

One lakh parasitoids to combat papaya mealy bug

Enough parasitoids to cover 3,000 acres to be distributed



Eco-friendly solution: A farmer having a close look at tapioca leaves infested with papaya mealy bug, to which parasitoids have been introduced to destroy the pest, at Namakkal Krishi Vigyan Kendra, on Tuesday. – Photo: M.K. Ananth

In a bid to curtail damage caused by papaya mealy bug (PMB) in tapioca plants, the Namakkal unit of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) will be producing and distributing one lakh *Acerophagus Papayae* – a parasitoid that feeds on PMB – to nearly 1,800 farmers of the district in the first phase to cover 4,000 acres of tapioca cultivation before August 10.

KVK Programme Coordinator B. Mohan, who heads the mass production of the parasitoid programme, told *The Hindu* about the scheme after handing over the parasitoid to 640 farmers – covering 1,250 acres of tapioca cultivation – at a scientist and farmer interaction programme held at the Kendra on Mohanur Road on Tuesday.

The programme was jointly organised by the KVK, Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU). “1.2 lakh more parasitoids, to cover 3,000 acres, will be distributed in the next two months,” he said.

At a recent grievances meet, the farmers had sought bulk production of the parasitoid to put an end to the PCB menace that had hit close to 60 per cent of the tapioca cultivation in the district.

Namakkal ranks second in the state in terms of tapioca cultivation covering an area of nearly 35,000 acres and productivity of 40 metric tonnes per hectare.

Mr. Mohan stated that farmers who evinced interest in introducing the parasitoid in their fields were asked to bring the pest-affected leaves from their farms in sealed plastic containers to the KVK.

The team of scientists at the KVK infested a small quantity of the parasitoid on those leaves and covered the container with a piece of cloth.

“Farmers were asked to leave a couple of those infested leaves at the pest-hit parts of their fields for the predator to prey on PMB,” he said.

The parasitoids distribution would cover 7,000 acres – 20 per cent of the total cultivation – but it would soon spread across the fields and prey on PMB in the remaining 80 per cent plantation, the KVK chief said.

Earlier, scientists while responding to queries of the farmers noted that the impact of PMB was higher in Salem and Namakkal due to conducive climatic conditions that facilitated its spread.

“Farmers could not curtail PMB using chemical pesticides as it became resistant to pesticides,” a scientist said added that this forced them to depend on bio pest control mechanisms such as introducing parasitoids.

Collector J. Kumaragurubaran inaugurated the interaction and distributed parasitoid infested leaves to farmers.

Officials of the agriculture, horticulture, Tamil Nadu Veterinary University and TNAU also interacted with the farmers.

Published: July 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 27, 2011 04:08 IST Gulbarga, July 27, 2011

Farmers to get subsidy on implements

The Social Welfare Department will provide agricultural implements to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers at 75 per cent subsidy.

Power tillers, integrated ploughs, battery operated implements, diesel pumpsets and on-farm food processing units, as well as implements to sow and transplant crops, remove weeds, spray pesticides, plant nutrients and harvest crops will be provided.

Machines and implements bought after April 1, 2011, up to a limit of Rs. 75,000, will be eligible for subsidy.

Interested farmers should approach the nearest Raitha Samparka Kendra, or the Assistant Director of Agriculture in the taluks, according to a release by the Joint Director of Agriculture.

Published: July 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 27, 2011 04:14 IST MYSORE, July 27, 2011

Sugarcane farmers demand revision of support price

Government fixed it at Rs. 1,850 per tonne for 2010-11 and Rs. 1,900 for 2011-12



venting their ire: Members of the Sugarcane Farmers' Association blocking the Mysore-Nanjangud highway on Tuesday. — PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM

Farmers across Mysore region staged a demonstration on Tuesday expressing their ire against the sugarcane support price announced by the Government.

Members of the Sugarcane Farmers' Association blocked the Mysore-Nanjangud highway for over two hours, throwing traffic out of gear.

The Government had announced a support price of Rs. 1,850 per tonne of sugarcane for 2010-11 and Rs. 1,900 per tonne for 2011-12 which has been rejected by the farmers.

The association pointed out that in Tamil Nadu where the yield of sugar was 9.5 per cent per tonne, the support price had been fixed at Rs. 2,000 a tonne, while in Karnataka where the yield of sugar was 11 per cent per tonne, the support price had been fixed at Rs. 1,850 to Rs. 1,900.

Even in Uttar Pradesh where the sugar yield was 9.5 per cent per tonne, the support price was Rs. 2,100, the association said and dubbed the State Government's announcement as "unscientific and devoid of logic". The agitating farmers sought the immediate withdrawal of the support price and urged the Government to announce a revised price which was reflective of the actual cost of cultivation. They pointed out that the cost of cultivating one tonne of sugarcane was Rs. 2,250 in the State. The existing rate fixed by the Government does not help them meet the input cost, let alone make a profit, said the farmers.

Warned

They submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner's representative and warned the authorities of intensifying their struggle if the Government did not meet their demands.

The association has planned a series of protests in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Mysore from Wednesday to Saturday.

Published: July 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 27, 2011 04:12 IST SIRSI, July 27, 2011

Farmer develops low-cost paddy transplanting machine

It will help farmers overcome labour shortage in Uttara Kannada region



Leading the way: Raghavendra Hedge demonstrates the working of the paddy transplanting machine with six rows.

Raghavendra Hegde, a farmer and a mechanical engineer from Balegadde village has made an innovative low-cost paddy transplanting machine which would be helpful to farmers as there was scarcity of farm workers. It was a manual machine and did not need any petrol or diesel and it could be operated by a single person. The machine is available with six rows priced at Rs. 15,000 and with four rows priced at Rs. 10,000. Small landholders can afford such a machine, says Mr. Hedge. Using the six rows machine paddy saplings can be planted on one acre of land in a day.

Mr. Hegde said he had developed this machine so that small farmers need not depend on labourers. "My purpose is to help common farmers who should not think that mechanisation is a burden on them," he said.

The machine had been launched in Swarnawalli. Mr. Hegde had developed a low-cost solar crop drier and planned to develop red supari dehusking machine.

He could be contacted on ph: 9482413585/08384 247829.

Published: July 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 27, 2011 04:15 IST ALAPPUZHA, July 27, 2011

Fresh load of miseries for paddy farmers in Kuttanad region

Prices of some fertilizers have increased by up to 60 per cent



Tough times: An elderly labourer engaged in weeding activities in a paddy field, on Tuesday, in Kuttanad, where recently hiked fertilizer prices and shortage of fertilizers have hit the second round of cultivation. — Photo: Dennis Marcus Mathew

The Central government's move to free fertilizer pricing from its administrative control coupled with a severe shortage of fertilizers, both coming at a crucial phase of the season, has delivered a blow below the belt to paddy farmers of Kuttanad.

The price decontrolling move, farmers say, resulted in a harsh 50 to 60 per cent hike in prices of key fertilizers while for some, the rise was by over 100 per cent.

The cascading effect, according to Bhanudas, president of the Ponga-Poopally paddy polder council here, has been that the overall expenses shot up sharply. Combined with the price hike, a severe shortage in availability of key fertilizers like Factamfos and Muriate of Potash (MOP), has delivered a double blow.

“Factamfos, which came at Rs.390 a bag last year, costs about Rs.570 now The cost of administering of fertilizer per acre, which was around Rs.500 last time, is over Rs.1,200 this time,” Mr. Bhanudas says.

Paddy farmers in Kuttanad, who have begun the second round of cultivation in about 10,000 hectares, out of which sowing has been completed in 8,246 hectares, were looking forward to a good yield this time around, with rain not tormenting them as it had during the 'puncha' season, when the acreage was about 26,000 hectares.

But with the shortage of the fertilizers, Mr. Bhanudas says the first round of fertilizer application, which should have been done when the crop was 20 days old, is yet to be done even after 35 days, which is when the second round of fertilizers has to be administered.

"This sort of delay is going to affect the yield, and along with the price hike, we are sure to suffer serious losses," he says, noting that the 280 farmers who had sowed on the 325-acre Ponga-Poopally paddy polder are all small-scale farmers, each of them with around five acres or less, dependent on the income from paddy for their livelihood for the rest of the year.

According to agriculture officials, efforts are on to address the shortage of Factamfos, but the shortage of MOP is likely to worsen.

Published: July 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 27, 2011 04:15 IST KATTAPPANA, July 27, 2011

Winter vegetables ready for harvest

The winter vegetable cultivation in Vattavada and Kanthalloor is ready for harvest for the Onam season.

Compared to the last Onam season, near total cultivable land in Vattavada has been brought under vegetable cultivation this time. In Kanthalloor also, the farmers are readying to harvest the vegetables in view of the season.

The Vegetable and Fruits Promotion Council, Keralam, (VFPCCK) plans to procure 2,000 tonnes of vegetables from these areas to be supplied in the State. It will also open vegetable markets to ensure remunerative prices for farmers as well as quality vegetables for the State during the Onam season.

Bindu Chandran, VFPC district manager, told *The Hindu* that the procurement of vegetables would start by the first week of August and the council planned to make it a continuous process to support the farmers.

This time around, large areas in other parts of the district had also been brought under cultivation, especially under *nenthuran* (variety banana) cultivation, which is in high demand during the Onam season.

Of the total vegetables to be procured, around 700 tonnes would be potato, she said.

Vegetables, including cabbage, beans varieties, tomato, carrot and green chillies are ready for harvest. This time, she said that garlic had been cultivated largely in Kanthalloor than Vattavada, which was once the only area known for garlic cultivation in the State. The Swayasraya Karshaka Vipaniyas have already been prepared to tap the Onam markets.

Published: July 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 27, 2011 04:12 IST PALAKKAD, July 27, 2011

Farmers' forum plans mass stir

The State unit of All India Kisan Sabha will launch a mass agitation against the “move by the State government to water down the Kerala Land Reforms Act that had brought far reaching revolutionary changes in the social, political and economic life of the people.”

Addressing presspersons here on Tuesday its office-bearers said the farmers would march to government offices in all district headquarters in the State on August 23, demanding withdrawal of the increase in chemical fertilizers' prices and retention of subsidy for it.

The sabha also wanted the government to stop the import of rubber and to increase its import duty. They also demanded pension to all farmers.

The sabha said that agriculture land must not be acquired for other purposes. If land is acquired, market price for the land should be paid and resettlement and employment schemes should be implemented.

Published: July 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 27, 2011 04:12 IST ELURU, July 27, 2011

Erratic monsoon hits kharif operations

Hardly 5 per cent of transplantations took place in the western delta till date



In action: Farm hands engaged in paddy transplantation near Denduluru in West Godavari district. — Photo: AVG Prasad

The monsoon plays hide and seek with the farmers. In addition, the delay in reopening of the canals for release of the Godavari water contributed its part to the kharif operations taking off behind the schedule in West Godeavari district.

It is estimated that hardly five per cent of transplantations took place in the western delta till date. As per the normal schedule, raising of seedbeds will be completed by the end of June and the transplantations by July end in the Godavari delta. But the operations failed to inch ahead of the stage of seedbeds even as August is fast approaching.

Alarming situation

The alarming situation seemingly failed to move the district administration in preparation of contingency plan. Tourism Minister Vatti Vasantakumar fumed at the official machinery at a review meeting here on Tuesday for its lack of preparedness to handle the situation. He was appalled by the alleged inaction by the personnel of the Agriculture department in preparing the farmers for alternative crops and procurement of seeds like groundnut, maize, pulses etc for cultivating irrigated dry crops in the wake of scanty rainfall.

The district has received a deficit rainfall by 13.8mm from June 1 to July 26. Chief Planning Officer K. Satyanarayana said the district has recorded a cumulative rainfall of 318mm as against the normal rainfall of 274.5mm during the period.

The Godavari water is released to the eastern delta from May 15 during every kharif season. But the canals were reopened for water release only on June 17 for the western delta spread over around 5.3 lakh acres, thanks to the canal modernisation works. The government contemplated a long-term closure of canals by declaring crop holiday skipping the kharif in the delta to facilitate concrete structures in the canal system as part of modernisation.

Under pressure from the delta farmers, the public representatives pressed for short-term closure from March end without affecting the kharif season.

M.V. Suryanarayana Raju of the Godavari Delta Parirakshana Samithi said the short-term closure hardly helped in the progress of the modernisation works most of which still remained a non-starter due to the delay in calling for tenders and in release of funds from the government.

The paddy farmers are worried over the kharif prospects if the rains continued to play truant. "The late transplantation would result in late harvesting, leading to a drop in the yield," apprehends Mr Raju.

Published: July 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 27, 2011 04:17 IST NIZAMABAD, July 27, 2011

Remunerative prices for paddy, sugarcane urged

The APCC Kisan Kheth Mazdoor Congress vice-chairman Muduganti Venkat Srinivas Reddy has urged the Chairman of the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices, (CACP), Ashok Gulati to recommend remunerative prices for paddy and sugarcane as the input costs have gone up and farmers are facing a lot of hardship as agriculture has become unremunerative. He met the CACP chairman at his office at Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday evening and discussed other problems also such as lack of agricultural extension, storage problems, marketing problems, etc. confronted by the farmers.

Published: July 27, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: July 27, 2011 04:11 IST JAIPUR, July 27, 2011

Subsidy for planting fruit bearing trees

The Rajasthan Government's Horticulture Department has decided to disburse subsidy under the National Horticulture Mission for planting fruit-bearing trees in an area measuring 10,000 hectares in the State. Other horticulture-related works would also be taken up in a 200-hectare area during the current financial year.

According to State Principal Horticulture Secretary Dinesh Goyal, installation of drip irrigation equipment will be mandatory under the programme. The farmers will be given the saplings for the ongoing monsoon season.

The subsidy would amount to 75 per cent of the input cost for each horticultural unit subject to a maximum of Rs.30,000 per hectare.

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HT Correspondent, Hindustan Times

Email Author

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High inflation to linger on

The UPA government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which successfully steered the Indian economy through the world's worst economic crisis in eight decades, is facing a bigger macroeconomic challenge at home: controlling prices without hurting growth.

The RBI on Tuesday acknowledged that underlying inflationary pressures remain strong, even as risks to growth are emerging, hinting that it was not yet done with the rate-hiking cycle.

It also had a strong message for all quarters in its quarterly review of the monetary policy: brace yourself for a spell of high inflation, at least in the near term.

“The RBI is strongly of the view that controlling inflation is imperative both for sustaining growth over the medium-term and for increasing the potential growth rate,” RBI governor D Subbarao said in his statement.

“Both the level and the persistence of WPI inflation are a cause for concern... Inflationary pressures are clearly very strong,” RBI said in the review. “There is a need to persevere with the anti-inflationary stance.”

While RBI has maintained the economy’s growth forecast at 8% for 2011-12, it obliquely hinted that there were signs of an imminent slowdown.

“There are signs that growth is beginning to moderate, particularly in respect of some interest sensitive sectors,” the statement said.

The central bank raised the forecast for inflation to 7% from earlier 6% at March next year.

The headline WPI inflation rate for the first quarter of this fiscal year remained stubbornly close to double digits — it was 9.44% in June — and inflationary pressures continued to be broad-based.

Non-food manufactured product inflation ruled above 7% in the first quarter, suggesting that producers, operating at high capacity utilisation, are able to pass on the rising commodity input prices and wage costs to consumers.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/725894.aspx>

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Wednesday, Jul 27

Tomorrow's Forecast



Thursday, Jul 28

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| Rainy | Max | Min | Rainy | Max | Min |
| | 34.4° | 25° | | 35° | 25° |
| Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs | Sunrise: 5:52 | | | | |
| Humidity: 94% | Sunset: 18:37 | | | | |
| Wind: Normal | Barometer: 1006 | | | | |

Extended Forecast for a week

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
| Jul 29 | Jul 30 | Jul 31 | Aug 1 | Aug 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 31° 26° | 28° 25° | 30° 26° | 31° 26° | 31° 27° |
| Rainy | Rainy | Rainy | Rainy | Rainy |

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Wed, Jul 27, 2011 | Updated 05.49AM IST

27 Jul, 2011, 05.06AM IST,

Agricultural commodity markets' sensitivity to adverse weather news is expected to remain acute

| COMMODITY | UNIT | Q3'11 | Q4'11 | Q1'12 | Q2'12 |
|-----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Wheat | USc/bu | 705 | 700 | 700 | 650 |
| Corn | USc/bu | 700 | 680 | 675 | 600 |
| Soybeans | USc/bu | 1375 | 1325 | 1300 | 1200 |
| Palm Oil | MRY/t | 3000 | 2900 | 2800 | 2600 |
| Sugar | USc/lb | 26 | 23 | 21 | 21 |
| Coffee | USc/lb | 245 | 220 | 210 | 180 |
| Cocoa | US\$/tn | 3000 | 2900 | 2900 | 3000 |
| Cotton | USc/lb | 120 | 115 | 110 | 105 |

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG; RABOBANK AGRICOMMODITY MARKET RESEARCH

Weather is currently the focal point for agricultural commodity markets, supporting prices and increasing volatility. The tight supply of many products requires favourable conditions for production to replenish stocks and meet growing demand, but in many producing regions adverse weather conditions are threatening output potential, and markets are reacting by pricing in production risks.

Hot and dry conditions in the US are imperilling the corn, wheat, soybean, and cotton crops, and the Brazilian sugar crop has been revised lower due to climatic conditions. Negative weather impacts are the principal factor in the current sugar price rally, and have helped grain prices rebound quickly from the June sell-off.

Inventory levels in many agricultural commodities are at historical lows which will likely cause price reactions to further deterioration in the weather to be significant and highly volatile. Early indications of bad weather will likely be reflected quickly in the prices of commodities.

26 Jul, 2011, 03.32PM IST, PTI

Sugar futures fall on profit-booking

NEW DELHI: Sugar futures prices fell sharply by Rs 29 to Rs 2,805 per quintal today after speculators booked profits, reducing their positions amid increased stock availability in the spot market.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, Sugar for delivery in August fell by Rs 26, or 0.92 per cent, to Rs 2,805 per quintal, with an open interest for 91,800 lots.

Similarly, the sweetener for September delivery lost Rs 19, or 0.66 per cent, to Rs 2,869 per quintal, with a business volume of 13,270 lots.

26 Jul, 2011, 09.16PM IST, ET Bureau

DEPB benefits restored for cotton and cotton yarn exporters

NEW DELHI: Exporters of cotton and cotton yarn can now claim input duty reimbursement under the popular DEPB scheme with the government restoring the benefit with retrospective effect on the ground that it was no longer its policy to disincentivise exports of the commodity.

Cotton yarn exporters will get the benefit from April 1 2011 while cotton exporters can claim DEPB from October 1 2010. The government had discontinued the scheme for cotton and cotton yarn exporters since April 21 2010 claiming that it was not the government's intention to encourage exports.

In the last cotton year, cotton exports were dis-incentivised by virtue of export tax which was dismantled on October 1 2010, commerce, industry and textiles minister Anand Sharma pointed out. "Clearly, the policy intention of the government was not to dis-incentivise exports after that cut-off date and I have now taken a view to restore DEPB benefit on cotton with effect from October 1 2010," Sharma said.

Similarly, the decision to restore DEPB benefits for cotton yarn from April 1 2011 was taken as the commodity was placed on the open general licence or OGL for exports from that date, the minister explained.

The government has been keeping a check on export of cotton and cotton yarn to prevent spiralling of domestic prices that affects the textile industry.

Govt plans Agriculture Budget, set to create history

July 27, 2011 12:19:04 AM

Staff Reporter | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Government has resolved to establish Agriculture Cabinet and present a separate Agriculture Budget in the next budget session 2011-12. Madhya Pradesh will become the first State in the country to do so.

The share of agriculture sector in Madhya Pradesh's State Gross Domestic Product (SGDP) was 22.47 per cent in year 2009-10. State's economy is agriculture-based and economic activities are connected with industries and service sector. The report of Agriculture Economic Survey will turn out to be a milestone in this connection.

The report will incorporate area-wise and comparative analysis of food grain, pulses, oilseed and commercial crops and products. It will also throw light on agriculture development, agriculture marketing and storage facility. Necessary financial arrangements (credit, long-term loan etc.) available to farmers of the State will also be considered.

The agriculture sector growth rate in Madhya Pradesh was 7.53 per cent in 2009-10. The State Government is committed to making agriculture profitable. With total agriculture sector growth in view, production and development will be augmented in allied sectors like horticulture, farm forestry and forest produce, animal husbandry and dairy development and fishers.

The responsibility of conducting Agriculture Economic Survey has been entrusted by the State Government as a consultant to Mrityunjay, retired director, National Agriculture Economic Policy

and Research Centre, New Delhi.

'Status of Agriculture in Madhya Pradesh 2011' will be presented on the basis of the report submitted by Mrityunjay. The Agriculture Economic Survey will consist of studies on agriculture and agriculture-related sectors, guidelines, short, medium and long-term targets, hurdles coming in the way of agriculture development and their solution, suggestions, policy fixation etc.

In this context, a concept paper will be presented at the next meeting of Agriculture Cabinet in August 2011. On the basis of this report, 'Agriculture Economic Survey' will be presented before the budget session 2011-12.

Dhenkanal farmers resent fertiliser black-marketing

July 26, 2011 10:32:55 PM

PNS | Dhenkanal

Since the Dhenkanal district administration has failed miserably to check the fertiliser black-marketing all over the district, the farmers have declared to gherao the Kamakhyanagar agriculture district on Thursday under the banner of Krishak Sangharsh Samiti.

The DAP fertiliser is being sold at the price Rs 800 although the Government price for it is only Rs 635 per quintal, farmer leader from Dhalapada Srikant Bhuyan alleged at the meeting of district body on Monday at Rekula. "It's pathetic that the district administration is in deep slumber although we demanded and discussed with Collector Girish SN and all the top officials regarding the issue for number of times from March, 2011. The farmers are now well aware of the ill intentions of the local administration," said youth leader Debashish Hota.

It's here noteworthy that Hota had recently went on an eight-day long fast for the fulfillment of

the 20 demands of the farmers. He broke his fast only after the Collector assured him to fulfill all the demands within a month. District secretary Niranjan Sahu, treasurer Ranjan Kumar Lenka, district executive members Braja Sethy and Sribatsa Biswal and all block level workers present at the meeting appealed to all farmers to join the gherao and teach the administration a lesson in a democratic manner.

UKD accuses Govt of hushing up grain scam

July 26, 2011 11:57:07 PM

PNS | Dehradun

UKD head Trivendra Singh Panwar has alleged that the State Government is trying to shield an officer involved in the food-grains scam. Addressing mediapersons in Dehradun on Tuesday, Panwar said that this officer is slated to retire in the next month but the authorities are still mum.

“One cannot rule out the role of the Food and Civil Supplies Minister in the foodgrain scam because in spite of protests and serious allegations, he has not instituted an inquiry in to the scam nor has any action been taken against officials responsible,” Panwar said.

Stressing that the party intensify the protest in support of demand for action against those involved in the scam, he averred that the State Government has lost its moral credibility because of the many multi-crore scams which have taken place in Uttarakhand during its tenure.

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Business Standard

Wednesday, Jul 27, 2011

Better output expectations pull cardamom prices down

George Joseph / Kochi July 27, 2011, 0:57 IST



Cardamom production this season is estimated to be 11,000-12,000 tonnes, almost steady compared to the last season. Harvesting, which is much earlier this time, is active now and will go on till the end of September.

According to market experts, the supply would not be short this year, as last season's stock is pouring into the market now. The market expected a price tag of Rs 2,000 a kg during the off season, hence leading to stocking. To the dismay of farmers, the stock this year is expected to be around 20,000 tonnes and would ensure regular supply through the year.

The market intelligence wing of Kerala Agriculture University had earlier projected a price tag of Rs 2,000 a kg. Hence, a major chunk of last season's stock was carried over to this season. This has boomeranged as prices have crashed heavily. The average price in major auction centers dropped to Rs 650-690 a kg as against Rs 1,000, a year before. In August 2010, auction centres quoted an average price of Rs 1,205 a kg and in September, this was Rs 1,340.

Meanwhile, the heavy rainfall for the past three weeks has affected the harvesting badly in most parts of Idduki district in Kerala. Due to this, fungus infection has developed in plantations, which destroys fresh offshoots. Growers told Business Standard that further rain might risk the crop this time and the next rounds of harvesting would also depend on the climatic conditions.

Cotton exports in legal thicket

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai July 27, 2011, 0:53 IST

After small traders got relief on latest quota opening, large ones plan to take DGFT to court.



The ongoing faceoff between cotton traders and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) over the additional million-bale (170,000 tonnes) export quota is getting into deeper legal complications.

After ginners and small traders got relief from the high court here last Wednesday, large traders are now planning to move court against DGFT's decision to recall their certificates to lower the unit quantity of exports. DGFT has recalled all export registration certificates of over 1,000 tonnes for re-validation, affecting 200 traders. Many of them had already signed contract agreements with buyers abroad; a majority say they'd also shipped a substantial portion of the allocated quantity of 4,250 tonnes each.

"Revalidating means we need to negotiate with overseas buyers again for a lower quantity of shipment. In some cases, we need to cancel our contract notes, which may mean loss of business for ever," said a large trader who received the DGFT notice.

DGFT had invited applications for export registrations from those trading firms that had shipped during the two previous financial years, 2008-09 and 2009-10. Those who'd only taken part in the current year's original export quota of 5.5 million bales were barred from the additional quantity. This decision was later challenged by 82 small traders, mainly ginners, in various high courts (HCs) across the country.

While the orders of various HCs had earlier directed DGFT to consider ginners' applications, the HC here had on July 20 ordered it to receive, consider and process all applications made prior to July 6, the final allocation date previously decided by DGFT.

DGFT had, in its original schedule, allocated 158,460 tonnes of cotton on a pro-rata basis to 227 valid applicants of the total of 581. According to the DGFT trade notice, 8,200 tonnes had been sequestered in obedience to interim orders of various HCs for the list of 82 writ petitioners and 3,339.2 tonnes sequestered in obedience to interim orders of the HC at Kolkata for two petitioners there.

Since, the HC here had ordered allocation of a minimum 100 tonnes to all valid applicants, the DGFT faced a crisis on quantity, resulting in the recall of all certificates of over 1,000 tonnes. The HC had ordered a higher ceiling of 1,000 tonnes for large exporters and, hence, cut the

additional quantity from the previous DGFT's ceiling of 4,250 tonnes to accommodate all applicants.

"The DGFT would have received more applications had it invited it without any restrictions," said Chandulal Thakkar, a veteran cotton exporter.

Meanwhile, cotton prices have declined drastically since the government allowed additional exports on June 6. The price of the benchmark Shankar-6 variety is down 31 per cent to Rs 8,436 per quintal, while cotton futures for near-month delivery on the New York cotton exchange fell 35.3 per cent to trade at \$2,153 a tonne.

Decision on more sugar exports after Sept: Thomas

BS Reporter / July 27, 2011, 0:37 IST

India, the world's second-largest sugar producer, may decide on allowing more sugar exports after September, Food Minister K V Thomas said on Tuesday.

"We are not in a hurry at all (for more sugar exports) as global prices are likely to remain steady until January," the minister told reporters.

Thomas also directed states to improve the lifting of grains meant for Public Distribution System (PDS) and also allocations made for other schemes.

"These allocations have been made at subsidised rates, but the off take so far is only around 50 per cent," he added during a interaction with food ministers and secretaries of major food consuming states

As cloudy weather persists, coconut prices climb up



Kochi, July 26:

Coconut oil prices surged to Rs 96 a kg in Kerala markets, while it was up at Rs 91 in Tamil Nadu.

As dull weather continues to persist across the coconut-growing belt of Tamil Nadu, it has led to low availability and copra prices have also climbed to Rs 65 a kg in Kerala and Rs 61 in Tamil Nadu.

Even if there is a slight correction, prices are likely to remain firm in the near term as there is fair amount of pent up demand, Mr Talat Mahmood, President of the Cochin Oil Merchants Association (COMA), said. While production from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have been good, there has been a significant growth in exports to Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Gulf countries, which have been propping up domestic prices, he added.

Lanka ban

Sri Lanka had banned coconut exports on account of a poor crop, triggering new demand and export from India.

There has been a temporary shortage of palm kernel oil and palm oil in the market and prices have climbed to Rs 80 and Rs 60, respectively. The shortages have forced some vanaspati makers to shift from palm oil and palm kernel oil to coconut oil, Mr Prakash B Rao, Member of COMA, said.

Stocking of coconut oil has commenced as the festival season is about to begin. There is bound to be firm price trends just before the Onam festival in Kerala which will be followed by the Navaratri and Diwali festivals in North India.

The demand for edible copra also goes up which lead to some amount of diversion from milling copra and its conversion to coconut oil production.

Festival season are times when the prices have traditionally remained high in the coconut oil market, sources in the trade said. As the price difference between spot and futures markets is not high, there is fair amount of trade at the spot markets.

Lower prices

Corporate buying has been tepid and they are still quoting prices lower than the market. They had done fair amount of stocking, especially of copra, during the past couple of weeks when the prices had gravitated lower. Since there is a shortage of palm oil and palm kernel oil in the market, the tendency of coconut oil adulteration has also come down, trade sources said.

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Delayed monsoon dries up fertiliser sales

Higher global prices too play spoilsport

| Fertiliser sales | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| (‘000 tonnes) | | |
| | Apr-Jun | |
| | 2010 | 2011 |
| Urea | 4690.87 | 5898.36 |
| DAP | 2020.87 | 1425.02 |
| MOP* | 508.69 | 509.01 |
| Complexes | 1750.37 | 1930.27 |

***Direct sales, exclusive of supplies to complex manufacturers.**

New Delhi, July 26:

Delayed onset of monsoon in major growing States, coupled with supply constraints arising from high global prices, has led to sluggish fertiliser sales in the first quarter of this fiscal.

During April-June, fertiliser firms sold 14.25 lakh tonnes (lt) of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), marking a 29.5 per cent drop over the 20.21 lt in the same quarter of last fiscal.

Lower DAP sales

Industry sources ascribe the lower DAP sales to three factors.

The first has to do with the late arrival of monsoon across Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Since DAP is required primarily for root establishment with farmers applying it as a basal dressing during sowing time, the delayed monsoon onset is seen to have slowed down offtake.

The second factor is availability, with high global prices resulting in a fall in DAP imports from 16.18 lt in April-June 2010 to 9.50 lt during the latest ended quarter.

DAP of US origin

While India imported 74.11 lt of DAP during the whole of 2010-11, hardly 35 lt of imports have so far been contracted for the current fiscal.

DAP of US origin is now quoting at \$660 a tonne, free-on-board Tampa, Florida.

Adding freight of \$ 40 would take the landed cost in India to \$700 a tonne, which is well above the \$612 a tonne benchmark used by the Centre to compute the nutrient based subsidy for phosphorous.

ONLY OPTION

“The \$612 benchmark price is not adequate to cover cost of imports. The only option, then, is to further raise retail prices charged to farmers”, the sources noted.

Related to this is the third factor: Since April 2010, farm gate prices of DAP have gone up from Rs 9,350 to Rs 12,000 a tonne.

To what extent it has affected demand is something that needs to be studied.

MOP sales

The other major fertiliser, whose sales have been impacted by reduced import availability, is muriate of potash (MOP).

MOP imports have contracted from 18.74 It in April-June 2010 to 4.32 It in April-June 2011.

Moreover, the latter quantity represents arrivals from imports contracted in 2010-11.

During the current fiscal, not a single tonne of imports has till now been contracted.

The lower imports have not hit sales of MOP in direct form, as much as supplies to complex fertiliser manufacturers who use it as a source of potash or K in various NPK formulations. "If no imports gets contracted, we are bound to see even direct sales registering a decline in the coming months," the sources pointed out.

Urea sales

The only fertiliser not to have taken a hit in sales either on account of non-availability or hike in prices is urea.

With the farm gate price not being revised since April 2010 and domestic output as well as imports increasing, urea sales have recorded a 25.74 per cent year-on-year jump in the first quarter of 2011-12.

This, it is feared, will further aggravate the nutrient imbalance in the soil, which is already excessively tilted in favour of nitrogen.

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Stockist buying lifts edible oils futures



Mumbai, July 26:

Edible oils prices remained unchanged on Tuesday despite lack of ready demand. However, buying by stockists for August delivery pushed up volumes in the forward market. Most traders stayed away from the spot market. Crude palm oil (CPO) futures rose on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives (BMD) tracking gains in other commodities.

Most oils remained unchanged, except cotton oil that rose by Rs 3 for 10 kg on demand and rapeseed oil which lost Rs 5 for 10 kgs as investors booked profits. Palmolein, soya oil and sunflower oil remained unchanged. Local refiners increased prices of palmolein, soya oil and sunflower oil on increased demand in the forward market, said traders.

Futures ended higher on Tuesday on hopes that demand will rise as the peak-production season comes to an end. Expectations of a marginal rise in exports and a possible drop in output over the next two months supported the rise. These reasons encouraged local stockists to buy more in the forward market. As a result, refiners directly sold about 1,800-2,000 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 554-558 for August delivery.

Resellers sold 200-300 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 555-556. Demand for edible oils is expected to rise sharply from August when the festive season begins. Liberty offered palmolein at Rs 559 and soya oil at Rs 647. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 557, soya refined oil at Rs 643 and sunflower oil at Rs 697. Allana offered palmolein at Rs 560.

Malaysia's BMD CPO August contract closed at MYR3,117 (MYR3,097), September at MYR3,119 (MYR3,099) and October MYR3,119 (MYR3,100) a tonne. August contract of soya oil on National Board of Trade in Indore closed at Rs 666.40 (Rs 667.50) and September at Rs 666 (Rs 662.50).

Mumbai Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg): Groundnut oil 970 (970), soya refined oil 645 (645), sunflower exp. ref. 660 (660), sunflower ref. 710 (710), rapeseed ref. oil 695 (700), rapeseed expeller ref. 665 (670), cotton ref. oil 668 (665) and palmolein 555 (555).

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High 'July normal' inflates rain deficit to 3%

Thiruvananthapuram, July 26:

The monsoon seems to have got itself back in the reckoning over the south peninsula and may be preparing to do an encore in the northwest in what is likely its last major heave over the land before the month-end.

The prospects seem to be brightening with India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting the possibility of a low-pressure area materialising in west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal during this period.

DEFICIT AT 3%

The overall rain deficit for the country as a whole was assessed at three per cent on Tuesday evening, as the 'high base' (raised normal) effect for the month of July began to play out yet again.

Given the positive outlook for the next five days before the month ends, sources said it is, however, hoped that the deficit would not peak to a level of seven per cent as feared by the IMD in its second-stage long-range forecast for the season.

The 24 hours ending Tuesday morning have already seen widespread rainfall being reported from Konkan, Goa, Kerala, coastal Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Lakshadweep and up north in Himachal Pradesh.

It was fairly widespread over Gujarat, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, interior Karnataka, the North-eastern States and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

SATELLITE IMAGERY

A weather warning valid for the next two days said that isolated heavy rainfall would occur over the Jammu Division of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Konkan, Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Rayalaseema.

HELPFUL FEATURES

The typical weather features setting up the overnight rains included a persisting western disturbance over Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining north Pakistan.

Upper air cyclonic circulations were also traced to over south Gujarat and neighbourhood and north coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal.

The latter is expected to give way to a full-blown 'low' as anticipated by the IMD. Some models saw it being driven almost perpendicularly into central India, though.

As if on cue, the IMD said in its short-term forecast valid until Friday that fairly widespread rain or thundershowers would break out over western Himalayan region and along the foothills, over North-eastern States, central and adjoining peninsular India and along the west coast.

MONSOON TROUGH

It would be scattered over the plains of northwest India on Wednesday and increase thereafter. Scattered rain or thundershowers have been forecast for the remaining parts of east and extreme south peninsular India. On Monday, the axis of monsoon trough passed too south of its normal, but the IMD expected to be brought back to the normal thanks to evolving weather in the Bay. An extended outlook valid until Sunday (July 31) said that fairly widespread rainfall would occur over many parts of the country except parts of east and southeast peninsular India.

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Cashew prices gain on tight supplies

Kochi, July 26:

Several cashew markets last week witnessed reasonable activities with prices for wholes remaining steady while that of brokens moving up.

Business was done for W240 at around \$4.90-4.95/ lb, W320 from \$4.55 to \$4.70, W450 from \$4.45-4.55, SW at around \$4.50 (fob). Splits/butts were traded as high as \$4.15-4.20 and pieces were traded up to \$4.05-4.10 (fob). Most of the business was for August-October and a fair volume was traded for October-December and some business was done for January-March 2012 as well, the trade sources said.

Domestic market

Indian domestic market, which was quiet for the past fortnight, saw some activity from middle of the week. Consequently, prices for splits and pieces moved up by more than 5 per cent in a few days. There was some interest in wholes as well, Mr Pankaj N. Sampat, a Mumbai-based dealer, told *Business Line*.

There is no change in raw cashew nut (RCN) market and until Indonesia starts offering new crop, almost all the business will be re-sales by processors. RCN traders do not seem to have any large unsold positions, he said.

Good quality parcels are being picked up at high prices whereas low quality parcels are not being looked even at a discount.

Due to the strong domestic demand, shellers in the non-exporting regions are quite active in the spot RCN market.

During July, there has been reasonable activity in the kernel market but any given time, there has been wide range of prices – difference of up to 3 per cent between the highest and lowest prices. Some shellers were able to sell at high-end of the range whereas some processors are not able to sell even near the lower end of the range, showing that some buyers are willing to take positions even at the higher levels whereas others are totally out of the market. “This thin liquidity is confusing / distorting the market and is a cause for concern,” he said.

Although total imports of RCN into India in 2011 will be lower, the arrivals in July-September will be higher than the very low imports in April-June. But reduced labour availability and the Onam holidays in September will mean kernel availability from India will continue to be tight for next few months, Mr Pankaj pointed out. If retail off-take in domestic market in August/September is good, there will be a fresh round of buying by the wholesalers which will put further upward pressure on the market during a period of reduced availability.

Kernel availability

If processing in Vietnam picks up pace, kernel availability from there will be better in the third quarter as they have been quite active in West African RCN market but that may not make up for the shortfall of over 10,000 tonnes of kernels in the first half. Since inventories in importing countries are low, the need for regular buying will probably absorb whatever is offered without any impact on prices.

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Dara wheat recovers on demand



Karnal, July 26:

The wheat market witnessed a mixed trend on Tuesday.

After ruling below the minimum support price last weekend, the dara variety recovered a little, while the prices of desi wheat varieties went dropped of low buying.

Around 500 quintals of dara variety arrived from Uttar Pradesh and the stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. Dara wheat prices increased by Rs 20-30 a quintal. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,120-1,130 while the commodity traded at Rs 1,135 a quintal at retail market.

Due to domestic demand, dara recovered a little, said Mr Subhash Chander, a wheat trader.

Wheat prices had dropped by Rs 50 last week due to the arrivals of the stock of BPL card-holders. But now the stock is getting exhausted and prices are moving up, he added.

Traders expect Dara to touch Rs 1,160-1,170 a quintal in the beginning of August, said Mr Subhash.

Low buying pulled desi wheat down by Rs 20-70 a quintal. Tohfa variety went down by Rs 70 and was quoted at Rs 2,105 a quintal. Maruti decreased by Rs 20 and was sold at Rs 1,780 a quintal. Kangan was at Rs 2,000, while A-1 variety eased by Rs 40 and sold at Rs 2,000 a quintal. Flour price gained Rs 30 at Rs 1,170 for a 90-kg bag. *Chokar* prices rose by Rs 5-10 to Rs 490-495 for a 49-kg bag.

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Futures, offtake boost chana, its dal



Indore, July 26:

Barring chana, pulses and pulse seeds ruled steady. Chana perked up on Tuesday on higher futures and improved buying in the physical market.

Spot chana prices, which opened at Rs 2,950 a quintal in the morning, rose to Rs 3,050 a quintal following a rise in futures on the National Commodity Derivatives Exchange. However, chana prices in the evening declined to Rs 3,000 a quintal as buying declined at the higher rate. Chana (*des*) ruled at Rs 2,900-2,925.

The rise in chana prices has especially benefited those who built up large stocks of chana in the past two years, trade sources said. Traders, however, feel the bullish trend in chana is unlikely to continue for long, unless demand for chana dal rises.

Higher spot chana also perked up its dal on Tuesday, with chana dal (bold) being quoted Rs 25 up at Rs 3,700-3,725, chana dal (medium) at Rs 3,600-3,625 and chana dal (average) at Rs 3,500-3,525 a quintal.

Masoor declined on subdued demand with masoor (bold) being quoted Rs 25 down at Rs 2,850 a quintal. Masoor (medium) ruled at Rs 2,500-2,550. Masoor dal, however, remained steady with masoor dal (bold) ruling at Rs 3,400-3,425, masoor dal (medium) at Rs 3,300-3,325 and masoor dal (average) at Rs 3,175-3,200 a quintal.

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Range-bound movement in sugar



Mumbai, July 26:

Sugar prices witnessed a steady trend on the Vashi wholesale market on Tuesday.

Prices were range-bound, at Rs 5-7 plus or minus, minus depending upon the need of buyers-sellers. The volume was normal as local demand eased due to month-end period. The market is now waiting for announcement of new month's free sale quota, which will set the future direction for the market, according to traders.

A wholesaler said the free sale quota would be announced this week. Traders are eagerly waiting for it before committing any fresh bet. Most market players expect a higher quota for August, it being a festival month.

In physical markets, prices were steady as retail demand was down due to month-end. The S-grade was sold Rs 3-5 higher while M-grade was sold Rs 5-7 lower on lack of demand. Naka and mill tender showed a mixed trend on improved selling by some mills and buying demand for quality sugar. Arrivals in the Vashi market were at 48-50 truckloads (each 100 bags) and local dispatches were at 46-47 truckloads.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates: S-grade Rs 2,816/2,856 (Rs 2,8082,862) and M-grade Rs 2,866-3,001 (Rs 2,873-3,006).

Naka delivery rates: S-grade Rs 2,750/2,800 (Rs 2,780-2,800) and M-grade was Rs 2,850-2,960 (Rs 2,840/2,960).

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Mixed trend in turmeric market



Erode, July 26:

Hybrid turmeric prices in the spot market fell Rs 200 a quintal despite good demand.

“Turmeric prices did not improve even though a few bulk orders were placed. The hybrid variety, which is fetched good orders and rose on Monday, decreased on Tuesday by Rs 200 a quintal. In the Erode Turmeric Merchants sales yard, it shot up by Rs 310 a quintal,” said Mr R.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Rising futures failed to lift prices in the local market on Tuesday, he said. Bulk buyers expect more demand from north Indian merchants from the first week of August, he added.

While the spice dropped by Rs 300 a quintal at Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, it remain unchanged at Gobichettipalayam Marketing Society. It increased by Rs 200 a quintal at Regulated Marketing Committee, where 65 per cent of the 7,000-odd bags that arrived were sold. In the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,489-7,299 a quintal and the root variety at Rs 5,311-6,316.

Salem Crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 6,633-7,689 and the root variety at Rs 6,139-6,666. Only 327 of the 1,814 bags that arrived were sold. At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 6,460-7,419 and the root variety Rs 5,760-6,760.

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Shortage of nuts keeps groundnut oil firm



Rajkot, July 26:

Groundnut oil continued remained stable despite lack of buying as shortage of nuts has pushed up their prices, market sources said. Cotton oil, too, remained unchanged.

Nuts are too expensive for crushing and it is not available easily to millers to boot, said a Rajkot-based broker.

Groundnut oil (loose) traded at Rs 970-975 for 10 kg and a 15-kg *telia* tin sold at Rs 1,494-1,495 in Rajkot. A 15-kg new tin fetched Rs 1,625-1,630. The oil was unchanged at Rs 970 for 10 kg in Mumbai.

While groundnut (bold) sold at Rs 525-832 for 20 kg in agricultural produce marketing committee in Junagadh, the seed fetched Rs 890-1,063. In Rajkot, the nut sold at Rs 605-820 and seed at Rs 1,010-1,110 for 20 kg.

Cotton oil (wash) fetched Rs 645-648 for 10 kg. A 15-kg new tin of cotton oil stood at Rs 1,105-1,115 and a 15-litre new tin at Rs 1,035-1,040.

Demand for groundnut oil is nominal as prices are too high, retail traders said. Demand is expected to rise during *Janmashthami* in August.

Arrivals have fallen to 12,000 bags from 30,000 bags since June in the main growing region of Saurashtra.

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Potato prices may decline on low demand



Kolkata, July 26:

Glut and poor demand – which brought down potato prices by Rs 40 a quintal over the last fortnight – may drag prices further, according to cold storage owners.

Mr Patit Paban De, Member, West Bengal Cold Storage Association, said prices could slide by almost Rs 50 a quintal in the next few days if the demand situation does not improve. The wholesale price of the tuber (Jyoti variety) ruled at Rs 580 a quintal on Monday. The prices were hovering around Rs 620 a quintal till about a fortnight ago, Mr De told *Business Line*.

The glut was primarily on account of a lack in demand for Bengal potatoes in other States. "Potato production has been good across the country this year. So there are not many takers for Bengal potatoes in other States," he said.

Typically, close to 40 per cent of the potatoes kept in the cold storages are transported to other States. "Usually we transport close to 20 lakh tonnes of potatoes to other States. This year, however, the potato demand of other States is being largely met by the produce from Uttar Pradesh," Mr De explained.

The release of potatoes, which started in the first week of May, from cold storages in the State has also not been too encouraging so far during this year. "The release from cold storage is only about 28 per cent so far during the current year, against the average release of about 33 per cent," he said.

In an anticipation of getting better prices, farmers have been holding on to 70 per cent of the total stock kept in cold storage this year at about 40 lakh tonnes. Typically farmers hold only about 40 per cent of the stock produced. Close to 58 lakh tonnes of potatoes have been stored across various cold storages in the State this year.

"The fall in prices is a cause of concern as farmers have been holding on to a huge stock this year. A further fall in price will force them to sell the potatoes below their production cost," Mr De said.

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Spot rubber slips on buyer resistance

Kottayam, July 26:

Spot rubber weakened on Tuesday. Though the market showed signs of recovery during the past couple of days discounting the import news and other negative factors, the prices slipped

again on buyer resistance. The trend was partially mixed. Meanwhile, the TOCOM futures edged higher after an initial dip on firm oil prices.

Sheet rubber moved down to Rs 209.50 (210.50) a kg, according to traders. The grade dropped to Rs 210 (211) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to the Rubber Board.

The August series declined to Rs 209.50 (211.43), September to Rs 209.29 (211.27), October to Rs 208.30 (211), November to Rs 208.50 (211.91) and January to Rs 210.10 (214.50) a kg for RSS 4 while the December series remained inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) inched up to Rs 214.96 (214.47) a kg at Bangkok. The August futures for the grade increased to ¥380.5 (Rs 215.42) from ¥378.5 a kg during the day session but then slipped to ¥380 (Rs 215.11) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 209.50 (210.50); RSS-5: 207 (208); ungraded: 202 (205); ISNR 20: 208 (208) and latex 60 per cent 137 (138).

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