get delayed while wheat stock from Russia has already reached the global markets," said an official..

"Annual wheat production has exceeded 80 million tonnes for three years now and market prices have been more or less stable. However, price wise, Indian wheat may be out of parity, as world wheat prices are at least 10 per cent lower than the domestic price in India."

The official reasoned that setting a minimum export price at this point in time will neither help the traders. "The decision therefore has been kept on hold for a while," he said.

Last week, the empowered group of ministers on food (EGoM) headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee had given an in-principal approval to lift the ban on wheat exports. It had also

said that one million tonnes of common rice exports will be allowed, while wheat product exports may have an overall limit of 6.5 lakh tonnes.

The ban on shipments of wheat products was relaxed twice this year to allow preferential exports to Maldives and Afghanistan.

In early July, the government had foodgrain stocks of around 65 million tonnes (rice and wheat), much above the 35 million tonnes of buffer stock. Wheat production currently stands at 37.8 million tonnes and is expected at a record 84.27 million tonnes in 2011, after an all-time high output of 80.80 million tonnes last year.

India had banned shipments of wheat in early 2007 and non-basmati rice in April 2008 to bolster domestic supplies. The central foodgrain stock at Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns was 65.6 mt in June — a three-fold rise in the quantity collected five years ago.

Rice exports will carry a minimum export price of \$400 per tonne for the non-basmati variety and a MEP of \$850 per tonne for other varieties. The final notification may put a cap of 12,500 tonnes for each exporter within the overall limit of one million tonnes.

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### **Tobacco farmers oppose move to cut crop size**

**D Gopi / Chennai/ Guntur July 20, 2011, 0:05 IST**

Tobacco growers are opposing any move to reduce the crop size for the coming season. They met Tobacco Board executive director Ch Subba Rao in the light of the Indian Tobacco Association (ITA) sending a proposal to the board suggesting cut in the crop size.

The ITA had recently written to the board to reduce the crop size to 121.55 million kg for the 2011-12 season as against the 165 million kg permitted for 2010-11. ITA president Bellam Kotaiah informed the board that the tobacco prices in the international market had declined forcing the ITA to bring down the prices and slash the purchase volume.

The growers have organised a series of protests from July 2 and even stopped auctions as they were offered the lowest price. In the southern light soils (SLS), the prices have come down to Rs 110 a kg from the farmers' demand of Rs 120 a kg.

The farmers said the ITA had in the past led a delegation of the tobacco growers to the Prime Minister seeking expansion of the crop size. They had also requested the board to intervene and purchase tobacco giving competitive price, which could not materialise for this season.

Meanwhile, former MP and tobacco farmers' leader Yalamanchili Sivaji said, "the board cannot succumb to the pressures of the ITA and impose restrictions on the growers."

He said the board should give compensation to the growers if it wanted to bring down the crop size. He also asked the board to lift restrictions on the crop size and trade allowing the growers to sell their product to any trader who offered the best price. "Let the market be opened to the growers like the other products and let there be no restrictions on the grower," he said.

With the growers insisting on minimum guarantee price (MGP) of Rs 120 a kg on one side and the ITA offering Rs 90-105 a kg with an indent of 121.55 million kg for the season, the board is finding the going tough.

Subba Rao said the issue would be discussed in the board before finalising the crop size for the season.

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### **Barley output may rise 15% on high prices**

**Vikas Sharma / Chandigarh July 20, 2011, 0:00 IST**

With growing demand, barley farmers are expecting good returns this year. Barley production this season (2010-11) is seen at 1.5 million tonnes (mt) as against 1.3 mt in the last season.

Barley is a rabi crop, sown during October-December and harvested in summer. Last season, due to good rainfall, farmers in the state preferred mustard over barley, which resulted in less area under the crop.

Last season, the area under barley in Uttar Pradesh, a leading producer, declined to 162,000 hectares as against 202,000 hectares targeted. Similarly, in Haryana the area under barley was 38,000 hectares as against 50,000 hectares targeted.

This year (2011-12), officials believe area would increase. The higher prices fetched last season are expected to attract more farmers to barley compared to other rabi crops. Senior officials in

Haryana State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Board (Hafed) said barley farmers in Haryana had received better prices which could lead more farmers to join in.

As against the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 780 a quintal for barley, farmers in Haryana received prices up to Rs 1,400 a quintal. In Rajasthan, farmers received prices up to Rs 1,200 a quintal, much above the MSP.

Barley, which earlier was considered a fodder crop, is now gaining prominence among health-conscious individuals as well as malt manufacturers. Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are the main contributors for barley in India, contributing 70 per cent of the total production.

Contract farming by liquor companies is expected to trigger increase in the malt barley area in coming years. Increased beer consumption has now forced liquor companies to go for contract farming, thus, ensuring farmers a remunerative price.

Last year, 2,240 hectares under contract farming was covered by Hafed under barley. This year, officials are targeting 4,856 hectares under contract farming.

Hafed officials maintained this year two liquor companies had approached it for contract farming of barley in the state.

From 2005-06, SabMiller India is engaged with farmers in Rajasthan under a malt barley development programme. The company claims the area in Rajasthan, where the company has started operations, has shown significant rise.

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## THE HINDU Business Line

### **Self-sufficiency in pulses output likely in 3 years**

No need to import in 3-4 years: Agriculture Secretary



<b>RECORD PRODUCTION#</b>			
	(million tonnes)		
	<b>2nd Advance</b>	<b>3rd Advance</b>	<b>4th Advance</b>
	<b>Estimate*</b>	<b>Estimate**</b>	<b>Estimate***</b>
<b>Foodgrains</b>	232.07	235.88	241.56
1. Rice	94.01	94.11	95.32
2. Wheat	81.47	84.27	85.93
3. Coarse grains	40.08	40.21	42.22
(a) Maize	20.03	20.23	21.28
(b) Bajra	9.38	9.21	10.08
(c) Jowar	6.79	6.75	6.74
4. Pulses	16.51	17.29	18.09
(a) Arhar	3.18	3.15	2.89
(b) Gram	7.37	7.38	8.25
(c) Moong	1.12	1.37	1.82
(d) Urad	1.45	1.82	1.74
<b>Oilseeds</b>	27.848	30.251	31.101
1. Groundnut	6.811	7.087	7.538
2. Mustard	7.426	7.417	7.667
3. Soyabean	10.468	12.589	12.658
4. Sunflower	0.697	0.665	0.625
Cotton@	33.927	33.927	33.425
Sugarcane	336.698	340.545	339.168
Jute@@	9.494	9.891	9.995

# 2010-11 crop year  
\*February 9; \*\*April 6; \*\*\*July 19.  
@million bales of 170 kg each; @@million bales of 180 kg each.

New Delhi, July 19:

The Centre says that the country will turn fully self-sufficient in production of pulses in the next 3-4 years, obviating any need for imports thereafter.

### Record production

This comes even as total pulses output for 2010-11 touched an all-time-high of 18.09 million tonnes (mt), according to the 4 {+r} {+d} Advance

Estimates of crop production for the year released by the Agriculture Ministry here on Tuesday.

The 18.09 mt is much higher than Krishi Bhawan's earlier two assessments made in April and February and also surpasses the previous record of 14.91 mt achieved in 2003-04.

### ROPING IN FALLOW LAND

“We can easily produce 20 mt of pulses by bringing in fallow land under cultivation and through inter-cropping. I don't think we have to import pulses after 3-4 years,” the Union Agriculture Secretary, Mr P.K. Basu, said.

In 2009-10, India imported nearly 3.7 mt of pulses valued at Rs 10,390 crore.

## **FALLING IMPORTS**

Last fiscal, imports fell both in quantitative as well as value terms to 2.7 mt and Rs 7,386 crore.

This came even as the country harvested record crops of gram, moong and urad.

## **ESTIMATES**

Besides pulses, the Agriculture Ministry has also revised upwards its 2010-11 production estimates to new highs for total foodgrains (now put at 241.56 mt), wheat (85.93 mt), coarse grains (42.22 mt), maize (21.28 mt), oilseeds (31.10 mt) and soyabean (12.66).

While the cotton output estimate has been downgraded to 33.43 million bales – from the 33.93 million bales in the 3 {+r} {+d} and 2 {+n} {+d} Advance Estimates – it still translates into a record level.

The projection in cotton is at variance with the Cotton Advisory Board that has pegged it at 312 lakh bales. The Textiles Ministry is of the view that production is even lower than that.

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## **Tea planters fret over Gorkhaland autonomy deal**

Kolkata, July 19:

Darjeeling tea planters are keeping their fingers crossed, even as the euphoria over the proposed Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) reaches its crescendo.

Reasons for their anxiety are many. First, they apprehend a rise in land rent and *salami* with the transfer of financial powers from the State Government to GTA. At present, the State Government collects a land rent of Rs 44 a year for a hectare of the garden and *salami*, an one-time payment, when the ownership of the garden changes, at the rate of Rs 2,500/ hectare.

According to the agreement reached on Monday, GTA will be entrusted with the power to collect the levy and once it starts, there will be a hike, it is felt.

Around 1994 when the concept of *salami* was introduced, the rate was Rs 15,000/ hectare and it was reduced to Rs 2,500 after a good deal of persuasion, observe sources close to the Darjeeling tea industry. Disputes over salami are still pending in the Supreme Court.

### **Unreasonable demands**

Second, the planters are apprehensive that new sets of “unreasonable” demands by tea garden workers may crop up under the new dispensation. This is not surprising because the Darjeeling tea garden workers' unions are now controlled almost entirely by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha. The negotiations over the bonus payment, due to start shortly, will be the test case, it is felt.

Third, with the pouring of huge funds from both the Union and State Governments , the garden owners, it is feared, will face yet another problem. They will not get enough workers to work in the gardens, as most will prefer to take up jobs in development projects proposed to be launched.

Recently, the gardens raised the daily wage of workers from Rs 67 to Rs 90, hoping that absenteeism, a chronic problem afflicting the Darjeeling gardens, will come down but that did not happen and the problem will only worsen in coming days, sources said.

### **Administrative area**

Finally, the total administrative area under the proposed GTA will not increase immediately while the number of councillors will rise from the present 28 to 50. So, there will be overlapping of jurisdiction and, therefore, the consequent friction over who will control what and how much. Tea in Darjeeling is produced over 17,500 hectares spread over 87 gardens with a total production of nine million kgs annually. An estimated 55,000 workers are employed in these gardens.

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### **'Steady growth in products to boost poultry industry'**

Chennai, July 19:

The Rs 47,000-crore poultry industry is all set for a lift as demand for poultry products is growing steadily, fuelled by a slew of factors such as healthy GDP growth, rapid urbanisation and contract farming, according to a study by rating agency Icra.

The domestic broiler-market demand is set to grow at 15-18 per cent, while table-egg demand will grow at 5-7 per cent, Icra said.

## **PRODUCTION RISES**

The poultry sector has grown at over 15 per cent in the past three years. The production capacity has gone up with large integrated players taking up contract farming. According to data available with the National Egg Coordination Committee, egg production has increased to 266.62 lakh a day in 2010-11 from a meagre 98 lakh eggs a day in 2000-01. South India (led by Andhra Pradesh) produces over 45 per cent of the country's poultry output while another 20 per cent comes from the Western region (led by Maharashtra). Tamil Nadu leads in poultry consumption in the country, thanks to inclusion of eggs in various mid-day meal programmes.

## **SOARING FEED PRICES**

However, all is not rosy for the industry. Seasonal uncertainties, geopolitical worries and soaring feed prices continue to mar the industry's prospects. Rising prices of maize, a major ingredient in the poultry feed that forms more than 60 per cent of the production cost, is a cause for concern for the industry. Feed prices, which stood at Rs 806 for 75 kg during 2000, are now at a staggering Rs 1,655.50. Poultry sector consumes 52 per cent of the country's maize production and any monsoonal vagaries tend to hit the profitability of poultry sector, especially broiler farms which are sensitive to feed-price fluctuations.

## **EXPORTS DIP**

Exports, too, have taken a hit since 2006 due to continual outbreak of bird flu in some pockets of the country. Egg exports plummeted to 446.34 lakh eggs in 2010-11 after peaking at 1,019.03 lakh eggs in 2007-08. Table eggs are already off the Gulf menu and the trade is now looking at Africa and Saarc nations, particularly Sri Lanka. But industry sources say with an ever-increasing demand outpacing supply, players are keen on catering on home turf and shifting

their focus from wet to frozen market, that is, from live birds to processed/dressed chicken, consumption of which is growing at a slow but steady pace.

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### **Ample stocks, low offtake put pressure on wheat**



Karnal, July 19:

Wheat dara prices eased by Rs 20 a quintal on account of ample stocks coupled with reduced offtake on Tuesday.

Mr Subhash Chander, a wheat trader, told *Business Line* that though the Government has allowed wheat exports, it may not have any impact on domestic prices in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. This is not only because there is ample stock than required but also due to the not-so-fine quality of the stock.

There would not be much exports from these parts of the country as the quality of the stock may not meet the standards required for exports, he added.

Stock meant for below poverty line card holders is also coming in the market and this is also a reason for the fall in prices.

Dara variety dropped by Rs 20 and settled at Rs 1,130 a quintal against the levels of Rs 1,150 quoted last weekend. Just around 150 quintals of dara variety arrived from Uttar Pradesh and the stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,130 while it traded at Rs 1,135 a quintal at the retail market.

With not much trading in the market, desi wheat prices remained unchanged. Tohfa variety quoted at Rs 2,175 a quintal, Maruti and Lal Quila were sold at Rs 1,800 and Rs 1,900, respectively, while A-1 variety quoted at Rs 2,040 a quintal. Following lack of buying interest, there are no fresh arrivals of desi wheat, said Mr Subhash.

### **Flour Prices**

Despite a fall in wheat, flour prices remained quiet and quoted at Rs 1,150 for a 90-kg bag.

Though there is not much buying in the market and wheat prices are also going down continuously, flour millers are not ready to sell their stocks below the levels of Rs 1,150.

Similarly, chokar prices remained unchanged and quoted at Rs 490 for a 49-kg bag.

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### **Quiet Bay weakens monsoon**

Thiruvananthapuram, July 19:

The alignment of the all-important land-based monsoon trough has become wobbly again due to the lack of a weather system (low-pressure area or a cyclonic circulation) in the Bay of Bengal.

Active monsoon conditions require a weather system in the Bay to which the eastern end of the monsoon would be anchored allowing monsoon easterlies to fill the trough and pour their contents over adjoining land.

### **'DRY-DOCKED'**

Non-existence of the weather system has denied this facility to the eastern end of the trough, which has since become almost 'dry-docked' to the North-eastern States and across to Bangladesh, causing the monsoon trough to heave itself north of its normal alignment.

This has weakened the system as a whole, though strong cross-equatorial monsoon flows continue to prevail over Arabian Sea and south peninsular India.

The weakened monsoon has, in turn, allowed westerly to north-westerly winds to prevail over west and adjoining central India with no monsoon easterlies to interact with and cause rains.

Meanwhile, the northward shift of the monsoon is expected to bring the rains to east and northeast India during the next couple of days.

## **RAINS FOR EAST**

Kalpana-1 satellite cloud imagery on Tuesday afternoon showed convective (rain-bearing) clouds over parts of east, northeast and central India, west coast, north and adjoining central Bay of Bengal and north Andaman Sea.

The major weather generating systems persisting over disparate places to the north of the country included the upper air cyclonic circulations over Haryana and Bihar persists.

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## **Resellers' unloading cools spot edible oils**



Mumbai, July 19:

A higher Malaysian market boosted domestic edible oils futures as speculators increased long positions. Selling by resellers in the physical market pulled down palmolein by Re 1 for 10 kg, while rapeseed oil lost Rs 5 and groundnut oil dropped Rs 10 for 10 kg.

However, bullish futures lifted soya oil and cotton oil by Rs 2 and Rs 1 . Sentiment improved in the physical market as soya oil futures rose by Rs 9/10 kg on National Board of Trade (NBOT) in Indore. Though local refineries kept prices unchanged, resellers booked profits by lowering prices a little. Resellers traded 600-700 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 539-541 for July delivery. Resellers sold palmolein at Rs 541. Liberty offered palmolein at Rs 544 and soya oil at Rs 640. Ruchi sold palmolein at Rs 542, soya refined oil at Rs 638 and sunflower oil at Rs 690.

August contract for crude palm oil futures on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed at MYR3,125 (MYR3,090), September closed at MYR3,125 (MYR3,085) and October at MYR3,107 (MYR3,078) a tonne. August contract for soya oil on NBOT shot up by Rs 9.50 to Rs 665.

**Mumbai Commodity Exchange spot rate (Rs/10 kg):** Groundnut oil 955 (965), soya refined oil 640 (638), sunflower exp. ref. 650 (655), sunflower ref. 705 (700), rapeseed ref. oil 680 (685), rapeseed expeller ref. 650 (655), cotton ref. oil 656 (655) and palmolein 541 (542).

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### Chana, urad drop on weak buying



Indore, July 19:

Pulses remained sluggish with chana, tur and urad witnessing a downtrend on weak demand and poor buying.

Chana, ( *kanta*) which sold at Rs 2,800-2,825 a quintal on Monday, plunged to Rs 2,725-2,750 a quintal on declining futures and slack buying in the physical market. Chana ( *desi*) also declined to Rs 2,725 a quintal. Weak buying also dragged chana dal with chana dal (bold) selling at Rs 3,525-3,550 a quintal, chana dal (medium) at Rs 3,425-3,450 and chana dal (average) at Rs 3,300-3,325 a quintal.

Continuing monsoon rain in tur-producing regions of Maharashtra and adjoining regions and weak demand have pulled down tur in the past two days. On Tuesday, tur (Maharashtra) declined to Rs 3,000 a quintal from Rs 3,075-3,100 a quintal on Monday. Similarly, tur (Nimari) ruled at Rs 2,500 a quintal. Tur dal ( *marka*), however, ruled steady at Rs 6,000. On the other hand, tur dal declined by Rs 50 with tur dal (full) fetching Rs 5,400-5,450 and tur dal ( *sawa no.*) Rs 4,400-4,450 a quintal.



Moong remained steady with moong (best) selling at Rs 4,100-4,300 and moong (medium) at Rs 3,600-3,800 a quintal. . Masoor and urad remained steady despite subdued demand. Masoor (bold) remained unchanged at Rs 2,750-2,775 and masoor (medium) at Rs 2,400. Masoor dal, however, declined on slack demand with masoor dal (bold) selling 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.

U urad and its dal remained firm. Urad (bold) sold at Rs 3,800-4,000 and urad (medium) at Rs 3,300-3,500. Urad ( *mongar*) quoted at Rs 6,500-6,700, urad dal (bold) at Rs 5,500-5,600 and urad dal (average) at Rs 4,700-4,750 a quintal.

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### **Bearish sentiment continues in sugar**



Mumbai, July 19:

Sugar prices continued to decline on the Vashi wholesale market., But it attracted fresh buying at the upper level and in the physical market.

Sugar price dropped by Rs 15-20 a quintal in *naka* delivery, tracking decline of Rs 10-15 in mill tender rates. In the Vashi market, the decline was limited to Rs 5-10 on expectation of rise in local demand.

Mr Mukesh Kuwadia, Secretary of Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, said: “Tracking higher volume at the upper level, the spot market sentiment was steady despite need-based demand. Mills are not keen to sell at a lower price and are trying to hold the price keeping tender offer open.”

A wholesaler said on Monday that about 24-25 mills have offered tenders, but only a few sold at lower price. Most of them kept holding higher price and tender offer open.

About 10-12 mills sold 38,000-40,000 bags (100 kg each) to State-level stockists in the range of Rs 2,665-2,720 (Rs 2,675-2,730) for S-grade and Rs 2,750-2,820 (Rs 2,750-2,830) for M-grade. About 40,000 bags of S-grade sugar was sold by mills at Rs 2,685-2,690 till noon today. On improvement in retail demand, arrival in the market was up at 54-55 truckloads (each 100 bags) and local dispatches were 53-54 truckloads.

At lower price, buying by neighbouring States is also expected to rise. Last week about 3- 4 rail rakes (each 27,000 bags) were purchased by neighbouring States.

**Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates:** S-grade Rs 2,795-2,842 (Rs 2,798-2,842) and M-grade Rs 2,856-2,986 (Rs 2,861-2,991).

**Naka delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 2,730-2,760 (Rs 2,750-2,790) and M-grade Rs 2,800-2,930 (Rs 2,820-2,940).

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#### **Turmeric pales on lack of orders from N. India**



Erode, July 19:

Spot turmeric prices decreased by Rs 200 a quintal on Tuesday on lack of fresh orders from North Indian buyers.

“ Erode traders have not received fresh orders from North India and so the price decreased by Rs 200 a quintal. The hybrid variety suffered a decline of Rs 300/quintal. Further, rains have

started in North India and merchants did not place orders for the last couple of days,” said Mr R.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Turmeric farmers brought only 7,500 bags on Tuesday expecting a good price. Only 50 per cent of the farmers sold their produce at the quoted price and the rest took back their produce, saying the price was not feasible for them. Only 45 per cent of the turmeric that arrived were sold. He said farmers have started bringing lower quantity and this will lead to higher price in the next couple of days.

Bulk buyers said they are now concentrating on local orders. They said only after the end of monsoon fresh orders could come. Till then, they are depending on local orders placed by masala producers.

**Salem crop:** The finger variety was sold at Rs 6,889-7,739, the root variety Rs 6,011-6,725. Totally 2,089 bags of turmeric arrived for sale and 497 were sold.

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### **Spot rubber unchanged on buyer resistance**

Kottayam, July 19:

Spot rubber prices finished weak on Tuesday despite news of rubber import failing to make any impact in the market. Arrivals of the raw material are still poor.

There was no selling pressure in the market but the prices remained subdued owing to buyer resistance. Most of the traders preferred to wait till the market recovers from the impact of the news and stabilise before recovering the early losses. The transactions were in a low key.

Sheet rubber dropped to Rs. 214 (215) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to traders and the Rubber Board.

The August series improved to Rs. 215.05 (213.39), September to Rs. 213.75 (212.16), October to Rs. 213.75 (212.16), November to Rs. 214.00 (212.27) and December to Rs. 215 (214) a kg, while the January series opened at Rs. 220 on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

The July futures slipped to ¥ 372.4 (Rs. 210.03) from ¥ 372.9 a kg during the day session and then to 372.0 (Rs. 209.80) in the night session on Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM). RSS 3 (spot) inched up to Rs. 212.13 (211.04) a kg at Bangkok.

Spot prices (Rs/kg) were: RSS-4: 214 (215); RSS-5: 211 (212); Ungraded: 208 (209); ISNR 20: 211 (212); and Latex 60%: 139 (139).

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### **Groundnut oil rules firm on shortage of raw material**

Rajkot, July 19:

Groundnut oil ruled firm at higher levels on lack of raw material and fears of lower kharif production. A similar trend was seen in cotton oil.

In Rajkot and Saurashtra, groundnut oil new tin was traded at Rs1,610-1,620 for 15 kg, new tin 15-litre quoted at Rs 1,490-1,495. The price of loose groundnut oil for 10 kg was Rs 955-960. Label tin traded at Rs 1,585-1,590 for 15 kg. Cotton oil (15-kg tin) was traded at Rs 1,100-1,110 and 15-litre tin at Rs 1,030-1,035.

In Rajkot APMC, groundnut bold ruled at Rs 630-805 for a *maund* of 20 kg and the smaller variety quoted at Rs 600-780, while in Junagadh APMC bold groundnut was traded at Rs 560-808.

A Rajkot based retailer said: "Demand for groundnut oil is below normal due to higher price. People buy the oil according to their needs. In the near term, there is no chance for big demand."

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### **Higher unit value lifts tea export earnings**

Coonoor, July 19:

Earnings from tea exports in the current fiscal have increased because of higher price realisation despite a fall in the volume shipped, reveals an analysis of the latest information available with Tea Board and exporters' organisations.

In the first two months of 2011-12, the volume exported dropped by 5.47 per cent to total 22.66 million kg (mkg) against 23.97 mkg last fiscal.

However, the low volume exerted pressure on prices. On the average, the prices rose by 19.43 per cent to touch Rs 139.68 a kg from Rs 116.96 last fiscal.

Consequently, the overall earnings increased by 12.91 per cent to peak to Rs 316.50 crore from Rs 280.31 crore.

Export earnings from North India registered an increase with both the volume shipped and the prices fetched rising.

### **S. India earn less**

However, South Indian exporters earned less due to a lower shipment arising from reduced availability.

Exports from North India rose to 10.27 mkg from 7.69 mkg.

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### **Kerala demand heats up coconut oil**



Kochi, July 19:

Coconut oil prices rebounded to Rs 88 a kg even as the recovery has been more pronounced in Tamil Nadu markets where it jumped to Rs 87 a kg.

Almost all the demand last week came from Kerala, while Tamil Nadu was the top supplier. Industrial demand has slackened as buyers have shifted from coconut oil to palm fatty acid and other edible oils. With persistent rain in Kerala, arrivals of local copra and coconut oil declined in the State and it is now solely dependent on Tamil Nadu, Mr Talat Mahmood, President of the

Cochin Oil Merchants Association (COMA), said. The trend in the coming days will depend on purchases from the three biggest industrial buyers in the country: Marico and Shalimar from the Tamil Nadu and Kerafed from the Kerala market.

After a sharp recovery last week, the market should pause for sometime before going in any definite direction, Mr Prakash B Rao, Member of COMA, said. The demand from Kerala, which could average 100 tonnes a day would be the major buffer for the coconut oil price line in the coming days. The onset of the festival season from next month will raise demand for edible copra from North India.

The upcoming *Navratri* festival is expected to boost demand from north Indian buyers, as is the case with the succeeding *Diwali* season. Weeks leading up to Onam in Kerala will also spur demand. There is bound to be some diversion to edible copra from mill copra in the coming months as the price difference between the two sometimes goes up by as much as Rs 10 a kg, Mr Rao said.

Copra prices have shot up to Rs 60 a kg in Kerala, while they have surged to Rs 58 a kg in Tamil Nadu markets. Prices of palm kernel oil have dropped to Rs 72 a kg; and Rs 56 a kg for palm oil. The depressed price of palm oil and palm kernel would also be a deciding factor in deflating coconut oil prices in the weeks to come, sources in the trade said.

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### **Indian agronomist at global meet on liquid fertilisers**

Chennai, July 19:

Against the backdrop of the faltering green revolution, riddled with many environmental, primarily soil-related, problems with heavy use of solid fertilisers, China hosted the first International Conference on Liquid Fertilisers in Beijing from July 6-8. Indian soil scientist, Prof K.P. Prabhakaran Nair, delivered the keynote address on his soil management technique, known as "The Nutrient Buffer Power Concept" at the conference. China is already at the forefront of liquid fertiliser manufacture, and, at the end of 2009, it had more than 500 registered products. The international conference was organised by the China National Chemical Information Centre in Beijing. Agronomists, soil scientists, plant physiologists, economists and industry leaders from several European, American and Asian countries interacted with their

Chinese counterparts to chalk out a strategy on liquid fertilisers to meet the global challenges posed by marginal or often negative response by crops to solid fertiliser application.

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