

Today's Paper » NATIONAL » TAMIL NADU

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Intermittent rain causes stagnation in paddy fields

Delta Bureau

Agricultural department calls it an augury for samba, thaladi crop



vagaries of weather: Water stagnation in paddy field in Thanjavur district due to heavy rain.

Heavy rain continued to lash Thanjavur and Tiruvarur district for the fourth consecutive day on Monday. Water stagnation in paddy fields was reported in some places but agriculture department officials said the rain augurs well for samba and thaladi crops being raised now.

As Kuruvai harvest has been completed, there is no problem but for the moisture content in paddy. For this the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) has relaxed the norm and is procuring paddy with 20 per cent moisture content.

V.Balasubramanian, Joint Director of Agriculture, Thanjavur, said kuruvai harvest has been completed in 38,063 hectares of the total target of 40,283 hectares and is going on in the rest using nearly 30 machines. Harvest is to be done in 550 hectares in Thiruvaiyaru block, 500 hectares in Thanjavur block, 1,100 hectares in Budalur block, and 70 hectares in Orathanadu block. Maximum yield in kuruvai was 9,000 kg per hectare while the average was 6,556 kg per hectare.

He said samba and thaladi crops have been transplanted in 70,000 hectares in the district.

The plan is to cultivate samba and thaladi in 1,35,000 hectares of which samba will be raised in 1,05,000 hectares and thaladi in 30,000.

Rainfall recorded till 8 a.m. on Monday was Peravurani 94.6 mm, Adhirampattinam 63.9 mm, Thanjavur 17.6 mm, Vallam 49.2 mm, Kumbakonam 31 mm, Thiruvaiyaru 5 mm, Thirukattupalli 2.2 mm, Grand Anicut 9.8 mm, Orathanadu 9.6 mm, Neyvasal Thenpathi 11.6 mm, Vettikadu 26.2 mm, Pattukottai 22 mm, and Kumbakonam 15.6 mm.

Tiruvarur

Rainfall recorded in the district was Tiruvarur 31.60 mm, Kodavasal 16.60 mm, Mannargudi 28 mm, Muthupettai 45.60 mm, Nannilam 34.20 mm, Needamangalam 17.20 mm, Thiruthuraipoondi 69.40 mm, Valangaiman 18.40 mm, and Pandavayar 30.80 mm.

P.V.Srividya, Staff Reporter

Nagapattinam

The district recorded an average rainfall of 32.47 mm. The breakup of figures for the corresponding locations was Mayiladuthurai 55 mm, Manalmedu 49 mm, Anaikkaranchatram (Kollidam) 44mm, Tharangambadi 32.60mm, Thalainayar 32mm, Sirkazhi 30mm, Nagapattinam 29.20mm, Thirupoondi 13mm, and Vedaranyam 7.40 mm with a total district record of 292.20 mm of rainfall.

Karur

Intermittent rain battered the district with dark clouds hanging over the town and various centres all through the day.

The district experienced 80.30 mm of rainfall. The chief amount of rainfall recorded in important locations are Palaviduthi 34.30 mm, K. Paramathi 16.80 mm, Thogamalai 13.40 mm, Kadavur 5.20 mm, Aravakurichi 4.60 mm, and Mylampatti and Anaipalayam, 3 mm each.

Pudukottai

Heavy rain thrashed parts of the district, particularly the coastal areas, for the second day on Sunday.

For the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, Annavasal registered a maximum of 7.52 cm of rain followed by Nakudi and Arimalam 7.2 cm each, Kattumavadi 6.4 cm, Manalmelkudi 6.2 cm, Aranthangi 6.10 cm, Meemisal 5.92 cm, Tirumayam 4.9 cm, Ayinkudi 4.7 cm, Avudaiyarkovil 4.5 cm, Alangudi 4.4 cm, Kudumiyamalai and Gandarovakottai 3.8 cm each, Keezhanilai 3.6 cm, Udaiyalipatti 3.3 cm, Pudukottai, Perungalur, Karambakudi and Viralimalai 3 cm each, Adhanakottai 2.6 cm, Keeranur 2.4 cm, and Karaiyur 2.2 cm.

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Farmers seek compensation

Staff Reporter



At loss: Farmers of Karuppanthurai arrive at Tirunelveli Collectorate with germinated paddy and submit petition to Collector on Monday. — Photo: A. Shaikmohideen

Demanding compensation for the paddy crop damaged in recent rain, a group of farmers from Karuppanthurai here submitted petition to the Collector on Monday.

The farmers said they, who had raised paddy crop with lots of difficulties following non-availability of adequate water for irrigation and spiralling prices of fertilizers, faced huge loss as the recent rain had damaged the crop badly.

In several areas, the damaged paddy had started germinating. Against this backdrop, the State Government should chip in to bail out the farmers by giving adequate compensation, they said.

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Banks to showcase farm credit schemes at mela

B.S. Satish Kumar

Five-day Krishi Mela from November 16



The new addition to this year's Krishi Mela, being organised as a national event by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, is the participation of nationalised banks which will showcase the entire range of agricultural credit facilities.

Ten nationalised banks will set up stalls in the mela to be held from November 16 to 20. They will provide information on schemes in agriculture and allied sectors which have credit facilities, according to UAS Vice-Chancellor K. Narayana Gowda.

“These banks will educate farmers on the procedures related to credit disbursal and eligibility criterion as well as the credit size in various schemes,” he said.

More importantly, the banks would create awareness among farmers on why loan applications get rejected, he said.

The Apex Bank, which will also set up its stall, would provide information on the status of the scheme under which loans are being provided to farmers through co-operative banks at an interest rate of 3 per cent.

Awards

Several of these financial institutions have come forward to sponsor cash incentives for innovative farmers.

The university is honouring innovative horticulture farmers with Dr. M.H. Marigowda Best Horticulture Farmer Award, besides honouring the best farm man and farm woman from each district.

The university has now decided to pool in the sponsorship money along with its own resources to float a fund for instituting awards for two innovative farm youth (young man and young woman) from each of the 96 taluks coming under its jurisdiction.

Honouring innovative farm youth at taluk level was the first such effort in the country, the vice-chancellor said.

Pointing out that the agricultural sector was facing a crisis of manpower shortage with the youth moving away from farming, Dr. Narayana Gowda hoped that honouring innovative young farmers would go a long way in encouraging the youth to remain in agriculture.

“The main intention is to instil confidence in them that they can make profits through farming,” he said.

After honouring them with awards, the university plans to make use of their services as resource persons for training other farmers under its various programmes. They would also get honorarium for their services.

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- *Ten nationalised banks will set up stalls*
 - *UAS to institute award for farmers from 96 taluks*
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Aid for turmeric farmers

Correspondent

Excise Minister M.P. Renukacharya has said he will request the Chief Minister to provide support price for turmeric.

Speaking at a meeting of farmers here on Monday, the Minister claimed the Government had implemented several programmes for the benefit of farmers. The former Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa had released Rs. 10 crore for a turmeric market in the district.

He instructed the Deputy Commissioner to prepare a report following a complaint of Rs. 1,682 crore loss caused due to illegal mining in the district.

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha district president Mahesh Prabhu and K.R. Mallikarjunappa, MLC, were present.

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Rice scheme launch today

Special Correspondent

Marking A.P. Formation Day, Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy will launch the Re.1-a-kg rice scheme to benefit 2.26 crore BPL families on Tuesday at Khairatabad here.

According to a press release from the Chief Minister's Office here on Monday, all arrangements have been made for the launch of the scheme and rice stocks have been positioned in the ration shops in all districts.

This will be the first time that BPL ration card holders will be given rice at Re.1 a kg. The subsidy per year will be Rs. 2,600 crore and the quantity of rice required each month is 3.3 lakh metric tonnes. On November 2, Mr. Reddy will launch Rachabanda-II from Jaggampeta in East Godavari and Yelamanchili, Visakhapatnam.

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Two-thirds of major irrigation reservoirs have higher storage

T. Ramakrishnan

Two-thirds of major irrigation reservoirs in the State have higher storage than what they had in the previous year.

All the reservoirs in the Cauvery basin have comfortable storage. On Monday morning, the water levels of the Mettur, Bhavanisagar and Amaravathy dams stood about 91 feet, 81 ft and 55 ft respectively against their levels of 65 ft, 66 ft and 47 ft on the corresponding day last year.

The figures of present storage are: Mettur – 54 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft); Bhavanisagar – 16.3 tmc ft and Amaravathy – 1.4 tmc ft. On the same day in 2010, the dams had storage of 29 tmc ft, 9.3 tmc ft and one tmc ft.

The details of their full levels and storage are: Mettur - 120 ft and 93.4 tmc ft; Bhavanisagar – 105 ft and 32.8 tmc ft and Amaravathy – 110 ft and 4.047 tmc ft.

In the Periyar-Vaigai basin, the Mullaperiyar dam's water level was 123.5 ft (permissible level: 136 ft) against 117.8 ft last year. Its storage was 3.3 tmc ft, one tmc ft more than that of the previous year. [At the water level of 136 ft, the storage is 6.118 tmc ft.] In the Vaigai dam, the level was 63.1 ft, 10 ft higher than what it was a year ago. The storage was 4.2 tmc ft, nearly two tmc ft more than that of 2010.

In the Parambikulam-Aliyar system, all the reservoirs had better storage.

New trough

A senior meteorological official said that a new trough of low pressure had formed over the Bay. It lay extending from Sri Lanka to north Tamil Nadu coast over south west Bay. Widespread rainfall was expected over coastal parts of the State while interior areas would receive fairly widespread rainfall.

During the 24-hour-period that ended at 8-30 a.m. on Monday, most places of the southern parts of the State received rainfall. Peravuarani (Thanjavur district) and Srivaikuntam (Tuticorin) registered 9 cm each, while Manimuthar (Tirunelveli), Sathankulam and Tiruchendur (both Tuticorin) recorded 8 cm each.

Since October 24, nine persons in the State have died due to factors such as lightning, electrocution and land slide, according to an official of the Revenue Administration.

The solatium of Rs. 1 lakh had been distributed to legal heirs of each deceased person. As of now, the situation of crop loss had not arisen, another official said.

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Farmers eagerly await arrival of potash consignment

Staff Reporter

Availability of potash is expected to ease in the district in the next couple of days much to the relief of farmers, especially in Kulithalai-Krishnarayapuram belt, in the district where late samba cultivation has picked up momentum. Officials have confirmed that a special consignment of 500 tonnes of potash is headed for the district and will be available to farmers in another three days.

The farmers have been stung by the scarcity of potash over the past couple of months. They said the supply and availability of potash was a matter of grave concern, urging the Centre and the State to take steps to import potash to meet the increasing demand.

“Muriate of Potash (potassium chloride) is essential for the top dressing of paddy besides being used as manure for banana cultivation. It is used for increasing colour and adding to the weight of sugarcane crop. With potash finding such incremental value especially for paddy growers in Krishnarayapuram, Kulithalai, Nangavaram and Karur tracts and banana growers in the Krishnarayapuram, Lalapet, Marudur and Kulithalai areas, the scarcity has hit the farmers hard,” observes Farmers Discussion Group convener Kulithalai A.V. Gopaladesikan.

Since, it has been two months since nurseries for Samba were raised, they require a dressing of potash and urea. Sugarcane growers require potash for first and second manuring.

While Urea is available freely, the availability of potash that was in limbo has now been addressed, Mr. Gopaladesikan points out.

However, farmers are still facing a lot of problem in accessing di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and they are forced to compromise with other complex fertilizer mixtures but which are dearer. Besides, going for mixed complex fertilizers, farmers are spending on unnecessary minerals and elements. The Central and State governments must go into the root of the problem in availability of DAP and find a permanent solution to the issue, says a leading banana grower M. Sakthivel of Marudur.

“Of course the shortage is not haunting us but why should we compromise and pay more when DAP could very well be made available to farmers with timely intervention of the governments”, he said. While DAP costs Rs.909 per 50-kg bag, two bags of complex fertilizers must be applied to compensate that quantum of DAP, for which the farmers have to shell out Rs.1,380.

Mr. Sakthivel also expresses relief over the impending arrival of Potash and says that primary agricultural cooperative societies and private traders must ensure that farmers get access to the fertilizer in time.

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ICAR to offer research-based solutions to farmer problems

Special Correspondent

Administrative building of banana research centre opened

LENDING A EAR: S.Ayyappan, centre, secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Extension, and Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, at National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) near Tiruchi on Monday. M.M.Mustafa, left, Director, NRCB, is in the picture.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched a new programme, Farmers' First, with the objective of finding solutions to the problems faced by farming community through research, said S.Ayyappan, Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Extension and Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, here recently.

Speaking after inaugurating a new administrative building of the National Research Centre for Banana, located at Podavur near Tiruchi, Dr.Ayyappan said funds for the research projects would be provided through a special fund.

The funds will amount to about 3 per cent of the total outlay of the each agricultural research institute in the country. Emphasis will also be on secondary agriculture involving processing, storage, promotion of business incubators and value addition of agricultural produce.

Dr.Ayyappan advised scientists to go for patenting of technologies developed by the research institutes. The ICAR has identified 27 research platforms covering agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and allied sectors as the focus areas during the 12th Five Year Plan, he said.

He also visited the NRCB research farm and reviewed the ongoing projects of the institute and advised the scientists to work on a consortia mode to find solutions to farmer's problems and also to give priority for the waste utilisation in banana.

Dr. Ayyappan also appreciated the technologies developed at NRC for the benefit of the farmers and also the research infrastructure to solve the problems of the banana farmers. M.M.Mustafa, Director, NRCB, and other scientists were present. The new administrative building of the centre was constructed at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore.

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Mettur level

The water level at the Mettur Dam stood at 91.44 feet on Monday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 11,472 cusecs and the discharge 1,000 cusecs.

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Drive to impound stray cattle to resume

Special Correspondent

Biding their time: Stray cattle rummaging through garbage near Gandhi Market in Tiruchi.—

PHOTO:R.M. RAJARATHINAM

The Tiruchi Corporation would resume the drive to impound stray cattle found roaming on the city streets, Corporation Commissioner K.Veera Raghava Rao has said.

Mr.Rao told reporters here on Monday that the drive had been suspended in view of the elections in the city. The Corporation would also impound stray dogs and the operation has already commenced in the Srirangam zone on Monday, he said.

Despite repeated warnings and sporadic attempts to impound stray cattle in the city, the Corporation has not been able to control the menace. In many places such as the Gandhi Market, those rearing cattle let out the animals to feed on the vegetable wastes dumped on the roads. Dozens of cows could be seen rummaging through the wastes around the Gandhi Market almost every day.

Last month the Corporation had announced that owners of cattle which are impounded would be levied penalties as per the rates already fixed by the Corporation Council: Rs.500 for a cow; Rs.300 for a calf or donkey; Rs.100 for a goat and Rs.750 for a horse. This apart, Rs.100 a day would be collected as maintenance fee for each head of cattle.

The impounded cattle would be auctioned on the third day, if their owners failed to pay the penalties within 48 hours. Cattle heads which are impounded for the third time would be immediately auctioned. Though the drive to impound the stray cattle was carried out for a couple of days in September, it failed to create an impact as cattle owners were letting out the animals in public places with impunity.

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Sugarcane growers demand payment of dues

Correspondent

The sugarcane growers of Haliyal taluk on Monday blocked the Khanapur-Talaguppa State Highway for more than four hours demanding the fixation of the price and payment of dues by the Parry Sugar Factory in Haliyal.

The farmers demanded that the factory management first fix the price for sugarcane this year and make the payment. The meeting was attended by the factory management, sugarcane growers, and the officials.

Sunil Hegde, MLA, who addressed the protesters, said that the sugar factory should pay the dues. Udachappa Bobati and B. C. Patil, farmer leaders, said that they were ready to go to jail for the cause of the farmers. T. Kannan Murugappa, chief of Parry Sugar Factory in Haliyal, heard the farmers and said that the factory had suffered a loss of Rs. 72 crore last year and despite this, the dues of farmers would be paid. He said that the factory was ready to buy sugarcane at Rs. 1,800 a tonne.

Later, a meeting under the chairmanship of Azeez Desai, tahsildar, was held and the factory administration agreed to pay the due amount before February.

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Training in vegetable cultivation

The District Information Office and the Krishi Bhavan of Thazhekodde organised a specialised training in vegetable cultivation for select farmers from Puthur, Muthiramanna, and Madampara. District Information Officer V.P. Sulabha said the training was aimed at bringing back farmers to

vegetable farming. Many farmers had switched over to growing rubber, she said. E. Jubail, Scientist, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Pattambi; handled the sessions.

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Farmers urged to focus on soil testing

Special Correspondent

Will lead to good crop yield: Minister

Rajasthan Agriculture Minister Harjiram Burdak has called upon the farmers to take the initiative for soil testing in their fields to facilitate the use of suitable seeds, fertilisers and other farm inputs and ensure the presence of sufficient micro-nutrients that could lead to good crop yield. Inaugurating a soil testing centre at Ladnu in Nagaur district over the weekend, Mr. Burdak said the productivity of soil could be enhanced manifold by proper treatment once the status of micro-nutrients was correctly determined. The State Government wants every single farm to be tested for soil productivity, he added.

Mr. Burdak asked the farmers to avail of the benefits of the ongoing soil health and productivity management programme in the State, adding, "The nature of soil [established] through the tests enables the farmers to know if the seeds [sown by them] would actually lead to a profitable yield."

The Minister pointed out that the farmers taking initiatives in different sectors were being encouraged and rewarded by his department, while new farm techniques were being popularised with the help of agricultural scientists.

The State Government had started supplying seeds valued at Rs.100 crore during the crop seasons and seeds worth Rs.50 crore for fodder production to the farmers free of cost since the last year, said Mr. Burdak. Besides, Rs.800 crore were paid to farmers as compensation for loss of crops during the drought. Mr. Burdak also called upon the farmers to adopt animal husbandry in a big way to augment their income. "Farming and cattle rearing are complementary to each other," he remarked, while referring to the programmes for dairy development and improvement of the livestock breeds.

Rajasthan State Seeds Corporation General Manager Dayal Singh and Joint Director (Quality Control) Jagpal Singh Chaudhary also addressed the function.



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi, October 31, 2011

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Inflation to ease soon, says Pranab

Finance minister Pranab Mukherjee on Monday said inflation will start easing soon as the government's efforts to remove supply-side bottlenecks have started yielding results.

"The current inflation pressures are mainly because of supply-side constraints of agricultural products. Necessary steps have already been taken. I hope it will have its impact and from November-December onward... the rate of inflation will be moderating," Mukherjee told reporters in New Delhi.

Food inflation shot up to 11.43% during the week ended October 15 on the back of costlier vegetables and fruits.

Headline inflation, which also factors in manufactured items, has been above the 9% mark since December, 2010. It was 9.72% in September this year.

On the RBI's decision last week to raise key policy rates for the 13th time since March, 2010, to tame the rate of price rise, Mukherjee said, "There was some liquidity excess which was required to be mopped up and through the adjustment of interest rates, efforts have been made to mop it up."

Following the global financial crisis in 2008, several governments across the globe have provided a stimulus to give a boost to their economies, resulting in excess liquidity in the system.

In order to check inflation, the RBI raised the short-term lending and borrowing rates by 25 basis points to 7.5% and 8.5%, respectively, on Tuesday.

Answering questions on the euro zone crisis, Mukherjee said, "... Emerging economies are looking at the Cannes Summit with great expectations. The basic problem is solvency issues. Leaders will send some strong message."

The G-20 leaders will be meeting at Cannes later in the week to work out a solution to the euro zone's sovereign debt problems.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/763154.aspx>

New Delhi, October 31, 2011

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Food Bill in parliament's winter session: Thomas

The draft National Food Security Bill will be brought to the cabinet by Nov 20 and introduced in the winter session of parliament, food minister KV Thomas said on Monday.

He said that his ministry has received inputs from states on the proposed right to food law.

"We have set a target to prepare the draft bill by Nov 20 and present it before the cabinet," Thomas said. "We want to present the bill in the winter session."

The proposed Food Security Bill proposes to cover around 75% of the population and will provide rice, wheat and coarse grains at Rs 3, Rs 2 and Re 1 per kg, respectively, to the poor.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/763229.aspx>

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Inflation to ease soon, says Pranab Mukherjee

Tweet

PTI | Oct 31, 2011, 10.17PM IST

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Business Standard

Tuesday, Nov 01, 2011

Maharashtra co-op sugar mills face glut crisis looms

Sanjay Jog / Mumbai November 1, 2011, 0:52 IST

Maharashtra's cooperative sugar mills are heading towards a financial crisis in the current crushing season. This is due to problems in the disposal of the carryforward stock of 3.5 million tonnes (mt), worth Rs 9,205 crore, rising mismatch between the cost of production and realisation, and delay in the commencement of crushing due to ongoing agitation by farmers demanding higher cane payment. Further, the recent 70 per cent increase in the harvesting and transportation charges has added to the financial burden.

Moreover, millers face increased cost of inputs such as water and electricity charges, fertiliser and wages.

The Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories in Maharashtra, a representative body of 170 mills, had estimated that factories would also have to incur the burden of interest, cost of storage and insurance on the balance quantity of 3.5 mt (2010-11). The balance quantity in 2006-07 was 3.4 mt worth Rs 4,200 crore, in 2007-08 it was 2.9 mt worth Rs 6,000 crore, 500,000 tonnes worth Rs 1,500 crore in 2008-09 and 1.4 mt worth Rs 4,055 crore in 2009-10. Maharashtra had recently revised sugar production estimates to 8.7 mt from the earlier estimate of 9.3 mt by the end of the current crushing season (2011-12). This was due to a decline in cane production by at least 6 mt, especially due to low production in cane-rich western Maharashtra, which witness poor rainfall.

NOT SO SWEET

Carryover stock at the time of commencement of the new crushing season (Oct-Sept)

Season	Stock (mt)	Value (₹ cr)	
2006-07	3.4	4,200	██████
2007-08	2.9	6,000	████████
2008-09	0.5	1,500	██
2009-10	1.4	4,055	██████
2010-11	3.5	9,205	██████████

Source: Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories in Maharashtra

“Open market prices have been declining steadily since the past few months. The current ex-mill realisation after including exports is Rs 2,650 a quintal, against the cost of production of Rs 2,700 a quintal. This is causing severe financial difficulties and losses to mills,” said the federation official, who did not want to be named. He told Business Standard that mills are confronted with the issue of higher cane payment above fair and remunerative price (FRP) of Rs 1,375 a tonne in the state. “Only 15 mills, of the total 168, comprising 121 cooperative and 47 private, have started crushing. The balance are unable to do so fearing damage to the properties by agitating cane farmers,” the official said.

Abinash Verma, secretary general of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, said millers would face pressure on their finances due to higher production and burgeoning inventory costs. “There is a surplus production of 4 mt in 2011-12 at the all-India level and the inventory carrying cost of mills will be very high next year, adding to the cost of production and problems of cash flows. Therefore, the government needs to take quick decision on disposal of this surplus by way of exports, which will help the industry get timely funds to pay farmers during the crushing season. This will also keep the cane price dues under control,” he said.

The chairman of a cooperative mill in western Maharashtra said the piling of stock would lead to short margin on pledged accounts at the state cooperative bank. “This will create problems in the availability of loans ahead of the next crushing season. The government needs to revise the levy sugar prices and also increase exports,” he said.

OUTPUT CAN RISE TO 25 MT

BS Reporter adds: Food minister K V Thomas on Monday said there has been slight upward revision in the ministry's sugar production estimate for 2011-2012 crop season that has started from October 1. However, it was not clear whether the agriculture ministry has agreed to the revised numbers, because earlier there was disagreement between the two on sugar production estimate for 2011-2012. "We stick to our initial production estimate of 24.7 million tonnes. But the output can go up a little to 25 million tonnes," Thomas told reporters after meeting Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar here. The agriculture ministry feels that sugar production this year could be somewhere around 26 million tonnes because of rise in cane acreage.

THE HINDU Business Line

Poor harvest



Power shortage: A farmer uses a harvester to clear his withered paddy crop near Pregyapur in Andhra Pradesh's Medak district. Lack of power supply for irrigation in October due to the Telangana strike rendered several farms dry. In other parts of the State, farmers have declared a crop holiday in protest against lower procurement price. — P.V. Sivakumar

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 1, 2011)

Spot rubber rules steady

Our Correspondent

Kottayam, Oct. 31:

Physical rubber prices finished unchanged on Monday. Market activities were low and it lost direction lacking active market participants on either side. Meanwhile, widespread rain disrupted tapping in major plantation areas.

Sheet rubber closed steady at Rs 212 a kg, according to traders. The grade slipped to Rs 212 (212.50) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board.

The November series improved marginally to Rs 213.70 (212.81) December to Rs 213.34 (212.51), January to Rs 214.03 (213.43) and February to Rs 214.28 (213.81) a kg for RSS 4 on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) weakened to Rs 196.37 (198.37) a kg at Bangkok. The November futures for the grade dropped to ¥301.2 (Rs 188.48) from ¥306.2 a kg on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 212 (212); RSS-5: 210 (210); ungraded: 202 (202); ISNR 20: 200 (200) and latex 60 per cent: 128.50 (128.50).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 1, 2011)

Hostile weather raises fears of cottonseed shortage

K.V. Kurmanath

Industry expecting a loss of 30 per cent in production



Hyderabad, Oct. 31:

Cotton continues to pass through rough weather. While farmers in Andhra Pradesh are set to lose production up to 50 per cent following a failed kharif season, the cottonseed industry is

busy collecting information from seed growers across the State and in Gujarat about the likely loss.

Loss

While dry spells severely impacted cotton in Andhra Pradesh, it was excessive rain that ruined cottonseed plantings in Gujarat – the two large cottonseed producing States. Of the 4.5 crore packets of seed market last year, their contribution was two crore packets.

The industry is expecting a loss of 30 per cent in cottonseed production.

At the beginning of the season, it expected the production to be at 3.5 crore.

“But prolonged dry spells have had a telling impact on seed production,” Mr P Sateesh Kumar, President of Seedsmen Association of Andhra Pradesh, told *Business Line*.

He, however, hastened to add that there was still hope because it was a long crop and there was time till November-December when output from late crops came.

“We will have to wait and watch. We still have time to come back,” he said.

Gadwal area, which grows cottonseed in 25,000 acres, could come to the rescue as farmers go for late cropping. Eluru, with over 10,000 acres in coastal Andhra with an early crop, suffered badly.

This is likely to cause a dent in the overall production.

However, Mr P Vidyasagar, Chairman and Managing Director of Vibha Seeds group, felt that production losses in Andhra Pradesh could be manageable.

Losses from production facilities in Gujarat could be much more as untimely rains had spoilt the crop. The industry would have to saddle with emptied buffer stocks as they go to market for next kharif season.

No buffer

With a raise of about 15 per cent acreage during this kharif, companies fell back on buffers to the tune of 80 lakh packets to meet the demand.

“But there is no stock of premium seeds for next kharif,” Mr Sateesh Kumar pointed out.

The industry, however, estimated a drop in cotton area next year because of the setbacks farmers received this year.

“This might compensate losses in production and lack of buffer stock,” a Nuziveedu Seeds representative commented.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 1, 2011)

New crop arrivals crush groundnut

Our Correspondent



Mumbai, Oct. 31:

Except for rapeseed oil that rose by Rs 2 for 10 kg, edible oils declined by Re 1-Rs 10 on Monday on lower demand after Diwali.

Groundnut oil lost Rs 5, tracking weak reports from Saurashtra, while palmolein fell by Re 1 and soya oil Rs 5 in line with bearish Malaysian palm oil futures. Cotton oil eased by Rs 4, sunflower expeller refined dropped by Rs 10 and sunflower refined oil was down by Rs 5.

Weaker soya oil on the Chicago Board of Trade and declining Nymex crude oil futures pulled crude palm oil (CPO) futures on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives (BMD) Exchange.. In Saurashtra, groundnut oil shaved off Rs 20 as arrivals of new crop is expected to rise in coming days. About one lakh bags of groundnut arrived in Saurashtra.

Resellers sold palmolein at Rs 534-535. Liberty offered palmolein at Rs 535-536 for November delivery and soya refined oil for Rs 628. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 532 and soya refined oil at Rs 622.

Malaysia's BMD CPO's November contracts settled at MYR2,942 (MYR2,971), December at MYR2,944 (MYR2,973) and January at MYR2,938 (MYR2,971) a tonne. Soya oil for November delivery settled lower at Rs 621 (Rs 625) while December settled at Rs 616.80 (Rs 622) on the National Board of Trade in Indore.

Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil 860 (865), soya refined oil 625 (630), sunflower exp. ref. 645 (655), sunflower refined 705 (710), rapeseed refined oil 710 (708), rapeseed expeller ref. 680 (678), cotton refined oil 631 (635) and palmolein 534 (535).

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Weak offtake, global cues cool soya oil

Our Correspondent



Indore, Oct. 31:

Lack of buying and weak foreign markets pulled down soya oil in local mandis.

Soya refined declined to Rs 602-607 for 10 kg in the ready market against Rs 609-612 during *muhurat* trading on Saturday. Similarly, slack demand dragged down soya solvent prices to Rs 570-575 for 10 kg (Rs 580-584).

Soya oil futures remained sluggish on weak global cues and poor buying support. On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), while soya oil for November delivery closed lower at Rs 619.40, the December contract fell to Rs 616.60. On the other hand, soya refined contract on the National Board of Trade traded marginally higher at Rs 621.60 for 10 kg (Rs 621.20).

Soyabean, on the other hand, declined on higher arrivals and weak demand. Amid 4.5 lakh bags that arrived, soya seeds sold at Rs 2,090-2,120 a quintal in State mandis. In Indore mandis, 13,000 bags of soyabean arrived and soya seeds sold at Rs 2,060-2,100 a quintal. In Ujjain mandis, 13,000 bags of soyabeans arrived and seeds sold at Rs 2,070-2,110 a quintal. Soy seeds sold at an average of Rs 2,090-2,120 a quintal in Dewas mandis.

In *muhurat* trading, soyabean fetched Rs 2,511.25 a quintal at Dewas. Soyabean futures traded lower on weak buying support, with the November contracts on the NCDEX closing Rs 28 lower at Rs 2,175.50 and the December contracts losing Rs 17.50 at Rs 2,211.50 a quintal. Plant deliveries of soyabean declined to Rs 2,170-2,200 a quintal (Rs 2,205-2,220).

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Diwali over, demand for sugar dissolves

Our Correspondent



Mumbai, Oct. 31:

Sugar prices declined by Rs 10-15 a quintal in the physical market on Monday, due to month-end lifting pressure at upper level and eased local demand.

Stockists kept away from fresh buying and preferred to take deliveries of old contracts.

Speculators were in reselling mood, kept overall sentiment weak. Naka rates dropped by Rs 20-30. Arrivals at the Vashi wholesale market were higher than local despatches, said sources.

A wholesaler said lifting pressure on stockists before due date kept sentiment weak. After Diwali, first fortnight generally market witnessed weak demand situation and bearish mood.

Hence, there is a chance of further decline in prices. Demand for sugar is nil as Diwali is over. Pressure on traders for lifting October's purchases kept them away from fresh buying.

Arrivals

Arrivals in the Vashi market were at 54-55 truckloads while local dispatches were at 48-50 truckloads. On Saturday, hardly one – two mills offered tenders due to holiday mood. On Monday evening, mills tenders were expected at Rs 2,720-2,790 (Rs 2,730-2,810) for S-grade and at Rs 2,820-2,930 (Rs 2,840 -2,960) for M-grade.

Bombay Sugar Merchants' Association's spot rates: S-grade — Rs 2,821-2,911 (Rs 2,831-2,911) and M-grade — Rs 2,911- 3,062 (Rs 2,926-3,076).

Naka delivery rates: S-grade — Rs 2,780-2,850 (Rs 2,800 -2,870) and M grade Rs 2,880-3,000 (Rs 2,890-3,030).

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Paddy arrivals plummet

Our Correspondent



Karnal, Oct. 31:

Paddy arrivals dropped drastically to around 1 lakh bags on Monday against the arrivals of around 1.5 lakh bags till last weekend.

A major fall was seen in the arrivals of PR varieties as these varieties are now drying up. The fall in arrivals has helped a few paddy varieties get better prices.

Paddy of pure basmati entered the market for the first time this season on Monday. It managed to fetch just Rs 1,660-1,870 a quintal.

Mr Tara Chand Sharma, proprietor of Tara Chand and Sons, told *Business Line* that rice market is range-bound and ruling with marginal alterations. Rice prices have started to soften following sluggish demand coupled with adequate supply, he added.

Indonesia has shown interest in buying five lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice from India to meet domestic requirement as India can give the necessary quantity at lower prices. According to market sources, the Government may offer rice from godowns at around Rs 20.45 a kg.

On Monday, the price of Pusa-1121 (steam) eased by Rs 25 and was quoted at Rs 4,800 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) was ruling at Rs 3,930 a quintal, Rs 20 down from previous level.

Pure basmati (raw) decreased by Rs 20 at Rs 5,450 a quintal. Basmati (sela) was sold at Rs 3,800 a quintal. Duplicate basmati fetched Rs 3,000 a quintal.

PR arrived with a stock of around 50,000 bags and fetched Rs 1,080-1,170. The 15,000 bags of Pusa-1121 that arrived quoted at Rs 1,650-1,850 a quintal.

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