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## **TNAU completes study to promote corporate farming in Guinea**

Staff Reporter

*An MoU to this effect will be signed between the parties concerned and the Government of Guinea*

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has completed a suitability study in Guinea for promoting corporate farming through its Agro Business Development (ABD) Directorate and an incubatee, Top Worth Group of Companies.

A Memorandum of Understanding to this effect will be signed between the parties concerned and the Government of Guinea for taking up corporate farming in rice under 10,000 acres.

TNAU will facilitate the initiative through the Agri Business Incubator. The university is also specialising in developing value chains for different crops such as sorghum, coffee, mango, and banana, besides others. In order to take the concept forward, the university recently held a training programme for participants from universities and companies from Uganda, Zambia, Mali, Kenya, and Ghana.

They were trained to set up value chains in their respective countries. It was jointly organised by International Crops' Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, and TNAU.

The ABD was set up by the university in 2007 to promote agri business among farmers and entrepreneurs. It has so far identified 193 technologies of the university for commercialisation, and has been successful in commercialising 11 technologies / products so far.

Speaking at the training, Vice-Chancellor of TNAU P. Murugesu Boopathi said the university was fully geared to promote agri business at the state, national, and international level, without any profit motive. Technical Co-ordinator of UniBRAIN (Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation) Ralph von Kaufmann from Ghana called for setting up of agri business incubators in Central Africa. "Relationship between the demands of the private sector and what African universities teach is too weak. Hence, focus should be on educating and training graduates in agri business," he said.

UniBRAIN was promoted by the Forum of Agricultural Research in Africa, Ghana, chiefly for establishing agri business incubators as organisations for accelerating successful business enterprises. This was being done by providing support, incubator space, handholding, consultancy, etc., in the five African nations, viz., Uganda, Zambia, Mali, Kenya, and Ghana.

UniBRAIN planned to improve the as many as 25,000 farmers. The Africa-India collaboration was expected to facilitate sharing of knowledge and technologies with African network of agri business incubators, and also establishing successful value chains in different crops.

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### **Cotton farmers protest drop in procurement price**

Staff Reporter



Up in arms: Cotton farmers staging a dharna at the Enumamula agricultural market in Warangal on Tuesday. — PHOTO: M. MURALI

Hundreds of cotton farmers went berserk at the Enumamula agricultural market and vandalized the weighing machines protesting over the fall in procurement price here on Tuesday.

The farmers, who gathered in good numbers, rolled over the heavy weighing machines and damaged some electronic machines alleging exploitation by the traders and pointing a finger at the officials. They did not relent despite the requests by the officials. The police had to interfere and bring order at the market. However, the farmers stopped attacking the properties, but squatted on the sprawling grounds stalling the operations at the market for over five hours.

Joint Collector V. Karuna, accompanied by the officials of Marketing, Agricultural and Revenue departments, rushed to the scene and held talks with the farmers. The officials tried to convince the farmers that the local price depended on the international market.

Ms. Karuna said there were many issues that led to the uproar and distress among the farmers. Absence of basic facilities like accommodation for overnight stay for farmers, canteen, availability of gunny bags, etc. angered them. Speaking to newsmen, Collector Rahul Bojja said there was sudden fall of Rs. 100 per quintal from -- Rs. 3,800 to Rs. 3,700 -- in one day. MSP was fixed at Rs. 3,300 per quintal of cotton. If the procurement price in the open market came down below the MSP, the Cotton Corporation of India would intervene and ensure that price hovered around the MSP.

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### **Lack of support price worrying paddy farmers**

E.M. Manoj

*Produce sold at open market at low prices*



Dearth of procurement agencies, low price, labour shortage and climatic variations are the major concerns of the paddy farmers in Wayanad district.

The spot price of the Matta variety was Rs.825 to Rs.850 a quintal at the Meenangadi open market on Monday as against the Rs.1,300 a quintal just before the harvest. During the last puncha season (summer crop), it was Rs.875 a quintal.

Though Agriculture Minister K.P. Mohanan announced in a meeting of the representatives of farmers a few days ago that the government would procure paddy from the district at a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs.1,500 a quintal, the procurement was yet to take off, Binoj, a small-scale farmer at Cheeramkunnu, said. Hence, the farmers were forced to sell their produce at lower prices in the open market, he said.

It is reported that the production also came down drastically during the 'nancha' season (winter crop) in many parts of the district owing to the heavy rain during the pollination period of the

crop and various afflictions such as the bunch-rot disease that affected the crop, sources said here.

“Last pancha season I had got 13 quintals of paddy from 50 cents of land but this nancha season I got only 9 quintals,” Mr. Binoj said.

Most farmers could not dry the hay due to the intermittent rain in the season.

### **Expense goes up**

The price of fertilizers as well as expense for paddy cultivation had gone up manifold, but the farming community was yet to get a proportionate increase in price for their produce, A. Santhosh, secretary, Mathamangalam Padasekara Samithi, in Noolpuzha panchayat said.

“While the government provides many incentives to the farmers in other districts for expanding paddy cultivation, we are getting only Rs.140 an acre a year,” Mr. Santhosh said.

He said that if the government continued its lackadaisical approach towards the farmers, they would be forced to keep their land fallow.

P. Vikraman, Principal Agriculture Officer, told *The Hindu* that he had received official information from the government on Monday that the Civil Supplies Corporation would procure paddy from the farmers in the district at an MSP of Rs.15 a kg soon.

As per data released by the Agriculture Department, paddy is cultivated in 11,602 hectares for the nancha crop this year and the expected production is 40,607 tonnes.

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### **Proposal for Rs.20-crore organic poultry farming**

K. A. Martin

#### *Scheme to distribute 3.5 lakh birds to households*

The Department of Agriculture has sought Rs.20 crore from the Union Ministry of Agriculture to augment both egg and poultry meat production in the State.

A poultry project, which envisages distribution of around 3.5 lakh birds to households in the State, was submitted to Union Minister for Agriculture Sharad Pawar during the recent visit of the State Ministers to New Delhi.

According to sources, the Union Ministry has expressed interest in the project, which is aimed at reducing the dependence on the poultry meat brought from neighbouring States. The meat is found to contain excessive amount of hormones and antibiotics.

Called the Backyard Poultry Development Programme, the project will involve distribution of both male and female birds to households, which will be able to sell the grown birds to Meat Products of India (MPI), the State-owned meat processing unit.

The sources pointed out that the Backyard Poultry Development Programme was different from the previous ones because it will not be an intensive one. There will be no application of inorganic methods in poultry development.

Birds will be let free in the backyards to grow on normal food. This is in contrast to the use of hormones and other synthetic aid that come to poultry farming in most parts of the country.

Besides, male birds will be distributed to the households to ensure that there will be sufficient meat birds available for the enhanced meat processing facility on the MPI campus at Koothattukulam.

The practice in the past has been for government agencies to distribute egg-laying birds to ensure sufficient production of eggs for the State government food supplement schemes in educational institutions.

However, distribution of male birds will help the households to augment income.

Strains that have been found to achieve maturity over six months will be used for the Backyard Poultry Development Programme, the sources said.

Intensive poultry farming has virtually died out in the State and facilities like MPI need regular supply of birds. MPI's new facility for processing 4,000 birds a day was inaugurated on Monday by the Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan.

Poultry business in the State is beset with several problems, including the volatile prices, which have led to farmers giving up poultry farming in large number over the last decade.

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- *Programme to reduce dependence on other States*
  - *New processing facility inaugurated*
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## Farmers to get Nizamsagar water for rabi

Staff Reporter

*The water will be released from January 1 to March 31: Irrigation Minister*



'Work in all the packages of Pranahitha-Chevella to begin soon' 'Yellampally works in Karimnagar dist. will be completed by August'

Minister for Major Irrigation P. Sudarshan Reddy has said that in response to the appeal from farmers, water from the Nizamsagar Project will be released for the rabi season from January 1 to March 31.

At a press conference here on Tuesday the Minister said the Pranahitha-Chevella project he said work in all the packages of the project would begin and wherever all clearances had come there would commence first. The work relating to the packages 20 to 22 at Binola in the district already began.

The Yellampally works in Karimnagar district would be complete by August, he added.

The Minister said that in all probability the medical course may commence at the Government Medical College which has been under construction here in the next academic year.

### **Medical college**

To begin with, the college will start at the district headquarters hospital premises. For the purpose the District Medical and Health Office which was in the hospital premises would be shifted to somewhere else, he said.

To a question the Minister said that police officers would be asked to review the cases registered on the Telangana protagonists during the Rachabanda and remove cases wherever they were possible. However, he made it clear that serious cases could not be removed.

Thanking the district administration and people at large for making the second phase of Rachabanda a grand success Mr. Sudarshan Reddy said that women Self Help Groups would be provided with interest free loans up to a maximum of Rs.5 lakh from January 12.

In the district Rs.4.5 crore loan would be given to SHGs as interest free loan.

The Collector D. Varaprasad said under the proposed Stree Nidhi bank an amount of Rs.50 crore would be extended to the women members in the district.

He said under Abhaya Hastam scheme women were being provided insurance facility.

Joint Collector K. Harshavardhan, Additional JC C. Sreeram Reddy and Superintendent of Police D. Ramakrishnaiah were present.

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## Training programme on seaweed farming under way

Staff Reporter



HELPFUL: V.K. Venkatramani, Director of Research and Extension (Fisheries), addressing a training programme at Tharuvaikulam near Tuticorin on Monday. — Photo: N. Rajesh.

: A five-day training programme on seaweed farming commenced at Maritech Research and Extension Centre (MREC), Tharuvaikulam, on Monday.

The centre is functioning under the Directorate of Research and Extension, Fisheries College and Research Institute Campus, Tuticorin.

The aim of the programme is to increase the financial and social status of coastal people for providing an alternative livelihood.

To impart knowledge on various aspects of seaweed farming such as cultivable species of seaweeds, identification of seaweeds, value addition of seaweed and different culture methods, the programme was designed.

Practical demonstration on cultivation of seaweeds would also be covered during the course.

As part of the extension activity, the programme gets under way at a cost of Rs. 86,500 sponsored by National Fisheries Development Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, Hyderabad, according to a statement.

S. Athithan, Associate Professor and Head, MREC, highlighted the activities of the centre.

V.K. Venkataramani, Director of Research and Extension (Fisheries), said seaweed with excellent medicinal value and rich vitamins and mineral is playing a crucial role in the economy.

Seaweeds could be used for production of phytochemicals, agar, alginate and carrageenan, which were widely employed as gelling, stabilizing and thickening agents in foods, confectionery, pharmaceuticals, dairy, textile, paper and paint industries. Other chemical products from seaweed were mannitol, iodine laminarin and furcellarin.

Many protein rich seaweeds were consumed in soups, salads vegetables and porridges.

Besides, food products like jelly, jam, chocolates, pickles and wafers could also be manufactured from certain marine algae.

Certain seaweeds could also be used as cattle feed and fertilizers for various land crops.

Many bioactive compounds could be obtained from seaweeds.

Further he said that, the coastal people, SHG members and entrepreneurs interested in cultivating seaweeds would be highly benefited from the programme as all intricate and innovative technologies on cultivation and value addition of seaweeds would be taught to them.

Guidance would also be given for availing bank loan and subsidy to the needy participants.

Ramakrishna Rao, Executive (Technical), NFDB, Hyderabad, also explained the financial assistance and subsidy schemes available in NFDB. Maharajan, president, Tharuvaikulam Panchayat, received the first copy of the training manual. K.S. Vijay Amirtharaj, Assistant Professor, also spoke.

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## **Not jewel loans, give farmers pure crop loans, bankers told**

Special Correspondent

*PLP envisages credit potential of Rs.2,134 crore for 2012-13*

The District Collector, K.Baskaran, has appealed to bankers to disburse "pure crop loans" to farmers.

He was releasing the Potential Linked Credit Plan for the year 2012-13 for Thanjavur District prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

He said that only jewel loans were given to farmers for agricultural purposes. "Pure crop loans should be disbursed by banks. Actually, 10 per cent of the total loan portfolio is earmarked for crop loans and this target must be met," the Collector said.

Disbursal of pure crop loans assumes significance in the context of the thrust given to agriculture by the Tamil Nadu government. The government is talking about achieving second green revolution along with a white revolution which it wants to achieve by giving free milch cattle to people.

Already 100 milch animals have been given to farmers in two villages in Thiruvaiyaru taluk. "We are planning to give 100 more animals in the villages of Vallampudur and Sakkarasamatham," the Collector said.

He also pointed out that kuruvai harvest has been successful in the district this year and farmers reaped a bumper crop. Rain is timely and farmers are expected to reap bumper samba and thaladi crops.

The Collector also emphasised the need to disburse more educational loans. He also asked the bankers to improve performance with respect to Prime Ministers Employment Generation Programme.

S.T.Ravikumar, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, said the credit potential for the year 2012-13 for Thanjavur district is Rs.2,134 crore . This is Rs.400 crore and 23 per cent higher than the previous year. Of this crop loan potential is Rs.1,246 crore (58 per cent).

Term loans potential is Rs.300 crore (14 per cent). Non-farm sector loan potential has been assessed at Rs.194 crore (nine per cent). Other loan potential has been estimated at Rs.400 crore. PLP can be taken as a guide for preparing the Annual Credit Plan by other banks.

The PLPs projects credit requirements based on the availability of infrastructure, extension services, marketing support, strengths and weaknesses of Rural Financial Delivery System.

The emphasis is on ensuring credit flow to small and marginal farmers by bringing them into banking fold and eradicating financial exclusion through adoption of new technology, innovation and creation of financially viable models, Mr.Ravikumar said.

V.Raghavan, Chief Regional Manager (in-charge), Indian Overseas Bank, R.Subramnaiam, Lead District Manager, IOB, Deivanayagi, Project Officer, Mahalir Thittam, Selvaraj, Deputy General Manager, Reserve Bank of India, Gnanavel, Assistant General Manager, RBI, participated.

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- *10 per cent of the total loan portfolio is earmarked for crop loans*
  - *Non-farm sector loan potential assessed at Rs. 194 crore*
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### **Unusual warm weather has Himachal farmers worried**

TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2011 22:20

ANIL KIMTA | SHIMLA

Despite clouds dotting the skies, a peculiar warm spell continues in Shimla and other hill stations of Himachal Pradesh with Tuesday being yet another balmy day. .

On Monday the mercury rose to a high of 22.5 C, a whopping 9.4 degree C above normal while the minimum early on Tuesday was 8.5 C, at least 4 notches above normal.

Majority of Shimlaites and tourists were seen basking in the sun at many places. From the residents' point of view, the weather was beautiful and sunny but the phenomenon is unnatural for this time of the year.

With the rise in temperature at the threshold of winters, Apple growers of the State are a worried lot. Because of this sudden increase, they feel that around 900 chilling hours required by the apple trees for a good crop are going to be lost this time which might have a disastrous outcome for the industry.

Sanjay Chauhan of Kotkhai told The Pioneer that the rise of 9 degrees was a matter of great concern as such high temperatures have started affecting apple trees. "We are praying to weather gods to give us fresh snowfall immediately so that we can save our apple orchards".

The rise in temperature is not only on the queen of the hills, Shimla but also in places like Kalpa in tribal Kinnaur which saw a maximum of 18.3 C, some six degrees above normal. Kalpa and other surrounding areas of Kinnaur used to reel under heavy cold and snow by this time of the year. Farmers here said that the rise in temperature was not a good development for agriculture and horticulture. "There have been no rains and snow in the last six months which is a matter of grave concern for our crops," a tribal farmer said.

Manali recorded a maximum of 17.4 C but experienced chilly nights at 1.4 C. Manmohan Singh, Director, Weather Department of Himachal Pradesh, said that the weather is likely to be dry over Himachal this week and there are chances of further rise in the day temperature in the State. He said that there is no possibility of any rains or snow in the coming few days at all.

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## Business Standard

Wednesday, Nov 30, 2011

### Cut in onion export price fails to cheer exporters

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai November 30, 2011, 0:26 IST



Despite a drastic cut in the minimum export price (MEP) for the second time within a fortnight, onion prices failed to take a leap, as high arrivals kept the commodity under pressure. Prices in the spot Vashi Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) yard plunged 10 per cent on Tuesday.

Newly harvested onion is quoted at Rs 9-10 a kg, a decline from Rs 10-11 a kg the previous day. Similarly, the commodity for the old season was sold at Rs 5-7.5 a kg, a decline of Rs 1 from the previous day. "Onion prices fell in the spot market due to high arrivals of new crop from Nashik and Gujarat. The trend is likely to continue for the next fortnight," said a Vashi-based trader.

Total arrival in India's largest mandi, Pimpalgaon in Maharashtra, was 600-700 tonnes, a rise of 50 per cent from 400-450 tonnes a fortnight ago. Half the old stock is being released by large stockists, who held the commodity in anticipation of higher price. Similarly, in Pimpalgaon, total arrivals were 400 tonnes, up 40-50 per cent in a fortnight. In Vashi, 900-1,000 tonnes hit the mandi which Ashok Valunj, director of the APMC, consider as normal during this season.

"Generally, arrivals increase between November 15 and December 15, as farmers from both Maharashtra and Gujarat harvest their crop in order to vacate the field for wheat sowing. Hence, arrivals usually hit mandis in full swing, which keep the price down. But, we assume price will recover in 15 days, when arrivals slow and export demand revives," said Valunj.

During this season, old stocks, estimated to be between 2 and 3 per cent, is usually shipped due to high moisture content in new season crop.

However, the price is unlikely to decline from this level, as farmers may delay harvesting in case it falls below the current level. The government on Monday cut MEP by \$100 to make the commodity competitive in global markets. With this decline, all varieties of onion, except Bangalore Rose and Krishnapuram, can be exported at \$250 a tonne free on board (FoB). In the previous cut, the commodity was allowed to be shipped at \$350 a tonne. Similarly, for Bangalore rose onions and Krishnapuram onions, the MEP was brought down to \$300 a tonne from \$400 a tonne earlier.

Immediately after the last revision on November 18, Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar had hinted at a further price cut for exporters. The cut in MEP to \$350 a tonne had failed to yield any substantial results, as onions continued to sell at higher rates than those from China and other countries, which are below \$300 a tonne. India exports onion to Sri Lanka, West Asia and Malaysia. Today, the offtake from Malaysia is a bit slow, partly compensated with higher orders from Sri Lanka. Traders believe Malaysian demand would rebound in a week.

India's onion exports has declined by 22 per cent during April-November. Total exports were 905,150 tonnes so far this year as against 1.12 million tonnes around the same time last year. India is the second-largest producer of onions in the world, after China. Onion production is estimated at 15.14 mt in 2011-12 (July-June), higher than the previous year's output of 14.56 mt.

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### **Chana futures rises for second day in row**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi November 29, 2011, 15:10 IST**



Chana futures prices remained higher for the second straight day by adding Rs 4 to Rs 3,295 per quintal today, as speculators enlarged their positions, supported by firming trend at spot market.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for delivery in December added Rs 4, or 0.12%, to Rs 3,295 per quintal, with an open interest of 1,71,430 lots.

Likewise, the commodity for delivery in January traded higher by the same margin to Rs 3,364 per quintal, with a trade volume of 84,010 lots.

Market analysts said apart from increased buying by traders, pick-up in

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### **Coriander futures up on pick-up in demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi November 29, 2011, 12:43 IST**

Coriander futures prices rose by Rs 51 to Rs 4,176 per quintal today, as speculators created fresh positions, supported by a rise in spot demand.

Less arrivals from producing region further fuelled the uptrend in coriander futures prices, traders said.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, coriander for delivery in January rose by Rs 51, or 1.24%, to Rs 4,176 per quintal, with an open interest of 10,530 lots.

Likewise, the spice for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 44, or 1.08%, to Rs 4,114 per quintal, with a trade volume of 16,160 lots.

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### **No procurement yet for new season**

**Anindita Dey / Mumbai November 29, 2011, 0:37 IST**

While Maharashtra will review the incentive proposal for cotton growers after civic polls, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has not yet started procurement for this season. With November already over, it is now in a wait and watch mode on prices, which could delay procurement further.

“Both international and domestic prices are falling everyday. But, the domestic price is ruling over the minimum support price (MSP). Last year we procured cotton at record prices and it was to benefit farmers. This year as well, we would wait for market prices to stabilise for procurement to start, which will never be below the MSP. There is no reason for us to procure at high prices,” said an official source.

“Growers are also not liquidating their positions and are artificially holding their stock, expecting hectare-wise incentive. Also, exporters are not selling till they get a firm order from a buyer, as international demand is not very encouraging. Thus, the supply is piling up and there is no reason why CCI should procure at higher prices,” said the source.

Cotton procurement usually starts in November when the moisture level in the crop subsides.

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## **THE HINDU** Business Line

### **Lacklustre demand keeps edible oil on leash**



Mumbai, Nov. 29:

Demand let-up during the month end kept edible oil prices under check on Tuesday.

Crude palm oil futures on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange are expected to trade within a narrow range this week due to the uncertainties in the euro zone, sources said.

Palmolein and rapeseed oil increased by Rs 2 each. Soya refined oil lost Rs 2, cotton oil declined by Rs 3 and sunflower expeller refined oil dipped by Rs 5 for 10 kg.

Local refineries offered palmolein at Rs 578-582 while resellers offered it at Rs 571-572. In the physical market, resellers traded 80-100 tonnes of palmolein. Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 580-582, super palmolein at Rs 595 and soya refined oil at Rs 624. Ruchi offered palmolein at Rs 575-577, soya refined oil at Rs 621 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 688.

Soya oil for December delivery closed at Rs 639.50 (Rs 641.40) while for January was at Rs 647.20 (Rs 650) on the National Board of Trade in Indore.

**Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg):** groundnut oil 850 (850), soya refined oil 620 (622), sunflower exp. ref. 630 (635), sunflower ref. 695 (695), rapeseed ref. oil 720 (718), rapeseed expeller ref. 690 (688), cotton ref. oil 602 (605) and palmolein 570 (568).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 30, 2011)

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### Sluggish demand drags pulses lower

Our Correspondent



Indore, Nov. 29:

Sluggish demand pulled down pulses and pulse seeds in mandis here on Tuesday.

Slack demand and weaker futures pulled down chana (kanta) to Rs 3,200 a quintal. Chana (desi) declined to Rs 3,200 a quintal. Taking cues from a weak spot chana and lower demand from millers, chana dal declined, with chana dal (average) being quoted at Rs 4,000-4,025 ((Rs 4,075-4,100), chana dal (medium) at Rs 4,100-4,125 (Rs 4,175-4,200) and chana dal (bold) at Rs 4,225-4,250 (Rs 4,275-4,300).

Masoor slipped on selling pressure and slack demand. In the spot market, masoor (bold) declined to Rs 2,750-2,775 (Rs 2,800). Masoor (medium) declined to Rs 2,300-2,500. Masoor dal declined on poor demand, with masoor dal (average) being sold at Rs 3,200-3,225 (Rs 3,250-3,275) and masoor dal (medium) at Rs 3,300-3,325 (Rs 3,325-3,350) and masoor dal (bold) at Rs 3,425-3,450 (down Rs 25).

Tur and its dal slid on weak demand, with tur (Maharashtra) declining by Rs 25 at Rs 3,550 and tur (Nimari) selling at Rs 2,300-2,500. Tur dal (full) fetched Rs 50 less at Rs 5,500-5,550, tur dal ( *sawa* no) quoted at Rs 4,750-4,800 and tur (marka) declined by Rs 100 at Rs 6,300. Moong fell the most weak buying support even though arrivals in local mandis were negligible. Moong (bold) declined by Rs 100 at Rs 4,000-4,200.

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## **Maharashtra sugar up on demand; UP market quiet**

Our Correspondent



Mumbai, Nov. 29:

The sugar market was quiet in Uttar Pradesh with traders awaiting the Centre's monthly release quota for the open market on Tuesday. However, prices at the Vashi wholesale market, increased by Rs 10-15 a quintal in spot, tracking a firm trend upper level.

Mill tender rates in Maharashtra witnessed a jump of Rs 25-30 on strong expectation of lower free sale quota for December, compared with November and on fresh local demand and from



neighbouring States. Naka rates improved by Rs 25-40 on eased selling pressure of monthly quota's due date which ends on Wednesday.

A trading source in Uttar Pradesh said the free sale quota was expected to be between 15.5 lakh tonnes (lt) and 16.5 lt. "Physical trading was quiet in anticipation of the monthly quota. If the quota is 16.5 lt, then prices will drop. If it is on the lower side, rates will increase," the source said.

Prices for sugar produced last season that ended in September were Rs 3,050 a quintal, while sugar produced in the new season ruled at Rs 3,150. "Both rates were unchanged since sellers and buyers were chary of taking positions," the source said. Eastern side buyers again started covering sugar from Maharashtra and this supported the overall sentiment. The volume was higher as the market was closed for half day the previous day with higher arrivals and local dispatches. The recent announcement of exports of 10 lakh tonnes sugar and expectation of more relaxation in the coming days kept sentiment firm at the higher level. The removal of stock limits also encouraged stockists to bet for more storage for the upcoming marriage season.

. On Monday late evening, about 17-18 mills offered tenders and sold about 65,000-70,000 bags to local and up country buyers which include one rake (about 27,000 bags) bought by eastern traders. Mills sold sugar in the range of Rs 2,975-3,050 (Rs 2,970-3,030) for S-grade and Rs 3,110-3,140 (Rs 3,070-3,120) for M-grade. Arrivals in Vashi market were at 56-58 truckloads and local dispatches at 54-55 truckloads.

**Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates:** S-grade Rs 3,146-3,236 (Rs 3,136-3,221) and M-grade Rs 3,242- 3,392 (Rs 3,232-3,392).

**Naka delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 3,100-3,160 (Rs 3,075-3,120) and M grade Rs 3,200-3,280 (Rs 3,160-3,250).

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## Mixed trend in spot turmeric market



Erode, Nov. 29:

A mixed trend was seen in spot turmeric prices with rates of hybrid varieties dropping and that of other varieties increased on Tuesday.

“The hybrid variety price decreased by Rs 200 a quintal, whereas the price of other variety turmeric increased by Rs 100 a quintal,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Traders have received some quick orders from North India, which have spurred demand for the spice. Out of 8,000 bags that arrived, about 65 per cent were sold. Due to arrival of good quality turmeric in the Regulated Marketing Committee, prices rose by Rs 100 a quintal. North Indian merchants watching the situation have placed some orders with Erode traders at the prevailing price. Bulk buyers and exporters tapped this demand by purchasing a good number of bags and sending them off.

Traders could not quote increased prices as prices were stable in the futures market. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,400-4,469 a quintal, the root variety Rs 3,616-4,489 a quintal.

**Salem Crop:** The finger variety fetched Rs 3,713-5,009, the root variety Rs 3,669-4,589. Totally 1,911 bags of turmeric arrived for sales, of this 343 were sold.

Mr Ravishankar said there will be no auction on Wednesday because of a *pooja* and the market will assemble on December 1.

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## Ample stocks pound wheat

Our Correspondent



Karnal, Nov. 29:

Prices of Dara and desi wheat varieties dropped by Rs 25-100 a quintal on Tuesday.

Easy availability of stock coupled with reduced off-take pulled wheat prices down, said Mr Sewa Ram, a wheat trader. Apart from fresh arrivals from Uttar Pradesh, stock meant for the Below Poverty Line-cardholders is also coming into the open market for sale, he added.

In the physical market, dara prices decreased by Rs 25 a quintal and were quoted between Rs 1,140 and Rs 1,150 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 1,140-1,145 a quintal while delivery at chakki was at Rs 1,150 a quintal.

Similarly, desi wheat varieties slid by Rs 50-100 a quintal following low buying in the market. Samrat eased by Rs 100 and was quoted at Rs 1,850, Tohfa variety was at Rs 2,000 while Lok-1 was trading at Rs 1,800 a quintal, Rs 50 down from previous level.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, wheat for December delivery decreased by Rs 5 to Rs 1,184 a quintal, it had touched a high at Rs 1,188 a quintal earlier on Tuesday.

On the MCX, wheat for January delivery was quoted at Rs 1,198.8 a quintal.

### Flour Prices

Flour prices decreased by Rs 30 at Rs 1,145-1,150 for a 90-kg bag. Chokar was unchanged at Rs 650 for a 49-kg bag.

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## Coconut oil steady as supplies match demand

C.J. Punnathara



Kochi, Nov. 29:

Coconut oil prices ruled steady in Tamil Nadu and Kerala markets. There is good demand which is backed by adequate supply and the prices are likely to remain steady in the coming days, sources in the trade said.

Coconut oil was quoting at Rs 84 a kg in the Kerala markets, while it ruled at Rs 80 a kg in Tamil Nadu. Copra prices, meanwhile, ruled at Rs 60 a kg in Kerala as against Rs 58 in Tamil Nadu. Although there has been increased demand for raw coconuts from all South Indian States on account of the Sabarimala season, it has been backed by adequate supplies.

The pilgrimage demand for raw nut is emanating mainly from States such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, but the production from the individual States is more than adequate to meet this seasonal demand. Moreover, production in Tamil Nadu has now become virtually a round-the-year feature and there is no paucity of raw nuts in the market, Mr Talat Mahmood, President of the Cochin Oil Merchants Association, said.

As most of its stocks have depleted, Kerafed has been an active buyer in the market. Kerafed has been procuring 60-70 lorry loads on a daily basis from the Kerala and Tamil Nadu markets, sources in the trade said. With cheaper conversion and processing facilities on offer in Tamil Nadu, loads of coconut has also been moving from the Northern districts of Kannur and Kasargode in Kerala to Kangeyam in Tamil Nadu. These raw nuts are converted into copra and coconut oil and then transported back to Kerala, Mr Mahmood said.

Although this is the off-season in Kerala, arrivals from Tamil Nadu continue to be good and there is no pressure on prices. Buttressed by firm trends in palm oil and palm kernel oil, coconut oil prices are expected to remain firm, sources in the market said. Palm oil prices have slackened after gains last week while palm kernel oil prices were quoting at Rs 75 a kg.

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