

Saplings planted on World Environment Day

Staff Reporter



good deed:Saplings being planted on the campus of Government High School, Karadiguri, near Krishnagiri.

KRISHNAGIRI: On the occasion of World Environment Day, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) donated 50 plant saplings to the Government High School in the district.

The saplings were planted in the presence of M. Mahendran, District Environment Coordinator, National Green Corps for Government Schools in the district at the Government High School, Karadiguri in K. Poosaripatti panchayat, near Krishnagiri recently.

The school was selected for the project, as it is showing cent per cent result in SSLC consistently for the last six years.

The programme was coordinated by A. Kumeresan of Karthik Agencies, BPCL distributor on behalf of Bharat Petroleum Corporation, says a release here on Friday.

Teachers of the school Mr. Madhavaraj and Mr. Thamiraj also participated.

Earlier, on November 10 last year, BPCL established the 25th community kitchen in the state and eighth in western region at the Government Headquarters Hospital in Krishnagiri as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility policy.

Help

It will help several villagers to cook meals comfortably, safely and quickly at a time in this kitchen.

Water, cooking utensils and stoves connected with cylinders will be provided in each kitchen.

This facility will eliminate collection of firewood. Any villager can use this kitchen, the release adds.

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Water release for double crop area on June 18

Staff Reporter

Water release on June 15 for 14,000 acres in Cumbum Valley

MADURAI: Water release from Vaigai dam for irrigating the first crop of double crop area in Madurai and Dindigul districts would commence on June 18.

In a statement, the Madurai Collector, U. Sagayam, said that 45,041 acres of land between Peranai and Kallandiri would benefit. He asked the farmers to begin preparation of nurseries. Adequate stock of seeds was kept ready at the Agriculture Extension Centres. Similarly, sufficient quantity of fertilizers was also available in cooperative societies and private retail stores.

Mr. Sagayam also urged the farmers to go in for System for Rice Intensification method which would help in increased yield using less water for irrigation. They should also come forward to use machinery for sowing.

A Public Works Department official said that discharge of water could not begin immediately though the requisite storage of 4,000-mcft of Periyar credit was available in both the Periyar and Vaigai dams since the construction work of an additional trash track was underway at the Periyar dam. Sandbags had been placed on the leading channel that drains Periyar reservoir water to the head sluice there through which water is drawn to Tamil Nadu.

The officials wanted to complete the work before commencing irrigation. However, the water level in the Periyar dam kept rising with sustained inflow to the dam. "The construction work could not be carried on as the water level has gone up to 124 feet. The work has been wound up," the official said.

Efforts were now underway to remove the sandbags. This work would take some time and hence the water release has been planned on June 15 for the over 14,000 acres of ayacut in Cumbum Valley.

The level in the Periyar dam on Friday stood at 124.30 feet (136 feet) with storage of 3,479 mcft. The inflow was 220 cusecs with no discharge. The level in the Vaigai dam was 50.26 feet (71 feet) with storage of 2,027 mcft. There was no inflow and the discharge was 60 cusecs.

Periyar dam recorded 11 mm of rainfall followed by Tekkadi 3 and Shanmuganadi 1 mm.

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Farmers told to go for crop insurance

Special Correspondent

PERAMBALUR: Collector Darez Ahmed has appealed to farmers of the district to go in for crop insurance to protect them against losses caused by natural vagaries.

Jamabandhi held

Speaking at a meeting with farmers representatives and Agriculture Department officials after a jamabandhi meeting at Veppanthattai on Thursday, he pointed out that onion and cotton were major crops in the district and urged farmers to utilise the government schemes well. Crop insurance was essential to prevent losses, he said.

Marketing centre

He assured the farmers of steps to establish a marketing centre for cotton and to ensure that price list of fertilizers were prominently displayed at all retail shops.

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'KVKs should become agri intelligence centres'

Prabhakar Sharma

Rainbow revolution is the need of the hour, says Ayyappan

ELAMANCHILI: Krishi Vigyan Kendras should become agri intelligence centres to disseminate information on the needs of farmers regarding seed, pest attacks, technology, and other aspects, according to Secretary of DARE and Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research S. Ayyappan.

Addressing the Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Bhagavathula Charitable Trust at BCT farm complex at Haripuram near here on Friday, he said after the green revolution which made the country self-sufficient in foodgrains, the need of the hour was the rainbow revolution that would encompass not only agriculture but also the allied sectors. The role of KVKs in revolutionising agriculture could not be overemphasised, as the country was gearing up for major changes in the sector, he pointed out.

“KVKs can be used as a strong and important instrument to disseminate farm technologies by becoming an agri intelligence centre. At present 591 KVKs are functioning in the country,” he said.

Praise for BCT

Dr. Ayyappan appreciated the BCT for involving women on a large scale in its endeavour for rural development. “Stree Sakthi - woman power – is crucial in agriculture and rural development and women in rural areas are organising themselves to take part in the development process. It is heartening to note that women are also joining agricultural colleges and universities in large numbers unlike in the past,” he observed.

Earlier, he inaugurated VBS 4 Farmers, a voice broadcasting system for farmers developed by MOMO Enterprises, Bangalore. He also went around the exhibition, soil science labs, farmers' hostels, and other facilities and observed that the place resembled Santhiniketan of Rabindernath Tagore in West Bengal. A member of local women's group, Mutha Chellayamma, narrated how the BCT taught them to develop waste lands and barren hills, and rear cattle, something they had unheard of before. Another girl, Gopika, said she underwent training in tailoring and gardening while a school girl, Nagalakshmi, said she found use of vermi compost actually enriched the soil.

Founder of BCT B.V Parameswara Rao, chairman of BCT-KVK B. Srinivasa Rao, and BCT secretary Srirama Murthy participated in the programme.

'Cotton seed ready for distribution'

Staff Reporter

GUNTUR: Minister for Rural Development Dokka Manikya Vara Prasada Rao said on Friday that 9.50 lakh cotton seed packets were made available for distribution in the district during the kharif season.

Nearly 3.60 lakh packets were already in the possession of dealers, he said during a review meeting held on the seed availability.

On the occasion, Mr. Vara Prasada Rao said the farmers need not panic about the availability of seed as arrangements to supply adequate quantities were made by the departments concerned. The officials of Agriculture and Marketing Departments were instructed to keep a watch on the supply so as to prevent sale at more than the price stipulated.

Dealers warned

Stringent action would be taken against the dealers who try to exploit farmers. Along with seed, fertilizers were being made available. There was no chance of scarcity of both as an action plan was drafted well in advance and it was being implemented properly, the Minister asserted.

Joint Collector A. Sarath and other officials spoke.

Farmers meet organised

Staff Reporter

VIJAYAWADA: The John Deere, provider of products and services for agriculture, forestry etc., organised a farmers meet here on Friday. On the occasion, the company launched 5038D, a

puddling tractor, designed to suit agricultural practices in coastal region. About 600 to 700 farmers from 11 districts from Srikakulam to Chittoor participated in the meet.

John Deere Krishna district dealer B. Jamindar said that there was good response from farmers.

The newly launched tractor costs around Rs. 5 lakh, and good number of bookings were made at the meet. The John Deere provides farm equipment with latest technology.

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Subsidy for farmers to buy milch animals

T.V. Sivanandan

Loan of Rs. 1 lakh for individual milk producers at 3 per cent interest Farmer must be a member of a milk producers' society to get loan

GULBARGA: The Gulbarga District Central Cooperative Bank (GDCCB) has launched a scheme to provide assistance to milk producers to increase production and give a fillip to animal husbandry.

The bank will provide a loan of Rs. 1 lakh to milk producers at an interest rate of 3 per cent to help them buy at least two good quality milch animals. Also, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will provide a subsidy of Rs. 25,000 to farmers who avail themselves of this loan.

Managing director of GDCCB Sharanabasappa Bennur told The Hindu here on Thursday that the scheme aimed at tapping the potential of the district in milk production, thereby making it self-sufficient.

To avail themselves of the loan, the farmer should be a member of a milk producers' society and should have supplied milk regularly for at least six months to the society. Mr. Bennur said the

milk production in the district was as low as 4,000 litres a day and “we want to substantially increase it”. The ground situation was favourable for increasing the production as the price for milk was high and the Government was providing an increment of Rs. 2 a litre in addition to the price paid by the societies.

He said the bank would enter into a tripartite agreement with milk producers' societies and the Vyavasaya Seva Sahakari Sangha Niyamitha (VSSSN) to provide loans to member-farmers on the guarantee that the societies would deduct the instalments due from farmers.

This year, the bank proposed to provide at least Rs. 10 crore as loan to farmers to increase milk production, Mr. Bennur said.

There are around 75 milk producers' societies in the district and the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has decided to encourage the formation of more such societies. “The contribution of the bank in providing substantial loan to purchase milch animals would help KMF increase milk production and achieve self-sufficiency,” the managing director said.

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Milk producers to get incentive of Rs. 2 a litre

Staff Correspondent

Veterinary ambulance service will be launched soon: Minister 'Rs. 1 crore set aside to examine the possibility of organic milk production'

MYSORE: Minister for Animal Husbandry and Public Libraries Revu Naik Belamagi said on Friday that the Government was giving an incentive of Rs. 2 a litre of milk to 6.61 lakh milk producers in the State, amounting to Rs. 616 crore.

He was addressing presspersons after reviewing the progress of the departments of Animal Husbandry and Public Libraries in Mysore, Mandya and Chamarajanagar districts, here. The

Minister said veterinary ambulances on the lines of the 108 ambulances operated by the Department of Health and Family Welfare would be launched soon on an experimental basis under the Dhanwantri scheme. According to Mr. Belamagi, Rs. 1 crore had been set aside to examine the possibility of organic milk production.

A sum of Rs. 33.69 crore was spent last year under the Amrutha scheme, benefiting 31,421 families.

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Paddy procurement from today

Special Correspondent

State to seek the higher MSP from the Union Government

— File Photo



Need support: With input costs rising and paddy prices falling, farmers

Bangalore: The State Government will begin procuring paddy in four districts from Saturday at a minimum support price (MSP) higher than that fixed by the Centre.

The Union Government has fixed the support price for grade one paddy grown in Karnataka at Rs. 1,030 a quintal and for grade two variety at Rs. 1,000 a quintal. The State Government will add Rs. 100 per quintal to this price in view of the fact that a large number of paddy growers are in distress. Paddy procurement centres will be opened in Bellary, Raichur, Koppal and Davangere districts, and the new MSP will be valid till August 31.

Delegation

Minister for Agriculture Umesh V. Katti told presspersons here on Friday that an official State delegation led by him would call on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Union Minister for Agriculture Sharad Pawar on June 14 and seek a higher MSP for paddy. Agricultural input costs are high while the prevailing price in the market for paddy has dipped and farmers have been pleading for support for the past few months.

Mr. Katti said that they would seek an increase in MSP by at least Rs 80 a quintal from the rabi season. Then, with the State Government incentive, paddy growers will be eligible for Rs. 1,210 a quintal for grade one paddy and Rs. 1,180 for the grade two variety. Farmers' leaders have been demanding a support price of Rs. 1,530 for a quintal and this is in consonance with the recommendation of the State Department of Agriculture.

Farmers exploited

Owing to high yield, the price of paddy had crashed and middlemen were exploiting farmers by paying Rs. 550 for a 75-kg bag. Paddy was sold at double this price last year at Rs. 1,100 for a 75-kg bag. A group of farmers had recently staged a demonstration in Bangalore demanding that the Government announce a higher support price for paddy and set up procurement centres. The Agriculture Minister said that the State had adequate stocks of chemical fertilizers and seeds for the kharif season and farmers need not worry. The Government had directed enforcement officials to take stringent action against traders found selling fertilizers and seeds in the black market.

The total fertilizer requirement for the kharif season is estimated at 23.35 lakh tonnes. An area of around 75 lakh hectares is expected to be cultivated during the kharif season, and so far agricultural operations have commenced in about four lakh hectares.

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Agriculture management students get job offers

HYDERABAD: The first batch of the two-year PG Diploma in Management (Agriculture) course from the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) here has been selected by top companies in retail, marketing, seed, marketing research, rural development,

exports and banking sectors. A press release issued by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) stated that selection of all the 24 students of the residential course even before its completion indicated the momentum agribusiness sector has been.

Several companies such as Aditya Birla Group, Shriram Bioseeds, Nuziveedu Seeds, Vibha Seeds, Q&Q Research Insight, MART, NCDEX Spot, DeVGen, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, KRBL, SAIFCO, SUMITOMO and Bayer Biosciences have given offers to the students. It was indicative of the increase in the scope and demand for agribusiness managers and professional, NAARM Director N.H. Rao stated. He said there was increasing demand for trained human resources for food processing, packaging and quality.

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Training on extracting fibre from banana plant

Staff Reporter

Namakkal: Krishi Vigyan Kendra has organised a one-day free training programme on banana fibre extraction techniques on the KVK premises on Mohanur Road from 9 a.m. on June 14.

Importance of banana fibre, selection of banana plants for extraction, extraction of fibre using machines, preserving them and making value-added products from them would be the topics covered during the programme.

Interested persons should enrol themselves at the KVK either in person or over phone at 04286-266345, 266244 or 266650, on or before 5 p.m. on Monday.

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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Edible oils slip on sluggish demand, global cues

NEW DELHI: Snapping a four-week rising trend, edible oil prices slipped in the wholesale oils and oilseeds market during the past week due to sluggish demand at existing high levels amid weakening global trends.

A few oils in the non-edible section also showed weakness on reduced offtake by industrial units and other consuming industries.

Trading sentiments turned bearish as palm oil dropped after Malaysia, the second-biggest producer, said stockpiles climbed to the highest level in 16 months on a surge in output.

Besides, adequate stocks available in the market against sluggish demand from millers and local parties at existing levels also weighed on the edible oil prices.

Meanwhile, palm oil declined by 5.3 per cent this week, the biggest weekly loss in more than two months on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange, the lowest close since May 12.

Palm oil inventory in Malaysia climbed 14.8 per cent to 1.92 million tons in May from a month earlier, the highest level since January last year, the Malaysian Palm Oil Board said. Output expanded 13.7 per cent to 1.74 million tons from April, the highest in 19 months.

In the edible oil section, mustard expeller oil (Dadri) declined by Rs 50 to Rs 5,800 per quintal, while mustard pakki and kachi ghani oils traded lower by Rs 10 each to Rs 760-915 and Rs 915-1015 per tin, respectively.

Cottonseed mill delivery oil (Haryana) shed Rs 70 to Rs 5,530 per quintal, while sesame mill delivery oil fell by Rs 30 to Rs 6,230 per quintal.

Taking weak cues from overseas markets, palmolein (rbd) and palmolein (kandla) plunged by Rs 170 each to Rs 5,830 and Rs 5,530 per quintal, respectively.

Soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) fell by Rs 100 and soyabean degum (Kandla) declined by Rs 70 to Rs 6,300 and Rs 5,900, respectively.

Crude palm oil (ex-kandla) lost Rs 100 to Rs 5,300 per quintal. In the non-edible section, linseed oil declined by Rs 50 to Rs 4,550 per quintal on lack of demand from paint units. Castor oil also shed Rs 50 to Rs 8,500-8,600 per quintal.

10 Jun, 2011, 11.09PM IST,ET Bureau

Gujarat sees 4% drop in cotton arrivals in 2010-11

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat has seen 4% drop in cotton arrivals in 2010-11 crop year (October 2010 to September 2011). The pressing data compiled by the All Gujarat Cotton Ginners Association

has said Gujarat that is the largest producer of cotton in India, has pressed total 95.50 lakh bales (of 170 kg each) till May 31 2011. Gujarat had pressed over 99 lakh bales same period last year.

Late rain has taken its toll on crop size and that's the reason for less arrivals locally. Large farmers have also choose to hoard their produces and still they have crops in hand. Ginners however, indicate that the drop is not owing to a fall in production in Gujarat. Instead, there has been a fall in crop arrivals from Maharashtra that accounts for about 10% of the crop pressed here.

Gujarat is slated to produce 1.1 crore bales this crop year. Maharashtra is the second largest cotton producer in the country with the crop size of above 90 lakh bales.

"Normally, Maharashtra contributes good amount of raw cotton for processing in Gujarat. This year however, it has decreased significantly," said Chetan Patel, of Kadi-based Pashupati Ginning . Kadi is the biggest ginning hub in the country, housing more than 60 ginning units.

"Goods are coming from Maharashtra because of premium paid by Gujarat-based ginners. But this year, they have fetched good prices locally and hence, the arrivals to Gujarat fell," Patel added.

Out of total 95 lakh bales pressed, 94.18 lakh bales are of Shaker variety, while 1.37 lakh bales are of short staple Kalyan variety.

THE HINDU Business Line

Ready for rains



Getting ready: A Manipuri farmer washing his power tiller as he trudges home from his field in Hiyangthang village, about 10 km from Imphal. With the onset of monsoon, farmers across the North-East are gearing up for sowing and transplantation of paddy

Industry body seeks early meet of Bt crops panel

Hyderabad, June 10:

The Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises has sought a special meeting of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in letters to Mr Jairam Ramesh, Union Minister of Stae in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and Mr Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture, as there are no meetings scheduled before the kharif season. Mr V.R. Kaundinya, Chairman of the association, is worried that the industry might lose out a full season if the committee failed to meet, discuss and approve field trials.

“Timely approvals are must to generate reliable data about efficacy, safety and agronomic performance of the product,” he said in two letters to the Union Ministers on Monday.

The committee, which works under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, was scheduled to meet on June 8, 2011. The meeting, however, was deferred to July 6 “without assigning any reasons”.

“There are several proposals for field trials of biotech crops in the ensuing kharif in various parts of the country. The industry is awaiting approvals for the same from GEAC in order to prepare for sowing in this season. Our applications are pending with them since April 2011,” he said in the letters.

The association argued that there was no meeting of the committee in April, and the agenda of field trials was not taken up in the May meeting. In May, the committee focussed on views expressed by non-governmental organisations on issues related to biotechnology in agriculture.

“Any further delay would lead to loss of one season, causing setback for biotech research in agriculture,” the association said, seeking intervention of the Government to convene a meeting immediately.

Cotton exporters faced with slackening demand

Prices may drop despite approval for additional shipments

Chennai, June 10:

Though the Centre has allowed export of an additional 10 lakh bales of raw cotton, exporters are grappling with slow demand.

“Demand for raw cotton exports is slow as yarn is not moving at all in the global market,” said Mr M.B. Lal, former chairman of the Cotton Corporation of India.

“Global prices are too high that demand for cotton in general is slow,” said Mr Anand Poppat, Vice-President of the Saurashtra Ginners Association.

“Exporters, multi-national companies and ginners-cum-exporters are finding it tough to get buyers,” said Mr A. Ramani, a cotton analyst.

“Exporters have built large inventories. Therefore, the export clearance may not result in a price surge,” said Mr Poppat.

In the last two days since the permission was given for the additional exports, prices of Sankar-6 variety have gained Rs 1,000 a candy of 356 kg. (see box).

“There is no major demand. Exporters and traders, too, have no clear idea of the policies and how the quota is going to be allocated,” said the official of the Saurashtra Ginners body, which had observed a three-week strike until the Government allowed additional cotton exports.

The Centre had initially allowed exports of 55 lakh bales of cotton for the current season that ends in September. Shipments began on November 1, while the entire quota got exhausted by January 15. Since then, the Government has been under pressure to allow more exports.

At one point of time, demand for exports and from the domestic industry had boosted cotton prices to a record Rs 62,500 a candy. After that, prices have dropped nearly 35 per cent before the plunge reversed on Thursday.

Exporters and ginners have been seeking additional exports on the ground that cotton production this year has been projected at a record 329 lakh bales by the Agriculture Ministry. The Textiles Ministry, however, has pegged it lower at around 310 lakh bales. The Cotton Advisory Board, which has representatives from the industry, growers, government and trade, has pegged the output at 312 lakh bales against 295 lakh bales last season.

“The additional quota will be utilised by Bangladesh, Pakistan and China,” said Mr Lal.

“The Centre should have allowed more export as there is no demand in the domestic market. Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, Vietnam and Indonesia are looking for cotton,” said Mr M.P. Patel, Managing Director of Rajkot-based Jaideep Cotton Fibres. “We have got enquires from Pakistan especially,” he said.

“There is demand contraction and cotton sales will not be as expected. But India could enjoy from the lower price at which its cotton is offered,” said Mr Ramani.

Currently, Indian cotton is quoted at 145 cents a pound against comparable global quality cotton quoting at 160 cents.

“The fact is that there is more demand for the B-grade cotton rather than the A-grade. Buyers abroad are looking for cheaper cotton,” said Mr Poppat.

The B-grade cotton is quoted at 95 cents a pound now.

“There is too much difference between A and B grades. Therefore, demand for B grade will be more,” said Mr Poppat.

“The reality is that cotton is at the fag-end of the season. Therefore, the quality will not match the A grade,” said Mr Lal.

“The Cotton market is not looking good at present globally. Even abroad, spinners are facing a difficult period,” said Mr Ramani.

However, Mr Patel said demand for A or B grade cotton depended on the buyer abroad. “Would you expect someone like Raymonds to buy inferior quality cotton?” he asked.

A Kolkata-based exporter said he could find no buyer for the cotton he was willing to offer.

“Prices could crash in the next couple of weeks once the reality sinks,” he said.

Mood upbeat at Coonoor sale with 95% leaf tea sold

Coonoor, June 10:

The mood was visibly jubilant at the leaf auctions of Coonoor Tea Trade Association on Thursday with substantial volumes being absorbed at higher prices, thanks to the active participation of exporters and domestic buyers.

Nearly 13 exporters, besides leading brand sellers, including Tata Global Beverages, Hindustan Unilever Ltd and Duncans Tea Ltd, supported quality leaf teas.

Thanks to competition, many invoices witnessed a price increase of Rs 8 a kg over last week. The overall average price was Rs 60 a kg – some Rs 4 more than last week.

In all, 95.54 per cent of the 11.47-lakh kg of leaf teas offered was sold. Five of the six brokers reported over 91 per cent sale in their catalogues. “We never had so good a sale for several

months now. We could sell the entire volume except a marginal 1,054 kg in the 1,54,437 kg we offered. This posts 99.32 per cent sale, a record by many standards," Mr N. Sriram, Chief Executive Officer, Contemporary Tea Auctioneers Pvt Ltd, told *Business Line* on Friday.

Prices up on export quota hike

Rajkot, June 10:

Cotton prices have firmed up after the Centre decided to allow export of 10 lakh bales (170 kg each). Traders said it will attract fresh demand in the coming days.

At Rajkot, the Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton was traded at Rs 42,000-44,000 a candy of 356 kg, while B-grade cotton was traded at Rs 30,000-32,000 a candy. Raw cotton price was quoted Rs 900-950 for a maund 20 kg for best quality and Rs 650-655 for medium and lower quality. About 8,000-9,000 bales cotton arrived in Gujarat and 28,000-30,000 bales arrived in the country.

Though prices have firmed up, they may not go higher than Rs 46,000-46,500 a candy as ginnerers have ample stocks on their hands.

Farm research council chief calls for rainbow revolution



The Director-General of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Mr S. Ayyappan, addressing a workshop on "Indian Seafood Industry – Present Scenario and Future Prospects" at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Kakinada on Friday.

Visakhapatnam, June 10:

The role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in revolutionising agriculture cannot be overemphasised, as the country is gearing up for major changes in the sector, according to Dr. Ayyappan, the Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

He was speaking at a function organised by the Bhagavatula Charitable Trust (BCT) at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra being run on the premises of the trust in Visakhapatnam on Friday. He said green revolution has made the country self-sufficient in foodgrain production mainly rice and wheat . “We now need to usher in a rainbow revolution which encompasses not only agriculture but the allied sectors as well. For this purpose, the KVK can be used as a very strong and important instrument to disseminate farm technologies. It can also be an agri intelligence centre,” he said, and added that at present, 591 KVKs were functioning in the country. He commended the BCT for involving women on a large scale in its endeavour for rural development. “Sthree Sakti — woman power — is very important in agriculture and rural development. Women in rural areas are organising themselves and participating in the development process. It is heartening to note that women are also joining agricultural colleges and universities in large numbers,” he remarked.

Dr. Ayyappan said agricultural planning and implementation should cover all aspects from “beez to bazaar” (from the point of supplying the seeds to the farmer to the point of marketing the produce), and there should not be a break in the chain anywhere.

Otherwise, the expected results may not be achieved. Dr. B.V Parameswara Rao, the founder of BCT, Mr B. Srinivasa Rao, the chairman of BCT-KVK, and Mr Srirama Murthy, secretary, participated in the function. Several farmers and women narrated their experiences with the KVK.

Covering buy lifts sheet rubber

Kottayam, June 10:

Spot rubber prices saw a mixed mood on Friday. According to market circles, RSS 4 and 5 firmed up mainly on covering purchases prior to the weekend session. The remaining grades including latex finished flat, amidst scattered transactions. Major manufacturers were reported to be inactive during the day but sellers stayed back in most of the counters expecting better quotes on Saturday.

Sheet rubber improved to Rs 226.50 (225) a kg, according to traders. The grade increased to Rs 226 (225.50) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board.

The June futures dropped to Rs 225.95 (226.12) and July to Rs 230.79 (231.17) while the August series inched up to Rs 233.13 (232.79) and September to Rs 232.02 (231.74) a kg for RSS 4 on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) slipped to Rs 233.07 (233.68) a kg at Bangkok. The June futures weakened to ¥418.1 (Rs 233.49) from ¥419.8 during the day session and then to ¥417.1 (Rs 232.87) a kg in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange. Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 226.50 (225); RSS-5: 224 (223); ungraded: 220 (220); ISNR 20: 219 (219) and latex 60 per cent: 143 (143).

'Low' re-curves off Mumbai, but away from landfall

Thiruvananthapuram, June 10:

The well-marked low-pressure area has persisted in east-central Arabian Sea off north Maharashtra coast on Friday evening, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The idling system has also brought to bear its influence on the progress of monsoon, the northern limit of which was stuck for the third day along Dahanu, Nasik, Gulbarga, Rentachintala, Narsapur, Agartala, Shillong and Itanagar.

The system has been bringing heavy rain along the coast as well as other places already covered by the monsoon, precipitating a surplus of 17 per cent as on date.

Extended outlook from global models indicate that the monsoon would likely enter another strong phase from next week, which could variously last until June 25.

Earlier in the morning, the US Navy's Joint Typhoon Warning Centre found that the Arabian Sea system has re-curved from a west-northwest track to east-northeast.

This apparently puts it on a course towards Mumbai and south Gujarat, as has been assessed by some model runs though being also dictated by the eastward movement of westerly trough.

The IMD said that the bearing of the system has shifted overnight on Friday from east-central Arabian Sea to nearer to the north Maharashtra coast.

Conditions are still considered ideal for some intensification of the system, with sea-surface temperatures holding up well above 30 deg Celsius and the macro-environment largely favourable.

While the southwesterly flows are strong, the flows to the north and northwest have been compromised thanks to the onward movement of the westerly trough.

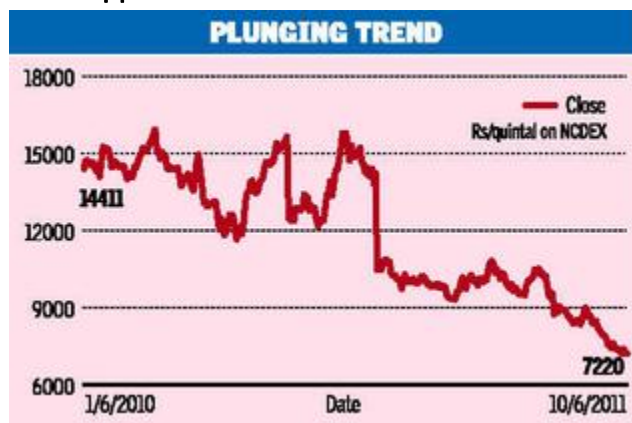
Influence of the westerly trough is expected to wane over the next 24 hours, allowing the system more space for gains in lateral movement as well as speed.

According to the IMD, conditions are favourable for further advance of monsoon over remaining parts of Bay of Bengal, the Northeastern States and some parts of Orissa, West Bengal and Sikkim during three days until Monday.

Satellite imagery on Friday afternoon showed convective (rain-bearing) clouds rising over parts of the Konkan, northeast and east Arabian Sea, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Tripura, Orissa, the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.

A weather warning said that the isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall would continue over Konkan and Goa. It would be isolated heavy over coastal Karnataka and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The upper air cyclonic circulations over Gangetic West Bengal and Assam and Meghalaya persisted.

Turmeric hovering at critical support



BL Research Bureau:

We consider the turmeric generic Q6 future price traded on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) for this technical analysis. The contract size is 10 tonnes and the tick value is Rs 100. It closed at Rs 7,220 a quintal on Friday.

Turmeric futures bottomed out in late 2007 between Rs 1,800 and Rs 2,000. Since then, it was on a long-term bull run until it faced resistance around Rs 16,000 levels in May 2010. After consistently testing this resistance level, the commodity reversed lower in early December 2010 after registering a high of Rs 16,350.

In late December, the commodity plunged sharply. It has been on a medium-term downtrend since then. The commodity has retraced 61.8 per cent Fibonacci retracement level of its prior bull run and is currently testing a key long-term support between Rs 7,150 and Rs 7,300.

An emphatic fall below Rs 7,150 can drag turmeric futures to Rs 6,000 and then to Rs 5,000-5,200 in the long term. On the other hand, a reversal from the current support band can lead to a corrective rally initially and lift the commodity higher to Rs 9,070 and then to Rs 10,000 levels. The weekly relative strength index is hovering in the oversold levels, below 30 levels mark, signalling possibility of a trend reversal.

Further, weekly moving average convergence divergence (MACD) indicator is also featuring in the deep oversold levels denoting the possibility of a pull-back rally. Only a strong up-move above Rs 7,300 will signal resumption of the long-term uptrend and take it higher to Rs 14,000 and Rs 16,000 in the longer term.

Medium-term trend

Turmeric has been on a medium-term downtrend since it faced resistance at Rs 16,000 in early December 2010. The daily relative strength index and daily price rate of change indicator are displaying positive divergence signalling possibility of trend reversal. Moreover, daily MACD is hovering in the oversold levels. A rebound from the current support zone can take turmeric higher to Rs 8,354 levels and then to Rs 9,230 levels in the medium term. Nevertheless, a strong close below Rs 7,150 levels will pull the commodity down following a small pause around Rs 6,350 levels to Rs 6,000.

Bulk rice buyers keep away



Karnal, June 10:

The rice market witnessed a mixed trend. Prices of a few aromatic and Sharbati varieties dropped, PR11 variety saw an uptrend while pure basmati, Pusa1121 (steam) and Permal variety ruled flat on Friday.

Mr Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company, said there is no bulk buying in the market, retail traders are also buying in limited quantity as the prices are falling continuously.

Pusa 1121 (steam) ruled flat and quoted at Rs 5,000 a quintal, Pusa-1121(sela) dropped by Rs 140 and was at Rs 4,000 while Pusa-1121(raw) witnessed the major drop, decreased by Rs 400 a quintal and ruled at Rs 4,600 a quintal.

Prices of duplicate basmati dropped by Rs 150 and quoted at Rs 3,500-3,600 a quintal. Pure Basmati (Raw) remained unchanged and ruled at Rs 6,500 a quintal.

Prices for the brokens of Pusa 1121, Tibar was quoted at Rs 3,100-3,350, Dubar increased by 100 and quoted at Rs 2,500-2,650 and Mongra was at Rs 1,900-2,150.

Some buying lifted the prices of PR11 varieties, went up Rs 50-90 a quintal, PR11 (Sela) ruled at Rs 2,000-2,200 while PR-11(Raw) quoted at Rs 1,950-2,150.

Permal (sela) ruled flat and quoted at Rs 1,750-1,965 a quintal while Permal (Raw) traded at Rs 1,900-2,100.

Bearish global trend crushes edible oils



Mumbai, June 10:

Most edible oils declined on Friday, tracking bearish trend in foreign markets. Bearish crop reports extended the decline in Malaysian and other markets, weakening sentiments further in the domestic market.

Only groundnut oil continued to rise on the back of a sharp rise in Saurashtra, where needy buyers bought groundnut oil at Rs 975 on Friday, according to traders.

Palmolein, soya

In the Mumbai market, in the absence of local demand and thin presence of traders due to rain, the volume was low and need-based.

Palmolein and soya oil declined by Rs 4, sunflower oil was down Rs 5 and cotton oil dropped by Rs 3 for 10 kg, market sources said. Groundnut oil rose further by Rs 20 in Mumbai, tracking rally witnessed in Gujarat. Local refineries have reduced their rates for palmolein and soya oil, but selling by speculators at lower rates arrested direct buying. In Saurashtra, Gujarat groundnut oil shot up further by Rs 25 on the back of fresh demand from brand makers and tight supply position of crushing nuts, as exporters continue to buy nuts at a higher price.

In Mumbai, demand was less than expected. Despite reduction in price by refineries response was poor. Liquidation by resalers at lower rates kept volume thin at 200-250 tonnes in palmolein in the range of Rs 568-565. Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 570, Ruchi's rate for palmolein was Rs 568, soya refined oil, Rs 628 and sunflower oil, Rs 690. Allana's palmolein was Rs 570.

The July contract of crude palm oil futures on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives ended at MYR3,260 (MYR3,307), August at MYR3,239 (MYR3,287) and September at MYR3,240 (MYR3,280) a tonne. Indore NBOT soya oil June contracts closed at Rs 643 (Rs 649.30) and July at Rs 646.50 (Rs 652.50).

Mumbai commodity exchange spot rate (Rs/10 kg) :Groundnut oil 920 (900), soya refined oil 630 (634), sunflower exp. ref. 645 (650), sunflower ref. 695 (700), rapeseed ref. oil 674(674), rapeseed expeller ref. 644 (644), cotton ref. oil 632 (635) and palmolein was 568 (572).

Tur plunges on panic sales



Indore, June 10:

Sluggish demand and panic selling dented tur with the Maharashtra variety's prices plummeting to Rs 2,750-2,800 a quintal. Tur (*Nimari*) also declined to Rs 2,400 a quintal.

Taking cues from the decline in tur (Maharashtra), tur (*marka*) also fell to Rs 5,600 a quintal, tur dal (full) ruled at Rs 5,200-5,250 a quintal and tur dal (*sawa* no.) at Rs 4,350-4,400.

With buying dropping, tur has dipped by Rs 150-200 a quintal in the past 2-3 days. Tur has fallen because of weak demand and expected arrival of summer crops from States such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Those who had built up stocks of tur are now selling them in a panic fearing further fall in its prices, traders said.

Absence of demand and weak buying also dragged masur with prices in private trading quoted at Rs 2,725-2,750 a quintal and masur (medium) at Rs 2,450-2,500 a quintal. Masur dal ruled

steady with masur dal (bold) being quoted at Rs 3,400-3,425, masur dal (medium) Rs 3,300-3,325 and masur dal (average) at Rs 3,175-3,200 a quintal.

Moong and urad ruled firm amidst subdued demand. New moong ruled steady at Rs 3,800-4,200 and urad (bold) ruled at Rs 4,000. Moong and urad dal remained unchanged with moong (mongar) being quoted at Rs 5,700-5,800.

Weak trend continues in sugar



Mumbai, June 10:

The weak trend in sugar prices at the upper naka and tender level weighed on spot market on Friday. Spot prices were quoted lower by Rs 8-10 a quintal, tracking the lower prices producers quoted on Thursday.

The naka price declined by a similar margin. A wholesaler from the Vashi market said there was no loading and unloading of goods on account of the holiday observed by the Mathadi Kamgar. Sugar futures prices were down by Rs 30 a quintal during the day.

Since most players were aware that movement of goods would come to a standstill on Friday, they had covered their positions beforehand.

On Thursday evening, a few mills offered tenders and sold lesser than the routine quantities. Some mills have sold lower quality material at Rs 20 below the normal tender rates. Mills are under pressure to finish their quotas in time.

On Thursday, about 22-23 mills sold 35,000-40,000 bags of sugar (100 kg each) in the price range of Rs 2,450-2,510 for S-grade and Rs 2,525-2,605 for M-grade. Rates remained the same on Friday. According to the traders, **spot rates** were: S-grade -Rs 2,610-2,665 (Rs 2,625-2,675) and M-grade- Rs 2,680-2,820 (Rs 2,685-2,825).

The *naka rates* for S-grade were Rs 2,570-2,600 (Rs 2,580-2,600) and for M- grade Rs 2,625-2,710 (Rs 2,625-2,720).

70% of turmeric arrivals go unsold in Erode



Erode, June 10:

Spot turmeric prices ruled steady but about 70 per cent of the produce brought to the market remained unsold.

“Many farmers who were in a position to hold their produce refused to sell at a lower price. Farmers have taken back their stocks due to the low price,” said R.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association. “The prices were very low in other turmeric markets in India and no trader in North India visited or placed order. Because of this the sales were also poor like the price.” Traders said out of arrival of 8,000-odd bags on Friday, only 30 per cent were sold. The farmers are still hopeful of getting a minimum of Rs 10,000 a quintal for their produce. But almost all turmeric growers have decided to liquidate their stocks of the current year before November, as they expect huge stock to arrive next year, as sowing has started in huge tracts.

The prices in Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard and Regulated Marketing Committee decreased by Rs 200 a quintal, but in the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural

Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety increased by about Rs 1,000 a quintal. Traders said that only five or six lots (roughly 75 bags) containing fine hybrid variety were sold for a higher price.

Salem crop: The finger variety sold at Rs 7,419-8579, the root variety at Rs 6,089-6,711. Out of 2,237 bags that arrived, 427 were sold.