

Published: November 22, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: November 22, 2011 04:04 IST

Scientist ready to share tips on integrated farming

Staff Correspondent

A former agricultural scientist, who is actively involved in promoting integrated farming, has come forward to share his expertise on the subject with farmers with small land holdings to make their venture more profitable.

Addressing presspersons here on Monday, M. Rudraradhya said it was possible to make agriculture viable, profitable and sustainable even in one acre of land.

Model

Elaborating on his model of farming, Mr. Rudraradhya said: "The one acre 'krishi brahmanda' will also have space for farm dependent occupations like dairy farming, poultry farming and bee keeping. Farmers will also be able to generate seeds, fertilizers and natural pest control methods on their own."

Fodder crops, firewood crops, horticultural crops and agricultural crops, including cereals, pulses and vegetables, would be grown on the field. He said that biogas required for cooking and lighting could be generated by farmers on the field and they could also grow fruits along with other crops.

To a query, he said that farmers would have to spend around Rs. 20,000 as initial investment to set up new units and in subsequent years, the annual investment would come down to Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000.

"Integrated farming in one acre will yield around Rs. 25,000 in the first year. But in subsequent years, especially after the third year, the revenue will gradually increase up to Rs. 50,000. More than the revenue, the farmers' family will have quality food crops and economical stability," he said.

Mr. Rudraradhya, who is currently working as project coordinator for JSS Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna, can be contacted on 0821-2548254 or 9448145228.

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- *'It is possible to make agriculture viable, profitable and sustainable'*
 - *Farmers will have to spend around Rs. 25,000 as initial investment: scientist*
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Published: November 21, 2011 11:35 IST | Updated: November 21, 2011 11:35 IST

Set up national agriculture fund: Bhardwaj

Special Correspondent



PROUD ACHIEVERS: Governor H.R. Bhardwaj with farmers who were presented awards at the National Krishi Mela in Bangalore on Sunday.

Over 11 lakh visit krishi mela; UAS to focus on creating effective marketing system for farm produce

The five-day National Krishi Mela being organised by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, concluded in a grand style with a record over three lakh people turning up on the last day of the event on Sunday. With this, the mela has set a new record by becoming the biggest ever farmers' event to have been held in the country with over 11 lakh farmers visiting the event since it began on November 16.

Endorsing this, the former vice-chancellor of Bihar University and veteran agricultural scientist D. G. Trivedi said it was the biggest krishi mela he had ever seen. Such was the massive response from people that various stalls put at the mela registered a total turnover of Rs. 6.5 crore in the five days through on-counter sales of products ranging from seeds to agricultural implements.

The mela was organised as a national event to help farmers from the State learn from the best practices and innovative cropping patterns as well as farm technologies from other States. The event also showcased latest researches on farming, new crop varieties and demonstration of efficient technologies for crop cultivation under different conditions besides cattle and poultry shows and exhibitions on organic farming and farm implements.

The highlight of the mela was that two innovative farm youth (male and female) from each taluk were honoured with an intention to instil confidence among them and to check the trend of youth migrating to cities by shunning agriculture.

UAS Vice-Chancellor K. Narayana Gowda told *The Hindu* that now the university would focus on creating an effective marketing system for agricultural produce by linking farmers directly with consumers in a bid to prevent middlemen.

Speaking at the valedictory of the mela, Governor H.R. Bhardwaj stressed the need for setting up a separate national agriculture fund for the development of country's agricultural sector and farmers' welfare. Expressing concern that industrial growth was getting more priority as of now, he said that the real growth for the country could come only when priority was given to the sectors which take care of the basic needs of people such as food, clothing and shelter.

Mr. Bhardwaj urged the government and agricultural universities to help farmers sell their produce directly to consumers by avoiding middlemen so that they could get remunerative prices. Presently, middlemen were cornering a majority of profits, he pointed out.

He said farmers in India had to worry about getting quality education and healthcare to their wards unlike European countries where the governments had pumped in adequate subsidies to help farmers to get access to top quality healthcare as well as education to their children. He observed that it was the duty of everybody to help improve the living standards of the country's breadwinner — farmer. MLA Krishna Byre Gowda spoke.

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Tobacco farmers not ready to switch to alternative crops

'Take steps to check exploitation of ryots'

The crisis that is stalking agricultural sector in India was reflected at a workshop on 'Alternative Crops to Tobacco' held here on Monday. Farmers, who attended the workshop, expressed their intent to switch to other crops only if remunerative prices are guaranteed.

They made it clear that they are not growing tobacco due to affection for it but because they did not find other crops which can survive dry conditions and fetch relatively better prices.

Tobacco is being preferred in spite of the market upswings as it is a robust crop compared to water-intensive crops, like paddy and maize, being suggested as alternatives.

Local weather conditions are another determinant of which crop is chosen by the farmers.

The tobacco farmers are not unaware of the health consequences of tobacco consumption but the general agricultural scenario is not encouraging for them to go for alternative crops.

This is what G. Subbaiah, a farmer from Podili in Prakasam district, conveyed to the officials of Medical & Health Department who advised them to help in saving millions of lives by reducing tobacco production and gradually shifting to paddy, maize, oilseeds, pulses, cotton, and sugar cane which are viable alternatives.

Mr. Subbaiah said the farmers were not happy with tobacco cultivation but they cannot be expected to change over to the alternative crops suggested by the Department of Agriculture and the Central Tobacco Research Institute without having the guarantee that such crops will earn them normal profits.

Health concerns

While reminding the farmers about their 'social responsibility', which is to reduce production in view of the public health concerns, the government officials should pay attention to curbing the exploitation of farmers by businessmen and middlemen and implementing the recommendations of Swaminathan Commission.

So long as these are not done, agriculture will continue to suffer and tobacco farmers will have no reason to give up their traditional vocation.

J. Mohan Rao, a farmer from Chilakaluripet, said the Central government should take a holistic view of the crisis faced by the entire farming community.

The only solution to it is allowing them to fix MSP for their produce.

Tobacco Board executive director C.V. Subba Rao said a pilot project of giving demonstrations of alternative crops is on the anvil for creating awareness among farmers.

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- *Workshop on 'Alternative Crops to Tobacco' held*
 - *Centre should take a holistic view of the crisis faced by farming community*
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Training in preparing products from spices

Staff Reporter

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University will organise a training in preparation of spice powders and pickles on November 23 and 24 on the university premises. The training will cover the preparation of the following aspects: spice powders, ready-to-use pastes, mushroom pickles, mixed vegetable pickle, and sweet and hot onion pickles.

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 details, contact 0422-6611268.

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Training for tribal farmers

Staff Reporter

A residential training programme for tribal farmers on 'High-tech Horticulture and Entrepreneurial Development' was held at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Papparpatti in the district.

A release from the Kendra said here that three batches of 150 tribal farmers were given five-day training. The programme included lectures on ICM practices for growing vegetables, fruit crops in tribal areas, technology on mushroom production, IPM in vegetable and fruit crops, scope and importance of organic farming to minimise the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and marketing of horticultural crop produces.

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'Repay crop loan promptly'

Staff Reporter



A. Krishnamoorthy (second left), Joint Registrar, Cooperative Societies, administering vaccine to a calf at a medical camp for cattle near Krishnagiri on Monday.

As part of the 58th Cooperative Week celebrations, a special medical camp for cattle was inaugurated on the Chandapuram Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society campus near Krishnagiri on Monday.

A. Krishnamoorthy, Joint Registrar, Cooperative Societies, inaugurated the camp organised jointly by the Cooperative Department, Animal Husbandry and Aavin. In his inaugural address, Mr. Krishnamoorthy appealed to the farmers to repay the crop loan promptly, get fresh loans and also interest waiver. A sum of Rs. 14 lakh had been extended as crop loan and Rs. 2 crore as jewel loan by the society.

He also called upon the society to extend crop loan, medium term loan, joint liability loan and jewel loan as per the need of the farmers.

Mr. Krishnamoorthy instructed the officials to establish public service centres such as Agri Clinics and Agro Service Centres on the lines of the special medical camps for cattle. As many as 555 cattle were screened and treated for various ailments and also vaccinated during the camp.

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Warning against hoarding of fertilizers

Agriculture Department has set up a monitoring unit to check hoarding of fertilizers in the district. A team of officials would take action on complaints received from the people and farmers on sale of fertilizers beyond the stipulated prices. P. Emberumal, Joint Registrar of Agriculture, said the department has taken all steps for ensuring prompt supply of fertilizers to the farmers as samba cultivation picks up speed. Farmers could contact the unit by dialling 04322-221666.

Published: November 22, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: November 22, 2011 08:30 IST

Take up organic farming, farmers told

Special Correspondent

An interface facilitated by the United Planters Association of Southern India-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (UPASI-KVK) at T. Manihatty village near here on Monday benefited to a significant extent scientist probationers and farmers including many women.

It was a highlight of a seminar on, "Problems and Opportunities in Agriculture" conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the scientist probationers from National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad, as a part of the Foundation Course on Agricultural Research Service (FOCARS).

It brought the curtain down on a fortnight-long Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) on various aspects of the village cropping systems and livelihood.

Addressing the gathering N. Selvaraj, Head, Horticulture Research Station, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), said that farmers should be motivated to take up organic farming. He added that it was taking roots in T.Manihatty.

Farmers in need of guidance and assistance on organic farming should approach the HRS.

P. Kumaravadivelu, Programme Co-ordinator , UPASI KVK, said that efforts would be made to improve the socio-economic condition of the villagers. Help would be extended to form farmers' societies and marketing organic products.

R. Shanmugam, Subject Matter Specialist, UPASI KVK, also spoke.

Diseased plants reduce jasmine yield



Bad news: Continuous rain from June to October played havoc with the jasmine plants.

Though the fragrance of jasmine flowers pervades Shankarpura and its surrounding villages in Udupi district, the diseases afflicting the jasmine plants has taken the smile off the faces of the jasmine growers.

The jasmine grown in this region is much sought after not only in the State but also other States. It is called as Udupi Mallige or Shankarpura Mallige. The jasmine grown here also enjoys the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

As many as 800 jasmine buds go to make a “chendu”. And four “chendus” make an “atte”. Another specialty is that these flowers are tied by a plantain stalk. The price of these jasmine flowers varies depending on the demand and supply.

According to president of Jasmine Growers' Association Bantakal Ramakrishna Sharma, there were 10,000 jasmine growers in the district. Of them, 4,000 were in the Shankarpura and surrounding villages.

However, the diseases afflicting the jasmine plants have reduced the yield. Mr. Sharma grows jasmine plants in 25 cents of land. Five years ago, he used to get a yield of 40 chendus from his land, but now he gets only four.

Another grower, Sita Mulya, who cultivates jasmine in 15 cents of land, used to get 25 chendus of jasmine four years ago. But now it is down to four.

According to Andrew Lobo, farmer from Shankarpura, the continuous rains from June to October played havoc with the jasmine plants this year. He grew jasmine in 50 cents of land, but there had been no decline in the yield in his farm. "Most jasmine growers are small farmers growing it in less than 25 cents of land and they are suffering a lot", he said. According to Mr. Sharma, fungal diseases such as leaf spot disease and sooty mould were weakening the stem and roots of the plants. "Since I follow organic farming, I have used biogas slurry, poultry manure, groundnut cake, farmyard manure to check the diseases but to no avail," he said.

Programme Coordinator at the Krishi Vijnana Kendra (KVK), Brahmavar, affiliated to the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, B. Dhananjaya, said that besides diseases, insects such as thrips and white flies had also damaged the plants. Farmers were using mixtures of fungicides and insecticides, which was wrong.

"Instead they should use the correct chemicals. When they use a mixture of fungicides and insecticides, there are multiple reactions, adversely affecting the plants. We are holding training programmes for the farmers in the region", he said.

GANESH PRABHU IN UDUPI

The jasmine grown in Shankarpura is much sought after not only in Karnataka but also in other States

Good response for integrated farming

UAS has introduced precision farming in Haveri: VC

Integrated farming system has helped in empowering small and marginal farmers, R.R. Hanchinaal, Vice-Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad, has said.

Inaugurating a State-level meet of district development managers of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) here on Monday, he said the Government had released Rs. 13.5 crore as grants under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna for this project, following its "encouraging results" in areas where it was introduced on an experimental basis.

Target

The university had set a target of covering 25,000 hectares under the system and 18,300 ha had been covered so far.

New scheme

A new scheme had been designed to add animal husbandry, horticulture, and forestry among others, in the system to help farmers enhance their income level. This year, the focus would be on animal husbandry to help farmers receive assured returns, he said. The university had introduced precision farming on a pilot basis in Haveri district.

Priority was given for water management, rain water harvesting, price forecasting, market management and others, Prof. Hanchinal said.

He claimed that this model of farming was successfully implemented in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts of Tamil Nadu where farmers earned up to Rs. 17 lakh annually.

Stressing the need for a study chair on rural development and integrated farming at UAS, Dharwad, Prof. Hanchinal urged the NABARD to extend support for this venture. NABARD chief general manager S.N.A. Jinna said 31 lakh farmers in the State had been given Kisan Credit Cards.

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- *Government releases Rs. 13.5 crore under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna for this scheme*
 - *'Set up a chair on rural development at UAS'*
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Compensate farmers who lost their crops: samiti

The Gulbarga District Raitha Horata Samiti on Monday threatened to launch an indefinite agitation in front of the Tahsildar's office in Jewargi town in Gulbarga district from December 7 if their demands were not met.

The samiti's demands include compensation to farmers who lost their crops in the kharif season, payment of dues to sugarcane growers by sugarcane factories and implementing the Mallabadi lift irrigation scheme of the Upper Krishna Project.

Samiti president Kedarlingaiah Hiremath told presspersons that their other demands were that the minimum support price (MSP) for red gram be hiked to Rs. 5,000 a quintal and for cotton to Rs. 6,000 a quintal and to ensure that the entire command area of the Upper Krishna Project in Jewargi taluk receives water.

“The barrage constructed across the Bhima near Saradagi must be converted into a bridge to provide 15 villages in Jewargi taluk access to the city during the monsoon,” he demanded.

“The Government must not delay in compensating farmers in the district ,” he said.

He added that the four sugar factories in the district owed Rs. 35 crore to sugarcane growers and urged that the Government ensure that this was paid immediately.

“The Government should announce the MSP for red gram and cotton well in advance and ensure that middlemen do not exploit small and marginal farmers,” Mr. Hiremath said.

He said the samiti had been demanding the implementation of the Mallabadi lift irrigation scheme as it would irrigate 1 lakh acres of land in Jewargi taluk and in Surpur and Shahapur taluk in Yadgir.

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- *‘Demand to hike MSP for red gram and cotton*
 - *Samiti demands implementation of Mallabadi lift irrigation scheme*
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Official visits drought-hit areas to assess crop loss

Staff Reporter

Commissioner of Agriculture V. Usha Rani on Monday made a field-based assessment of the crop loss suffered by farmers due to dry spell in several mandals on the district on Monday.

Accompanied by Joint Director of Agriculture K. Hemamaheshwara Rao and other officials, she conducted a whirlwind tour of the drought-ravaged fields in Kothagudem, Tekulapalli, Sattupalli, Julurupadu, Thallada, and several other mandals in the district.

Earlier, a delegation of the Telugu Desam Party leaders, led by Sattupalli MLA S. Venkata Veeraiah submitted a memorandum to the Commissioner in Khammam seeking declaration of the remaining eight mandals in the district drought-hit and prompt payment of adequate compensation to the distressed farmers.

In the memorandum, the TDP leaders said that crops in one lakh hectares were damaged due to dry spell during the harvesting stage in the district.

Cotton crops were withered in nearly 1.50 lakh acres and paddy crops in about 75,000 acres, they said pointing out that the remaining crops such as chilli and oil palm were also severely affected by deficit rainfall.

Compensation sought

They sought compensation to an extent of Rs. 20,000 per acre of cotton, Rs. 15,000 per acre of paddy, Rs. 30,000 per acre of chilli and Rs. 25,000 per acre of oil palm crops. They further urged the Commissioner to ensure declaration of the names of the affected farmers in gram sabhas in a transparent manner. The Commissioner reportedly assured the delegation that a detailed report would be submitted to the government for declaration of the remaining mandals drought-hit and provision of relief to the affected farmers at the earliest.

Review meet

She also reviewed the activities of the Agriculture Department at a meeting held at the office of the Joint Director of Agriculture.

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- *TDP delegation submits a memorandum*
 - *Detailed report will be submitted to the government, says the official*

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Tue, Nov 22, 2011 | Updated 07.12AM IST

22 NOV, 2011, 04.38AM IST, SUTANUKA GHOSAL, ET BUREAU

Cotton linter prices crash 66% due to dim global cues

KOLKATA: Cotton linter prices have crashed in the domestic market by 66% due to a drop in demand in Chinese and Japanese markets. The overall gloomy economic sentiment has added to the bearish movement of Cotton linter prices. The domestic price is hovering around Rs 25

per kg as compared to Rs 75/kg in 2010.

Prices in Chinese and Japanese markets have crashed to \$500 per tonne from \$1,500 per tonne in 2010. India produces 50,000 tonnes of cotton linter annually. The Indian defence service is one of the leading buyers of cotton linter.

The drop in prices is likely to affect cotton linter producing units in India and most of them fear a loss in the current financial year. There are 25 cotton linter plants in the country.

Talking To ET, Dhanalakshmi Cotton director Veera Narayana said: "Prices have come down significantly from the beginning of the new season as the global markets are down. We do not see any price recovery before March."

The ordnance department of India's defence ministry has assured a steady supply of 1,500 tonne cotton linters to three explosive manufacturing factories located at Itarsi (Madhya Pradesh), Bhandara (Maharashtra) and Aruvankadu (Tamil Nadu). Bleached cotton linters -- prepared out of raw cotton linters manufactured by cottonseed processors -- are used by ordnance factories in the production of propellants used in ammunition. Cotton linter is manufactured from the outer coating of the cotton seed. Cotton linters are fine, silky fibres which adhere to the seeds of the cotton plant after ginning.

Tirumala Cotton & Agro Products director Koti Rao said: "We are losing Rs 60,000 - Rs 70,000 per day due to falling prices. We manufacture 16-18 tonne of cotton linters everyday. The inventory is piling up as buyers, mainly from China, are offering abysmally low prices. China is offering a price of Rs 20,000 per tonne as compared to Rs 65,000 per tonne last year. Japan consumes only 5% -10% of cotton linters produced in India."

This will have an impact on the farmers who sow cotton seeds. "The price of cotton seeds will come down if this trend continues for long," said Rao.

Added Coromandel Agro Products & Oil general manager Satya Narayana: "If this trend continues for long, we apprehend that units might close down."

22 NOV, 2011, 04.36AM IST, PK KRISHNAKUMAR,ET BUREAU

Robusta coffee prices crash on robust harvest

KOCHI: Robusta coffee prices have crashed in the global market, following a good harvest in Brazil and the forecast of a good crop in Vietnam. Robusta prices, which have fallen by 20%, may drop further in the coming weeks affecting Indian export prospects. A major part of India's coffee exports comprises Robusta and this may affect farmers' planting decision next season.

Robusta forms a large part of Brazil's and Vietnam's production too. Vietnam has harvested 20-30% of its crop which is predicted to be a record high. The January coffee contract in London closed marginally higher at \$1,880 per tonne on Monday. The prices are lower compared to the previous year's. "There has already been a 20% drop in prices. Another 10% fall is possible given the prospects of a bumper production in Vietnam," said Ramesh Rajah, president of Coffee Exporters Association of India.

Vietnam's crop this year is expected to be around 22 million bags (each bag of 60 kg) compared with 17 to 18 million bags in the previous year. According to an officer of a coffee exporting company, Vietnam usually sells around 50% of its coffee output before its national festival in January. But this time its supplies to the world market have been limited.

"A reason could be the low price. They may be reluctant to sell with prices under \$2,000 per tonne. Payment defaults last year could have also made them cautious this time," he pointed out. In any case, more coffee from Vietnam is expected to arrive in the market in the next two months.

Poor Robusta prices could also affect the prospects of Indian coffee exports, which hit a record last year. Robusta accounts for the majority of Indian coffee exports. Of the 3,23,066 tonne of coffee exported between January 1 and November 18 this year, the share of Robusta was at 1,82,487 tonne. Exports have dropped since September.

While Robusta is heading for a record production globally, India is expecting a lower crop. "The Robusta crop could be 20-30% less in the coming season. We feel the 2,07,860 tonne of Robusta crop estimated by Coffee Board for 2010-11 may not be accurate as the season saw a bumper harvest," said Marvin Rodrigues, chairman of Karnataka Planters Association.

22 NOV, 2011, 03.43AM IST, NIDHI NATH SRINIVAS & JAYASHREE BHOSALE,ET BUREAU

Plunging profits drive cotton farmers to demand doubling of support price

NEW DELHI/PUNE: Record production and crashing overseas demand have led cotton farmers across the country to intensify their agitation for higher state support, an issue that is fast turning into a political hot potato.

With demand drying up in the eurozone and the US, China has significantly reduced its cotton imports from India. As a result, profits for cotton farmers across the country are likely to slide from 100% in the previous season to just about 15% this time round.

Especially in Maharashtra, where civic polls are due in February, opposition parties are scrambling to cash in on the resentment among the large community of cotton growers while the state government is striving to contain the damage.

Cotton farmers are demanding immediate procurement by government-owned Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and doubling of the minimum support price from Rs 3,000 per quintal for the benchmark Shankar 6 variety.

Chief minister Prithviraj Chavan has called an all-party meeting in Mumbai on Tuesday to discuss the issue as the agitation is rapidly spreading beyond Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. The meeting comes two weeks after the government conceded to the demand for raising sugarcane prices after agitations turned violent in parts of the state.

"If farmers are in the mood to fight, we will announce our strategy for struggle of cotton farmers on November 27 in Buldhana," said Raju Shetti, a Lok Sabha member from Hatkanangle and leader of the regional party Swabhimani Paksha. BJP and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, which joined agitations by sugarcane farmers last month, have now taken up the cause of cotton farmers. The crisis is, however, by no means restricted to Maharashtra.

Cotton is India's most important cash crop and contributes a third to farm GDP. Of the 200 textile companies listed on BSE, 166 have declared losses in the first two quarters of the current fiscal, data with the textiles ministry shows. Officials from the central ministries of textiles, commerce and agriculture are examining options to resolve the crisis that has the potential to

unite farmers across India's nine major cotton-growing states.

Even at current MSP, it will cost the CCI at least ₹25,000 crore to buy 9 million bales cotton. "The costs of a revision in MSP are truly prohibitive," said a CCI official who did not wish to be named. CCI is ready to open 225 procurement centres across the country, but every state government has sent requisition for 200 centres, the official said.

The Commission on Costs and Prices in the agriculture ministry which recommends MSP has been informally asked to examine the proposal, an official who did not wish to be named said. The official, however, added that revising MSP under the pressure of protests will set a bad precedent.

"We are asking the government to ensure that CCI starts procuring as traders are paying farmers less than MSP at some places. Also, a bonus of Rs 1,000 a quintal should be given," said Bhartiya Kisan Union general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokrikalan.

The union has deferred its proposed agitation in Punjab until next week after assurance from chief minister Parkash Singh Badal that he will take up the issue with the Centre.

"Had the centre shown scant concern for farmers, it would have at least consulted agrarian states like Punjab before finalising MSP," Badal had said in June when MSP was announced.

Cotton prices are currently 25% above MSP in Andhra Pradesh, 44% above MSP in Maharashtra and 34% above MSP in Punjab.

However, according to latest estimates by the Cotton Advisory Board, while India's cotton production is likely to rise by 3 million bales, consumption may contract by 3 million bales. So, there is little likelihood of CCI being able to offload this cotton to mills due to a glut in the market.

Last November, mills had export orders for 9 million bales. This year, there is no demand from Bangladesh and Pakistan, while Chinese imports have been modest.

The shutdown of Tirupur hosiery cluster due to anti-pollution laws has added to the oversupply. Higher cotton yarn exports are also not leading to higher value realisation. International prices are at \$3 - \$3.50 per kg, down from \$5 - \$6 per kg last year. Meanwhile, business at most cotton mandis is at a virtual standstill.

Expecting their agitation to yield results, farmers have stopped bringing cotton to the market. "Arrivals at various mandis in Maharashtra are lower than last year as farmers want to wait and watch if government increases cotton prices," said NP Hirani, chairman, Maharashtra State Cotton Growers Cooperative Federation.

"On Saturday, farmers in Rajkot market yard were angry with the prevailing price of Rs 4,400 per quintal against the Rs 4,700 they received last year and stopped the auction. Today, the price has touched Rs 4,500 and some sales are happening," said Saurashtra Ginners Association secretary Anand Popat.

Mills are staying away as they expect prices to drop when the approaching rabi sowing season makes farmers increasingly desperate to sell.

"Mills are operating with 15 days inventory and will not be entering the market in November or December for their annual stock purchases, given the declining price projections.

With arrivals likely to increase from 1 lakh bales per day to 3 lakh bales per day and no domestic/international demand, we will witness sharp price moderation of 20%-25% in the next 15-20 days," said an industry watcher.

Business Standard

Tuesday, Nov 22, 2011

Sugar mills lobby on output price

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai November 22, 2011, 0:57 IST

Urge the government to allow them to fix their ex-factory price around the cost of production.



Amid fear of worsening financial health this season, sugar mills have urged the government to allow mills to fix their ex-factory price around the cost of production. This comes in the wake of big losses last season, due to a dramatic squeeze in the margin between a higher cost of production and lower ex-factory price.

“With a massive increase in cane prices and general increase in other inputs, our cost of production in Uttar Pradesh in 2011-12 is estimated at Rs 33-34 a kg and in Maharashtra at Rs 29-30 a kg. Ex-mill prices should be allowed by the government to stabilise at these levels. Anything less would mean losses to mills and cane price arrears by January 2012 itself,” said Abinash Verma, secretary-general of the Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma).

A challenge has been filed by mills against the UP decision and it is to be heard in court tomorrow.

Isma has sent requests to both the ministry of agriculture and the empowered group of ministers (EGoM) on agriculture commodities. The matter is scheduled for discussion in the EGoM meeting tomorrow. The ministers would also consider Isma’s proposal to allow immediate exports. In 2010-11, India exported 2.6 million tonnes of sugar, including unrestricted shipments of 1.5 mt under the Open General Licence. Although the ex-factory sugar price is determined by market forces, the government indirectly controls this by intermittent interventions in deciding monthly releases. Mills also incur excessive loss on the compulsory levy quota of 10 per cent to feed the Public Distribution System, the price for which is fixed by the government, currently at Rs 18 a kg.

During most of the last sugar year (October 2010-September 2011), the ex-factory price of sugar was quoted Rs 200-300 per quintal lower than the cost of production. As a consequence, the net loss of Shree Renuka Sugars plunged to Rs 57.3 crore for the quarter

ended September as compared to a net profit of Rs 8.1 crore in the same period last year. The net loss of Balrampur Chini and Simbhaoli Sugars was reported at Rs 39.4 crore and Rs 16 crore as against Rs 78.3 crore and Rs 39.2 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, respectively.

This year, a repetition of losses on this account are expected. Millers estimate a 17-18 per cent rise in average cost of production from the earlier Rs 27-28 a kg, due to a spurt in cane prices across the country. In Uttar Pradesh, the second largest producer, the government raised its State Advised Price nearly 20 per cent, to Rs 240-250 a quintal this year. A similar increase has been seen in Maharashtra, India's largest producer. Since mills are legally bound to procure cane from farmers at a price decided by the government, they want price protection of the final output.

Overall sugar output in India is estimated this season at 25.5 mt as against 24.2 mt last year. With an estimated carryover stock of nearly five mt, total supply works out to nearly seven mt more than the estimated consumption of 22.5 mt.

Castorseed futures fall on selling pressure

Press Trust of India / New Delhi November 21, 2011, 14:34 IST

Castorseed futures prices met with resistance at higher levels and dropped by Rs 57.50 to Rs 3,933 per quintal today on selling by traders in line with a weak spot market sentiment.

Market experts said slackness in demand from consuming industries against heavy arrivals in spot markets mainly influenced trading sentiments here in futures.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the December contract lost Rs 57.50, or 1.44%, to Rs 3,933 per quintal, clocking an open interest of 14,550 lots.

The January contract also dropped by Rs 39 or 1.05%, to Rs 3,690.50 per quintal, clocking an open interest of 2,820 lots.

Gur futures fall in line with weak sugar

Press Trust of India / New Delhi November 21, 2011, 14:28 IST

Gur futures prices fell by Rs 14 to Rs 999 per 40 kg today, following fresh selling by traders.

Tracking a weak spot market sentiment, traders booked profits at existing higher levels.

Reports of bumper crops production this year, too, forced traders to sell part of their positions, they said.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, December gur prices weakened by Rs 14, or 1.38%, to Rs 999 per 40 kg, with an open interest of 6,230 lots.

The January contract followed suit and shed Rs 5.50, or 0.52%, to Rs 1,047 per 40 kg, clocking an open interest of 3,590 lots.

Cardamom futures down on profit-booking

Press Trust of India / New Delhi November 21, 2011, 12:32 IST



Cardamom prices fell by Rs 5.40 to Rs 674 per kg in futures trade today, as speculators reduced their holdings on account of the sluggish demand at the prevailing higher levels.

Moreover, the sufficient stocks holdings in the physical market also influenced the prices of the spice.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, January cardamom declined by Rs 5.40, or 0.79%, to Rs 674 per kg, with a business turnover of 98 lots.

The December delivery fell by Rs 5.20, or 0.78%, to Rs 651.10 per kg, with a trading volume of 311 lots, while February contract prices eased by Rs 4.70, or 0.67%, to Rs 690 per kg, clocking a business volume of 33 lots.

Traders said, besides profit taking by speculators at existing higher prices, fall in demand in spot market also put pressure on cardamom futures trade.

THE HINDU Business Line

To tame inflation, 'empower farmers with market linkages'

Our Bureau



Food for thought: Ms Anna Kalata, Polish Minister for Agriculture, releasing the agribusiness roadmap at the 'Food 360 degrees', an International conference on Agribusiness and Food Processing, in Hyderabad on Monday. From left are Mr J. A. Chowdary, Chairperson; Mr K.S. Raju, Chairman, Nagarjuna Fertilisers; Mr K.V. Krishna Reddy, Minister for Co-Operation; Ms Sangita Reddy, Chairperson, FICCI –AP; Mr William D. Dar, Director-General, Icrisat; and Mr S. Sivakumar, CEO, ITC Agribusiness. — P.V. Sivakumar

Hyderabad, Nov. 21:

Food inflation is forcing prices to move northwards. On the other hand, farmers are complaining about poor prices for their produce. Either side is not happy.

Experts from policy and businesses have reflected on this paradoxical situation India is facing at the two-day meet Food 360 degrees organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Dr William D. Dar, Director-General of Icrisat (International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics), called for use of science-based solutions and empowering farmers with market linkages to tackle food inflation and challenges posed by climate change.

“We must elevate farmers from subsistence farming to market oriented in order to give them more incomes. Food inflation and climate change are impacting not just India but all developing countries.

How to curtail this is a big challenge. We need to have a holistic approach that includes empowerment of farmers and market-linked models,” he said. “Climate change is here impacting agriculture. There is a deficit of 30-40 per cent in rainfall. We are witnessing floods too,” he said. Mr S. Sivakumar, Chief Executive Officer of ITC Agri Business, said the country needed to have long-term strategies to tackle increasing food prices. “Short term measures such as giving subsidies are important. But if you stay only there, you are trapped there. Food prices are not going to come down,” he said. Ms Sangita Reddy, Chairperson of FICCI (Andhra Pradesh), said agri sector had shrunk from 25 per cent to 15 per cent of the country's GDP in the last decade. There was a need to focus on additional investment into the sector. Mr J.A. Chowdary, Chairman, organising committee, Food 360, said, food safety and security were primary driving forces for global economy. “We have to take a cue from countries like Thailand that processes 90 per cent of the food it produces. We need to arrest migration from rural areas to urban areas by making agriculture economically viable,” he said.

kurmanath@thehindu.co.in

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High and mighty



Extra income: Two tribal men cycle through the dense plantations of eucalyptus at Bhadrachalam in Andhra Pradesh's Khammam District. Eucalyptus is being grown as an agro -

silviculture cultivation in over 40,000 hectares by farmers along with cash crops like cotton and sunflower, as source for the paper industry. — P. V. Sivakumar

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33% teas unsold at Coonoor auction

P.S. Sundar

Coonoor, Nov. 21:

The increasing proportion of tea remaining unsold at the auctions of Coonoor Tea Trade Association witnessed in the past few weeks continued at Sale No: 46 this weekend when about 33 per cent of the 16-week high offer of 16.93 lakh kg had to be withdrawn for want of buyers.

Overall, there were no takers for 5.45 lakh kg worth about Rs 3.39 crore despite shedding Rs 2 a kg. "Orthodox leaf market was irregular with prices oscillating Rs 2-4 a kg less and more. Better liquoring CTC leaf market was also irregular in Rs 1-3 range but better mediums lost as much as Rs 5-10 and many plainers could not be sold despite shedding Rs 2-3. Primary orthodox, however, lost Rs 5-10 a kg. High priced CTC dust market was irregular at Rs 2-3 oscillation, but better mediums lost Rs 2-4 and plainers Rs 2-3," an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

Among CTC teas, Vigneshwar Estate, auctioned by Paramount Tea Marketing, topped at Rs 137.

Homedale Estate got Rs 136, Blue Monte Speciality Rs 134, Hittakkal Estate and Shanthy Supreme Rs 130 each. In all, 65 marks got Rs 100 and more. Among orthodox teas from corporate sector, Curzon got Rs 198, Kairbeta Rs 164, Corsely Rs 163 and Havukal Rs 160, in all, 30 marks got Rs 100 and more.

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Spot rubber weakens on buyer resistance

Kottayam, Nov. 21:

Spot rubber weakened on Monday. The market opened better and improved further on early trades but lost ground on buyer resistance following the declines in the domestic and international futures.

The trend was mixed.

Rubber prices are likely to ease this week on rising supplies as growers and traders seemed to be disappointed after a meeting of the three major rubber producing nations Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The nations announced on Saturday that they could not see any immediate need for the price intervention as the market is expected to pick up soon due to fundamental reasons. Sheet rubber dropped to Rs 190 (192a kg after hitting an intra-day high of Rs 193 according to traders.

The grade slipped to Rs 191.50 (192) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board.

In futures, the December series surrendered to Rs 188.85 (195.59), January to Rs 191.01 (197.73), February to Rs 193.99 (199.40), March to Rs 195.99 (200.61), April to Rs 199 (203.01) and May to Rs 202 (204.75) a kg for RSS 4 on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE). RSS 3 (spot) increased to Rs 196.16 (174.69) a kg at Bangkok.

The physical rubber rates/kg were RSS-4: 190 (192); RSS-5: 188 (188); Ungraded: 181 (182); ISNR 20: 172 (172) and Latex 60%: 112 (113).

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Aquaculture output set to rise 50% to meet global demand

Our Bureau

Mangalore, Nov. 21:

The global aquaculture sector expects production to increase by over 50 per cent to meet global demand in the next two decades, say global aquaculture experts.

Presenting a paper at the eighth symposium on "Diseases in Asian aquaculture" here on Monday, Dr Rohana P. Subasinghe, Senior Aquaculture Officer, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Rome, said that aquaculture remains a growing and vibrant food production sector.

In 2008, this sector contributed 52.5 million tonnes of food products, accounting for 45.7 per cent of the world's fish production for human consumption.

"Considering the growing world population and the need for more food, and accepting the fact that the production from capture fisheries will not be increased significantly, at least to maintain

the global per capita fish consumption at the current level, we will have to produce additional 30 million tonnes of aquatic animal products by 2030,” he said.

Terming it as a significant challenge, he said it will affect global food security if not achieved.

Disease control and health management in aquaculture are the main constraints in meeting the global demand for food fish in the future, he said.

Recent FAO and World Bank estimates indicate that aquaculture sector suffers losses over \$6.5 billion a year due to diseases, Dr Subasinghe said.

Dr Lahsen Ababouch of FAO said that the volume of internationally traded aquaculture products is rapidly increasing globally and there is a risk of increasing health hazards to consumers.

In such a situation, the role of fish farmer in managing health should change from merely reducing mortalities and improving production at farm level to being an indispensable part of chain for the production and delivery of safe and high quality products to the consumers, he added.

vinayakaj@thehindu.co.in

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Cotton may fall to Rs 36,000 a candy

Our Correspondent



Rajkot, Nov. 21:

Limited export demand and weak local demand pulled down cotton on Monday. Prices may dip to Rs 36,000-36,200 a candy of 356 kg by the end of this month, Mr Mayurbhai, a Rajkot-based said.

The Sankar-6 variety fell by Rs 500 to Rs 37,200-37,500 a candy. The cash crop has declined by almost Rs 1,000 a candy in the past two trading days. It was down to Rs 3,485-3,495 for 40 kg in Punjab and Haryana.

Spot *kapas* or raw cotton declined by Rs 20-25 to Rs 890-925 for a *maund* of 20 kg. Maharashtra *kapas* traded at Rs 920-935 for a *maund*. from Maharashtra, 150-200 trucks arrived in Gujarat.

While 30,000-35,000 bales of 170 kg each arrived in Gujarat, around a lakh bales arrived in rest of the country.

The Cotton Advisory Board revised higher its estimates of 2011-12 production by a lakh bales to 35.6 million. According to the International Cotton Advisory Committee's report, global cotton (lint) production is expected to rise by 8 per cent to 26.9 million tonnes in 2011-12, the largest crop since 2004-05. The global utilisation by textile mills is expected to increase to the extent of 2 per cent or about 25 million tonnes.

Lukewarm demand from textile mills and exporters has dragged cotton down, traders and brokers said.

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Cashew stays steady in tepid trade

G.K. Nair



Kochi, Nov. 21:

The cashew market was steady last week with a slightly firmer undertone and reasonable activity in the W320 variety in the range of \$3.85-3.95 (f.o.b) a pound, mainly for November/December shipments.

However, some business was done for January-March shipments also. Some processors were able to sell at higher levels. There was hardly any business in other grades. Nominal levels were \$4.10-4.30 a pound for W240; \$3.75-3.85 for W450 and SW320; \$3.55-3.65 for SW360; \$3.15-3.30 for SSW; for splits and butts from \$3.05-3.20 and for pieces from \$3.00-3.15 a pound (f.o.b), according to traders.

Domestic market in India was steady with reasonable activity in broken, but not much trading in wholes except for inter-exporter trading at slightly higher levels. China was buying steadily in Vietnam.

There were hardly any trades in raw cashew nut (RCN). However, there were reports of some sales for Indonesia and Tanzania at around \$1,525-1,550 a tonne (c & f). RCN traders with long positions in West African RCN, after having sold some volume in October at lower prices, do not seem to be in great hurry to sell now. Arrivals in Brazil so far have been higher than normal for this time of the year.

There is a wide range of crop estimates but a realistic figure will not be available before January.

The problems in Europe continue to occupy centre stage and this is affecting decision making at all levels, Mr Pankaj N. Sampat, a Mumbai-based dealer, told *Business Line*. "There is concern about currency movement, financing costs, impact on consumption, wages and other costs, risk appetite, etc," he said.

All these are making people take short-term covers and increasing the potential for volatility.

He said that there was no change in the market fundamentals. The supply potential is better than it was in the first half of 2011. A confirmation that supply has been restored to normal levels will be available only by mid-2012 if the northern crops are good, he said.

At the same time, he said, there is considerable concern about the demand for the first half of 2012. A reasonable estimate of this will be available in February-March 2012.

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Paddy arrivals dry up as traders try to buy cheap



Karnal, Nov. 21:

Paddy arrivals dropped drastically to just around 80,000 bags of different paddy varieties on Monday.

Following lower prices offered by millers for the paddy of aromatic varieties, farmers were not interested in bringing their produce to the market while the arrivals of a few non-basmati varieties have dried up, said Mr Tara Chand Sharma, proprietor of Tara Chand and Sons.

According to the reports, the Government is unlikely to pay any incentive over the Minimum Support Price for paddy farmers for current year procurement.

In the rice market, trade continued to witness low buying. Prices of aromatic and non-basmati rice were unchanged.

Prices of Pusa-1121(steam) quoted around Rs 4,350 a quintal while Pusa-1121(sela) was at Rs 3,450-3,500. For the brokens of Pusa1121, Tibar ruled at Rs 3,300, Dubar was at Rs 2,900-2,950 while Mongra was trading at Rs 2,300 a quintal.

Pure Basmati (Raw) sold at Rs 4,600 a quintal, while Basmati Sela sold at Rs 3,500-3,550. Sharbati (steam) quoted at Rs 2,900 while the Sharbati (Sela) was between Rs 2,750-2,800 a quintal.

PR11 (Sela) sold at Rs 2,100-2,200 a quintal, while PR-11(Raw) quoted at Rs 1,900-2,150. Permal (sela) sold at Rs 1,800-1,950 a quintal, while Permal (Raw) was around Rs 1,900.

Around 80,000 bags arrived at the Karnal Grain Market Terminal. PR arrived with a stock of around 50,000 bags and sold at Rs 950-1,050. About 5,000 bags of Sharbati variety arrived and quoted at Rs 1,300-1,325, DB arrived with a stock of around 5,000 bags and sold at Rs 1,500-1,550. Around 10,000 bags of Pusa 1121 arrived and Rs 1,650-1,900 a quintal while around 10,000 bags of pure Basmati arrived and sold at Rs 1,750-1,850.

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Strong dollar to keep soya oil steady

Our Correspondent



Mumbai, Nov. 21:

Soya oil was flat on Monday, even as the rupee fell to 52 against the dollar and the global markets weakened.

Due to sluggish local demand, soya refined sold at Rs 607-610 for 10 kg (Rs 609-610), while it fetched Rs 606-607 in the resale market. On the other hand, demand for refined contracts till the first week of December quoted at Rs 615 for 10 kg. Soya solvent was also flat at Rs 572-576 for 10 kg. Soya oil is unlikely to drop — even though foreign markets are sliding — as long as the dollar is stronger compared with the rupee, trade sources here said.

Soya refined's December contract on the National Board of Trade closed lower at Rs 643.80 for 10 kg (Rs 644) on weak global cues. In contrast, soya oil's December and January contracts gained on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) at Rs 644.20 (up Rs 1.50) and Rs 650.40 (up Rs 2.05) on buying support.

Soya seeds rose on improved buying support. Soyabean in State mandis, where four lakh bags arrived, were up Rs 20 at Rs 2,080-2,140 a quintal. In Indore mandis, soyabean sold at Rs 2,080-2,130 a quintal with 10,000 bags being offloaded in local mandis. In Dewas and Ujjain mandis, 15,000 and 12,000 bags of soya bean were offloaded. December and January contracts of soya seeds on the NCDEX closed Rs 10 up at Rs 2,258 a quintal and Rs 18 up at Rs 2,298 a quintal.

Plant deliveries of soyabean also increased at Rs 2,225-2,2240 a quintal (Rs 2,205-2,210) on Saturday on improved demand.

Soya de-oiled cake was unchanged in the Kandla port at Rs 17,200 a quintal, while it sold at Rs 16,100 a quintal in the local market.

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Poor inflow lends sheen to turmeric



Erode, Nov. 21:

Lower arrivals on Monday lifted spot turmeric by Rs 200 a quintal, though prices remained below Rs 5,000. Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association, said: "The price increase was due to the poor arrival of 6,300 bags." "Turmeric futures increased by 2 per cent when market opened, so traders quoted higher. Added to this, some exporter-traders have received orders from North India. If 7,000-9,000 bags arrive in the market on Tuesday, prices may go up slightly. If the arrival is over 10,000, prices will decrease," he added.

He said that usually at the beginning of the week arrivals are low and they go up gradually due to increasing trend, when prices fall. Farmers have been instructed to bring limited stocks to the market. Some farmers said that they are in need of money for raising crop in Kalingarayan ayacut, so they are selling below Rs 5,000 a quintal. Only a third of the 205 bags that arrived at the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society were sold due to poor quality. **Salem Crop:** The finger variety sold at Rs 4,829-5,098, the root variety Rs 4,406- 4,709. Of the 1,745 bags that arrived, only 389 were sold.

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