THE HINDU

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ICAR to offer research-based solutions to farmer problems: S.Ayyappan

Special Correspondent

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 12 {+t} {+h} 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.

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.

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Rain raises levels in reservoirs

Staff Reporter

Water level has risen in the reservoirs in the wake of the downpour for eight consecutive days in Tuticorin district.

Of the 53 system tanks, water level reached its highest in 10 tanks.

Thirty two tanks were filled with 50 to 75 percent of their capacity and 10 tanks recorded 25 to 50 percent storage level.

If the showers continued for another couple of days, these 32 tanks would also reach their maximum levels. Besides, water level in one tank was below 25 percent.

Of the non system tanks, 50 were brimming with water while 38 tanks had storage of 50 to 75 percent water.

Storage level of 25 to 50 percent was recorded in 48 tanks.

Apart from this, 30 tanks had water below 25 percent storage, according to reliable sources from Department of Agriculture.

With copious inflow of water, the farmers are a happy lot. But excess rainfall for another two or three days will dash their hopes.

From Keelakaal channel of Marudur anaicut, 400 cusecs of water have been released to the irrigation tanks and 1,400 cusecs of water from the Melakaal channel of the anaicut have been released.

Owing to the rainfall, a surplus of 7, 200 cusecs of water have been recorded in the Marudur anaicut.

In Srivaikuntam anaicut, surplus of 8, 600 cusecs have been recorded and 906 cusecs have been released, sources from Public Works Department said.

In October, 295.22 mm rainfall was recorded against the average rainfall of 150.70 mm.

With 662 mm being the annual average rainfall in the district, 386 mm rainfall has been recorded as on October 31.

During a nine month period from January to September only 91 mm was recorded but in the month of October alone 295.22 mm of rain was recorded.

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Patil hits out at cane farmers

Staff Correspondent

Protest for higher first advance continues in Maharashtra

Home Minister R.R. Patil on Tuesday criticised sugarcane farmers for continuing their agitation, and held them responsible for “delaying” the crushing season. Farmers, under the leadership of Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatna, are seeking a higher first advance more than Rs. 1,450 (per tonne) as declared by the State government.

“Only 29 sugar factories have started crushing since the season began mid-October. This is not going to benefit farmers. They are the ones losing out on money. They should think if they can afford it,” Mr. Patil said at the inauguration of a sugar factory near Satara.

There are 168 sugar factories in the State. Of them, 121 are cooperative and 47 are private factories. “Other sugar factories might have to shut down because of this agitation,” Mr. Patil said. Making an appeal to farmers, Mr. Patil said that they should ensure that sugarcane grown in the State was crushed.

The sanghatna led by Raju Shetty, MP, is, however, unfazed by the criticism. “The sugar factories and the government together want to crush this movement. But we will not stop till farmers get justice,” Mr. Shetty said.

The main contention of farmers is that they are being offered a lower first advance, fixed as fair and remunerative price (FRP) by the State, than last year. The government has declared Rs. 1,450 per tonne as FRP for the 2011-12 crushing season. Even last year, most farmers got Rs. 2,000 after continued agitations even though the declared FRP for 2010-11 was Rs. 1,439 per tonne.

According to Mr. Shetty, a farmer has to spend approximately Rs. 2000 per tonne. “Cost on fertilizers and wages have gone up. How can one accept first advance below what was offered last year?” Mr. Shetty said. He stated that wages had increased by Rs. 25 a day, cost of fertilizers had increased by Rs. 200 per bag and electricity tariff too had escalated.

Conspiracy

Mr. Shetty accused the government and factories of conspiring against farmers. “Most of the factory owners are politicians, who use their pressure tactics to reduce the FRP. They want to pump money into the coming elections, rather than paying farmers. But we will not let this happen,” Mr. Shetty said.

- *Home Minister urges farmers to ensure that sugarcane grown in the State is crushed*
- *Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatna says protest will continue till farmers get justice*

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Mass training of youth in coconut palm climbing

Special Correspondent

It has been an uphill task for coconut farmers to get the services of climbers to harvest the nuts as many of those who had been engaged in the occupation had turned to other jobs. The Coconut Development Board has embarked on a novel programme to raise a team of youngsters who take up the challenge as a meaningful occupation, while helping the agrarian economy at large.

The board conducted a few camps coded ‘Friends of coconut tree' across the State, and the names and mobile phone numbers of those who successfully completed the district-wise training have been listed in the new website of the Board.

The board observed that in many areas, farmers are forced to seek help from migrant labourers, who charge exorbitant amounts, despite not being familiar with the art of coconut climbing. As against the general norm of harvesting cycles of 45-60 days, farmers are currently able to harvest only once in three to four months. The board is in the process of conducting a massive training programme for 5,000 under-employed youth in developing special skills and confidence in coconut palm climbing and plant protection activities for the benefit of the coconut community as a whole, the board says in its website. Many useful information on coconut and its products are also available on the website coconutboard.gov.in, according to the board.

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Farmers observe fast

Farmers observed a day-long fast under the aegis of some Backward Classes associations at Vinayakapuram village in Aswaraopet mandal on Tuesday in protest against the alleged failure of the government to provide relief and compensation towards crop losses. They sat on unger strike near the gram panchayat office in the village. They demanded that the government sanction at least Rs 10,000 compensation per acre to all the drought ravaged farmers.

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Food security to the poor sought

Leaders of the All India Agricultural Workers Union, Andhra Pradesh Vyavasaya Karmika Sangham and Centre for Indian Trade Unions have demanded that the State Government strengthen the public distribution system for ensuring food security to poor families instead of coming out with populist schemes like Re. 1 per kg rice scheme.

AIAWU State president P. Murali Krishna, and APVKS leader K. Venkateswara Rao said the scheme was eyewash going by the way in which the PDS was functioning.

Addressing a round table conference here on Tuesday, Mr. Murali Krishna and Mr. Rao said the Government was making many promises to poor families while on the other hand it was weakening the PDS.

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Kharif output set to drop in ‘rice bowl' of State

B.V.S. Bhaskar

Government has made arrangements for procurement of paddy

East and West Godavari districts, referred to as the rice bowl of Andhra Pradesh, are going to see a drop in paddy production in this kharif season.

Crop-cutting will begin in a week or so and the government has already made arrangements for procurement of paddy.

The total area under paddy cultivation in central and eastern delta is 4.82 lakh acres and 4 lakh acres are under the reservoirs of Chagalnadu, Pushkara, Subbareddy Sagar and Pampa, the Agency, and wetlands.

During the kharif season, Konaseema farmers observed a ‘crop holiday' in 13 mandals. Farming activity came to a grinding halt in one lakh acres. Apart from this, scanty rainfall in other areas in June affected cultivation in 50,000 acres. Output has come down in another 50,000 acres for various reasons.

Estimated output

Agriculture and civil supplies officials have estimated the total production in kharif at 14 lakh tonnes as against the normal 20 lakh tonnes. The deficit of six lakh tonnes will have a telling impact on exports and the price index.

“We want to compensate the same in rabi, but there has been no assurance from the government on water supply. Moreover, it is going to reduce the area of sowing by half,'' says K. Srinivasa Rao, a farmer of Alamuru.

Business Standard

Wednesday, Nov 02, 2011

Food ministry against further cut

Anindita Dey / Mumbai November 02, 2011, 0:05 IST

Says no to more sugar exports also as the move will spur domestic prices.

The Union ministry of food and consumer affairs is against reducing the minimum export price (MEP) for onions and allowing more export of sugar, at this point of time.

In a communication to related ministries before a proposed meeting of a group of ministers on these subjects, the ministry has said a reduction in MEP will mean a rise in the prices of onions in the domestic market, stated official sources.

“Currently, the domestic market has limited supply till fresh stock arrives towards the end of November. Once the MEP is lowered, the onion producer will have greater incentive to export than to supply in the domestic market, which will immediately push up prices here due to the limited supply till end-November,” the sources said. “While it is true that onion prices are ruling soft in the international market and buyers are preferring cheaper onions from other countries like China and Pakistan, compared to India, the MEP should not be lowered to support exporters at the cost of pushing up prices in the domestic market.” They said this would also hold true for sugar. “No decision for further export of sugar should take place till new arrivals come in the domestic market. One has to gauge the correct availability of production, demand and supply of a particular crop before deciding on export or import.”

In September, the government had lifted the ban on export of onion, but imposed a MEP of $475 a tonne.

Of the total annual production, 10-15 per cent is during the normal kharif season and another 30-40 per cent in late kharif. The rest comes from the rabi season. A little over 15 per cent of the total output happens in Maharashtra. Other major producers are Gujarat, Orissa, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Punjab and Rajasthan. are the other major producers. Onion production in India this year (2011-12) is estimated at 15.14 million tonnes (mt), as compared to 14.6 mt last year.

The leading growing countries are China, India, America, Japan, Spain, Turkey, Brazil, Italy, Egypt and Pakistan. There is presently substantial demand for produce from neighbouring Bangladesh, China and Pakistan, due to their lower prices. The present MEP is reducing the competitiveness of Indian onion globally, said sources.

On sugar, the government had allowed 1.5 mt of exports under Open General Licence in three equal tranches, during April, June and August. According to industry data, the country exported 217,000 tonnes in the entire 2009-10 season. Production is estimated at 24.2 million tonnes in the 2010-11 season ended this September, as against 18.8 mt in the previous year. The annual domestic demand is pegged at 21-21.5 mt.

Tea industry seeks changes in price-sharing pattern

Supratim Dey / Guwahati November 02, 2011, 0:10 IST

Against the backdrop of the current crisis following a sudden fall in prices of green leaf tea, the industry has asked for “review” of various provisions of the Tea Marketing Control Order (TMCO), 2003.

Besides dubbing many provisions of the TMCO “arbitrary” and “unfair”, the tea industry said the price sharing formula was difficult to comprehend.

TMCO defines the price sharing formula between tea manufacturers and green leaf suppliers based on the total gross proceeds from the sale of manufactured tea. The Assam government recently directed the Tea Board to implement TMCO after social unrest was brewing in the state following the abnormal dip in price of green leaf tea, which affected nearly 100,000 small growers.

Prominent among the reviews demanded by the industry was the price sharing ratio of 65:35 between the green leaf grower and manufacturers.

“Initially, the price sharing formula under TMCO was 60:40 but later the Tea Board had unilaterally changed it to 65:35. We demand a review of it, which must be preceded by a threadbare discussion,” said Bidyananda Barkakoty, chairman of the North Eastern Tea Association.

He said the ratio did not take into account the actual cost structure of both the grower and the manufacturer.

The tea industry has also sought a review of the present conversion rate of 21.65 per cent, as it said this did not take into account the tea waste generated.

The conversion rate is used to calculate the actual money to be shared with green leaf suppliers after applying the 65:35 ratio. Barkakoty said TMCO has completely failed to address the quality of leaf and processing facility.

The tea industry, following thorough discussions, will soon arrive at a consensus on what changes should be brought in TMCO, said Barkakoty. The Tea Board had recently sought the industry's views to "arrive at a mutually acceptable price sharing formula".

Himachal apple output at 12-year low

Baldev S Chauhan / Shimla November 02, 2011, 0:13 IST

With the apple harvest over in Himachal Pradesh, production has declined to the lowest in 12 years, officials say.

The entire production this year is estimated to be less than 13 million boxes This includes apple sold, in boxes and gunny bags (each box weighs 24 kg). The majority of the harvest is over by late October. Only last year the state had record production of 44.6 million boxes.

Experts say unsuitable weather in spring led to crop failure. When apple trees bloom in April, clear sunny weather is needed for proper pollination. This year, there was frequent rain and snow in higher areas.

Extremely cold weather caused major damage to blooming of trees. This resulted in poor crop. Also, in May and June, the standing crop was damaged by frequent hailstorm, further affecting the output.

HP produces 40 per cent of the country's apples. The rest of the crop is produced mostly in Jammu & Kashmir. In recent years, Uttarakhand has also started producing some apple.

The production in 1999 was almost 10 million boxes. This year's output at 13 million boxes is seen as worse than 1999, since the area under cultivation has grown over the years.

Also, a lot of orchards planted 20 years ago are now fully grown and, so, have higher crop potential.

Shimla district, which accounts for around 80 per cent of the entire yield of the state, saw a huge fall. Many farmers say they recorded the lowest output ever in the last 30 to 50 years of the business.

Cardamom up on fresh spot demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi November 01, 2011, 11:42 IST

Cardamom futures prices moved up by Rs 6.10 to Rs 668.50 per kg today on fresh demand in the spot market, driven by the ongoing wedding season.

Restricted arrivals from producing region also supported the uptrend in cardamom futures prices.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, November cardamom gained Rs 6.10, or 0.92%, to Rs 668.50 per kg, with a business turnover of 536 lots.

The December delivery moved up by Rs 6, or 0.84%, to Rs 719.30 per kg, with a trade volume of 212 lots.

Traders said fresh demand in the spot markets on account of the ongoing marriage season and restricted arrivals from southern producing region mainly led to the rise in cardamom futures prices here.

THE HINDU Business Line

FCI's open sale of wheat may take time to gather pace

M.R. SUBRAMANI

SHARE · PRINT · T+

Stocks with mills, diversion of ration grains cited as reasons

FCI OFFER RATES

STATES	PRICE
DELHI	1186.74
TAMIL NADU	1260.37
KARNATAKA	1263.22
KERALA	1277.87
ANDHRA PRADESH	1249.78
WEST BENGAL	1240.32
MAHARASHTRA	1238.52
GROWING STATES	1170

(Rs/quintal)

Chennai, Nov. 1:

Wheat sale under the open market sale scheme (OMSS) by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is likely to take time to pick up as arrivals in markets around growing centres continue.

"Stocks are still coming to markets. Once they decline, millers and traders could look to the FCI sale, especially in New Delhi," said Mr Raj Narayan Gupta, a miller.

However, millers could be forced to rush a little early to the FCI for wheat purchase as traders in Haryana and Punjab are reportedly holding back stocks after the Centre raised the minimum support price for wheat to Rs 1,285 a quintal for the crop to be harvested next year.

"Mills, especially in the South, have ample stocks with them. Immediate purchase is unlikely," said Mr Pramod Kumar, Executive Director of Bangalore-based Sunil Agro Foods Ltd.

As such, FCI is offering wheat at price that is little lower than the rates at which wheat is delivered at mills gate.

A high level committee of the FCI approved a new OMSS scheme last month to sell nine lakh tonnes of wheat at a price that is seen reasonable by traders and flour mills. Under the scheme, valid till March 31, bulk buyers and traders will be offered 8.10 lakh tonnes and small traders the rest.

While deciding to sell wheat at the current minimum support price of Rs 1,170 a quintal, the FCI panel agreed to levy a transport charge that would be 50 per cent of the cost incurred to move wheat from growing areas to a particular State.

Accordingly, FCI has set a base price of Rs 1,186.74 a quintal for sale of wheat in New Delhi, while it will be Rs 1,238.52 in Maharashtra (See Table).

Currently, wheat costs Rs 1,300-1,320 a quintal at mill-gate in Bangalore against Rs 1,300 for getting FCI to roller-flour mills. This includes the transport charge for moving wheat to the mill from the FCI godown.

Dara wheat that is used by the flour mills was quoted at Rs 1,150-60 a quintal in Punjab and Haryana on Tuesday,

“About 2,000 tonnes of wheat offered in Karnataka by the FCI have been bought,” said Mr Kumar.

“The FCI has been mandated to sell 6,100 tonnes of wheat in six months time. Each flour mill in Tamil Nadu can get some 400 tonnes. We expect all the quantity to be sold by the FCI,” said Mr M.V. Balasubramaniam, Director of the Salem-based Narasu Flour Mills.

Ration shops

A miller said that the FCI open sale could be affected by wheat that is being diverted from ration shops. “At least 40 per cent of the wheat that is meant for the public distribution system is available in the open market,” the miller said.

“The Government could cut the allocation for the public distribution system to curb such diversion,” said Mr Kumar.

“Mills in Uttar Pradesh may not buy the FCI wheat since they have to foot an additional 12.5 per cent as tax, including value-added tax,” said Mr Gupta.

However, there is one hitch with the FCI sale. It is offering crop from 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons.

“Stocks from 2008-09 seem to be good since they have been preserved well,” said Mr Kumar.

Higher output likely

With the Centre raising the MSP, wheat production could be higher next year on increased coverage.

“Wheat sowing will be higher this time in view of the higher MSP. But the Centre may have to procure more too,” said Mr Gupta.

The Union Agriculture Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, and the Union Minister of State for Food, Prof K.V. Thomas, have said that wheat production would exceed this year's record 86 million tonnes.

Procurement up

Besides, procurement of wheat for buffer stocks was higher at 28 million tonnes.

Traders and millers are of the view that the Centre's procurement next year could be around 30 million tonnes, especially if prices in the open market crash.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 2, 2011)

Rubber futures weaken on import prospects

Our Correspondent
Kottayam, Nov. 1:

The spot market remained closed on Tuesday owing to a holiday declared by the Kerala Government following the death of the State Food Minister, Mr T.M. Jacob. Sheet rubber slipped to Rs 211.50 (212) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board.

While low stocks in National Multi Commodity Exchange accredited warehouses and North-East monsoon have been providing firm support, the onset of the peak production season and strengthening of rupee against dollar may weigh on the prices. The gap between the domestic and international markets has widened considerably with Indian produce selling at a premium compared with Malaysian and Thai rubber. This could improve the prospects of imports, analysts said.

The November series weakened to Rs 209.70 (213.60), December to Rs 209.50 (213.21), January to Rs 210.70 (213.91), February to Rs 210.25 (214.25), March to Rs 212.50 (216.30) and April to Rs 215.50 (219.17) a kg on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) dropped to Rs 194.82 (196.37) a kg at Bangkok. The November futures declined to ¥291.4 (Rs 183.61) from ¥301.2 a kg during the day session and then to ¥282.1 (Rs 177.73) a kg in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 2, 2011)

Coffee exports climb 25% in Jan-Oct

Anil Urs

TOP 10 EXPORTERS

(in tonnes)

	TOTAL
NKG Jayanti Coffee	32,289.6 (arabica 7488.2 + robusta 24,801.4)
CCL Products-India	Only robusta 30,291.6
Allana Sons Ltd	26,833.2 (arabica 7,231 + robusta 19,602.2)
Amalgamated Bean Coffee	23,571.6 (arabica 7,920.2 + robusta 15,651.4)
Olam Agro India	21,796.6 (arabica 6,241.1 + robusta 15,555.5)
ITC Ltd	20,952.3 (arabica 2,839.1 + robusta 18,113.2)
Ned Commodities India	19,546.1 (arabica 1,065.6 + robusta 18,480.5)
Tata Coffee	18,559.8 (arabica 1,004.8 + robusta 17,555).
Nestle India	Only robusta 15,732
Ecom Gill Coffee Trading	14,880.4 (arabica 3,669.1 + robusta 11,211.3)

Source: Coffee Board

Bangalore, Nov. 1:

Coffee exports increased 25 per cent in the first 10 months of the calendar year to 3.10 lakh tonnes compared with 2.48 lakh tonnes last year.

Coffee exports in rupee terms increased 71.02 per cent to Rs 4,334.37 crore compared with the same period a year ago.

In dollar terms, it is up 75.39 per cent at $944 million. The unit value realisation of coffee was Rs 1.39 lakh a tonne against last year's Rs 1.01 lakh.

Good availability

According to a senior exporter, who did not wish to be identified, “high amount of coffee exports is due to good availability of washed arabicas and robusta parchment.

Also during March-June, growers got good prices (between 250 cents and 300 cents a pound) for their produce this facilitated exporters to perform well. But in the last three months, prices are averaging 230-250 cents a pound and exports are slow.”

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 2, 2011)

Mills curb despatches to cap sugar's fall

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Nov. 1:

Sugar prices at the producer's gate in Maharashtra declined sharply due to lack of demand.

Naka rates tracked the same route, while lower arrivals and local despatches limited the decline in spot rates. On Tuesday, mill tender rates declined by Rs 20-40 a quintal. Naka rates, under selling pressure, lost Rs 15-20, while usual lower demand after Diwali cooled spot rates further by Rs 5-10 in the Vashi wholesale market.

Expectation of new consumption demand in the physical market at the beginning of the month is supporting sentiment by arresting the speed of price decline, market sources said. The sugar sector is now eagerly waiting for the Centre's announcement on fresh exports, as the new crushing season is now picking up and higher production is expected in the current year.

Mr Mukesh Kuwadia of Bombay Sugar Merchants Association told *Business Line*: “The current double-digit food inflation rates will not allow the Government to take any hasty decision on a sensitive issue which may fuel inflation. On the other hand, India will have a higher sugar production for the second consecutive year, which will lead to surplus if exports are not allowed.”

The Government should allow exports once a month to once in two months under a quantitative ceiling, he said. In August, the Government allowed export of five lakh tonnes of sugar. It takes two months to fill up that quota, he said. A wholesaler said that ample free-sale quota for November will not allow the market to go up due to usual lower demand after the Diwali festival. In the first fortnight of the month, sugar prices may witness a bearish sentiment. Pressure on traders for lifting October's purchases will keep them away from fresh buying this week. In the second fortnight, selling pressure on mills may be seen due to the availability of free sale quota of 17.01 lakh tonnes for the month.

Arrivals at the Vashi market were at 45-46 truckloads, while local despatches were at 40-42 truckloads. On Monday, 8-10 mills offered tenders and sold about 20,000-25,000 bags to local traders at Rs 2,680-2,760 (Rs 2,720-2,790) for S-grade and at Rs 2,800-2,900 (Rs 2,820 - 2,930) for M-grade sugar.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates: S-grade — Rs 2,821-2,905 (Rs 2,821-2,911) and M-grade — Rs 2,906-3,061 (Rs 2,911-3,062).

***Naka* delivery**: S-grade — Rs 2,760- 2,830 (Rs 2,780-2,850) and M-grade Rs 2,870-3,010 (Rs 2,880-3,000).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 2, 2011)

Edible oils decline, tracking global markets

Mumbai, Nov. 1:

Edible oils market witnessed downward pressure in the absence of fresh demand after Diwali and extended loss in the global palm-soya complex.

Tracking weak global market and higher arrivals of seeds at domestic level, palmolein dropped by Re 1, soya oil by Rs 5, cotton oil by Rs 3, rapeseed oil by Rs 3 and sunflower oil by Rs 5. Groundnut oil remained unchanged despite improvement in the Saurashtra market.

The volume was negligible as traders kept away due to increased resale pressure for ready delivery order. Palmolein in resale was quoted at Rs 531-532. Liberty's rates for palmolein were Rs 535–536 at the close of trade, for super palmolein Rs 570 and for soya refined oil Rs 622. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 533 and soya refined oil at Rs 620 for November delivery.

Malaysian crude palm oil's November contracts settled at MYR2,925 (MYR2,942), December at MYR2,923 (MYR2,944), January at MYR2,923 (MYR2,938) and February at MRY2,920 (MRY2,937) a tonne. Soya oil for November delivery settled lower at Rs 617.50 (Rs 621) while December settled at Rs 614 (Rs 616.80) on National Board of Trade in Indore.

Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) : Groundnut oil 860 (860), soya refined oil 620 (625), sunflower exp ref 645 (645), sunflower ref 700 (705), rapeseed ref oil 707 (710), rapeseed expeller ref 677 (680), cotton ref oil 628 (631) and palmolein 533 (534).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 2, 2011)

Groundnut oil seen falling on poor offtake

Our Correspondent

Rajkot, Nov. 1:

Lower demand after Diwali brought down prices of groundnut oil.

A 15-kg new tin fell by Rs 10 to Rs 1,445-1,450, labelled tin by Rs 20 to Rs 1,425-1,430, loose (10 kg) by Rs 5 to Rs 840-845 and a 10-kg *telia* tin by Rs 7 to Rs 1,300-1,301.

In Saurashtra, 80-100 tonnes of groundnut oil were traded. The oil has shaved off Rs 20 for 15 kg in the past two days.

While bold groundnut sold at Rs 525-712 for 20 kg, small groundnut fetched Rs 650-749 for 20 kg. About 30,000 bags of groundnut arrived in agricultural produce marketing committees in Saurashtra.

A Rajkot-based oil trader said prices may fall more as demand is seen low.

According to market sources, groundnut arrivals are up and the pace of crushing has increased, too, putting further pressure on groundnut oil.

Cotton oil (wash) was down Rs 5 to Rs 607-610 for 10 kg. While a 15-kg new tin of cotton oil quoted at Rs 1,080-1,090, cotton oil sold at Rs 995-1,000 for 15 litres. Two hundred to 250 tonnes of the oil were traded.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 2, 2011)

Turmeric glitters as bulk buyers get new orders

Erode, Nov. 1:

Spot turmeric prices increased by Rs 300-450 a quintal on Tuesday as bulk buyers and exporters bought to fulfil their orders.

“After closure of three days, arrivals were over 14,000-odd bags. The sales were only 50-55 per cent.

“Despite heavy arrivals, prices increased, as bulk buyers and exporters received some fresh orders, ” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Some traders purchased the commodity to fulfil their previous orders. There was no increase or decrease in the futures. In the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, turmeric increased Rs 460 a quintal.

Similarly, in Gobichettipalayam Cooperative Marketing society and Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yards, prices increased Rs 300. The hybrid variety also increased Rs 300 and almost all the hybrid finger and root varieties were sold. In the Regulated Marketing Committee, spot prices increased by Rs 415.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety sold at Rs 3,196-5,274 a quintal and the root variety at Rs 3,116-4,974.

Salem Crop

The finger variety sold at Rs 4,309-5,809 and the root variety at Rs 4,009-5,174. Of the total arrivals of 3,465 bags, 453 were sold.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 2, 2011)

Lower supply boosts dara wheat

Karnal, Nov. 1:

Lower availability and good buying interest pushed up dara wheat prices, while desi varieties remained unchanged on Tuesday.

According to trade sources, after the increment in MSP (minimum support price), traders and stockists have started hoarding stocks, resulting in low availability in the market, and it pushed up prices. Prices may increase further by Rs 70-80 a quintal by the end of this year, the sources said.

Mr Hansraj, proprietor, Hansraj Traders, told *Business Line* that the decrease in arrivals and frantic buying by flour mills pushed dara upwards. Arrivals have dropped to around 50 tonnes against 80 tonnes till last weekend, he added.

In the physical market, dara prices went up by Rs 20-30 a quintal and were ruling at Rs 1,150-1,160 a quintal. Around 50 tonnes of dara variety arrived from Uttar Pradesh and the stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,150 a quintal while delivery at chakki was at Rs 1,160 a quintal.

On the other hand, desi wheat prices remained unchanged. The Tohfa variety quoted at Rs 2,250 a quintal, Samrat at Rs1,860, Lal Quila at Rs 1,830 and Rasoi at Rs 1,800.

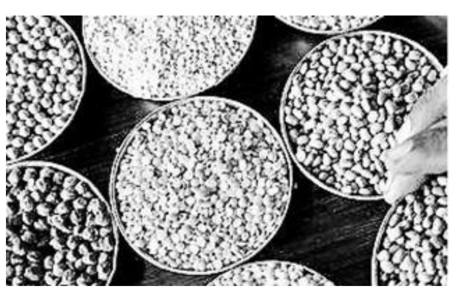
On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, wheat for November delivery increased by Rs 2.60 to Rs 1,095.20 a quintal.

Flour Prices

Following a good uptrend in wheat, flour prices moved up by Rs 25 and quoted at Rs 1,160 for a 90-kg bag while branded flour such as Lal Quila and Om Bhog were ruling around Rs 155 and Rs 150 for a 10-kg bag, respectively. Chokar prices continued to rule firm and sold at Rs 580-590 for a 49-kg bag.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 2, 2011)

Slack buying crushes pulses



Indore, Nov. 1:

Pulse seeds and pulses were sluggish due to increased arrivals and lack of buying interest in domestic market.

Chana, masoor, tur and urad declined on weak demand. Among all pulse seeds, urad witnessed the sharpest fall as pressure of increased arrivals of urad from Uttar Pradesh and poor demand reigned in its prices.

Weak demand from millers dragged down chana (kanta) prices to Rs 3,450 a quintal against Rs 3,475-3,500. Similarly, chana (desi) slipped to Rs 3,400 a quintal. Chana dal ruled steady on subdued demand with chana dal (average) being quoted at Rs 4,300-4,325, chana dal (medium) at Rs 4,400-4,425 a quintal, while chana dal (bold) ruling at Rs 4,525-50.

Masoor declined to Rs 2,950 a quintal, down Rs 25, while masoor (medium) ruled at Rs 2,700. Masoor dal, on the other hand, ruled stable with masoor dal(average) being quoted at Rs 3,375-3,400 a quintal, masoor dal (medium) at Rs 3,475-3500, while masoor dal (bold) ruled at Rs 3,600-3,625.

Tur declined on weak buying support with tur (Maharashtra) being quoted at Rs 3,350-75 against Rs 3,400 a quintal, while tur (Nimari) ruled at Rs 2,300-2,600 a quintal.

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