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Continue summer management techniques, poultry farmers told

Staff Reporter

Namakkal: The Astrometerological Advisory Service (AAS), functioning under the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, has advised poultry farmers to continue summer management practices in their poultry farms as there could be irregular increase in day and night temperatures for the next few days.

According to the weather advisory provided by the AAS for the next three days (June 1 to 3), measures to avoid feed wastage could be followed with the onset of higher winds.

Though the dog days (Agni Nakshatram) had drawn to an end the temperature could be around 37 degree Celsius during the day and 26 degree C at night, the report said.

Nodal Officer of AAS R. Ravi said that the farmers could top-dress crops such as groundnut, green gram and cotton as good rain was expected in the next few days.

Rhizome treatment for cultivating turmeric with fungicide and drying them in shade for about half an hour was important before planting, he added.

Wind speed from June 1 to 3 was expected to be between 4 and 9 km an hour from the Western direction, Mr. Ravi said.

TNAU records steep increase in sale of UG applications

Amutha Kannan

The university will publish the rank list on June 10 The counselling under the single window system will begin from June 15

COIMBATORE: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has sold 10,250 applications for its 13 undergraduate courses for the academic year 2011. A. Rajarajan, Dean (Agriculture) of the university told The Hindu this was against the 7,181 sold last year.

“We have issued 9,640 applications in person and 610 online. The numbers of seats are 1,365 this year as against the 1,224 last year. There are six basic courses and seven technology courses,” he said.

He attributed this steep rise to the increased awareness among the public about agricultural education besides others.

“Agricultural graduates get 100 per cent placements. And, the work profile is not restricted to agriculture alone. With globalisation and introduction of newer sectors, there is a wide range of opportunities available for them. Also, it is a good stepping stone for those aspiring to appear for the civil services examinations,” Mr. Rajarajan said.

The conventional courses were updated and a few technical courses were being offered as dual degree programmes in collaboration with foreign universities, he added.

The university would publish the rank list on June 10 and counselling under the single window system would begin from June 15.

Five seats were available under the Non-Resident Indians and industrial sponsorship quota for all the programmes.

Five per cent of seats were reserved for candidates from the vocational stream and they would not be considered under general category.

Reservation for ex-servicemen wards, differently abled, dependents of freedom fighters and sports personnel were also available, besides the caste-based reservation.

Date:01/06/2011 **URL:** <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/06/01/stories/2011060161740400.htm>

Konaseema farmers declare 'crop holiday'

AMALAPURAM: Upset over the denial of minimum support price to their produce, paddy farmers in all the 16 mandals of Konaseema region in East Godavari have announced that they are going to declare 'crop holiday' for the coming kharif season.

The farmers, under the aegis of Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, staged a 'rasta roko' in front of the Revenue Divisional Officer's office here on Tuesday seeking minimum support price (MSP) for paddy . Expressing anguish over the existing prices for paddy and the manner in which it was being procured by the government, the farmers said that there were no returns from agriculture to them due to the "lopsided policies."

Farmers from Amalapuram, Katrenikona, I. Polavaram, Inavilli, Allavaram, Uppalaguptam, Mamidikuduru, P. Gannavaram, Razole, Ambajipeta, Mummidivaram, Atreyapuram, Ravulapalem, Kottapeta, Malikipuram and Sakhinetipalli mandals announced that they would not cultivate their fields.

Middlemen benefited

President of Rytanga Samakhya's State unit Yerneni Nagendranath, addressing farmers, accused the government of pushing the farmers into such a situation. "Farming is only helping the dealers of fertilizer and pesticides and the middlemen to mint money. Notwithstanding the quantum of produce, the farmers are incurring losses in every crop season," he said.

Observing that the taxation on rice was much higher than that of gold, Mr. Nagendranath said that the government policies were not at all farmer-friendly. "It is not just the farmers who cultivate paddy, but each and every farmer in the State is suffering losses," he said.

Date:01/06/2011 URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/06/01/stories/2011060160190300.htm>

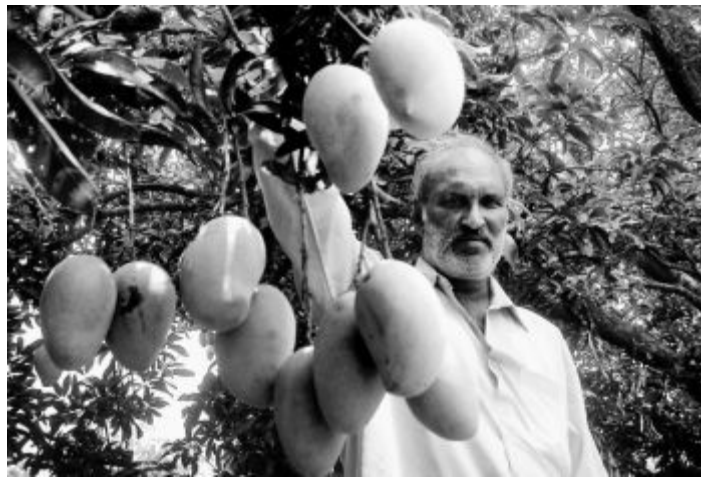
Farmer's efforts bear fruit

Sumit Bhattacharjee

Kongara Ramesh from Taruluwada develops two mango varieties

It took about 12 years for him to develop the two varieties Gene transfer is 'no rocket science', he says

— Photo: C.V. Subrahmanyam



TRENDSETTER: Progressive farmer Kongara Ramesh with the mangoes that he developed through gene transfer at Taruluwada village in Anandapuram mandal in Visakhapatnam district.

VISAKHAPATNAM: Hard work bears fruit and such a fruit tastes sweeter if it comes after 12 years of sweat. It happened in the true literary sense in the case of Kongara Ramesh, a progressive farmer from Taruluwada village in Anandapuram mandal, which is located about 27 km. from here.

Ramesh has developed two new varieties of mangoes - Swagatam and Amrutam, at the farm Navaneetha Evergreens, which is promoted by his mentors Navayuga Constructions. It took about 12 years to develop the two varieties.

Though he studied only up to VIII standard, he brims with confidence and knowledge of a research scholar on gene transfer among plants.

Hailing from an agricultural family, he was fascinated towards hybrid version of farming since childhood. "I would spend hours discussing modern farming with the senior professors of Bapatla Agricultural College. And it was here that I learnt the concepts like gene transfer through cross pollination," said he.

Swagatam variety

While the Swagatam variety is a cross between Imampasand and Chinna Rasalu, Amrutam is a cross between Chinna Rasalu and Amrapalli. While the sweetness of Swagatam reaches about 21 TSS (total soluble sugar), Amrutam touches 23-24 TSS, said the proud farmer.

Apart from these two, he has over 15 such projects on hand in different stages. Using strains from types such as Alphonso, Banganapalli and Rasalu, he is developing his own innovative brands. "Each type has got its own traits – such as in the case of Chinna Rasalu, the yield is high and Imampasand is known for its flavour. I have only done the cross pollination between the two to develop Swagatam. And the same is the case for the rest," said Ramesh.

He feels that gene transfer is 'no rocket science' and every farmer should think of developing his farm scientifically. "If science and agriculture go hand-in-hand, the pace of progress for the country will double."

Earlier to experimenting with the mangoes, he had tried his methods with chillies and cotton at his native village.

"I successfully developed a hybrid cotton seed but could not get over the pest problem. The hybrid chillies will be coming into the market sometime this year," he said.

'A homeopath'

Apart from being a progressive farmer, Ramesh is also a practising homeopath. He met with a near-fatal accident about 20 years ago and had lost his memory. "When all types of treatments failed, it was just two doses of homeo medicine that brought my memory back. I picked up reading homeopathy books and today, I run a free clinic under the name Navaneetha Homeo," he said.

The clinic functions only on the weekends and about 800 people visit the clinic on those two days. "People from all sections of society and with all types of diseases come to us. At present, I am assisted by people who were once my patients," said Ramesh.

Date:01/06/2011 **URL:** <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/06/01/stories/2011060151890300.htm>

Help tobacco farmers cultivate alternative crops, says MGP

MYSORE: Stating that consumption of tobacco products is detrimental to health, the Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) has appealed to the authorities to help tobacco farmers cultivate alternative crops.

India is a signatory to the WHO-sponsored Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on reducing tobacco cultivation and consumption by 80 per cent by 2020.

World No Tobacco Day was observed on Tuesday.

According to the parishat, farmers in Mysore district, have produced a bumper crop in the 2010-11 crop season, beyond the expectations of the Tobacco Board. In a press release, Vasanthkumar Mysoremath of the MGP said that farmers should be discouraged from growing tobacco illegally.

"Stop procuring tobacco grown illegally and in excess of the prescribed quantity by licensed farmers. Trade in tobacco products should be regulated, and licensing and a hefty licence fee for trading in tobacco products should be introduced," he suggested.

The rule prohibiting smoking in public places should be enforced and action should be taken against people violating the rule. Mr. Mysoremath added that the rule prohibiting sale of tobacco products in a 100-m radius around educational institutions should also be strictly enforced.

He suggested forming an Anti-tobacco Work Force with powers to levy and collect fines on the spot from smokers who broke the law.

Date:01/06/2011 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/06/01/stories/2011060155341900.htm>

Farm sector props up GDP growth to 8.5 %

Ashok Dasgupta

Poor showing by manufacturing sector pulls down fourth quarter numbers



NEW DELHI: Signalling the onset of a slowdown owing to inflationary pressures and the impact of a consequent on-going tight money policy, the country's GDP (gross domestic product) growth slipped to 7.8 per cent in the fourth quarter (January-March) of 2010-11, pulled down mainly by a poor showing by the manufacturing sector.

However, even as the fourth quarter growth was way lower than the 9.4 per cent expansion in the same three-month period of 2009-10, a robust farm sector growth

coupled with better showing by construction and financial services propped up the overall GDP growth for the entire 2010-11 fiscal year to 8.5 per cent from 8 per cent in the previous fiscal.

With inflationary pressures nowhere near abating, the general consensus within the government, industry and economic analysts is that the declining growth trend seen in the last quarter of 2010-11 is likely to continue through a major part of the current fiscal also. Although the GDP growth numbers for the first and third quarters of 2010-11 stand revised upwards to 9.3 per cent from the earlier estimate of 8.9 per cent and to 8.3 per cent from 8.2 per cent, particularly disconcerting is the slump in manufacturing growth which dipped to 5.5 per cent during the January-March quarter from a robust 15.2 per cent in the same quarter of 2009-10.

Worse still that growth in the mining and quarrying sector also slipped to a mere 1.7 per cent during the quarter from 8.9 per cent in the same period of the previous fiscal. The saviour, as far as GDP growth is concerned, was the farm sector which saw a healthy growth of 7.5 per cent during the fourth quarter ending March this year as compared to a paltry increase of 1.1 per cent witnessed in the year-ago period.

Inflation a dampener

Voicing concern over the declining growth trend while commenting on the GDP data release here on Tuesday, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said: "Growth [in the current fiscal] would suffer if inflation continues to remain high... there may be little less [growth] if inflationary pressure continues".

Mr. Mukherjee, however, dubbed the growth figures for the entire fiscal as encouraging. "Advance estimate was 8.6 per cent that was on February 7. And now the revised estimate is more or less the same, it is 8.5 per cent. The encouraging part is, of course, contribution of agriculture [which grew by 6.6 per cent in 2010-11]. But manufacturing, mining and quarrying have also, more or less, are on the projected lines. Therefore, I do hope it would be stable, it would be confirmed when the final figure would be available," he said.

Forecast lowered

In his comments on the GDP data and projections for the current fiscal, Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia said: "We have lowered the growth forecast for 2011-12. The RBI [Reserve Bank of India] has said something. Finance Ministry has said that it should be 8.5 per cent. I think somewhere between 8 per cent and 8.5 per cent".

Pointing to the reason for the slump in overall growth during the fourth quarter, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) Chairman C. Rangarajan said: "[It] was mainly due to slower growth in the manufacturing sector". As for the current fiscal, he hoped that the overall growth would be around 8.5 per cent although agriculture could witness some moderation.

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HT Correspondent, Hindustan Times

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Farm output a sheet anchor

India's farm sector expanded at 6.6 % during 2010-11 and the government is pinning its hopes on strong agriculture output for the second straight year to sustain the growth momentum in the broader economy and keep food prices in check.

The farm sector grew by 0.4% last year. and the government had earlier projected a 5.4% growth for the farm sector in 2010-11."The agriculture growth this year will be lower than last fiscal," said C Rangarajan, chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/704188.aspx>

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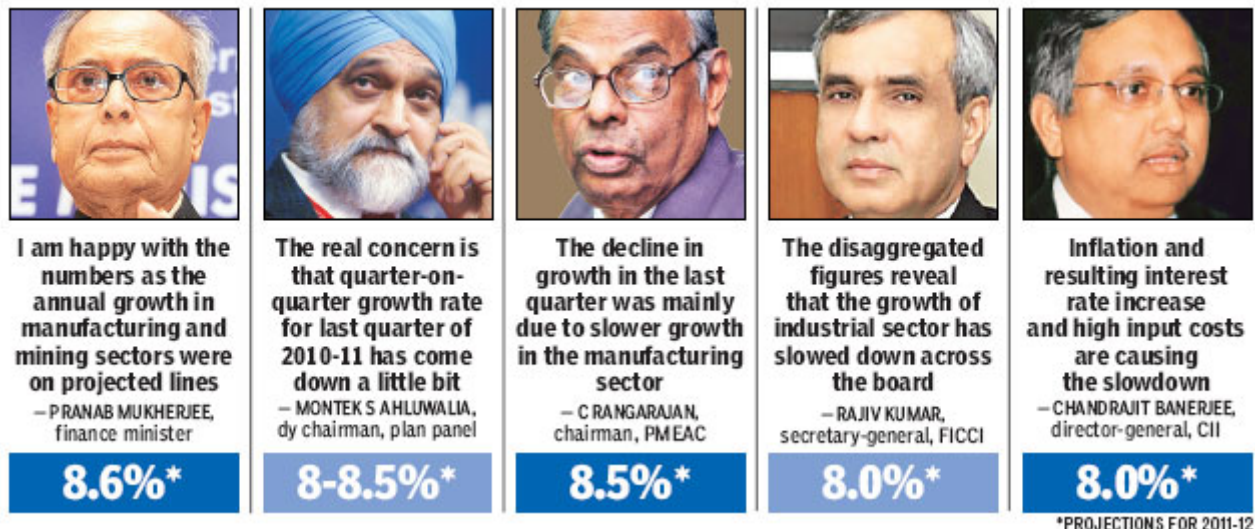
War on inflation hurts India growth story

The UPA government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which successfully steered the economy through the world's worst economic crisis in eight decades now face a harsh dilemma: prices are not under control but the war against inflation is hurting growth.

India's economy grew at 8.5% in 2010-11, higher than last year's 8% growth, data released on Tuesday said, but in the January-March quarter GDP grew by only 7.5%, the slowest in five years.

This is linked to rising interest rates under the RBI's money squeeze, which has curbed spending and choked demand that fuels growth.

The RBI, in its annual policy review, pegged the real GDP growth rate for 2011-12 at 8% - down from the estimated 8.6% growth in 2010-11. This is almost 1 percentage point lower than the government estimate of 9%.



Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee curtly admitted to the hard choice.

"Growth would suffer if inflation continues to remain high," Mukherjee said.

The government will likely announce downward revision of this year's growth projection.

"We are going to scale it (growth projection) down. Oil prices are remaining as they are, they are not showing signs of going down," said R Gopalan, economic affairs secretary. A senior government aide said GDP growth projection may be revised down to 8% from 9%.

The average inflation in 2010-11 was 9.4% - the highest in 16 years. With no sign of let up, the government is worried. But it has raised government-guided petrol prices in a bid to control subsidies, while diesel is up next.

"Growth is expected to moderate to 7.5% in FY12 owing to a combination of monetary tightening and the disappointment over the strength of the investment upturn," said Rajeev Malik, senior economist, at broking and research firm CLSA Singapore. The government expects the average annual inflation for 2011-12 to be between 7.5% and 8% amid spiraling prices in a slew of vital commodities including oil.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Wednesday, Jun 1

Max Min

38.7° | 27.1°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 75%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:41

Sunset: 18:31

Barometer: 1003.0

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Thursday, Jun 2

Max Min

39° | 28°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday

Jun 3

Saturday

Jun 4

Sunday

Jun 5

Monday

Jun 6

Tuesday

Jun 7



35° | 28°

Rainy



36° | 28°

Rainy



37° | 29°

Rainy



37° | 29°

Rainy



37° | 29°

Rainy

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Wed, Jun 01, 2011 | Updated 06.20AM IST

1 Jun, 2011, 05.58AM IST, ET Bureau

Cotton mills cut output

NEW DELHI: Cotton spinning mills has decided to cut output ranging from one-third to two-fifth of total production to reduce accumulated stocks and raise prices.

Millers have demanded a host of sops, including loans at discounted rates and input duty reimbursement on exports to help them get over their current period of crisis. They also wants the government to curtail export of cotton for some more time to ensure cheap availability of raw material, a demand that has been contested by cotton growers and traders.

The mills had cut back production by one third of the existing daily production last week and shut down facilities on May 23 to protest against falling domestic prices and building up of unsold stocks. "The cut back in production resulted in accumulated losses of Rs 600 crores as the value of per day spinning production is about Rs 200 crore," said DK Nair, secretary general, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry .

The list of demands put forward by the industry includes one year's moratorium for repayment of loans to spinning mills, reinstatement of drawback facility on cotton yarn exports and extension of 2% interest subvention for all textile and clothing products.

1 Jun, 2011, 05.35AM IST, PK Krishnakumar,ET Bureau

Vanilla output sees a steady fall

KOCHI: With falling production and low prices, Spices Board no longer regards vanilla as a major spice. Vanilla was once regarded as the most promising spice, with prices touching Rs 3,500 per kg. Now when prices of most of the major spices are riding a crest, vanilla is languishing.

Production has slumped to such a level that there is hardly anything left for exports. "Except for some vanilla beans we didn't export much vanilla extract to the US in 2010-11. Our clients mostly sourced it from Madagascar where there is sufficient availability at almost the same price as in India," said Viju Jacob , director of Synthite Industries , a major spice oleoresin exporter.

Vanilla exports, which touched 305 tonne in 2008-09, dropped to 200 tonne in the subsequent year. The export included carryover stock from the previous years. For 2010-11, the list of export of spices released by the Spices Board does not include vanilla. "The production is down to around 70 tonne and there was hardly any export," Spices Board chairman VJ Kurien said.

From a level of around 600 tonne a few years ago, the vanilla production in India has gone down to the current level. The green bean prices have fallen to around Rs 35 per kg now. From the stratospheric level of Rs 3,500 per kg, the prices had plunged to around Rs 120 per kg couple of years ago. Now it is hovering around Rs 35 per kg.

Madagascar, the largest producer of natural vanilla, sets the price in the international market. Apart from farmers' disinterest, fungus diseases too affected the production. Kerala and Karnataka are the major producers of vanilla in India.

Seeds shortage to hit paddy farming in Jajpur

June 01, 2011 10:32:46 AM

AKSHAY ROUT | Jajpur

The fate of a large number of farmers of Jajpur district hangs in balance as the authorities are yet to provide sufficient paddy seeds to them for the Kharif cultivation. The Governmental seed supply centers in all the nine blocks of the district have not stocked sufficient paddy seeds for the farmers.

Sources said farmers the district have planned to raise paddy on 1, 22,000 hectares of agricultural land for which they need about 9, 000 quintals of paddy seeds from the district agricultural office. But the District Agriculture Department has got only 4, 000 quintals of paddy seeds to provide farmers till today.

In many paddy seed selling centers in the block offices, farmers clash with each others to get paddy seed due to non-availability of sufficient seeds. Many farmers have to run from pillar to post to get seeds to raise paddy saplings. The authorities have broken the backbones of the farmers by not supplying sufficient paddy seeds, alleged Ranjan Dhal, a farmer of Jajpur.

The farmers of the district have been facing the natural disasters each year in the forms of flood, cyclone and draught. It is also alleged that many venal officials of blocks and agriculture office in the district are minting money by not providing subsidised seeds to the farmers. On the other hand, the officials are illegally selling the seeds to some private seed traders as a result the farmers are being compelled to purchase seeds from the seed merchants by paying hefty amount, alleged Saroj Jena, a farmer of Balichandrapur.

The rates of the seeds are soaring in the open market due to unholy nexus between the seed traders and the agriculture officials. The official rate of the paddy seeds per quintal is Rs 1,000. But the farmers are purchasing paddy seeds in the open market at Rs 1, 200 to Rs 1,400, informed Ashok Jena, a farmer of Badachana.

A senior district agriculture official said, "We opened 18 paddy seed receiving centers in all the nine blocks of the district. We also entrusted 114 Pani Panchayats and Gram Panchayats to provide paddy seeds to the farmers. The Agriculture Department will provide 6, 850 quintals of paddy seeds within the second week of June. So far we have supplied 70 quintals of jute seeds to the farmers of the district."

Scarcity of paddy seeds hits farming in Kendrapada

June 01, 2011 10:32:52 AM

RAJESH BEHERA | Kendrapada

Several farmers of Kendrapada district are now spending sleepless night following the district administration has failed to provide them sufficient seeds for raising Kharif paddy in the coming monsoon season .

Though only a week or two remains for the monsoon to hit the State , but the Government sponsored seed supply centres in all the nine blocks of the district have not stocked sufficient paddy seeds for the farmers ,alleged secretary of district Krushak Sabha Gayadhar Dhal.

Sources said the farmers have planned to raise Kharif paddy in 1,22,000 hectare of land in the district. In order to raise paddy, the farmers need 6,000 quintal of seeds ,but they alleged that the district administration has not supplied the necessary seeds this year. Due to the shortage

of paddy seeds, the farmers were compelled to purchase it at high rate from the open markets than the Government rate.

When contacted, an official of the district Agriculture Department stated that the district administration has received about 2,500 quintal of paddy seeds from the Seed Corporation of Odisha out of 3,600 quintal." We have asked the Seed Corporation to provide 1,200 quintals of paddy seeds to fulfill the demands of the farmers."

Even the Agriculture Department has planned to provide 2,400 quintals of paddy seeds through to the farmers of four blocks to raise paddy in 4,000 hectare. Meanwhile, large numbers of the farmers have started cultivation work in the district and they need paddy seeds within the second week of June .

According to Dhal , the district administration has been providing paddy seeds to the farmers through seed supply centres, panchayat offices, pani panchayat office and also cooperative society to distribute it among the locals. But due to shortage of sufficient seeds , a riot like situation is going to be seen in most of the seed supply centres during the distribution of seeds among the farmers in the coming days. Due to non-availability of seeds,now the farmers have started running from pillar to post to procure it. Even the farmers alleged that the rate of seeds is soaring in the open market due to the unholy nexus of seed traders and officials of the district.

Agriculture department sources informed that the required paddy seeds would be provided to the farmers within June 30. The department would provide incentive of Rs 1,500 to the farmer for line planting of paddy in a hectare of land. Similarly, the agriculture officials are going to encourage the farmers by providing incentives for deep ploughing.

Kharif Tomato crop to come under Insurance Scheme

June 01, 2011 10:35:07 AM

The State Government has decided to include Kharif Tomato crop in Sadar block of Bilaspur district under weather based Crop Insurance Scheme on pilot basis. The decision was taken in a State level Crop Insurance Coordination Committee meeting held here under the chairmanship of Secretary Agriculture.

Dr JC Rana, Director Agriculture said that tomato crop being raised from June 15 to December 15 would be included under this scheme on pilot basis. The ICICI Lombard GIC had been roped in as the implementing agency for which reference weather station would be set up in Bilaspur, Namhol and Swarghat. Earlier, tomato crop raised from March 10 to July 31 in Sadar block of Bilaspur district was insured under the scheme on pilot basis.

Business Standard

Wednesday, Jun 01, 2011

Rabobank, others invest Rs 101 cr in NCMSL

BS Reporters / Mumbai June 1, 2011, 1:15 IST

The India Agri-Business Fund (IABF), Rabobank's private equity arm, and International Finance Corporation (IFC), along with four existing shareholders have roped in to invest Rs 101.75 crore in National Collateral Management Services (NCMSL), a warehousing arm of the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).

IABF and IFC have agreed to invest Rs 34.50 crore and Rs 27.50 crore, respectively in the company, which is planning to set up a 600,000-tonne state-of-the-art warehousing facility in 45 locations spread across 12 states.

Others, including Iffco, Karur Vysya Bank, Hafed and NCDEX have agreed to invest Rs 23.75 crore, Rs 9.15 crore, Rs 4.85 crore and Rs 2 crore, respectively. Iffco will then emerge as the largest shareholder in the company, with its equity to rise to 20.6 per cent from 14 per cent now.

NCMSL also plans to raise Rs 200 crore from a consortium of six banks led by YES Bank, for which negotiations are in an advanced stage. The company has already started land acquisition in various states to commence commercial operation in 24 months.

“We have one million tonnes of storage capacity spread in 700 warehouses across 16 states. All of them are on lease. With this investment, we will be able to build 3.5 million square feet of modern warehousing facility which will offer us higher profit margin,” said Sanjay Kaul, managing director of NCMSL.

With this infusion of equity, the existing shareholders, including NCDEX, Canara Bank and Bank of India, will have to suffer equity dilution, Kaul said.

Govt may raise cotton export quota

Anindita Dey / Mumbai June 1, 2011, 1:12 IST

GoM meets tomorrow, with agri and commerce ministeries wanting more and textile ministry less.



The department of commerce proposes to raise the cotton export quota by 1.5 million bales over and above the existing 5.5 million bales in the group of ministers' (GoM) meeting to be held on June 2.

Following a slowdown in domestic cotton consumption, traders and farmers proposed a rise of two million bales (170 kg each) in the quota. However, officials explained the textile ministry is concerned about the domestic market and fears the nascent demand rise in cotton consumption, seen following fall in prices, may be hit if the entire surplus is allowed for export.

The agriculture ministry, however, has been batting for export, since farmers and traders are accumulating losses with rising prices earlier and now falling demand. India, the second-biggest

cotton exporter after the US, had in October last year permitted duty-free export of up to 5.5 million bales. Since the fourth week of March, the situation has changed and prices of the natural fibre have plunged sharply, due to piling of fresh stocks and huge carryover stock from the last season.

Cotton prices declined 25 per cent in the last month, from Rs 62,000 a candy (one candy is 356 kg) to Rs 47,000 a candy. According to an outlook report published by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), domestic prices for the popular S-6 variety this week have been in the range of Rs 44,500 to Rs 45,500 per candy as against Rs 43,500 to Rs 45,000 per candy in the previous week. The cotton season is almost at its end. As a result, besides decline in seed cotton arrivals, the quality in current arrivals has gone down, says the report.

India's cotton yield reportedly has plunged from 554 kg a hectare in 2007-08 to 475 kg a hectare in 2010-11. The acreage under cotton, in contrast, has risen from 9.41 million hectares in 2007-08 to 11 million hectares 2010-11. The CCI report further says the per-day arrivals are in the range of 30,000 to 35,000 bales, comprising 1,000 to 1,500 bales in Haryana, 10,000 to 14,000 bales in Gujarat, 7,000 to 8,000 bales in Maharashtra, 800 to 1,000 bales in Madhya Pradesh, 1,000 to 2,000 bales in Karnataka and 5,000 to 6,000 bales in Andhra Pradesh.

As on May 22, the cumulative arrivals were 29.42 million bales as against 28.45 million bales in the previous year.

According to the recent report of International Cotton Advisory Committee, a global association of government departments to promote cotton affairs, world cotton acreage during 2010-11 is estimated to increase by 13 per cent to 33.81 million hectares as against 29.98 million hectares during 2009-10. The world average yield in 2010-11 is projected up by one per cent to 733 kg per hectare as against 726 kg per hectare in 2009-10.

11 new spice parks in next one year

BS Reporter / Chennai/ Kochi June 1, 2011, 0:13 IST

Spices exports from India would touch the \$3 billion mark by 2017 and would cross \$10 billion by 2025, said V J Kurien, chairman of Spices Board.

He told reporters that the roadmap to achieve these targets had been set and that the process was on. In the current financial year, the value of export would cross \$1.6 billion against the \$1.5 billion achieved in the last fiscal.

During the last year, 55 per cent of the export earnings from spices was from value-added products, and according to him this would be 80 per cent within next five years. India will become a major export processing hub for spices and spice-based products, he said.

In order to augment capacity to reach this level, 11 spices parks would be commissioned within a span of one year. Two parks had been already commissioned and parks at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh and Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu will be operational within the next three months, according to Kurien.

The number of quality testing laboratories would also be increased to 8 from the current four in the next one year. He said the Spices Board had set an export target of 600,000 tonnes of spices and spice-based products valued Rs 7,500 crore (\$1.6 billion) in 2011-12.

Kurien said the production of pepper would be enhanced to 100,000 tonnes by 2015-16 as subsidy schemes were introduced for Idukki and Wayanad districts of Kerala. For Idukki, about Rs 160 crore will be spent and for Wayanad, it would be Rs 55 crore. Cultivation of pepper would be extended to non-traditional areas like the northeast region.

Production of pepper had been dropped from around 100,000 tonnes to 45,000-50,000 tonnes during the last 10-year period.

The board aims to recapture the top spot in the world from Veitnam. Kurien has relinquished the charge of the Spices Board chairman today after completing his five-year term. He will be back to the Kerala cadre of IAS officers as principal secretary.

Cardamom average price drops below Rs 600/kg



Kochi, May 31:

Cardamom prices continued to drop on selling pressure at auctions held in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, as growers were liquidating accumulated stock.

“Mainly middle-class growers who were holding their produce anticipating high prices at above Rs 1,000 a kg have resorted to selling fearing further fall in prices. This trend, coupled with favourable climatic conditions that are likely to facilitate early good crop this year, pulled prices sharply down,” trade sources said.

Enthused by good prices during the past couple of years, growers resorted to good farming practices and that, supported by suitable weather conditions this year, is expected to pave the way for early and good crop next season. The new crop is expected to hit the market by late June or early July, they said.

Add to this, demand from North India used to be usually thin for June and July, as no festivals are held due to hot weather conditions prevailing there, also aided the price fall.

The panic selling resulted in arrivals last week soaring to around 300 tonnes.

At the Sunday auction alone, held by the KCPMC, arrivals were 64 tonnes. However, nearly the entire quantity was sold out as exporters and upcountry dealers were covering.

Big growers are said to have sold their stocks when the prices were ruling at around Rs 1,000 a kg.

However, good buying support from exporters who have orders in hand for the Ramzan, which is expected early this year, has arrested the prices from falling further last week, Mr P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, told *Business Line*.

According to trade sources, an estimated 40-45 tonnes of cardamom have been bought by exporters last week.

The individual auction average price dropped to below Rs 600 a kg probably for the first time in the last two years. It dropped to Rs 588.59 a kg on Sunday from Rs 696.03 at the KCPMC auction. The maximum price yesterday was at Rs 1,030 a kg and the minimum was Rs 262 a kg, Mr Punnoose said.

Total arrivals during the current season from August 1 to May 29, 2011, stood at 10,368 tonnes. Of this, 10,108 tonnes were sold.

Arrivals and sales in the same period of the previous season were 9,755 tonnes and 9,514 tonnes respectively.

Weighted average price as on May 29, was at around Rs 998 a kg against about Rs 827/kg same day last year.

Exporters are said to be showing interest to cover and they are expected to buy good quantity to meet their overseas Ramzan requirement. With supply outweighing demand, prices continued to show a declining trend, a major dealer in Bodi told *Business Line* on Monday.

He said in the open market there today good colour 8mm bold is sold at Rs 1,050 - Rs 1,100 a kg. Graded varieties dropped further and in (Rs/kg) were: AGEB (7mm) 850 -900; AGB (6mm) 750; AGS (5mm – 6mm) 640 -700; and AGS 1: 625 – 650. Good bulk was being sold at Rs 650 – Rs 700 a kg while medium bulk at Rs 550 a kg, he said.

Overall weather conditions remained favourable so far for the plants and, hence, the next crop is likely to be good and expected to hit the market in late June/early July, growers in Kumily said.

Covering buys lift rubber



Kottayam, May 31:

Domestic rubber prices improved on Tuesday. In spot, the market gained strength catalysed by the bounce back on NMCE. Possibility of further decline in arrivals and production owing to monsoon rains kept the covering groups active during the day. Even higher closing prices in the international markets also contributed to the developing bull phase. We expect the market to move up further considering the fundamental and technical charts, an analyst said.

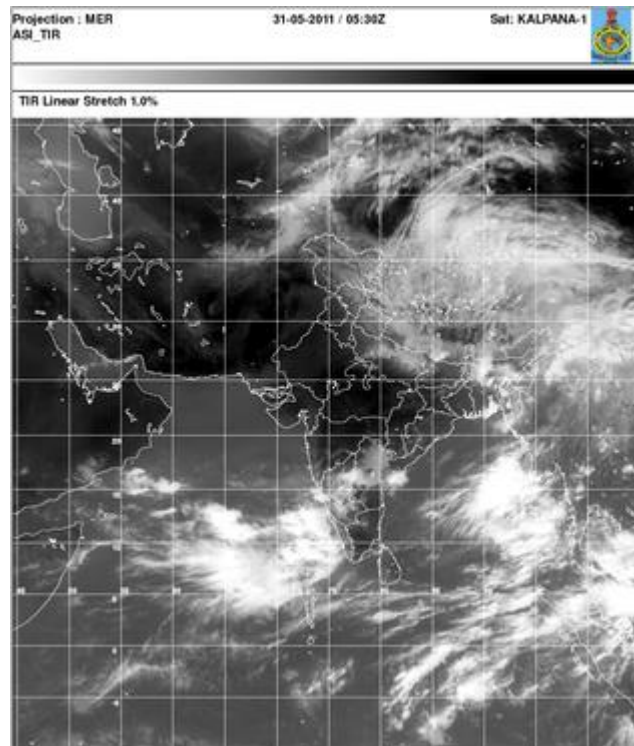
Sheet rubber increased to Rs 223.00 (217.50) a kg according to traders. The grade flared up to Rs 222.00 (218.00) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi as reported by the Rubber Board.

In futures, the June series bounced back to Rs 229.50 (222.40), July to Rs 233.90 (226.72), August to Rs 233.70 (227.60), September to Rs 232.52 (225.75), and October to Rs 230.00 (224.00) per kg for RSS 4 on National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).

RSS 3 (spot) firmed up to Rs 235.05 (233.50) a kg at Bangkok. The June futures for the grade inched up to ¥ 421.4 (Rs. 232.84) from ¥ 420.0 per kg during the day session but then remained inactive in the night session on Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM).

The spot rubber rates in Rs per kg: RSS-4: 223.00 (217.50), RSS-5: 220.00 (216.00), Ungraded: 216.00 (214.00), ISNR 20: 211.00 (208.00), and latex 60% : 131.00 (128 .50).

Monsoon onset among the best on view in recent times



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MAY 31:

The Met subdivision of Kerala and Lakshadweep, the gateway for the southwest monsoon, is witnessing one of the strongest onsets of seasonal rains in recent memory.

Isolated heavy rainfall has been warned of here until Friday, an India Meteorological Department (IMD) update said this (Tuesday) morning.

An extended forecast valid until Sunday said that widespread rain or thundershowers would occur over extreme south peninsula, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The good times may last into the middle of June, according to the US National Centres for Environmental Prediction.

It sees the rains likely sweeping the entire country, including northwest India, after feverish activity in the Arabian Sea elicits some response from the uncharacteristically quiet Bay of Bengal basin.

IMD projections too show monsoon gathering strength and sustaining itself well until June 5, up to which forecasts are available.

This is despite the nuisance value of an existing upper air cyclonic circulation descending to set up a likely low-pressure area and moving away from the west coast.

In the process, though, the system will have driven the rains farther into the north along the coast, global models suggested.

The IMD said in the morning update that the monsoon has advanced into some more parts of south Bay of Bengal, entire Andaman Sea and some parts of east-central Bay of Bengal.

The northern limit remained stationary along Aminidivi, Kozhikode and Kodaikanal to the west but this may change soon.

Conditions are favourable for further advance of monsoon into more parts of Arabian Sea, rest of Kerala, more parts of Tamil Nadu, central and south Bay of Bengal and some parts of Karnataka during the next three days.

During the day yesterday (Monday), widespread rainfall was reported from Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It was fairly widespread over the north-eastern States and Kerala.

Satellite pictures early on Tuesday morning shows convective clouds rising over parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, west-central and south Arabian Sea, east Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea.

A short-term forecast said that widespread rain or thundershowers would occur over Lakshadweep and Kerala until Friday. Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers have been forecast over the Northeastern States, West Bengal, Sikkim, south Karnataka and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Scattered rain or thundershowers would occur over Konkan, Goa, north interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rayalaseema and rest of east India.

It will be isolated over the rest of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and central India.