

Cultivation of colour cotton can end pollution by dyeing units

Staff Reporter

TNAU to take up breeding of viable varieties of colour cotton



Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University P. Murugesu Boopathi speaking at a workshop on cotton and sericulture at the university in Coimbatore.

COIMBATORE: Cultivation of colour cotton is a good alternative to solve pollution problems caused by dyeing, said Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University P. Murugesu Boopathi here recently.

He said the university would take up breeding of viable varieties of colour cotton. But its success depended on farmers getting adequately compensated for their extra efforts, he added.

He was inaugurating a research workshop on “Cotton and Sericulture” at the university.

“Cotton is a labour-intensive crop. Agriculture engineers need to develop improved machinery for land preparation, seeding, weeding, spraying of plant protection chemicals and cotton picking, to decrease production costs to farmers,” he said.

Mr. Boopathi said the timely intervention of TNAU by multiplying parasitoids and releasing them in farmers' fields was responsible in saving the sericulture industry which was on the verge of being wiped out.

Pesticides worth Rs. 50 crore and an yield loss of Rs. 500 crore could be saved in the last six months.

V. Santhanam, former Food and Agriculture Organisation expert, said the only way to reduce the cost of cotton cultivation and increase farm income was to popularise mechanisation methods suitable for small farm holders.

“The projected demand for Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton by 2015 in India is 20 lakh bales. The targeted area coverage for ELS cotton in Tamil Nadu is estimated at 50,000 hectares. Therefore, research for breeding new hybrids with Egyptian fibre quality standards is necessary,” he said.

He pointed out that Turkey and India were the leading organic cotton producers in the world.

The varieties and hybrids available now were not suitable for organic cotton production.

M. Paramathma, Director of Research, TNAU, said the 500 demonstrations conducted in farmers' field throughout the State by the university had resulted in 15 per cent increase in yields. This was because of effectively using modern technologies of TNAU. N. Ajjan, Director, Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, said the reduction in cotton area in the State was because of scarcity of labour and shift to maize and oilseeds cultivation.

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Sell green gram, black gram immediately

The price will be between Rs. 46 a kg and Rs. 48 a kg in June It will ome down to Rs. 42 a kg in July

COIMBATORE: The Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has said that the price of green gram and black gram will not increase in June and July.

Hence, farmers have been asked to sell the stocks without storing them.

Based on the analysis made by DEMIC at the Villupuram Regulated Market of the last 10 years' price, the price is expected to prevail between Rs. 46 a kg and Rs. 48 a kg in June and between Rs. 41 a kg and Rs. 42 a kg in July, according to university release.

Among the pulses, black gram and green gram are important ones. According to Union Government's Third Advanced Crop Estimates, black gram production was estimated at 1.8 million tonne and green gram at 1.4 million tonne during 2010-11.

In the 2011-12 Budget, the Union Government has announced a number of measures to strengthen the areas of pulses, vegetables and oil palm.

India has also launched the Accelerated Pulses Programme since Kharif 2010 for demonstration of production technologies in village level blocks. This, along with better rainfall during the Kharif and Rabi seasons has resulted in increased production of pulses in the country.

The area under pulses in Tamil Nadu was 5.35 lakh hectares with production of 2.04 lakh tonnes during 2009-10, while the area under black gram and green gram were 2.60 lakh hectares and 1.38 lakh hectares with production of 0.99 lakh tonnes and 0.48 lakh tonnes respectively.

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“Farmers must be trained in extension activities”

Staff Reporter

Taking technology quickly to farmers is need of the hour



Training programme: S. Senthil Vinayagam, Director, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, speaking at Gandhigram Rural Institute near Dindigul on Tuesday.

DINDIGUL: Taking technology and marketing strategies to farmers quickly is need of the hour. To achieve it, farmers should be motivated and trained in extension activities.

These were highlighted at a training programme on 'Horticultural extension management for extension functionaries,' organised by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, in Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Gandhigram near here on Tuesday.

In his inaugural address, MANAGE Director (Agriculture Extension) Director S. Senthil Vinayagam said that present ratio of agriculture extension officials and farmers was 1:20,000.

It would be difficult to scale down the gap between the two.

Technology-led extension activities, market-related extension activities and farmer led extension activities were three pronged strategies to reach farmers.

The 12th five year plan has components for such activities. Farmers should be fully trained to take these technologies and strategies among other farmers. Mission mode approach only would bring a desirable change in this connection, he opined.

In his special address, Annamalai University, Faculty of Agriculture Dean J. Vasantha Kumar stated that there was a wide gap between research and extension activities in the country.

“Even as the country topped in vegetable and fruits production, we could not tap European and US markets. We have not tapped the global market potential effectively in the WTO era,” he added.

A decade ago, Punjab had exported 500 tonnes of ladies finger to the UK.

It was reduced subsequently. There was nothing from Tamil Nadu, he deplored. Several agriculture produces like cashew, produced in our State were rebranded and exported to foreign countries.

“We should tap consumers in the US and the UK directly to get better price for farmers. All the latest information and updated technologies should reach more farmers through extension activities. Then only we will do justice to extension work,” he added.

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Banks embarrass farmers who availed of loans

P. Samuel Jonathan

— Photo: T VIJAYA KUMAR



Distraught: A farmer rues the damage caused to his banana plantations at Pedapulivarru village in Tenali division.

PEDAPULIVARRU (GUNTUR DT): This quaint village in Bhattiprolu mandal nestled among lush green paddy fields in Bhattiprolu occupies a pride of place in the annals of Telugu cinema.

It is the birthplace of one of the greatest playback writer and singer, Samudrala Raghavacharya, who in turn introduced the great Ghantasala Venkateswara Rao to Telugu films.

But the villagers, mostly farmers owning small to medium size land holdings, instead of brimming with pride, look distraught.

Farming has lost its charm and nature's fury and the loss in production had landed them in huge debts. But what is making them seething with anger was the mindless action of a national bank, which had published photos and names of 43 farmers as defaulters recently.

Sunkara Jagamohan Rao owns 7.3 acres in which he has been cultivating banana, paddy and turmeric. He took a crop loan of Rs.1.90 lakh in 2006 from the Corporation Bank, Pedapulivarru, Tenali and a loan of Rs.45,000 in the name of his wife.

The steep rise in Minimum Support Price of Turmeric lured Mr. Rao into investing heavily on his farm. But the successive floods in 2008 and 2009 had caused a huge loss and MSP dipped to Rs.5,000 per quintal.

It was on March 9, Mr. Rao got a letter from the bank stating that his name was among the list of defaulters and his photo would be published in the notice board of the bank and at the office of Village Revenue Office.

"I was shocked to see the contents of the letter and pleaded with the bank officials not to publish my name. I promptly repaid the loan taken in the name of my wife and also pleaded to give some more time to repay the entire loan," Mr. Rao said.

But the bank officials turned the other way and the photos of Mr. Rao along with 42 farmers were published on a banner in front of the bank. The incident sparked outrageous reaction from farmers and after the incident was prominently reported in the newspapers, the lead bank manager, L. Rami Reddy conducted an enquiry and ordered for removal of all photographs. But the action rattled the villagers. Katuri Murali Krishna, who has a debt of Rs.50,000, including Rs.30,000 as a motorcycle loan, was in a shell and admitted that he had not gone to the bank

since the incident. The vagaries of nature have taken a heavy toll on his Turmeric and paddy fields leaving him in a debt of Rs.2 lakh.

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Avoid eating imported vegetables and fruits

Staff Reporter

Authorities sound caution following E.Coli outbreak in Europe

HYDERABAD: The outbreak of toxic strain of Escherichia Coli (E.Coli) in Hyderabad is remote, but people should be extremely cautious and avoid eating imported fruits and vegetables, caution health authorities.

The outbreak of this toxic strain has already caused an alarm after 17 persons died and 1,700 more were infected with in Europe. The mutant form of E. coli in Europe is causing Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) or acute kidney failure among the infected persons. Given the past experiences, especially with swine flu, which originated in Mexico but impacted many in Hyderabad, physicians have advocated general precautions while consuming raw vegetables, fruits and even water.

Nephrologists point out that a decade back there was an outbreak of HUS cases due to E. coli in India and Bangladesh. Authorities also maintained that a few HUS cases were reported from Hyderabad and other districts in the State, but they were different from the Europe cases.

“HUS that occurred in India was common among children. But 90 per cent of the cases recovered with supportive care while only 5 per cent suffered kidney failure. There were cases in which children had to be given artificial kidney support for a few days. Kidneys recovered their function after treatment,” says senior Nephrologist, Dr Pradeep Deshpande.

So what is E. coli and what are the sources of infection? Doctors said that E. coli is a commonly occurring species of bacteria found in large intestine of humans. Largely, many strains of E. coli are harmless but a few, like the one in Europe, contain genes that help the bacteria to produce toxins and impact the health.

The most common way in which public can get infected with disease causing forms of E. coli is by consuming food and water. "Public should watch out before consuming raw vegetables and fruits in the form of salads. There are persons who prefer to consume raw milk. They better pasteurise milk because raw milk could contain virulent forms of E. coli," doctors suggest.

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85 fertilizer distribution centres in Kurnool

Special Correspondent

Minister T.G. Venkatesh releases agriculture information booklet

— Photo: U. Subramanyam



Minister T.G. Venkatesh having a look at a bull at the Rythu Sadassu, held at Kurnool agriculture market yard on Tuesday.

KURNOOL: Minister for Minor Irrigation T.G. Venkatesh said 85 centres were opened in the district for distribution of fertilizer.

Addressing a Rythu Sadassu at Market Yard here on Tuesday, he said a senior officer is posted to monitor paddy procurement. A large quantity of gunnies were procured from West Bengal to meet the demand.

He said nine combined harvesters were supplied at subsidised rate this season. He said priority is being given to implement 'Pavala Vaddi' loans, supply of seed and fertilizer. He said so far no problem had cropped up on the seed or fertilizer distribution front.

He wanted the officials to complete Guru Raghavendra canal and supply water to farmers. The Minister called for improvement of amenities for farmers at the market yard, which include supply of meal at Rs. 15. He said problems would be solved if brought to their notice.

Later, the Minister released agriculture information booklet.

Collector Ramsankar Naik said special training is being given to progressive farmers and VROs on modern farm methods and crop enumeration methods. The update of revenue records helped easy sanction of bank loans to farmers where crop details and cultivators identity is clear. Collector said distribution of fertilizer started at 48 places on June 4 and a system was developed to ensure fertilizer supply to all. He said farmers should make it a point to get the crop cultivated, recorded in the revenue records, so that settlement of crop insurance is not difficult. ZP Chairman A. Venkata Swamy, MLA Katasani Rambhupal Reddy, MLCs M. Sudhakar Babu, S.V. Mohan Reddy, Joint Collector M. Buddha Prakash and others were present.

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Farmers urge government to buy paddy

NELLORE: Members of Rythu Sangala Samakya, Nellore district unit, demanded the government to purchase the paddy stocks from farmers immediately and stop farmers' suicides in the State. The Samakya leaders plan to submit a representation to Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy requesting him to solve their problems. Speaking to the newsmen here on Tuesday, Samakya president Bejawada Obul Reddy said farmers are tense with the arrival of monsoon in Nellore district. The government should purchase paddy stocks from ryots by

paying Rs.1,230 Minimum Support Price (MSP) for A-grade quality paddy and accord permission for exporting paddy to other States, he said.

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Tobacco growers to press for crop holiday

Staff Reporter

Traders have hardly lifted 50 million kg of tobacco: Rythu Sangam leader 'They have not kept their promise of providing remunerative price'

ONGOLE: Concerned over continuing fall in the price offered by buyers even after a meeting with Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy last week, a section of growers in Prakasam district have launched a signature campaign to press for announcement of crop holiday by the Tobacco Board during the coming cropping season.

"We are fed up with the attitude of manufacturers and exporters who have been cutting the purchase price further by Rs 20 even for bright grade which fetched over Rs 100 per kg before the Chief Minister's intervention", Vellampalli II auction platform farmers leader B Seetaiah said.

Ahead of the meeting with Tobacco Board Chairman G Kamalavardhana Rao on Wednesday, he said "We have raised seedlings thrice. Productivity has also been hit this year due to unseasonal rains. We feel that we cannot continue to incur losses year after year and they joined me in signing memorandum to press for declaration of crop holiday by the Board. I will moot the crop holiday proposal during tomorrow's meeting".

Crop switch

Yellampalli I platform farmers' leader M Anjaiah said, "we feel that taking to streets to press for a fair price is futile. It is better to switch to other crops instead of growing tobacco"

Recalling the landmark decision taken by the Tobacco Board in 2000-01, TDP farmers wing Prakasam district president K Venkaiah while visiting the Ongole I platform said “it has become a habit for buyers to present a rosy picture at the time of raising seedlings and claim that there are no buyers at the stage of marketing.’. CPI(M)-led Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangam district secretary N Ranga Rao said “traders have hardly lifted 50 million kg of tobacco since commencement of auctions in February last week.”

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Fresh arrival of DAP improves fertilizer stock in Erode district

S. Ramesh

It will now be available for sale in 150 primary agricultural coop. credit societies

— PHOTO: M. GOVARTHAN



Self-sufficiency:Workers unloading the fertilisers sent by the TANFED to Erode district on Tuesday.

ERODE: Erode district has received 2,650 tonnes of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) from the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited (TANFED) on Tuesday.

The fresh arrival had improved the fertilizer stock in the district to a comfortable level. Two weeks ago, the district had faced a shortage in the supply of DAP and farmers had represented this issue at various levels.

DAP is a main ingredient in fertilizers, used for all crops in varying quantities. Following repeated representations from the farming community, the TANFED had sent the consignment of 2,650 tonnes of DAP. "We have unloaded the fertilizer bags from the wagons and started transporting them to the primary agricultural co-operative credit societies," a senior official from the Department of Agriculture said.

"We now have 2,740 tonnes of DAP in the district, which is sufficient to meet the demand for next two months. We will be getting more stock soon," he added.

The DAP will be available for sale in 150 primary agricultural co-operative credit societies in the district. Officials have appealed to the farmers to buy the fertilizer by paying the rate printed on the packet. They warned of stern action against private fertilizer dealers, who collected excess money from farmers.

The district also has adequate stock of other fertilizers. Currently, it has 3,600 tonnes of urea, 1,720 tonnes of Potash and 1,440 tonnes of other complex fertilizers. "We will be getting another consignment of 1,500 tonnes of complex fertilizers within 10 days," officials said.

Meanwhile, the demand for fertilizers is expected to go up in the coming months as farmers in most parts of the district have begun the cultivation activities. Paddy cultivation has commenced in the areas coming under the Thadapalli-Arakkankottai ayacut. Farmers in Modakurichi, Kodumudi, Thalavadi and a few other parts had taken up turmeric, millets and various other crops.

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Plan to distribute 732 cr. worth crop loans

Farmers told to adopt scientific methods of cultivation



Reaching out: Horticulture Minister R. Venkata Reddy and district Collector Siddhartha Jain reading a note on a variety of coconut at a horticulture exhibition at the 'Rythu Sadassu in Khammam on Tuesday.

KHAMMAM: Minister for Horticulture R Venkat Reddy said crop loans worth Rs 732.98 crore would be disbursed to farmers in the district for the ensuing kharif season.

Addressing a divisional-level farmers' convention at Baktha Ramadasu Kala Kshetram here on Tuesday, he said a comprehensive action plan has been formulated to provide crop loans worth Rs 246.55 crore to farmers for the next rabi season.

The plan envisages provision of bank loans to 77,500 new farmers and 3,200 Rythu Mithra Groups.

Efforts are underway to supply 4,865 tonnes of gypsum and 919 tonnes of zinc sulphide to farmers for the current kharif season, he said calling upon the farmers to adopt scientific methods of cultivation to reap rich harvest with low investment.

Tips

Among those who spoke include Khammam MLA T Nageswara Rao, MLC B Lakshminarayana, and Collector Siddharth Jain. Agriculture scientists gave tips to farmers on scientific methods of cultivation on the occasion. Earlier, the Minister released the kharif action plan.

Exhibition

An exhibition showcasing various agriculture implements and other exhibits was organised under the aegis of the allied government departments as part of the farmers' convention at the auditorium.

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Agricultural department to rent out implements for kuruvai cultivation

Laser-driven plough equipment and levelers available on hourly basis at Rs. 285

NAGAPATTINAM: The department of Agricultural Engineering is poised to hire out mechanised agricultural implements to meet the cultivation requirements of farmers for this Kuruvai season. According to a department release, laser-driven plough-implements and levelers are available on hourly basis at hire costs as little as Rs.285. The laser-driven levelers capable of leveling an acre-area within two hours with a three-centimeter precision were available for hire for the benefit of farmers.

Transplanters available

Additionally Cagewheels, cultivators, mixers, levelers, harvesters, and transplanters were made available with the Agricultural Engineering department to meet the demands of the farmers. There are 16 agricultural mechanised equipments, eight each in Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai under the possession of the Agricultural Engineering Department. Interested farmers may contact the Agricultural Engineering Department, Assistant Executive Engineer, Kumaran Mandapam, Nagapattinam; or alternatively, Office of Assistant Executive Engineer, Kuccheri Road, Mayiladuthurai, in order to avail the mechanised agro-inputs, the department release said.



Agence France-Presse

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Oil, food prices brake global growth: World Bank

Rising food and fuel prices are taking the wind out of the global economy's recovery in 2011, the World Bank has said, cutting its forecast for global growth.

The Bank projected said that global growth will only be 3.2% in 2011, a 10th point lower than its January estimate and sharply off the 3.8% pace of 2010.

The Washington-based development lender expected in its biannual Global Economic Prospects report that the world economy would rebound in 2012.

"But further increases in already high oil and food prices could significantly curb economic growth and hurt the poor," said Justin Lin, the Bank's chief economist.

High-income countries at the nexus of the 2008-2009 global financial crisis were still struggling to recover. Growth would slow from 2.7% in 2010 to 2.2% in 2011, slower than the previous 2.4% estimate.

The rich countries "have the largest amount of restructuring to do," said Andrew Burns, lead author of the report, at a news conference at the Bank's Washington headquarters on Tuesday.

Burns said that the US was in "a growth pause" but a double -dip recession was "not likely" - echoing US President Barack Obama's statement earlier on Tuesday that he was "not concerned about a double-dip recession."

The world's biggest economy was expected to grow a feeble 2.6% in 2011 and accelerate to 2.9% in 2012, the Bank said.

Japan's March 11 earthquake-tsunami disaster and unrest in the Arab world, while cutting sharply into domestic growth, would make only a modest dent in global growth, the 187-nation institution said.

The disaster interrupted Japan's supplies of key parts and materials to global industries, especially the auto and electronics industries, while political turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa region affected those economies and pushed oil prices higher.

Libyan oil output, which has dwindled to a trickle amid a pro-democracy revolt, accounted for about \$15 to \$20 of the roughly \$30 increase in oil prices from December to their February peak, Burns said.

The recovery in Europe continues to face "substantial headwinds" from uncertainty about debt crises in several eurozone members. The 17-nation eurozone is expected to expand at the 2010 pace of 1.7% this year, with growth only edging up to 1.8% in 2012.

By contrast, developing countries relatively sailed through the global downturn, providing the impetus for the global recovery.

But at the same time their robust growth was creating the demand for commodities that has spurred prices higher.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/707021.aspx>

Milan, June 07, 2011

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Grains up, but prices pressured: FAO

World cereals output is expected to rise to a new record in 2011 due to more planting and improved yields but low stocks are set to keep prices high and volatile, the United Nations' food agency said.

Global cereals output is expected to rise 3.5% to 2.315 billion tonnes this year, recovering after a 1% fall in 2010, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said on Tuesday in its first estimate of 2011 total global crops.

World wheat output is seen rising 3.2% to 674 million tonnes this year, down from an earlier forecast of 676 million due to unfavourable weather in North America and parts of Europe.

Weather in the coming months remains critical for shaping final crop outcomes, the agency said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/706893.aspx>

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Food price 'threat' for poor countries: UN agency

Food prices are to remain high and volatile into 2012, presenting a "threat" to poor countries that will have to spend up to a third more on food imports in 2011, the UN food agency said on Tuesday.

The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said that its food price index averaged 232 points in May - down from a revised estimate of 235 points in April but was still 37% above its level in May 2010.

"High and volatile agricultural commodity prices are likely to prevail for the rest of this year and into 2012," FAO said in a statement.

The reason for the monthly decline was the slight decrease in international prices of cereals and sugar, which offset increases for meat and dairy.

FAO said that the next few months will be "critical" - with encouraging prospects for the wheat harvests in Russia and Ukraine but a potential for lower maize and wheat yields in Europe and North America due to the weather.

"The general situation for agricultural crops and food commodities is tight with world prices at stubbornly high levels, posing a threat to many low-income food deficit countries," said David Hallam, head of FAO's markets division.

FAO said that the cost of global food imports is set to reach a record of \$1.29 trillion (879 billion euros) in 2011 - 21% more than in 2010.

Low-income food deficit countries and least developed countries will likely have to spend 27 and 30% more respectively on food imports, FAO said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/706750.aspx>

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Jun 8

Max Min
37.2° | 23.5°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 75%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:41

Sunset: 18:33

Barometer: 1005.0

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Thursday, Jun 9

Max Min
36° | 28°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday

Jun 10



34° | 29°

Rainy

Saturday

Jun 11



34° | 27°

Rainy

Sunday

Jun 12



34° | 27°

Rainy

Monday

Jun 13



33° | 28°

Rainy

Tuesday

Jun 14



34° | 28°

Rainy

8 Jun, 2011, 06.23AM IST, Madhvi Sally,ET Bureau

PUSA-1121 acreage rise may suppress basmati prices

AHMEDABAD: An increase in acreage under PUSA 1121 variety of basmati could likely put downward stress on its prices during the marketing season of 2011-12 , according to agrieconomist at Punjab Agriculture University. The sowing of basmati nursery in Punjab and Haryana is in progress , which will be planted during July. However, companies feel that the market would be able to absorb a 20% increase in acreage as demand is increasing in domestic and export markets. Punjab Agriculture University's agricultural market intelligence centre (AMIC) in-charge JS Sidhu said the oversupply of basmati rice in domestic and international markets is likely to continue, which may put downward stress on its prices during the marketing season of 2011-12 .

"With the inclusion of Pusa-1121 rice variety in the basmati category in 2008, the farmers in Punjab are encouraged to put more area under this variety to increase their returns. The area under basmati rice in Punjab was 3.5 lakh hectares and production was 10 lakh tonne in 2008-09 that correspondingly increased to 5.15 lakh hectares and 13.6 lakh tonne in 2009-10 . The area again increased to 5.5 lakh hectares and output 15 lakh tonne in 2010-11 . It may further go up to 6 lakh hectares and production to 16.5 lakh tonne during 2011-12 ," he added.

The increased production of this variety in Haryana and Punjab led a significant increase in the export of basmati during the last decade. India produces about 5 million tonne basmati rice, which is around 70% of the total world production and the rest is produced by Pakistan with a production of about 2.5 million tonne. Haryana, Punjab, UP, Uttarakhand , and J&K in India, and Punjab and Sindh states in Pakistan are the major basmati growers .

Basmati exporting house LT Foods is looking at 15% growth this year with a focus on the

traditional markets of the Middle East and Europe. "Farmers are getting better remunerative prices than the non-basmati varieties. If the acreage increases by 20% then there might be some problems in marketing, but it is unlikely to happen," said LT Foods joint MD Ashwani Arora. Currently, Saudi Arabia is the biggest importer of Indian basmati rice.



Farmers to be given agricultural equipment

June 08, 2011 11:16:01 AM

Staff Reporter | Bhopal

A target has been fixed to distribute 50,000 agricultural equipments among farmers of the State for smooth sowing operations during ensuing kharif season.

These implements will be made available on subsidy to farmers as per their eligibility under various schemes. From this year, the State Government has started to provide top-up subsidy in addition to the existing subsidy to marginal farmers belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The process of providing top-up subsidy has been started on the initiative of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Agriculture Minister Ramkrishna Kusmaria.

The appliances to be distributed can be operated manually, by bullocks and tractors. These include ploughs, wind farmer, hay-leveler, sowing machine, reaper for cutting crops, tractors and power tillers. The State Government is also giving top-up subsidy to small and marginal farmers belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes on bullock-driven implements as well.

These farmers will be specially provided 290 big agricultural implements, 400 tractors and 183

power tillers. A large number of farmers have already started lifting implements. The Agriculture Department has instructed its field staff to undertake wide publicity of the scheme and make agricultural implements available to farmers promptly.

Under the scheme, subsidy to the tune of 50 per cent or Rs 15,000, whichever is less, will be given on the purchase of all kinds of agricultural implements. On bullock-driven implements, subsidy worth Rs 2,500 or 50 per cent is given while maximum Rs 500 or 50 per cent subsidy is given on hand-operated implements. On power-driven and costly implements, loans are also sanctioned from banks. Agricultural implements are also distributed among farmers as per eligibility under various other schemes like National Food Security Mission, ISOPAM, Macro Management, Coarse Cereal etc.

The bioculture to be mixed with seeds makes nitrogen and phosphorus available to plants through natural process. When reaching inside the soil, these biocultures collect important nutrients and then feed them to the plant. They cost very less and are mixed with seed in quite small quantity. In the kharif season, Rhizobium culture is mixed with the seeds of pulses, Azetobacter culture with cereal crops and PSB is mixed with the seeds of all the crops.

Business Standard

Wednesday, Jun 08, 2011

'Rubber production needs to be ramped up'

BS Reporter / Chennai/ Kochi June 08, 2011, 0:30 IST

The production and productivity of natural rubber should be enhanced in the medium- to long-term in order to meet the ever increasing demand, said Vijaylaxmi Joshi, additional secretary (plantations), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The government can only make programmes and policies aimed at this, but it is up to the growers to implement them at the practical level in the field, she said.

While inaugurating 'Tapping 2011', the intensive mass contact programme of the Rubber Board at Kottayam on Monday, she urged the growers to adopt scientific tapping methods to face problems such as shortage of tappers and to increase the productive period of the rubber plantations.

Rubber Board chairperson Sheela Thomas pointed out that in spite of the reasonably good prices of NR, the sector is facing several problems and these can be addressed by the joint efforts of the Board and the growers.

The board is aiming to enhance productivity of smallholdings so that growers benefit from the prevailing prices. The productivity of the holdings mainly depends on tapping methods. The highest productivity has been noticed in holdings where scientific tapping methods are adopted, she said.

Good tapping depends on many factors such as girth and tapping height of trees, direction and slope of the tapping panel, depth and consumption of bark and time of tapping. Such holdings give sustainably good yield for many years and are comparatively free from diseases.

The mass contact programme, Tapping 2011, is scheduled to be held from June 6 to July 22. It is aimed at creating awareness among the rubber growers about the significance of scientific tapping and to promote modern scientific practices in all spheres of rubber plantation industry.

Four thousand meetings with a participation of 150,000 growers and tappers will be arranged in the traditional rubber growing belt of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with the involvement of the Rubber Producers' societies, self-help groups, non-governmental organisations and other voluntary organizations, a Rubber Board press release said.

In addition to the main theme of rubber tapping, topics like importance of replanting, climate change, quality planting materials, significance of scientific planting and maintenance of rubber plantations, rainguarding, use of Jebong knife, spraying of oil based fungicides using micron sprayers, scarcity of skilled tappers and strengthening of RPSs will also be discussed in the campaign meetings.

Oilmeal exports up on higher output

BS Reporter / Mumbai June 8, 2011, 0:19 IST

Oilmeal exports more than doubled in the first two months of the current financial year due to sharp increase in seed production, positive crushing parity and high demand abroad.

Data compiled by the apex trade body, the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA), showed a 117 per cent increase in oilmeal exports in April-May to 821,763 tonnes, as compared to 377,950 tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous year. In May, the exports surged 84 per cent to 320,266 tonnes as compared to 173,604 tonnes in the same month last year.



The oil year begins in November and from then in 2010 till end-May, export of oilmeal increased continuously to 4,004,724 tonnes as compared to 2,058,890 tonnes in the same period of the previous year. B V Mehta, executive director of SEA, gives three reasons for the growth. One, a sharp increase in oilseed production to 30.25 million tonnes in the current year (2010-11) as compared to 24.9 mt in the previous year (2009-10). Two, increased availability of oilseed led to higher crushing and production of oil and oilmeal. Three, good crushing parity due to high price of oil and export demand for oilmeal.

Oilmeal shipment to Japan during April-May more than tripled to 205,726 tonnes as compared to 48,887 tonnes last year, consisting of 200,323 tonnes of soybean meal and 5,403 tonnes of rapeseed meal. Vietnam imported 110,072 tonnes as compared to 41,853 tonnes last year comprising 95,076 tonnes of soybean meal, 7,976 tonnes of rapeseed meal and 7,020 tonnes of rice bran extraction. China imported 138,483 tonnes as compared to 100,281 tonnes earlier, consisting of 134,804 tonnes rapeseed meal, 2,288 tonnes of groundnut meal and 1,391 tonnes of soybean meal.

India's oilmeal exports to South Korea rose to 110,776 tonnes as compared to 88,012 tonnes last year, consisting of 55,470 tonnes of castorseed meal, 52,960 tonnes of rapeseed meal and

2,346 tonnes of soybean meal. Europe imported 43,774 tonnes as compared to 579 tonnes last year.

The export from Kandla port was 404,831 tonnes (49 per cent), followed by Mumbai and Navi Mumbai handling 171,000 tonnes (21 per cent), Mundra 167,441 tonnes (20 per cent), Bedi (near Jamnagar) 52,155 tonnes (six per cent), Vizag 17,100 tonnes (2 per cent) and Kolkata 7,020 tonnes (one per cent).

THE HINDU Business Line

TN Agri varsity to carry out research on colour cotton



Mr P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Coimbatore, June 7:

To minimise the impact of pollution in cotton based textile industry, the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU) will take up breeding work on colour cotton to develop viable colour cotton varieties, according to a top university official.

Since pollution caused by dyeing factories, as in Tirupur was a serious problem, colour cotton can be a good alternative to solve this issue, TNAU Vice Chancellor Dr Murugesu Bhoopathi said while participating in a two—day annual research workshop on Cotton and Sericulture here recently.

Though organic cotton was emerging as a promising proposition, its success depended on higher prices for the farmers, he said.

Yield levels of organic cotton were low around four to five quintals per hectare and unless farmers are adequately compensated for their extra efforts, organic cotton may not grow as desired, Mr Bhoopathi pointed out.

E.Coli shows little signs of abating

London, June 7:

The European Union Health Minister has hit out at Germany as the health crisis gripping Europe shows little signs of abating.

Mr John Dalli, a former Maltese politician, who has been the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy since 2010, warned countries to avoid triggering unjustified fears all over Europe about the source of the E.coli outbreak. It creates problems for our food producers selling their products in the EU and outside of the EU, he told Parliament ahead of a crisis meeting in Luxembourg.

Hopes that the source of the outbreak had been traced to a bean sprouts producer in Lower Saxony, 40 miles from Hamburg, were belied after German officials ruled that the organic farm was not the culprit. German officials had initially pointed the finger at cucumbers from Spain, an accusation they have since retracted in the wake of furious protests from that country. Spain has since warned that it will seek full compensation from Germany for the impact that the crisis has had.

Meanwhile, the toll from the deadly E.coli outbreak, which the World Health Organisation has warned is a rare strain never before seen in an EHEC outbreak, rose to 22 on Tuesday, with over 2,200 taken ill.

Agriculture Ministers from the region were due to meet on Tuesday to decide how to support and compensate farmers who have been hit by the crisis.

Industry bodies have warned that the crisis has been devastating for the European fresh vegetable industry, which trades around €1 billion a week.

According to Freshfel Europe, the body representing the fresh produce industry including fruit and vegetable producers, Spain is losing around €200 million a week, Netherlands around €80 million a week, Germany, €30 million a week, with France, and Belgium also affected; and Italy and Greece affected to follow soon.

Trade was being affected by the cancellation of programmes to buy products and calls to buy local, rather than any restrictions within the EU, Freshfel Europe said, adding that the introduction of a cross-product ban by Russia, and country specific bans by other countries such as the UAE were having a devastating effect. In the long term, the sector will also face damages given lost image as a result of the outbreak, said Freshfel.

3 firms evince interest in Red Sanders wood

AP Forest Development Corporation to facilitate sale

Hyderabad, June 7:

The Andhra Pradesh Department of Environment and Forests today directed the AP Forest Development Corporation (FDC) to facilitate sale of some grades of the much sort after Red Sanders wood at Rs 2.2 lakh a tonne.

In an order passed today, the State Government requested the Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of APFDC to take necessary follow-up action and facilitate three firms which have come forward to purchase Red Sanders stocks from the State.

Zatan Trading Corporation, Andhra Fogaku and Power Grip Resources had indicated to the State Government their intention to purchase this rare variety of Red Sanders wood.

They wanted an early decision as there was the possibility of securing permission from the Centre for allowing export of sawn sizes.

With this development, APFDC will now serve as an agent of the State Government for the disposal and monitoring the export of non- grade and C grade Red Sanders wood.

The Government has laid down certain terms and conditions for sale that includes payment of 5 per cent the total cost as commission towards the sale before remitting the same to Government account.

The State Government in its order has also made it clear that if the successful tenderer desires to lift the material before securing permission of the Government of India, it is allowed strictly on its own risk. However, this is subject to the condition that the transport permits shall be issued for the movement of Red Sanders wood tendered within the State.

It was made clear that the export process will begin only after obtaining necessary permission from the Centre.

Rising global prices improve scope for sugar exports



Raw sugar futures in New York rise \$80 a tonne

New Delhi, June 7:

Sugar exports from India have turned viable, with international prices firming up considerably alongside rising demand for whites ahead of the Ramzan season.

In the last one month, raw sugar futures in New York have climbed from below 20.5 cents to over 24 cents a pound, working out to an increase of about \$80 a tonne. During the same period, the August white sugar contract at London has shot up even more, from roughly \$ 580 to \$ 695 a tonne.

A leading trader, who deals on behalf of Indian mills, claimed he has received enquiries for sugar of 100 ICUMSA – which is of less premium quality compared with the 45-ICUMSA refined whites traded in London – at \$740 or Rs 33,100 a tonne free-on-board, Mumbai. “Refined sugar from India will easily fetch another \$ 30-40 now”, he said.

On the other hand, the ex-factory price of S-30 sugar in Maharashtra is currently about Rs 24,500 a tonne. Adding another Rs 2,000 towards freight and handling charges at the port would take the total cost of exportable sugar to Rs 26,500 a tonne. “Even if you pay mills a premium of Rs 5,000 to buy their export quota and factor in a four per cent DEP (duty entitlement pass book) benefit, there is margin to be made,” the trader added.

The recent spurt in world sugar prices reflects two factors. The first is production in Brazil, trailing initial estimates on account of the delayed start to crushing operations as well as an increased share of the crop going towards ethanol manufacture (60 per cent against the average 55 per cent for the year ended March 2011).

The higher diversion rate is, in turn, linked to crude prices that have remained at \$ 100-a-barrel and above for a sustained period. High crude prices have acted as a support for sugar, preventing its decline below a certain minimum level.

Raw sugar in New York briefly threatened to plunge below the 20 cents/pound mark in early May – against the record 35.31 cents touched on February 2 – but recovered subsequently to the current 24 cents (see chart). Mills in Brazil are now realising around 1,200 real on every kilo-litre of ethanol sold domestically, which translates into a raw sugar equivalent price of 22.5 cents a pound or thereabouts.

The second factor relates to the short supply of white sugar (relative to raws) in the world market. This is captured by the price difference between London whites and New York raws, which has risen to some \$ 165 a tonne on the back of demand from West Asia and North Africa.

“These countries usually stock up sugar for the Ramzan period. This time, most of them started with low inventories in view of the high prices prevailing earlier in the year. Their entering the market now has been a bullish factor”, the trader pointed out.

All this opens up opportunities for the country to export sugar, though the Centre has restricted that window to 500,000 tonnes. And of this total quantity permitted for shipments under the open general license (OGL), the Sugar Directorate has already issued export release orders for 372,809 tonnes.

Given the remunerative realisations involved, the entire OGL quota is likely to be used up within no time. Whether the Centre will allow additional exports after that is a moot question.

Meat & poultry sector needs Rs 4-5k cr investment: Govt



New Delhi, June 7:

An investment of around Rs 4,000— 5,000 crore is required in the meat and poultry processing sector, a senior official from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI) said today.

“The meat and poultry processing industry requires an investment of Rs 4,000—5,000 crore,” MOFPI Secretary, Mr Ashok Sinha said here.

Meat products are a price sensitive commodity and we need to provide good hygienic products for which the consumer would not mind paying a little extra, he said on the sidelines of the Mayor’s conference on meat and poultry sector.

Despite strong untapped potential, the sector has not been able to achieve the desired growth due to different marketing mechanisms, no value additions and low investment in processing facilities, he pointed out.

The sector needs to be modernised to increase the profits but immediate requirement is for the establishment of modern slaughter houses, Mr Sinha added.

Mr Rupali Banerjee Singh, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Meat and Poultry Processing Board (NMPPB) supported Mr Sinha's comments and added that modernisation will not only boost the income levels in this sector but also expand the export base.

"India has 3,600 registered slaughter houses and 25,000 unregistered ones, but there are only 5—6 modern slaughter houses," Mr Singh said.

Elaborating on the investments in the meat and poultry sector, Mr Sinha said that about Rs 3,000—4,000 crore would alone be required to develop modern slaughter houses all over the country.

"These slaughter houses would not only be used for slaughtering animals but also to process the products and would be able to safely dispose the waste," Mr Sinha said.

He said that the government was developing 10 modern slaughter houses of which three were almost complete and would start functioning very soon.

"The ministry will be submitting an elaborate investment plan to modernise the sector in the 12th five year plan proposals," he said.

Global cues drag edible oils

Mumbai, June 7:

Except groundnut oil, all edible oils extended decline in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Groundnut oil rose by Rs 5, extending Monday's gain of Rs 5 on firm reports from producing centres. Foreign market, especially Malaysia and Chicago, ruled weak. Malaysian crude palm oil (CPO) futures closed lower by 33,34,29 ringgits a tonne for July, August and September.

Tracking the bearish move, palmolein in the local market declined by Rs 2, soya oil by Rs 4, rapeseed oil by Rs 3 and cotton oil by Rs 5 for 10 kg. A leading broker said CPO futures on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives (BMD) extended losses for second day on Tuesday.

Mr Mahendra Joshi, an oil miller from Bhavnagar district, said in Gujarat millers are facing extreme shortage of nuts for crushing, as exporters are buying HPS groundnuts with premium. "Secondly, there is a good demand for seeds from farmers for sowing purpose on expectation of active monsoon soon. The same situation is prevailing in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Brand makers and stockists were buyers for quality groundnut oil, rushing in before monsoon. Disparity for mills may lead to further rise in price of groundnut oil," he said.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) price ruled steady today at Rs 1,355 and Rs 875 respectively.

Analysts said India's oilseeds and soya oil futures extended losses on third consecutive day on early arrivals of monsoon in western Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, which have raised hopes of the good oilseeds harvest in 2011-12.

In Mumbai, stockists continued to prefer taking delivery of old contracts and kept away from new buying. Easy supplies in the ready market kept speculators away. Arrivals of monsoon in India and expectation of higher kharif oilseeds sowing will increase the pressure in coming days. In the absence of new demand, resellers sold palmolein at Rs 575 to needy buyers. Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 581-583. Ruchi's rates were: for palmolein Rs 580, for soya refined oil Rs 635 and for sunflower oil Rs 695. Allana's palmolein was at Rs 581.

Malaysia's BMD CPO July contract was at MYR3,371 (MYR3,404), August at MYR3,354 (MYR3,388) and September at MYR3,352 (MYR3,381) a tonne. Indore NBOT soya oil June contract closed at Rs 650 (Rs 651.10) and July at Rs 653.40 (Rs 655).

Mumbai commodity exchange spot rate (Rs 10 a kg):Groundnut oil 880 (875), soya refined oil 635 (639), sunflower exp. ref. 650 (650), sunflower ref. 700 (700), rapeseed ref. oil 664 (667), rapeseed expeller ref. 634 (637), cotton ref. oil 635 (640) and palmolein was 576 (578).

Desi wheat gains as arrivals shrink

Karnal, June 7:

Low arrivals lifted the prices of desi wheat varieties while dara prices slipped marginally down on account of low buying on Tuesday.

Following low trading in the market, dara arrivals have also dropped. Just around 200 tonnes of dara variety arrived from Uttar Pradesh. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,170 a quintal while it traded at Rs 1,175 at retail market.

According to market sources, because of low arrivals from Uttar Pradesh dara variety is getting some support in the market otherwise prices could have been dropped to Rs 1,160 a quintal. Demand of flour is very low at present and this is also a reason behind the sluggish demand of dara, said Mr Sewa Ram, a wheat trader.

On the other hand, in desi wheat, just around 100 tonnes of varieties of desi wheat arrived from Madhya Pradesh.

Tohfa variety rose marginally by Rs 10 and was quoted at Rs 2,210 a quintal while Bhojan King increased by Rs 15 and quoted at Rs 2,110. Lal Quila witnessed the major uptrend, rose by Rs 40 and was at Rs 1,950 while amrit bhog traded at Rs 2,150 a quintal.

Sluggish domestic demand pulled the flour prices down by Rs 5 again and was ruling at Rs 1,190 for a 90 kg bag. Similarly, Chokar prices dropped by Rs 10 after ruling firm for almost a week and quoted at Rs 580 for a 49-kg bag.

57-day deep-sea fishing ban from June 15 along Karnataka coast

Mangalore, June 7:

Fishing in the deep sea will be banned along the Karnataka coast from June 15 to August 10.

A press release by the Deputy Director, Fisheries Department, Mangalore, Mr Suresh Kumar Ullal, said here the Karnataka Government, in accordance with the Karnataka Marine Fishing

(Regulation) Act 1986, has imposed a 57-day fishing ban along coastal Karnataka keeping in mind the welfare of fishermen and fisheries business in the State.

Fishing, either using mechanised boats or country boats with inbound or outbound engines of 10 horse power or more, has been banned during June 15-August 10.

Asking fishermen to comply with the ban, the release said strict action would be taken against violators, and they will not be entitled for compensation in case of accidents.

Mechanised boats violating the ban will not get subsidised diesel provided from the Karnataka Government, the release said. The Karnataka Budget for 2011-12 had enhanced the quantity of subsidised diesel for mechanised fishing boats in Karnataka from 85,000 kilolitres to 1 lakh kilolitres.