

## Only a focussed policy can rectify ills plaguing agriculture



NO BENEFIT: File picture of Erode farmers protesting in front a regulated market demanding immediate cash payment. Photo: M. GOVARTHAN

Most farmers do not benefit by the banks', government's credit facilities

Food producers are said to be at the mercy of others. “Right from growing crops, facing the vagaries of weather, paying the high labour costs, to literally going behind the buyers in the end to sell their produce for a not so remunerative price,” says Dr. K. Kumarasamy, former head, Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU, Coimbatore.

“Former U.S President John Kennedy rightly said about farmers, ‘A farmer buys everything in retail and sells it at wholesale, paying the freight charges both ways. It is a universal statement made nearly five decades back and holds true even now for our farmers,” he adds.

### Short span

In five years a trader marketing agricultural produces manages to become rich. But at the same time, the farmers supplying the produce to him continue to languish in poverty and debt.

As most of the agricultural produces are of perishable nature, farmers need money immediately after the harvest as they need to repay the loans they borrowed.

In many parts of the country it is a common scene to see the moneylender standing on the field bund while the harvest is in progress to take back the money.

“Disposing off the produce at the earliest, immediately after harvest— sometimes right from the threshing floor — is a big relief for farmers. For them, selling at a lower rate may be better when compared to the harassment they need to endure at the moneylenders' hands, if they do not repay the interest on time,” explains Dr. Kumarasamy.

Even the regulated markets created by the Government are not able to serve the intended purpose satisfactorily, due to many political reasons.

Most of our land holdings are small and marginal farmers are unable to adopt the improved methods of cultivation due to resource constraints in purchase of inputs of seeds, manures, fertilizers, and agricultural chemicals, and to meet the expenses of improved packages of farming.

### **No benefit**

“Most of the farmers do not benefit by the credit facilities extended by the banks and other government agencies, as they do not have the information and right contacts to get access to such facilities.

“Especially for getting loans and subsidies today it is very essential for a small farmer to know somebody influential in the village or panchayat,” he reasons.

The self-sufficiency that the country claims to have achieved is not real — as one-third of our present population do not have the purchasing power for three meals a day.

### **Stagnant production**

“Further, our production is stagnant for the past few years, compared to the magnitudes of production in 1980s and 1990s, while the population increase continues to gallop in geometric proportions,” explains Dr. Kumarasamy.

According to him, we are at a critical stage to identify the ills that plague agriculture such as land erosion, water scarcity, sub standard inputs and plan appropriate measures to safeguard the food security of the nation.

“The Government organisations and agencies must plan and focus their policies and programmes to ensure proper harvest and conservation of the surplus rainfall received during the short monsoons for use during the long, lean seasons.

### **Remunerative price**

“Sufficient production and supply of certified seeds of the important crops under cultivation to the majority of the farmers, supply of quality agricultural inputs of fertilizers, and plant protection chemicals and streamlined regulated marketing facilities to assure reasonable and remunerative prices for the agricultural produces,” seems to be his conviction. “The Government must remember that, if agriculture is allowed to fail in our country, it will certainly lead to the stagnation of our country's progress, leaving no scope for redemption as we cannot afford to import food materials for our ever-increasing population,” he emphasises.

For more details contact Dr. K. Kumaraswamy, Formerly Professor of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU, Coimbatore, email: [kkkswamy9@yahoo.co.in](mailto:kkkswamy9@yahoo.co.in) Mobile: 94436 52332.

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**‘July-Aug season will fetch good prices for groundnut farmers’**



The Hindu Groundnut kernel in its shell at a village in Thanjavur. File photo

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has advised farmers to go in for groundnut sowing during July-August season as they are expected to get remunerative prices on the harvest.

An econometric analysis carried out by Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC) in TNAU, of the prevailing prices of the past 20 years in Tindivanam Regulated Market, revealed that prices would be around Rs.44 to Rs.46 per kg of groundnut kernel during harvest in October-November.

Tamil Nadu produced 8.89 lakh tonnes of groundnut, with a productivity of 2,113 kg per hectare in 4.12 lakh hectares in 2009-10.

Nearly 75 per cent of groundnut sowing in the state was during this season. The survey was carried out to advise farmers to derive the maximum benefit out of it, DEMIC said.

Groundnut is the major oilseed in India, which is placed second in groundnut production and consumption list, it said.

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Published: July 20, 2011 19:04 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 19:04 IST New Delhi, July 20, 2011

### **Just 2 days for rice export registration; traders decry move**



The Hindu The first-come-first-serve basis registration for export of non-basmati rice will remain open only for two working days starting on Thursday, prompting traders to allege that the move would favour a few. File photo

The first-come-first-serve basis registration for export of non-basmati rice will remain open only for two working days starting on Thursday, prompting traders to allege that the move would favour a few.

Besides, the government has fixed a low export price of \$400/tonne, a move which was decried by the All-India Rice Exporters Association. It “defies all logic and if implemented may lead to a scandal”.

A notification issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) late on Tuesday night allowing exports of non-basmati rice after over a three-year ban practically gives only a day for exporters to prepare lengthy documents and find immediate buyers.

The DGFT in the Commerce Ministry will start receiving online applications for registration from 10 am on Thursday and close the same at 5pm the day after.

In a letter to Food and Consumer Minister K.V. Thomas, All India Rice Exporters Association President Vijay Setia alleged that such a short-notice is meant only to help those traders who had a prior inkling.

“Giving such a short time indicates that applications for quota allotment can be made only by those who had prior intimation and not the trade in general,” he said.

The association demanded that sufficient time should be given to submit applications for quota so that everyone gets a fair chance and “not just a few companies”.

An official, however, said with a maximum limit of 12,500 tonne per application, the scope for misuse is minimal.

Besides, the minimum export price (MEP) of USD 400 per tonne has been fixed for these shipments, implying that even low-price varieties could also be shipped.

Mr. Setia said the fixing of low MEP would lead to diversion of low-priced grain from ration shops to exports.

Noting that FCI's procurement cost would work out to over \$500, Mr. Setia said: "In the face of these facts, setting an MEP of USD 400 defies all logic and if implemented, may lead to a scandal."

He said allowing exports of rice at low MEP was not only against the domestic traders but also "anti-farmer".

Mr. Setia demanded immediate withdrawal of the notification and issue of fresh guidelines, fixing correct MEP which should be around \$600 per tonne.

The decision to allow one million tonnes exports of non-basmati rice was taken by the Empowered Group of Ministers on Food on July 11.

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Published: July 20, 2011 11:41 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 11:41 IST TIRUCHI, July 20, 2011

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



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

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

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 18:22 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 18:22 IST PATHANAMTHITTA,  
July 20, 2011

**Puthussery decries rubber import**

The decision taken by the Union government to import 40,000 tonnes of rubber and reduce the import duty from 20 per cent to 7.5 cent is highly detrimental to the State's rubber sector, former MLA Joseph M. Puthussery has said.

In a statement here on Wednesday, Mr. Puthussery called upon the Centre to review the decision and protect the interests of the State's rubber growers.

He said the decision would lead to a sharp decline in the price of rubber and badly affect the State's economy.

The rubber import had surpassed its limit with an import of 38,223 tonnes in the period from April to June compared to India's total rubber import of 19,118 tonnes in 2010, he said.

Mr. Puthussery alleged that there was every reason to suspect a deliberate attempt to deny a better price for the rubber growers in the State.

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Published: July 20, 2011 19:57 IST | Updated: July 20, 2011 20:02 IST KATTAPPANA, July 20, 2011

### **Review meeting**

Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan will preside over a meeting to review the Idukki Package at the collectorate conference hall, Painavu, at 10 a.m. on July 23. Water Resources Minister P.J. Joseph, P.T. Thomas MP and MLAS from the district will attend the meeting, a release here said.

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Published: July 21, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 21, 2011 04:08 IST TIRUVARUR, July 21, 2011

### **Distribution of farming inputs till July 20**

Under the seed village scheme being implemented in each panchayat union in the district green visit: C.Munianathan, Collector, visiting a paddy field at Kuvalaikal village in Tiruvarur district on Wednesday.



Agriculture inputs would be distributed to farmers of the district till July 20 under seed village scheme being implemented in each panchayat union, said C. Munianathan, Collector, here on Wednesday.

The Collector launched the programme at Kuvalaikal village at Nannilam, which aims at producing quality paddy seeds.

Under the scheme, the farmers would be taught the technical knowhow for producing quality seeds, and sowing and ploughing techniques.

The Collector said this year the Mettur dam was opened on June 6 six days before the conventional date only for Kuruvai cultivation.

Financial assistance for the old age people had been increased to Rs. 1,000 per month.

In the district 40,000 people have applied for this.

R. Kamaraj, Nannilam MLA; and Mayilvahanan, Joint Director of Agriculture (in charge), participated.

The Collector handed over agriculture equipment to farmers and visited paddy fields.

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Published: July 21, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 21, 2011 04:15 IST UDHAGAMANDALAM, July 21, 2011

### **Plea to showcase vegetables and fruits in flower show during summer season in Ooty**

Nilgiris Potato and Vegetable Merchants Association has urged the district administration to take steps to include potato and vegetable show alongside the Ooty flower show held during summer season every year. A resolution to this effect was passed at a meeting of the association presided by senior member C. Rajan.

President of the Association B. Krishnamurthy, Vice-President Nandi Gowder, Treasurer T. Javarappa, Joint Secretary Ramesh Belli, Vice-President R. Palanisamy and Secretary R. Chennaraj took part.

The meeting resolved to request the administration to restore the practice of conducting vegetable and fruits show at Udthagamandalam on the sidelines of the flower show.

Members also resolved to request for accommodating one office bearer of the association in the flower show arrangements committee.

Another resolution called for taking up a campaign to infuse life into the defunct Nilgiris Vegetable Growers Co-operative Marketing Society.

It was also resolved to request the Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society to take steps for making the grading machine at the Mettupalayam market functional.

Pointing out the ban imposed by the Madras High Court on use of earth movers, the meeting decided to sensitise the members on the need for earth mover machine for the farmers to level their land, especially in the wake of the labour shortage.

Through another resolution, it was also decided to seek the help of the media to carry forward the message on the need for permitting the earth movers to compensate for the lack of work force and impress upon the State Government the need for taking steps to get the ban revoked for the farm activities.

The members also decided to go as a delegation to Chennai to meet the Chief Minister for getting the 50 per cent subsidy for farm mechanisation enhanced to 100 per cent.

The meeting resolved to request the Government to distribute the seeds at subsidised rates through the Government depots.

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Published: July 21, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 21, 2011 04:17 IST VILLUPURAM, July 21, 2011

### **Declining growth in farm sector a concern, says official**

State Planning Commission member holds review meeting

State Planning Commission member K.Dhanavel has voiced concern over the declining growth in the farm sector. During the 11th Five Year Plan, agricultural production is much below the

average growth and when 56 per cent of population in Tamil Nadu is dependent upon agriculture for their sustenance this is not a happy situation, he said.

He was holding a review meeting with the officials on the performance of the agriculture and other allied departments here on Tuesday. Mr. Dhanavel, however, said that the lag in the farm sector had not affected the economy; for, the industrial sector had registered a 9.2 per cent growth and the service sector a 4 per cent growth during the period.

“If the farm sector also strives to match the growth prospects in other sectors Tamil Nadu would achieve astounding economic growth,” he said. Mr Dhanavel pointed out that 94 per cent of the funds allotted under the National Agricultural Development Programme had been spent on agriculture and the remaining 6 per cent on the fisheries and the animal husbandry sectors in the State.

It meant that both the Centre and the State were apportioning adequate funds for the development of the farm sector and therefore it was for the departments concerned to utilize the funds in a productive manner.

Mr Dhanavel noted that as of now the departments were acting independent of each other and the lack of coordination had resulted in duplication of projects. He was confident that through coordinated efforts the performance of the farm sector could be increased manifold.

He pointed out that 65 per cent of the paddy area in Villupuram district was under the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). And yet, certain farmers were reporting poor yield (lesser than what has been accomplished under the SRI system).

Mr. Dhanavel put the onus on the officials to see to it that those farmers, who were showing poor results, should be adequately informed of the technology involved. Therefore, he called upon the entire officialdom, right from the Joint Director of Agriculture to the extension worker to focus on the SRI system. He underscored the point that since the 12th Five Year Plan would commence next year the officials should retrospect on the shortcomings of the 11th Plan period and put in all out efforts to set them right for achieving higher productivity.

District Revenue Officer N.Venkatachalam, Personal Assistant (Agriculture) to Collector Chakravarthi and others participated.

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Published: July 21, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 21, 2011 04:06 IST BELLARY, July 21, 2011

## **Deficient rainfall in July hinders kharif sowing in Bellary district**

Apart from Hospet and Sandur, all taluks experienced below-normal rainfall this month



**FARMING:** Agricultural labourers sowing chilli in Sreedhargadda village in Bellary taluk.

Sowing has been slightly affected by deficient rainfall in the first fortnight of July during the current kharif season in Bellary district.

A sowing percentage of 44.02 has been recorded in the district as on July 19, compared to the over 50 per cent recorded during the same period last year.

This year's 65 mm of rainfall recorded in June as against the normal of 65.3 mm for the month and 85.8 mm as against the normal 63.2 mm in May, enabled farmers to commence agricultural operations early.

### **Rainfall**

This month, only Hospet and Sandur taluks have recorded excess rainfall, while the other five taluks experienced below-normal rainfall. Hospet received 128.2 mm of rainfall (normal 77.3 mm) and Sandur taluk 133.4 mm ( 124.7 mm).

But Bellary received 32 mm against the normal 48.9 mm, Hadagali 45.1 mm ( 80.9 mm), Hagari Bommanahalli 26 (78.4), Kudligi 48.7 (83.6), and Siruguppa taluk 2.4 (105). The total rainfall received in the district was 415.8 mm against the normal of 598.8 mm.

## Area of cultivation

This kharif season, cultivation is to be taken up on 3.65 lakh hectares (ha) of land — 2.20 lakh ha rain-fed and 1.44 lakh ha irrigated — in the district. Paddy, jowar, groundnut, cotton, sunflower, maize, toor and bajra are among the major crops cultivated.

Official sources in the Department of Agriculture told *The Hindu* that sowing had been completed on 1.60 lakh ha — 1.22 lakh ha rain-fed and 0.38 lakh ha irrigated tracts.

The total area of cereals sown is 98,658 ha against the target of 2.20 lakh ha, including jowar (28,479 ha against the target of 32,795 ha), maize (57,037 ha against 97,770 ha), bajra (7,558 ha against 13,965 ha), pulses (7,983 ha against 16,246 ha), oilseeds (33,396 ha against 96,814 ha), and cotton (13,416 ha against 27,837 ha).

The planting of paddy, which has just commenced with the release of water into the high-level canal, is expected to pick up after the release of water into the low-level canal.

## Seeds

The demand for different seeds is around 43,900 quintals, of which 16,243 quintals were distributed under subsidy schemes, and 20,612 quintals of jowar, ragi, toor, groundnut and other seed varieties are in stock at Raitha Samparka Kendras.

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Published: July 21, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 21, 2011 04:16 IST BERHAMPUR, July 21, 2011

## Crop loss: tribal farmers seek compensation

Tribal and peasant organisations have alleged that the Revenue Department is not providing compensation for the crop loss due to rain in December last year to the tribal people in Gajapati and Rayagada districts who were provided land patta under the Forest Rights Act, allege tribal and peasant organizations.

## **Protest staged**

Members of the tribal organisation, Lok Sangram Manch, staged a protest demonstration in front of the Gunupur Sub-Collector's office in Rayagada district on Wednesday asking the revenue officials to pay compensation to the tribal farmers for crop loss.

Similar demonstration was staged by the members of the LSM in Paralakhemundi on Tuesday. The tribal farmers in the region alleged that although they had received land patta under the Forest Rights Act, the crop loss was not being taken into account by the revenue officials

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Published: July 21, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 21, 2011 04:08 IST TIRUVARUR, July 21, 2011

## **Farmers told to bring kuruvai under insurance cover**

Collector C. Munianathan has appealed to farmers of the district to insure their Kuruvai crop and get the benefit under crop insurance scheme of the National Agriculture Insurance Corporation.

In a press release issued here on Wednesday, the Collector said that the last date for paying the premium is September 30, 2011 for farmers who have taken a loan, and August 15, 2011 for other farmers. Farmers can get insurance cover up to Rs. 13,556 per acre. Small and marginal farmers who have taken loans should pay Rs. 169 per acre as premium while other farmers should pay a premium of Rs. 153 per acre.

Under the same scheme, farmers can also avail an extended maximum insurance cover of Rs. 22,592 per acre. For this, a premium of Rs. 316 per acre has to be paid by farmers who have taken loans and other farmers should pay Rs. 285 per acre .

The Collector appealed to the farmers to utilise the opportunity and pay the premium on time and get the benefit out of crop insurance scheme.

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Published: July 21, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 21, 2011 04:22 IST NEW DELHI, July 21, 2011

### **States with poor off-take of special PDS food grains may lose quota**

States which do not lift their special allocation of food grains will lose their quota, warned Minister of State (Independent Charge) K.V. Thomas here on Wednesday.

In his meeting with the Food Ministers of seven States, the Minister said the lifting of 15 million tonnes of specially allocated food grains since January was only 40 per cent in these States. "I have told the State representatives that if the lifting is not at least 50 per cent, we will allocate the remaining quantity to those States where offtake is better."

Reviewing the procurement of food grains and the storage capacity, the Minister asked the States to be ready for implementation of the proposed Food Security Bill. The Bill is likely to be introduced in the monsoon session of Parliament.

The Food Ministers and Food Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were present.

### **Storage problem**

Faced with the storage of a bumper harvest this year, the Minister emphasised the need for higher lifting of allotments under the targeted public distribution system. The Centre wants creation of storage spaces by faster movement of food grains and higher consumption. Since January, the Central government has allocated 5 million tonnes of food grains each for the below poverty and above poverty line categories. Another 5 million tonnes was allocated to 150 poorer districts on the orders of the Supreme Court.

The Minister sought to temper his warning with the assurance that if a State government required more food grains it would be allocated under various schemes. At the same time, he asked them to take measures to bring down damage of food grains during procurement, storage and transportation.

According to him, the damage to food grains had come down from 2.5 per cent in 2007-08 to 0.07 per cent this year.

The Minister pointed out that of the 73 lakh tonnes of food grains storage capacity approved under the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee Scheme (PEG), 63 lakh tonnes worth of capacity has been sanctioned in the eight States. Punjab and Andhra Pradesh were asked to expedite the creation of extra storage capacity for 15.2 million tonnes of food grains.

At present the government has a storage capacity of 62.23 million tonnes of food grains as against burgeoning stocks at 65 million tonnes. As a result, a significant quantity is stored in the open.

### Nilakeni's proposal

Making a presentation on IT for PDS and cash transfer for food, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) chairman Nandan Nilakeni proposed the setting up of a National Information Utility through Aadhar infrastructure with States as partners.

In answer to a question, Mr. Thomas said the Empowered Group of Ministers had postponed a decision on the proposal to export 2 million tonnes of wheat "as international price of the commodity has dipped".

Most of the Ministers sought early settlement of their claims for procurement of food grains from the Food Corporation of India. Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh also requested for quick movement of surplus food grains to consuming States to free up storage spaces.

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**hindustantimes**

Thu, 21 Jul 2011

## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Jul 21

Max    Min

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Friday, Jul 22

Max    Min



37.4° | 22.6°

38° | 27°

Rain: 13 mm in 24hrs

Sunrise: 5:51






Humidity: 47%

Sunset: 18:39

Wind: Normal

Barometer: 1001

#### Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday Jul 23	Sunday Jul 24	Monday Jul 25	Tuesday Jul 26	Wednesday Jul 27
				
32°   27° Rainy	31°   26° Rainy	32°   26° Rainy	32°   27° Rainy	29°   26° Rainy

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## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

20 Jul, 2011, 11.29PM IST, krish kumar,ET Bureau

### Coir industry to benefit from new spinning machine

KOCHI: The Central Institute of Coir Technology (CICT) of Coir Board in association with a Bangalore-based company has developed a new spinning machine that is capable of increasing the production of quality yarn required by the tufting industry .

Costing about Rs 50,000 per unit, the single man operated machine is capable of producing 23 kg of quality yarn per day which can fetch an average wage of Rs 300 per head. Kerala Minister of Coir Adoor Prakash said the government will consider supplying the machine free of cost to the coir workers under BPL category free of cost to help improve their earnings. It will be part of the government efforts in alleviating the problem of industry afflicted by low wages, labour scarcity and raw material shortage.

The quality of the yarn produced by the two major tufting mat manufacturers and it would be subjected to detailed evaluation by the Central Coir Research Institute.

Coir Board plans to recommend to the Centre to include the machine for allocation under the Mahila Coir Yojana at 75 % subsidy during the 12th Plan period. If included, the machine will be distributed through the board's 19 coir clusters spread over 11 coir producing states including the north eastern states of Assam and Tripura.

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# DECCAN Chronicle

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## **Satrucharla vows elephant zone**

July 20: The minister for forests, Mr Satrucharla Vijayaramaraju, gave an assurance that the elephant zone would come up in the district to protect the lives and crops in the region. Talking to the reporters after participating in the 62nd Vanamahotsavam here on Wednesday, the minister said the zone would encompass five village and each family evicted from the zone area would be given a compensation of ` 10 lakh for rehabilitation. He said efforts were on to control pollution and special squads would be formed to seize the highly polluting industries in the state. On the ongoing agitation for separate Telangana, the minister said there was no use in building pressure on the high command for dividing the state. He said the agitation for Telangana and united Andhra Pradesh would take the state nowhere and only people would lose due to stalling of administration. "The high command knows how and when to deal with the situation and there was no use in making trips to New Delhi," the minister said.

### **Source URL:**

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/cities/regions/visakhapatnam/satrucharla-vows-elephant-zone-958>

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## Price fall lands aqua farmers in losses

July 20: Aqua farmers are in dire straits, following the sudden drop in the market price of Vannamei shrimp at a time when harvesting is in full swing in Nellore and Prakasam districts. Most aqua farmers switched over to Vannamei shrimp culture, following the demand for the shrimp in the international market. Most had also burnt their hands in Tiger and Scampi shrimp cultures in the past. Rates have now crashed because of largescale production and lack of cold chain and processing facilities. According to Aqua Farmers' Welfare Association state president, Mr Duvvuru Radhakrishna Reddy, farmers sold 30 count (30 shrimp per kg) Vannamei shrimp at Rs 430 last year as against `230 now. Similarly, 40 count fetched Rs 310 last season as against Rs 180 now. Exporters have been offering Rs 150 for 50 count while they paid Rs 230 for the same in the past. Farmers have been blaming the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Coastal Aqua Authority and National Fisheries Development Board for not taking measures to protect their interest. They have passed several resolutions, demanding various facilities from government agencies during a meet organised by the aqua farmers welfare association here on Tuesday. The meet urged the authorities to set up brood banks to supply seed produced from quality mother shrimp. They appealed to government to recognise aqua culture on par with agriculture. The MPEDA was asked to ensure purchase of shrimp by exporters during troubled times, referring to situations such as panic harvesting to prevent mortality. The National Fisheries Development Board was asked to set up cold chain facilities and weighing centres. The association sought guidance from MPEDA and Coastal Aqua Authority and also licenses for Vannamei culture without any restrictions. Functionaries of the Aqua farmers association invited the chairmen of NFDB, CAA and MPEDA to conduct a meeting at Nellore to understand the difficulties being faced by farmers in Vannamei culture. The association general secretary, A. Kondalrayudu, alleged that central government agencies had simply ignored them when they cautioned about such a situation much before. He said that the agencies lacked coordination because they function under different ministries. The Telugu Desam youth wing state leader and shrimp hatchery director, Mr Beeda Ravichandra, said that the government should give input subsidies to the culture and provide adequate infrastructure.

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**Source URL:** <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/cities/regions/nellore/price-fall-lands-aqua-farmers-losses-734>

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## No banned pesticides in city vegetables, Centre tells HC

July 21, 2011 12:27:35 AM

Staff Reporter | New Delhi

The Centre on Wednesday told the Delhi High Court that it had detected some residue of pesticides in some vegetable samples, but found no trace of any banned pesticide while testing vegetable samples collected from various markets in the national Capital.

The Government made the submission in a report to the Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Sanjiv Khanna and added that none of the pesticide residue traces detected in vegetable samples breached the maximum statutory limit.

“A total of 31 vegetables from different locations of Delhi were analysed by four laboratories accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration. Residues of pesticides were detected in eight vegetables samples, but none of them showed the presence of pesticides above the maximum residue limit (MRL) notified by the Centre under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act,” the report said.

“No banned pesticides were detected in any of the vegetables samples,” the report said, adding: “None of the samples detected with pesticide residues were above the PFA maximum residues limit.” Senior Advocate VK Rao, the *amicus curiae* appointed by the court, however, raised objections, seeking the court’s direction for testing of 35 different vegetables and at least four fruits.

The Bench said it would consider all the suggestions and objections by September 14, the next

date of hearing. It also directed the Central Government to file an affidavit specifying the vegetables which were tested in laboratories and those which were not. The court had earlier asked the Centre and the city Government to test randomly procured vegetable samples in laboratories approved by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories.

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## **Minister slams Centre apathy on foodgrains**

July 21, 2011 12:15:09 AM

### **Staff Reporter | Bhopal**

Voice was raised for Madhya Pradesh's justified demands once again at the conference of Food Ministers of eight States at New Delhi on Wednesday. Important issues were raised in this connection by Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies Paras Chandra Jain.

He said that payment to the tune of `780 crore is still outstanding against the ration handed over to Food Corporation of India by the State's agencies during last years. Similarly, 26.75 lakh BPL families are deprived of vital supplies of foodgrains. Formal permission for 25 lakh metric tonne capacity godowns should also be given at the earliest in the wake of record procurement. Union Minister of State for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection KV Thomas, senior officers of the Ministry, Food Ministers of eight States and departmental officers were present on the occasion.

Minister of State for Civil Supplies Paras Jain said that procurement agencies of the State are suffering losses due to outstanding against Food Corporation of India. This loss is accruing on payment of interest. He informed that against `937.13 crore for 7.79 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains handed over to Food Corporation of India, only a sum of `157.15 crore has been paid to the agencies.

Jain expressed deep regret that despite repeated pleas by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and himself, 26.75 lakh BPL families have been kept deprived of regular and proper supplies of foodgrains. He said that the Union Government should provide full quantity of foodgrains regularly and permanently for such 68 lakh families so that justice can be meted out to the poor.

The Minister said that in view of larger interests of State's farmers, 35 lakh metric tonnes of wheat was procured on support price last year and a record 49 lakh metric tonnes this year. In view of this, it has become imperative to enhance capacity of warehouses.

In this connection, he sought formal permission from the Central Government for construction of more warehouses of at least 25 lakh metric tonne capacity under 10-Year Guarantee scheme. He underlined the need to revive the NABARD scheme for construction of godowns in the rural areas and sanction additional funds for the same.

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### **Irrigation projects: NVDA wants farmers' involvement**

July 21, 2011 12:10:58 AM

#### **Staff Reporter | Bhopal**

Inspired by the success of Maan and Jobat irrigation projects, Narmada Valley Development Authority is focusing to increase farmers association in other irrigation projects of the valley.

NVDA chairman KL Agrawal on Wednesday said that there is need to mobilise farmers of the valley to own the projects to which they are going to be benefited. Farmers association is key to success of the project.

He requested MLAs and other public representative to organise farmers rallies in project areas to increase awareness in this regard.

NVDA chairman KL Agrawal was chairing advisory committee meeting at Vidhan Sabha meeting hall. MLA Bal Krishna Patidar and MLA Hemraj Kalponi attended the meeting. Vice-chairman OP Rawat explained in detail the physical and financial progress besides proposed activities. He informed that work on two new irrigation projects, Upper Narmada and Halon, are likely to start this year. In the year 2011-12, irrigation target of 1.27 lakh hectare is being fixed.

The chairman directed Member Forest and all Chief Engineers to take up extensive plantation on canal banks. He said that plan species must be selected according to the local environment and farmer's requirement. Member (F) Anil Oberoi informed that strategic approach is being launched for command area development, catchment area treatment and plantation. Member (Engineering) AK Shukla, Member (Power) MK Jain and other officers were present.

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## Business Standard

Thursday, Jul 21, 2011

### **Black pepper exports up 6% in first quarter**

**George Joseph / Kochi July 21, 2011, 0:58 IST**

India registered a six per cent growth in black pepper exports in the first quarter of the current financial year, according to the latest provisional estimates.



The country shipped 4,460 tonnes, as against 4,200 tonnes in the same period of the last financial year. Vietnam, the largest producer and exporter of the spice, shipped 35,000 tonnes during April-June.

With Vietnam exporting 68,000 tonnes (black and white together) in the first six months of this calendar year, traders in other producing countries and importers in the West, as well as in the Asia-Pacific, have been debating over the available stock for the second half of the year.

This, coupled with fresh harvest from Indonesia and Brazil, will determine the movement of prices during the next few months.

Since West Asian and European buyers have been staying away from the Vietnamese market, prices have remained flat and are hovering around \$5,500 a tonne for the 500 gm/litre variety.

“The only active buyers from Vietnam for the last four weeks are Indian value-added processors for the 550 gm/litre and Asta grades,” said Nguyen, a leading pepper agent.

The most surprising factor is that in spite of the lacklustre demand, prices have been firm in the domestic market, as farmers are selling in a staggered manner.

Brazil, silent for over a month, is back in action and is aggressively selling till the end of this year at a price tag of \$6,200 a tonne for the B-Asta grade.

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#### **Upgrade of govt warehouses to cost Rs 4,000 cr**

**Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai July 21, 2011, 0:57 IST**

That government warehousing capacity is inadequate for storage needs is known — of the 65 million tonnes of foodgrain stock it currently has, about 28 mt is rented. Often missing in this play of figures, note analysts, is the dimension of quality of storage.

A lot of government storage lacks basic infrastructure, such as roofing and flooring. Of the 37 mt of storage with the various government agencies — Central Warehousing Corporation, Food Corporation of India (FCI) and various state warehousing corporations — in the country, the estimate is that Rs 4,000 crore is needed as investment for upgrade.

“The government does not want to increase its warehousing capacity beyond the mandatory buffer norm. Against the current buffer norm of 32 mt, the government owns 37 mt of storage facility, which requires Rs 1,000 a tonne for upgrade. Surprisingly, no new capacity has been added in the past 10 years,” said Naresh Golani, an analyst with Care Ratings. Total FCI-owned warehousing capacity went up marginally to 15.47 mt by March 2010, from 14.85 mt in 2000. Various state warehousing corporations did better, using a public-private partnership (PPP) model to develop warehouses, which resulted in a substantial rise in capacity to 13.65 mt in 2010, as against 8.85 mt a decade ago, a Fitch Ratings report said.



The real jump has been in contribution by private players, from 16.2 mt in 2000 to 54.6 mt in 2010. Of the non-government warehousing built over the past 10 years, average storage capacity per warehouse is 1,261 tonnes; 75 per cent of the godowns have a capacity of less than 1,000 tonnes. The development of small and medium godowns indicates most were built by farmers or a community of farmers, to ensure distress sales are reduced and better prices paid for produce.

Apart from this, a few large national-level players have emerged over the decade, owing to the available capital subsidy, including National Bulk Handling Corporation, National Collateral Management Services, Adani Agri Logistics and Ruchi Infrastructure.

India has total agri warehousing capacity of around 91 mt at present to store and conserve such large quantities. State agencies own 41 per cent of the capacity and the balance is distributed among private entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, farmers, etc. However, these government agencies use 66 per cent of the space, including a hired capacity of 23 mt.

Though storage capacity has increased at a compounded annual growth rate of 6.7 per cent during the past decade, 20-30 per cent of the total grain harvest is wasted due to lack of storage capacity, regional imbalance in warehouses, lack of adequately scientific storage and inefficient logistic management.

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### **Edible oils recover on renewed demand**

**Press Trust of India / Mumbai July 20, 2011, 17:57 IST**



Groundnut oil prices rose at the oils and oilseeds market here today due to fresh stockist and retail demand. Refined palmolein also moved up on good consumer demand on the back higher Malaysian cues.

Meanwhile, castorseeds bold and castor oil commercial and linseed oil held steady in the absence of any worthwhile buying. In futures market, castorseeds eased on a limited trading amidst poor export enquiries.

In the edible segment, groundnut oil went up by Rs 5 per 10 kg to Rs 960 from Tuesday's closing level of Rs 955 and refined palmolein gained by Rs 3 per 10 kg to to Rs 544 as against Rs 541 previously.

Moving to futures section, castorseeds for September delivery resumed lower at Rs 4,880 and traded between Rs 4,925 and Rs 4,875 before settling at Rs 4,910 as compared to Rs 4,915 yesterday, showing a marginal loss of Rs 5 per tonne.

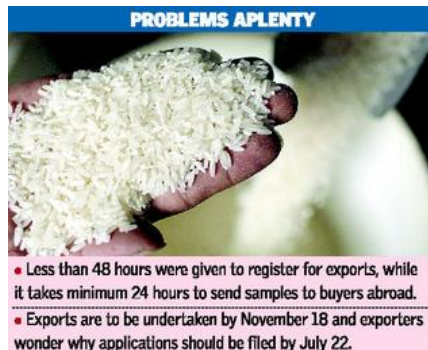
However, castorseed bold, castor oil commercial and linseed oil all ended stable at Rs 4,900, Rs 1,010 and Rs 720 respectively.

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## THE HINDU Business Line

### Rice exporters' body demands review of export notification

'Time not enough to submit applications for allocation'



New Delhi, July 20:

The All-India Rice Exporters' Association (AIREA) has flayed the Commerce Ministry's procedures for exports of 10 lakh tonnes (lt) of non-basmati rice, asking exporters to submit applications within the next two days.

### CAP ON SHIPMENTS

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on Tuesday, issued the notification permitting export of 10 lt of rice from privately held stocks, i.e. sourced from the open market. The 10 lt quantity is to be allocated among individual exporters on a first-come-first-serve basis, subject to a cap of 12,500 tonnes for each applicant.

The notification has said that the applications for allotment would be received from 10 hours on July 21 to 17 hours the following day.

“Given that the notification was uploaded on the DGFT Web site on July 19 night and the applications are to be submitted by July 22 evening, it hardly gives any time for exporters,” said Mr Vijay Sethia, President AIREA.

According to him, it takes a minimum 24 hours to even send rice samples to prospective buyers, leave alone contracting deals. “In this case, it looks as though the notification is meant only for those exporters who had prior intimation that it was coming and have already contracted with buyers,” Mr Sethia told *Business Line*.

The notification has set July 27 as the date for announcement of the successful allottees, who would be given three weeks to furnish irrevocable and confirmed letters of credit and performance bank guarantees for 10 per cent of the export value.

The last date for exports would be November 18.

“If the exports are to be undertaken only by November 18, what is the tearing hurry to invite applications by July 22? First-come-first-serve makes sense only if all exporters, and not just a favoured few, have a fair chance to put in their applications,” said Mr Sethia, drawing parallels with the now-infamous 2G spectrum scam.

Mr Sethia also criticised the minimum export price (MEP) of \$400 a tonne fixed in the DGFT notification as “too low”.

It will lead to diversion of rice meant for the public distribution system for exports, besides pulling down world prices to the detriment of farmers in India as well as Thailand, Vietnam and Pakistan.

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## 70% of turmeric offerings go unsold at Erode



Erode, July 20:

Spot turmeric prices dropped by Rs 400 a quintal in Erode markets on Wednesday, leading to 70 per cent of the offerings going unsold.

“No trader has received fresh orders for the last three days and so they are quoting a low price for spot turmeric. Frustrated over the steep fall of about Rs 400/quintal on Wednesday, turmeric growers sold only 30 per cent of what they put up for sale,” said Mr R.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

“For the current year, expecting a higher price for the yellow spice, many farmers have sown turmeric, and this will result in arrival of huge stocks next year. So there is no reason for prices rising,” he said.

Last year, due to low production, turmeric fetched upto Rs 17,500/quintal. He said that till September there are no possibilities for prices increasing. In other centres such as Nizamabad and Sangli also, turmeric is selling at a lower price, so north Indian merchants have placed very limited orders with Erode traders.

At the Erode Turmeric merchants Association, turmeric decreased by Rs 400/quintal and even the hybrid variety decreased by Rs 100.

In Gobichettipalayam Cooperative Marketing society, the price decreased by 150/quintal. Similarly, price decreased by Rs 250/quintal at the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,106-7,115/quintal and the root variety Rs 4,819-6,119.

**Salem crop:** The finger variety fetched Rs 6,809-7,639 , the root variety, Rs 6,014-6,655 . A total of 2,583 bags arrived for sale and 447 were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,427-7,307, the root variety, Rs 5,231-6,189. All the 139 bags kept for sale were sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,846-7,195, the root variety, Rs 5,693-6,211. Out of the 1,168 bags that arrived, 1,100 were sold.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 6,837-7,411, the root variety, Rs 6,079-6,689. Out of the 761 bags, 548 were sold.

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### **Wholesale traders protest VAT on sugar; stop buying**



Hyderabad, July 20:

Sugar prices in the retail market in Andhra Pradesh have increased sharply in the last few days. They have gone up to Rs 30-31 a kg from Rs 26- 27 last week. Wholesale traders have stopped purchases in protest against levy of 4 per cent VAT (value added tax) on sugar. This would mean a tax burden of Rs 125 on every quintal.

The Government slapped the tax with effect from July 11, 2011.

“There is no such tax in other States, particularly in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. It will be difficult to compete with our peers there,” Mr Omprakash, a representative of

an ad hoc committee set up by Andhra Pradesh Sugar Traders to fight imposition of VAT, told *Business Line*.

The State consumes about one lakh tonnes of sugar every month, while the State capital requires 10,000 bags a day. "Sugar business is a low-margin business. We hardly get 0.5 per cent or Rs 15-20 a quintal. If we pay 4 per cent as VAT, the retail price would go up and with State borders are not far off, we might see influx of the commodity. This might go against the traders in the State," another trader said.

Most wholesale traders have stopped purchases, resulting evaporation of stocks in retail markets. The wholesale traders argued that they could not buy sugar at higher prices.

The traders alleged that 70 per cent of all sugar consumption in the State capital was by bulk consumers such as pharma industry and confectionaries. "Levy of VAT would not impact them anyway. It is retail consumers who will have to pay the additional burden. The purpose of getting additional revenue by way of levying tax would not serve any purpose. We appeal to the Government to withdraw the tax," Mr Omprakash said.

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### **Rain deficit at 1% despite disquiet in Bay**

Thiruvananthapuram, July 20:

The overall rain deficit has been contained to one per cent despite the monsoon going into an incipient stage as a result of the continued disquiet in the Bay of Bengal.

But an extended outlook by India Meteorological Department (IMD) valid until July 25 said that the rain would scale up over Gujarat and Rajasthan once again even as the ongoing activity over central India would decrease.

### **LATER SURGE**

But global models are indicating renewed activity during the last week of this month with most parts of the country coming under a wet cover.

The fortunes of the system, however, are tied with the alignment of the monsoon rough, which has been vacillating at best and 'dry-docked' at worst as on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, however, the eastern end of the trough has reverted back to dip into the Bay of Bengal, the most desirable positioning during the course of the monsoon.

Only, it requires the western end too to follow suit, but the IMD said in an update on Wednesday evening that it lay drawn far to the north.

Strong cross-equatorial flows continued to sweep across the Arabian Sea and the southern peninsula.

## **HEAVY RAINS**

The alignment of the western end of the trough, the strong cross-equatorial flows and the offshore trough, though truncated from Maharashtra coast to Kerala coast, were enough to sustain heavy to very rains across disparate regions of the country.

The major stations recording heavy rainfall (in cm) during the last 24 hours ending on Wednesday morning were Bagati-23; Bhira-21; Darjeeling and Mahabaleshwar-20 each; Sheopur-10; Agumbe-9; Rajgarh and Cherrapunji-8 each; Mumbai (Santa Cruz) and Kota-7 each.

Kalpana-1 satellite picture showed the presence of convective (rain-bearing) clouds over parts of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, east India, north, central and southeast Bay of Bengal, north Andaman Sea and the Lakshadweep area.

## **WEATHER WARNING**

A weather warning valid for the next two days said that isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall would occur over Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha.

Isolated heavy rainfall has been forecast over Uttar Pradesh, Konkan, Goa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam and Meghalaya on Thursday.

A short-term forecast valid until Saturday said that widespread rain or thundershowers would break out over central India and along the west coast.

## FAIRLY WIDESPREAD

Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers has been forecast over the north-eastern States, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

It would be fairly widespread also to the northwest over Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh on Thursday and scattered thereafter.

Scattered rain or thundershowers are likely over the remaining parts of the country.

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### Speculators drive up chana by Rs 100 a quintal



Indore, July 20:

Speculation in the physical market and rising futures lifted chana by Rs 100 to Rs 2,825-2,850 a quintal on Wednesday.

Trading perked up chana on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, where it sold at Rs 2875-2,900 a quintal, even as millers refrained from buying at the higher rate. Spot chana (*des*) fetched Rs 2,800-2,825 a quintal.

Traders said big stockists pushed up chana prices on demand from big companies and multinationals. Currently, only stocks are being traded, though 1,500-2,000 bags arrive daily.

Bullish spot chana also boosted chana dal. Chana dal (bold) sold at Rs 3,600-3,625, against Rs 3,525-3,550 a quintal on Tuesday. Similarly, chana dal (medium) fetched Rs 3,475-3,500, against Rs 3,425-3,450 on Tuesday, and chana dal (average) sold at Rs 3,375-3,400 a quintal.



Spot dollar chana or chickpea continued to rise Tuesday, fetching Rs 100 more at Rs 6,500-6,800 a quintal. Eight hundred bags of dollar chana arrived.

Improved demand lifted masoor a little. Masoor (bold) was Rs 25 up at Rs 2,775-2,800 a quintal and masoor (medium) sold at Rs 2,450-2,500. Demand for masoor perked up masoor dal as well, with masoor dal (bold) fetching Rs 25 more at Rs 3,400-3,425, masoor dal (medium) fetching Rs 3,300-3,325 and masoor dal (average) selling at Rs 3,175-3,200 a quintal.

Tur, moong and urad remained steady. Tur (Maharashtra) remained unchanged at Rs 3,000 and tur (Nimari) at Rs 2,500 a quintal. Moong (bold) ruled at Rs 4000-4,200 and moong (medium) at Rs 3,500-3,800 a quintal . Urad (bold) ruled firm at Rs 3,800-4,000 and urad (medium) at Rs 3,300-3,500 a quintal.

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#### **Soon, recce aircraft for better weather forecast**



Hyderabad, July 20:

The Centre is planning to acquire exclusive aircraft for weather reconnaissance to make forecasting more realistic.

“This would enhance the accuracy of predictions as aircraft would fly over the eye of the cyclone and gather technical parameters,” Mr Marri Shashidhar Reddy, Vice-Chairman of National Disaster Management Authority, said.

The authority was set up in 2004, after the devastating tsunami hit the eastern coast, to develop a response system to natural disasters.

Addressing a workshop on 'Techniques of water conservation and rain-water harvesting for drought management' at Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture on Monday, he said many parts of South Asia have experienced droughts in the recent times.

About 24 delegates from the SAARC region (comprised of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan) participated in the workshop that discussed impact of climate change on water availability, ground-water recharge and rain-water management in various agro-ecological settings, a Government press release said.

Countries should grow more crops for every drop of water used and make a concerted effort in tackling damages caused by climate change, said Mr S.M. Virmani, Agro-meteorologist at International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics.

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#### **Demand from traders boosts castor**



Rajkot, July 20:

Castorseed prices rose in spot and futures markets as traders bought more on Wednesday.

August contract for castorseed on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) increased by Rs 16.50 to Rs 4,950 a quintal with an open interest of 10,514 lots. September contract went up by Rs 71 to Rs 4,999 with an open interest of 10,060 lots. Spot castor was up Rs 56 to Rs 4,701.

August series of castorseed gained Rs 54.3 at Rs.4834.10 a quintal on the National Multi-Commodity Exchange of India at the end of the first session. September contract of castor traded at Rs 4,913 a quintal on the Rajkot Commodity Exchange. Spot castor increased by Rs

25 to Rs 4,640 a quintal. While 42,000-45,000 bags that arrived in Gujarat fetched Rs 930-950 for 20 kg, 1,400-1,500 bags that arrived in Saurashtra sold at Rs 880-921. Increased buying by consuming industries in physical markets encouraged traders to increase positions in futures, market analysts said.

Mr Harilal Chaganlal, a trader, said late sowing of castor as the monsoon was delayed in producing centres pushed up prices. Demand from millers and stockists may keep prices high in near future, he added.

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### **Lacklustre trade drags rice market**



Karnal, July 20:

A downtrend was seen in the rice market on Wednesday as prices dropped by Rs 20-100 a quintal on lacklustre trading.

Low trading pulled rice prices down, said Mr Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company. New permal rice will be in the market in mid-August and it may rule around Rs 1,500-1,600 a quintal, he said.

After witnessing a rally earlier this week, Pusa-1121 varieties witnessed some correction. Pusa-1121 (steam) slid by Rs 100 and quoted at Rs 5,050-5,200 a quintal, Pusa-1121 (sela) dropped by Rs 60 to Rs 4,040, and Pusa-1121(raw) was quoted at Rs 4,450.

Duplicate basmati fell by Rs 40 and quoted at Rs 3,460. Pure basmati (raw) declined by Rs 80 to Rs 5,920 a quintal, while basmati sela ruled at Rs 4,000 a quintal.

Among the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar sold at Rs 3,100-3,250, Dubar at around Rs 2,550, and Mongra at Rs 1,900-2,050 a quintal. PR-11 (sela) decreased by Rs 45 to Rs 2,000-2,125, while PR-11 (raw) quoted at Rs 1,950-2,100 a quintal, down Rs 30 from its previous level.

Permal (sela) went down by Rs 20 and quoted at Rs 1,700-1,900 a quintal, while Permal (raw) sold at Rs 1,900-2,070.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated July 21, 2011)

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### **Sugar rules steady; mills await festival season**



Mumbai, July 20:

Sugar prices ruled steady on Wednesday. Business was as usual with routine arrivals and dispatches. Demand remained poor while, on the other hand, mills are not keen to sell, expecting higher price.

Need-based retail demand eased leading to drop in spot price by Rs 4-5 a quintal, while lack of sales led to rise in naka rates by Rs 20-30 a quintal. Mill tender rates were almost unchanged. With weather clearing up, retail demand is expected to improve to some extent. Mr Mukesh Kuwadia Secretary of Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, said, tracking a steady trend at higher level, spot market sentiment was steady.

Mills are not keen to sell at lower price and are holding the price by keeping tender offers open. With the festival season starting in August, demand is expected to increase and, in turn, support the price.

A wholesaler said on Tuesday about 28-30 mills had offered tenders and sold 95,000-1,00,000 bags (100 kg each) to States level stockists in the range of Rs 2,665-2,720 (Rs 2,665-2,720) for S-grade and Rs 2,750-2,820 (Rs 2,750-2,820) for M-grade. Transport freight rates were steady.

Arrival on the Vashi wholesale market was 50-52 truckloads (each 100 bags) and local dispatches were 48-50 truckloads.

**Bombay Sugar Merchants Association sugar's spot rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,791-2,842 (Rs 2,795-2,842) and M-grade Rs 2,851-2,986 (Rs 2,856-2,986).

**Naka delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 2,750-2,790 (Rs 2,730-2,760) and M-grade Rs 2,820-2,950 (Rs 2,800-2,930).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated July 21, 2011)

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### **August aroma**



Adding flavour: Purple and black berries of the curry leaf plant (*Helichrysum italicum*). The plant, whose leaves are used in cuisines, blooms during July-August and the ripened berries fall off and propagate. — P.V.Sivakumar

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated July 21, 2011)

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### **Spot rubber rules steady**

Kottayam, July 20:

The physical rubber prices finished unchanged on Wednesday. According to observers, buyers stayed back reacting to the import news but the market sustained at the prevailing levels on supply concerns. Apart from that the State Government's view over the import duty reduction

and the gains in the international markets catalysed the sentiments to certain extend. Meanwhile TOCOM rubber futures recovered nearly 3 per cent to a six week high buoyed by firm oil prices and weak Yen.

Sheet rubber closed unchanged at Rs 214 a kg as per the traders. The grade firmed up to Rs 214.50 (214) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi according to Rubber Board.

In futures, the August series weakened to Rs 213.03 (215.21), September to Rs 211.96 (214.14), October to Rs 212.40 (213.88), December to Rs 214 (215) and January to Rs 216.71 (220) while the November series finished flat at Rs 214 a kg on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).

The July futures bounced back to ¥381.9 (Rs 215.16) from ¥372.4 a kg during the day session but then remained inactive in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM). RSS 3 (spot) increased to Rs 216.30 (212.13) a kg at Bangkok.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 214 (214); RSS-5: 211 (211); ungraded: 208 (208); ISNR 20: 211 (211) and latex 60 per cent: 139 (139).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated July 21, 2011)

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### **Three-week low offerings at Coonoor tea auctions**

Coonoor, July 20:

A volume of 16.71 lakh kg will be offered at sale no: 29 of the Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions to be held on Thursday and Friday, reveals an analysis of brokers' listing.

This is the lowest volume of the last three weeks. It is 46,000 kg lower than last week's offer and as much as 1.13 lakh kg less than the offer this time last year.

Of the 16.71 lakh kg on offer, 11.33 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 5.38 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 15.51 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 1.20 lakh kg, orthodox variety. The proportion of orthodox teas continues to be low in both the leaf and dust grades. In the leaf counter, only 0.58 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 10.75 lakh kg, CTC. Among the dusts, only 0.62 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 4.76 lakh kg, CTC.

In the 16.71 lakh kg, fresh teas account for 14.40 lakh kg. As much as 2.31 lakh kg comprises teas which had remained unsold in previous auctions. The percentage of teas remaining unsold has been on the rise in recent weeks. About 28 to 33 per cent of the offer had to be withdrawn in the last couple of weeks for want of buyers even after shedding Rs 3 a kg.

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