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Date:04/05/2011 URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/04/stories/2011050451080200.htm>

Training in bee keeping

Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE: The Department of Agricultural Entomology of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University will organise a training in bee keeping on May 6 on the university premises.

According to a university release, hands-on training will be imparted in identification of bee colonies and their rearing, artificial group rearing of bees, queen bee rearing and production techniques, and identification of natural enemies of bees and their management.

Interested candidates have to reach the Department of Entomology before 9 a.m. The fee of Rs. 150 has to be remitted.

A certificate will be given at the end of training.

Candidates can call 0422-6611214, or e-mail to entomology@tnau.ac.in for details.

Date:04/05/2011 URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/04/stories/2011050451790200.htm>

Training in fast food preparation

Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University will organise a training in fast food preparation on May 10 and 11 on the university premises.

According to a university release, the training will cover the following aspects: confectionery fast foods, mushroom-based ready-to-eat fast foods, cauliflower-based ready to eat foods, and sweet chutney.

Those interested can attend the training by paying a fee of Rs. 1,000. For details, contact Head, Post Harvest Technology Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore – 641003. For registration and details, call 0422-6611340 / 6611268.

Date:04/05/2011 **URL:** <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/04/stories/2011050461930300.htm>

Forest department keen on crop insurance scheme

V.S. Palaniappan

To benefit farmers in areas prone to man-animal conflict

Stray elephants often damage maize, sugarcane and plaintain crops near forest areas

Photo: Special Arrangement



On the move: A herd of elephants in an elephant corridor in Coimbatore district.

Coimbatore: The Forest Department is mulling over the idea of mooted an insurance scheme for crops in areas prone to man-animal conflicts.

Coimbatore is known for frequent man-animal conflicts wherein elephants stray from jungles, enter human habitations and cause damage to crops.

The straying of wildlife was often attributed to factors such as obstruction in corridor, non-availability of fodder and water in the jungles and luring cropping pattern along the forest boundaries.

The crops normally damaged by elephant herds included maize, sugarcane, plantains and at times, even other crops.

Officials keep sensitising the farming community to go in for a change in cropping pattern along the fringe areas of the reserve forest.

The department will have to study the agricultural lands in conflict-prone pockets, cropping pattern, and previous history and also initiate dialogues with the insurance companies to work out the economic viability.

The idea mooted by the high level forest officials is in its preliminary stages and would take shape shortly, District Forest Officer V. Thirunavukkarasu told The Hindu.

At present, man-animal conflict involving straying of elephants, Indian Gaur and wild boars resulted in damage to crops.

Villages

Coimbatore District has as many as 130 villages with agriculture of which 58 in man-animal conflict prone pockets are identified to be vulnerable to crop damage.

Forest Department at present was compensating the farmers by providing Rs. 15,000 for crop damage per acre besides Rs 25,000 for injuries sustained and Rs. 1.5 lakh for loss of life.

The department was planning to spend the money in a proactive manner by insuring the crops rather than distributing compensation to farmers.

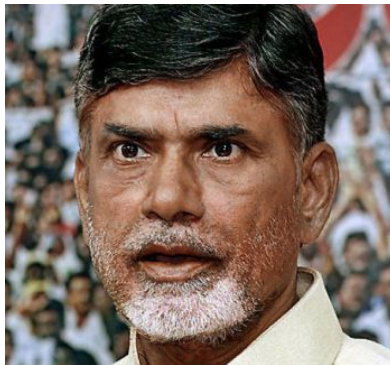
Insurance cover would help in getting early compensation for the farmers who suffer crop loss.

Only on studying the requirement and in consultation with the farmers and insurance companies, the economics could be worked out and only then the Government could take a final decision, the officials said.

Date:04/05/2011 URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/04/stories/2011050463010600.htm>

Paddy procurement: TDP threatens stir

Special Correspondent



N. Chandrababu Naidu

HYDERABAD: The TDP has asked the government to convene an all-party meeting to explain its action plan to procure about 100 lakh tonnes of paddy expected to arrive in the market shortly.

TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu threatened to launch an agitation to expose the government's failure in coming to the rescue of farmers anytime after May 8, the day when the by-election to the Kadapa Lok Sabha and Pulivendula Assembly seats is slated to be held. Huge stocks of paddy and other foodgrains were lying with farmers driving them to distress sale, while fresh stocks of rabi crops are expected to arrive.

Expresses concern

Speaking to reporters here on Tuesday, he lamented that while the Central government had increased the support price for wheat, it did not consider the demand for enhancement of price of paddy.

Several letters addressed by the TDP to the Centre failed to yield results even as the State leaders were trying to hoodwink farmers with their "empty claims."

Mr. Naidu expressed concern over the deteriorating law and other situation in the State which was evident from a series of murders starting from the TDP MLA Paritala Ravindra.

The politics of murder had become routine and rowdy elements were being encouraged by political leaders to settle scores with rivals. "The situation cannot be controlled as long as there is political interference in the police administration," he said.

Date:04/05/2011 **URL:** <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/04/stories/2011050460861400.htm>

VS hails organic farming

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan has said that the world is moving towards organic farming, and India cannot keep away from the trend.

He said this when the observers to the Stockholm Convention C. Jayakumar and Mohammed Asheel called on him here on Tuesday on their return from the Geneva meeting of the conference of parties to the convention. Mr. Achuthanandan said Kerala was the first State in the country to declare an organic farming policy. He said those on the payrolls of the pesticide lobby had been defeated at the convention.

Turmeric farmers face colourless prospects

S. Ramesh

ERODE: The downtrend in the yellow spice prices in Erode market continues owing to the weakening demand and steady arrivals. The prices fell below Rs. 9,000 per quintal at the end of the last week. The prices dropped by Rs. 300 to Rs.400 a quintal during the trade on Monday alone.

The daily arrivals in Erode market hovers between 10,000 and 15,000 bags. But the demand for turmeric in the domestic and export markets has gone down, which led to the drop in the prices. "We expect the prices to further drop by another Rs. 300 during this week. The prices now hover between Rs. 8,800 and Rs. 9,000 a quintal," Erode Turmeric Merchants Association president RKV Ravishankar said.

The decline in the prices has upset the turmeric farming community in the district, which has hoped that the yellow spice will bring in better fortune this year too.

Last year, the prices had crossed Rs. 16,000 a quintal, making many turmeric farmers in Erode district richer. The bullish market had encouraged the farmers to double the acreage under turmeric cultivation in the district. Over 10,000 hectares have been brought under the crop during the last year.

There was a strong expectation among the farmers that the prices of the yellow spice would not go below Rs. 9,000 a quintal.

"But we see the prices continue to decline during the last two weeks. If this trend continues, we may not be able to get remunerative prices for our produce," turmeric farmers fear.

As a result, many farmers in the district are planning to keep their produce in stock and sell it when the prices go up once again.

Ban endosulfan: traders

Staff Reporter



Members of Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam stage a demonstration near the Five-Road Junction in Krishnagiri on Tuesday. –

KRISHNAGIRI: The Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, affiliated to the Communist Party of India (Marxist), demanded the immediate ban of endosulfan.

The Sangam staged a demonstration near the Five-Road Junction in Krishnagiri on Tuesday.

Leading the demonstration, M. Dharman, its district president said it was shameful that India did not say no to endosulfan even as many countries including those of the European Union had imposed a ban on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP).

He said that commercial interests should not stand in the way of human health.

The endosulfan was persistent in the environment, bio-accumulative and caused adverse effects to human health and environment.

Endosulfan contaminates even breast milk. Its presence was reportedly found in breast milk samples from Egypt, Madagascar, South Africa, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Spain, Colombia, Nicaragua, Sub-Saharan Africa, Denmark and Finland. Reports indicate that the pesticide was moving through aquatic and terrestrial food chains.

It was found in tissues of animals worldwide. He said there were safe alternatives to endosulfan.

He criticised Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for lifting the ban imposed by the Union Government in 2001, soon after coming to power at the Centre in 2004.

Eighty nations including the U.S., the largest producer of endosulfan, had banned the pesticide.

The Centre should take a cue from the Kerala Government, which had banned endosulfan.

X. Irudhayaraj, district secretary; S.P. Chinnasamy, taluk secretary; K. Mahalingam, district secretary, CITU, Construction Workers Wing; G. Periyasamy, president, Krishnagiri taluk, spoke.

Date:04/05/2011 URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/04/stories/2011050457352200.htm>

5 million tonnes of additional foodgrains for BPL families

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: To make storage space available for the fresh rabi harvest, the Union government has decided to allocate an additional 5 million tonnes of wheat and rice to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) population under the public distribution system (PDS).

The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, cleared the Food Ministry's proposal at a meeting on Monday.

The additional foodgrains will be made available from June 1 over six months, informed sources said.

The meeting also decided to extend subsidised edible oil through the PDS till September.

The EGoM, however, decided to hold further consultations on the proposed national Food Security Bill.

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Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Wednesday, May 4

Max Min
38.6° | 27.4°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs Sunrise: 5:47
Humidity: 75% Sunset: 18:24
Wind: Normal Barometer: 1002.0

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Thursday, May 5

Max Min
37° | 26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday May 6	Saturday May 7	Sunday May 8	Monday May 9	Tuesday May 10
40° 29°	40° 28°	39° 28°	39° 28°	39° 28°
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy

3 May, 2011, 02.16PM IST,PTI

Chana futures up on spot demand

NEW DELHI: Chana prices moved up by Rs 4 to Rs 2,331 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions on expectations of pick-up in demand at spot markets.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange , chana for delivery in May rose by Rs 4, or 0.17 per cent to Rs 2,331 per quintal, with an open interest of 1,45,340 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in June traded higher by the same margin to Rs 2,408 per quintal in 1,24,180 lots.

Traders attributed the rise in chana futures prices to pick-up in demand, particularly from dal mills, in the spot markets.

3 May, 2011, 01.18PM IST,Reuters

Oilseeds, soyoil steady; eye global cues

MUMBAI: India's oilseeds and soyoil futures were steady on Tuesday afternoon as an upside in Malaysian palm oil outweighed higher rapeseed arrivals in the local spot markets, analysts said.

"Domestic market is reacting to movements in overseas markets. Domestic fundamentals are largely steady," said Vinita Advani, an analyst with Ventura Commodities Pvt Ltd.

"Soyoil demand is steady, but it may improve this month due to wedding season."

At 1:02 p.m., Malaysian palm oil futures were up 0.73 percent at 3,294 ringgit per tonne, while U.S. soybean was 0.77 percent lower at \$13.79-1/2 per bushel.

The most-active soybean for May delivery on the India's National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) was down 0.17 percent at 2,395.5 rupees per 100 kg at 1:03 p.m.

In the Indore spot market, soyoil nudged down by 0.65 rupee to 613 rupees per 10 kg, while soybean dropped 5 rupees to 2,354 rupees per 100 kg.

May soyoil on the NCDEX edged up 0.09 percent to 623.3 rupees per 10 kg, while rapeseed for May delivery eased 0.07 percent to 2,745 rupees per 100 kg.

At Sri Ganganagar spot market in Rajasthan, the biggest producer of rapeseed in the country, prices was steady at 2,650 rupees per 100 kg.

3 May, 2011, 02.10PM IST,PTI

Potato futures recover on fresh buying support

NEW DELHI: Potato prices recovered by Rs 6.30 to Rs 519 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions on the back of pick-up in demand against less arrivals.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange , potato for delivery in July rose by Rs 6.30, or 1.23 per cent to Rs 519 per quintal, with a business volume of a single lot.

Similarly, the potato for delivery in June rose by Rs 6.60, or 1.21 per cent to Rs 552 per quintal, with a business turnover of two lots.

The potato prices for delivery in May gained Rs 5.90, or 0.97 per cent to Rs 612.40 per quintal,

with an open interest of a single lot.

Traders said fresh buying by speculators on hopes of pick-up in demand in the spot market led to the rise in potato futures prices. They added that less arrivals in the physical market also supported the uptrend.



Kerala bid to stop Endosulfan production

May 04, 2011 10:57:11 AM

VR Jayaraj | Kochi

Kerala is searching for legal ways to put an end to production of Endosulfan within the State in the context of the country getting a six-year relaxation for phasing-out the killer pesticide. The State Government is examining the options in this regard as there are rumours that the Centre may use the phase-out period to let the pesticide industry make maximum mileage.

The matter would be discussed in detail at the high-level meeting to be held on Wednesday at Thiruvananthapuram. It would also examine and approve a project submitted by the Kerala Agricultural University for putting farming in Kerala on the organic path by eliminating the use of chemical pesticides gradually but totally.

Use of Endosulfan was banned in Kerala in 2002 following the pesticide-generated health problems seen in Kasaragod and the Centre had issued a notification in 2005 approving it. However, Central public sector unit Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL) at Eloor near Kochi has continued to manufacture huge quantities of the pesticide.

Matters related to the manufacture and distribution of Endosulfan is under the control of the Central Government. There is apprehension that the Centre, which is yet to give up its pro-Endosulfan stand, is unlikely to do anything to stop the production immediately as it has got a six-year period to implement the global ban imposed by the Geneva Convention of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

The State also fears that the exemption given to 23 crops with regard to the ban on Endosulfan could be misinterpreted for the purpose of helping the pesticide industry. It is in this context the Kerala Government is examining whether it can legally end the manufacture of the pesticide at HIL.

Kerala Agriculture Minister Mullakkara Ratnakaran is planning to work for bringing together as many states as possible to put pressure on the Centre to end the production of Endosulfan. Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh already share Kerala's views on Endosulfan and the Minister expects several other states to extend cooperation.

The Kerala Agricultural University has submitted a detailed report to the Department of Agriculture on how the State could be put on the path of organic farming by eliminating the use of chemical pesticides gradually. Wednesday's meeting is expected to approve this project. The Government might issue an order in this regard soon.

State Agriculture Department points at gloomy future for western UP districts

May 04, 2011 11:02:09 AM

Pioneer News Service | Lucknow

The soil samples taken during 'Apni Mitti Pehchano' programme of state Agriculture Department

are pointing at a gloomy future for most of the western UP districts. Due to excessive use of chemical fertilisers and changing crop pattern here the land is losing its fertility at alarming rate.

In several parts of Muzaffar Nagar, which is considered as major cane and potato growing district, the soil was turning alkaline which could turn misfit for growing any kind of vegetation in future, the Agro scientists have warned.

The issue of utmost concern for Agro department officials and farmers both is loss of organic carbon in the soil at most of the places in delta of Ganga and Yamuna, considered most fertile in the country. It may be recalled besides major contribution in wheat and sugar the western UP districts produce 42 percent of total potato in the country.

According to Agro scientists, involved in testing soil samples under 'Apni Mitti Pehchano' programme, at several places level of organic carbon have receded .01 to .03 percent which indicates acute scarcity of nutrient contents in the soil. The standard level of bio carbon in the soil, necessary for fertility, should be between .05 to .08 percent.

Admitting the substantial loss of nutrient contents in soil of western districts due to rampant use of chemical fertilizers, a Deputy Director at Agriculture Department in state capital said, five years back average per bigha consumption of Urea in western UP was 10 to 20 kg, now which have increased upto 40 Kg per bigha.

The Soil Testing Department of state holds industrialisation, increasing dependency of farmers on chemical fertilizers and sizeable decrease in numbers of cattle in villages, which used to be the major source of bio-fertilizers, responsible for threat of lowering in fertility of soil.

Seeing the condition which might lead to food crisis in future, the Agriculture Department have launched various training programmes for farmers aimed at encouraging use of bio-fertilizers and improving over all fertility of the soil.

Now the farmers preferred taking only cash crops like cane and potato which have broken the traditional crop pattern. This was also having adverse effect on fertility of soil, a Soil Testing Department staff said.

Business Standard

Wednesday, May 04, 2011

Paddy growers demand higher MSP

D Gopi / Vijayawada May 04, 2011, 0:07 IST

Farmer leaders representing Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh have formed an independent forum to help paddy growers across the country.

The All India Paddy Growers Forum, which was formed here on Tuesday, would take up issues concerning paddy growers in the country. It would fight for minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 2,000 a quintal from the coming season. To have a common MSP, the forum would hold conventions to unite farmers and mount pressure on the government.

Bharathiya Kisan Sangh, Andhra Pradesh, general secretary, Y Surya Narayana, said the forum would also press for the state governments to procure paddy and conduct auctions through the respective market yards, as was being done in the case of commercial crops like cotton, chillies and turmeric. States such as Haryana and Punjab are already implementing the system by conducting auctions at market yards. This would keep a check on the traders and millers, he said, adding state governments should procure paddy from farmers and sell it to millers and traders.

Surya Narayana said farmers were investing over Rs 1,678 to produce a quintal paddy due to the increased input and labour cost. Unless the government pays MSP of Rs 2,000, farmers would not be able to grow paddy in the coming years.

Besides, the forum asked the government to give permission to paddy growers to take up direct export to other countries. It also sought lifting of restrictions on paddy transport in the country to help farmers transport their produce to any market in the country.

The forum would hold a national level protest of paddy growers at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi in October.

Wheat procurement gains pace, 75% completed

Komal Amit Gera / Chandigarh May 4, 2011, 0:05 IST

The favourable climatic conditions across the country this rabi season helped the procurement agencies to have completed nearly 75 per cent of the targeted wheat procurement till now.

The food ministry had fixed a target of procuring at least 26 million tonnes of wheat this year. The procurement agencies are sanguine about the good weather in north after cloudy days in the last week of April. The wheat procurement touched 22.5 million tonnes last season.

Till date, total procurement of 19.54 million tonnes has been done. Punjab has targeted 11 million tonne procurement and Haryana 6.8 million tonnes. Uttar Pradesh is also likely to achieve a target of 4 million tonnes this year.



Wheat procurement is on its culmination in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. According to officials at the Food Corporation of India, the procurement process formally lasts till June 30, but the arrivals start dwindling after May 15.

ON A HEALTHY NOTE

Rabi procurement in states till May 2 (in million tn)

State	2010	2011
Punjab	0.98	0.94
Haryana	0.61	0.59
Uttar Pradesh	0.70	0.53
Madhya Pradesh	2.70	2.98
Rajasthan	0.38	0.50
Gujarat*	5,000	28,000
Bihar*	14,000	6,000

** in tonnes*

Sources in government department informed that Bihar has a target of 700,000 tonnes and Madhya Pradesh of 3.5 million tonnes. So, substantial quantities are still to be procured from these two states and Rajasthan is also likely to fetch 300,000-400,000 tonnes for the central pool.

Private traders do not have an incentive to buy wheat at this juncture as prices are hovering around the minimum support price (Rs 1,120 a quintal plus Rs 50 a quintal bonus). Most private traders and millers have taken a view that wheat would be available at cheaper rates even if they wait for some more time.

The officials in the state food and supply department said farmers are now well aware of the government policies and are not lured by the private traders.

Farmers are yet to get bonus in most of the states as the bonus amount is exempted from taxes and levies of the state governments. Some of the states have informally started distributing to avoid farmers' resentment and it is in the process in most of the states.

Meanwhile, the Union Food Minister K V Thomas is visiting Punjab tomorrow to have an insight into procurement operations in the state that contributes a lion's share in the wheat procurement. He is expected to visit mandis in and around Amritsar.

THE HINDU Business Line

Maharashtra sugar output may hit record 91.5 lt



New Delhi, May 3:

Maharashtra's sugar output may touch an all-time-high 91.50 lakh tonnes (lt) during the 2010-11 season (October-September), even as the State Government is planning additional sops to enable mills to crush the entire cane lying in growers' fields.

The State Cabinet, it is learnt, is considering a proposal on Wednesday to grant mills a cane transport subsidy of Rs 3/tonne for every one-km distance. Currently, this subsidy – effective since March 16 – is available only on cane transported beyond 50 km.

What is being mooted now is to dispense with the minimum 50-km distance requirement. That means even if cane is sourced from a distance of 10 km, mills can claim a refund of Rs 30/tonne.

The other major sop being proposed is to compensate mills for reduced sugar recovery rates on account of undertaking crushing during May and June. Any cane that is crushed during May 1-15 will be entitled to a subsidy of Rs 65/tonne, with these rates rising to Rs 130/tonne for crushing during May 16-31, Rs 195/tonne during June 1-15 and Rs 260/tonne for beyond June 15.

“The idea is to incentivise processing of the entire 810 lt cane available, so that not a single tonne lies uncrushed in the fields. In the event, Maharashtra would produce a record 91.50 lt of sugar, taking an average recovery of 11.3 per cent,” a State Government official told *Business Line*.

He, however, added that this projection assumed no unseasonal rains or shortage of harvesting and transport labour, “which we cannot totally rule out during the summer months”. The State's maximum sugar production of 91 lt was achieved in the 2006-07 season (see Table).

In the current season, Maharashtra factories have paid an average Rs 2,100 for every tonne of cane delivered at their gate, which includes harvesting and transport charges of Rs 300.

Mills in the State had, as on Monday, crushed 756.24 lt of cane and produced 85.66 lt of sugar at an average recovery of 11.33 per cent. During the corresponding period of the 2009-10 season, crushing amounted to just 590.53 lt, yielding 68.31 lt of sugar at 11.57 per cent recovery.

“This time, we have had 163 mills undertaking crushing operations, of which 118 are still running. In 2009-10, by this time, 100 out of the 141 factories had already shut down,” noted Mr Prakash Naiknavare, Managing Director, Maharashtra State Cooperative Sugar Factories' Federation.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh – the country's No. 2 sugar maker – is estimated to have produced around 59 lt in the current season. “We have compiled data up to April 15, based on which 58.85 lt has been produced and with six factories still crushing. Since then, all mills have stopped operations and the total output is likely to have ended up at 59 lt,” said an industry spokesperson.

Tea Board help sought to rev up Coonoor sale



Coonoor, May 3:

With 31 to 48 per cent of the offer at Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions remaining unsold in the recent weeks, worried producers have sought the Tea Board' promotion and marketing.

With the Board insisting on 100 per cent sale through e-auctions, the future trade will be on real-time with instantaneous fund transfer for on-spot payment from off-site purchase in on-line system. This calls for greater understanding of commodity and derivate trading. Trade Associations cannot survive by claiming to conduct auctions just by providing the platform to keep the computers as the software and monitoring are done elsewhere.

“At the recent National Convention, we, therefore, urged trade bodies to become marketing managers for tea by enhancing their knowledge capital and bear responsibility to promote tea highlighting health benefits. We also urged Tea Board to take the lead in promotion and marketing,” Dr AVK Iyengar, Director, Plantation Management Academy, told *Business Line*.

“As Tea Board's most schemes are production-oriented, we called for market-oriented schemes as well. Award-winning teas must fetch good prices; otherwise, awards will lose their

significance”, he said. “We have suggested to the Board to come out with attractive showrooms in metros to sell quality teas. It should announce specific promotion plans. Drawing this to its advantage, the industry should have its own plan. The generic promotion can be supplemented with brand promotion. Specific marketing budget with time-bound selling targets must be drawn up by every player,” Dr Iyengar added.

The speciality e-auction of Golden leaf award winning teas conducted with Board's support proved that the Board's direct involvement will benefit industry and trade.

Spot rubber declines on buyer resistance

Kottayam, May 3:

Spot rubber weakened further on Tuesday. The prices slipped on buyer resistance lacking positive factors to keep the commodity on the higher side. According to observers, traders lost confidence to enlarge their commitments as the trend setting Japanese markets were on long holidays. The trend was mixed.

Sheet rubber slipped to Rs 233 (233.50) a kg according to traders. The grade declined to Rs 233.50 (234.50) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi as quoted by the Rubber Board.

The May futures improved to Rs 231.99 (231.85), June to Rs 236.85 (235.79), July to Rs 238.04 (237.96), August to Rs 233.50 (232.06), and October to Rs 228.40 (226.65) while the September futures moved down to Rs 227.50 (228.50) per kg for RSS 4 on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).

RSS 3 (spot) weakened to Rs 243.14 (245.80) a kg at Bangkok. The Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM) remained closed owing to Constitution Memorial Day.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 233 (233.50); RSS-5: 231 (231.50); ungraded: 227 (227); ISNR 20: 223 (225) and latex 60 per cent: 142 (144).

Research to extend shelf life of fruits, vegetables

Coimbatore, May 3:

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) is pursuing research on developing a Nano Film, which can help to extend shelf-life of fruits and vegetables, a top TNAU official has said.

By this means, through Department of Nano Sciences and Technology, the price fluctuation in the market for these perishables can be minimised considerably, Dr Muruges Bhoopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU said, while speaking at a two-day workshop on 'Supply Chain Management (SCM) for horticulture commodity-approaches for socio economic impact,' at the University, which began yesterday.

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