

## **Maize cultivation to be profitable: TNAU**

Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE: The Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has asked farmers to take up maize cultivation in summer (Chithiraipattam).

This is because good quality maize is expected to fetch a price between Rs. 1,200 and Rs. 1,350 a quintal.

An analysis made at the Udumalpet Regulated Market reveals that the Chithirai sown maize will yield nearly 70 per cent to 80 per cent of the normal yield.

Seed treatment

Farmers are asked to take up seed treatment with Metalaxy 1 / Ridomil (6g / kg of seed) to prevent downy mildew. The current price is Rs. 1,280 a quintal while during the same time last year it was Rs. 925.

The factors contributing to the rise in price are the high international price, increased domestic and export demand and lesser stocks.

Tamil Nadu is one of the major consumers of maize, used in poultry feed units.

For details, contact the DEMIC on 0422-2431405.

## Issuance of applications begins at TNAU

Staff Reporter

*This year the university is offering 1,365 seats for the 13 courses*



**Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University P. Murugesha Boopathi (second left) inaugurates the issuance of applications for undergraduate programmes at the university in the city on Friday.**

COIMBATORE: The admission process for undergraduate programmes of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) began on Friday with the issue of applications.

Vice-Chancellor of the university P. Murugesha Boopathi inaugurated the process by handing over the first application to a candidate.

This year the university is offering 1,365 seats for the 13 courses. The first day saw 992 applications being sold, with 733 sold on the university premises. Application forms will be available till May 31.

Application forms can be obtained from the Dean (Agriculture), and Chairman- Admissions, TNAU, or from any of the constituent colleges. The cost of application is Rs. 600 for general candidates and Rs. 300 for SC / ST candidates. They can also be downloaded from the university website [www.tnau.ac.in](http://www.tnau.ac.in).

For details regarding admissions contact 0422-6611210 / 6611322 / 6611328.

Date:07/05/2011 URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/07/stories/2011050754520500.htm>

---

## Mango prices slump

S. Ramesh

PHOTO: M.GOVARTHAN



**Delicious fruits: Mangoes have started to arrive in large numbers in Erode markets.**

ERODE: The King of Fruits will not be hard on the common man's pocket this season. The increase in the yield has pushed down the prices of different varieties of delicious mangoes.

Mangoes from Salem, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri have already hit the markets in the State. Huge arrival of mangoes is reported in the fruit markets in Erode district over the past few days. "The mango farmers of Tamil Nadu and neighbouring states reported a bumper crop this year. As a result, the markets will soon be flooded with mangoes," traders here point out.

"The prices of many varieties had come down by 15 to 20 percent in the current season, which is good news for mango lovers. This is the right time to buy mangoes," Sivakumar, a fruit retailer here points out.

In the retail market, the delicious Imam Pasand variety is selling at Rs. 50 a kg this season. In May last year, the same variety was sold at Rs. 70 a kg, he says.

The Alphonso variety is selling at Rs. 40 a kg, while the best quality Malgova variety is priced at Rs. 45 a kg. The prices of other varieties had also come down this season. The Sendura variety sells at Rs. 15 a kg, while Banganapalli costs Rs. 25.

Date:07/05/2011 URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/07/stories/2011050751330200.htm>

---

## Coconut tonic infusion raises nut weight

Staff Reporter

TUTICORIN: Coconut tonic, designed by the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU), Coimbatore, infused to coconut trees through roots, increases the size of the nuts and enhances weight.

Coconuts were being cultivated on 5,200 hectares over 12 blocks in the district. Demonstrating the coconut tonic infusion technology in a coconut farm at Guruvarpatti of Vilathikulam block in the district, in the presence of large number of farmers including women farmers, Deputy Director of Horticulture M.Syed Ahamed Miranji said the tonic consisting of macro nutrients, micro nutrients and hormones had been fed to coconut trees to increase the nut weight.

“Tonic has the added advantage of reducing the button shedding, increases the ‘chlorophyll’ content, and protects the coconut from pest and disease attacks. Tonic could be fed to the trees twice a year. S.Raja Mohamed, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Vilathikulam, explained the method of feeding tonic.

“One small polythene pouch is filled with 40 ml of the tonic mixed with 160 ml of good water and is tied up tightly with twine to the cut root in such a way that the root is inside the pouch fully. Heap soil so that the tonic will not ooze out.”

Date:07/05/2011 URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/07/stories/2011050754120500.htm>

---

### **Deadline for distributing seeds set**

GUNTUR: In – Charge Collector A. Sarath has fixed this month end as deadline for distribution of seeds for the ensuing kharif season to enable farmers commence agricultural operations in the second week of June. He warned the dealers against selling seeds in other districts for a higher price consideration. He was addressing a meeting on seed supply on Friday.

Tulasi Seeds and Nuziveedu Seeds have made arrangements to supply 5 lakh and 4.5 lakh seed packets in the coming days. Complaints of spurious seeds should be inquired and action taken against the companies. Any irregularity in the supply of seeds would be dealt with sternly, Mr. asserted.

Date:07/05/2011 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2011/05/07/stories/2011050752510300.htm>

---

### **Farmers to stage protest today**

*Aim is to draw the attention of Chief Minister to their problems They want remunerative prices fixed for all crops*

---

DAVANGERE: Farmers in the district have criticised the Government for not initiating steps to fix remunerative prices for crops.

Avaragere Rudramuny, farmers' leader, told presspersons here on Friday that the financial loss to farmers owing to the sharp decline in prices of agricultural produce was rising by the year. Several farmers had to sell their land to settle accumulated debts, he said and added that the farmers would stage a demonstration here on Friday when Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa arrives here to draw his attention to their problems. He said that

farmers had been demanding remunerative prices for many years.

They had also staged protests to draw the attention of the Chief Minister to their problems. Mr. Rudramuny said that the Chief Minister had promised on many occasions that appropriate steps would be taken to fix remunerative prices for all crops. He had not kept his promise. Mr. Rudramuny urged the Government to form an expert committee comprising agricultural scientists, officials and farmers to work out remunerative prices for all crops.

The committee should take into consideration various expenses such as wages of workers, transportation charges and marketing, he said.

© Copyright 2000 - 2009 The Hindu

## THE HINDU Business Line

### Palm oil may test resistance, fall



Malaysian palm oil futures on BMD exchange tumbled lower on Friday along with other commodities as risk appetite waned for commodities. A sell-off in the commodities complex rubbed off on palm oil that has lost nearly 16 per cent so far this year on a combination of weaker external markets, slow demand and a build-up in stocks. Cargo surveyors Intertek Testing Services and Societe Generale de Surveillance will issue Malaysia's May 1-10 palm oil exports on Tuesday. Industry regulator Malaysian Palm Oil Board will release April palm oil

stocks data on the same day. Energy futures prices fell 5 per cent on Friday, extending a 10 per cent crash on Thursday as fears about global economic recovery pushed investors to unwind commodities positions.

CPO futures moved in line with our expectations. We have been maintaining our bearish view intact despite some short-term spikes. As mentioned earlier, while CPO futures remain below 3,345/50 Malaysian ringgit (MYR/tonne) (July) levels, we still feel prices could subsequently weaken reviving hopes for a decline towards our favoured target near 3,025 MYR/tonne. Resistances will now be seen at 3,210 MYR/tonne followed by 3,245 MYR/tonne levels now. Good support will now be seen at 3,105 MYR/tonne. A minor pullback to the above mentioned resistances look likely in the coming sessions. Subsequently, the decline should resume as there are no clear signs of reversal yet. Only a rise above 3,295 MYR/tonne could postpone the bearishness.

We believe the impulse that began from 1,427 MYR/tonne, which hit 4,486 MYR/tonne ended and a prolonged corrective move has possibly ended at 1,335 MYR/tonne. In the big picture, a new impulse began from 1,335 MYR/tonne and the third wave with a projected objective of 3,900 MYR/tonne has been met. Most probably a wave "A" target has been met. A corrective wave "B" targeting 3,625-3,700 MYR/tonne has also materialised. The present fall could still be a wave "C" expecting to end near 3,025 MYR/tonne. Only a rise above 3,350 MYR/tonne will force us to review our counts again. RSI is in the neutral zone now indicating that it is neither overbought nor oversold. The averages in MACD are still below the zero line of the indicator still indicating bearishness to be intact. Only a cross-over above the zero line again could indicate a reversal in trend.

Therefore, look for palm oil futures to test the resistance levels initially and then fall lower.

Supports are at MYR 3,145, 3,105 and 3,025. Resistances are at MYR 3,220, 3,250 and 3,305.

Gnanasekaar .T

*(The author is the Director of Commtrendz Research and also in the advisory panel of Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX). The views expressed in this column are his own and not that of MCX. This analysis is based on the historical price movements and there is risk of loss in trading. He can be reached at gnanasekar\_thiagarajan@yahoo.com.)*

## **Spot rubber improves on short covering**

Kottayam, May 7:

The rubber prices turned better on Saturday. In spot, the market recovered on fresh buying and short covering as the domestic futures improved further on the NMCE. According to observers, weekend covering purchases at lower levels kept the prices on the positive side and a higher opening in the global markets might take them to better levels on Monday.

Sheet rubber firmed up to Rs 227.50 (226.50) a kg according to traders.

The grade increased to Rs 228.00 (227) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi as per Rubber Board.

## **Futures gain**

The May series improved to Rs 227.10 (225.30), June to Rs 233.59 (231.59), July to Rs 235.71 (234.75) and August to Rs 233.90 (232.83) while the September series slipped to Rs 228.50 (229) a kg for RSS 4 on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 227.50 (226.50); RSS-5: 226 (225); ungraded: 224 (219); ISNR 20: 222 (219) and latex 60 per cent 139 (139).