THE HINDU

Published: November 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: November 5, 2011 04:23 IST

UAS-B comes up with six new crop varieties

Special Correspondent

Varsity to release them during Krishi Mela

The University of Agricultural Sciences - Bangalore is all set to release six new crop varieties, including superfine variety of paddy and high-yielding variety of sugarcane, during the National Krishi Mela in Bangalore from November 16 to 20.

Result of research

Announcing this at a press conference in Bangalore on Friday, UAS-B Research Director H. Shivanna said the new crop varieties were a result of eight years of research by several teams of scientists.

According to Mr. Shivanna, the new varieties to be released include three paddy varieties. Of them, JGL-1798 was a superfine variety suitable for cultivation in Mandya, Tumkur, Shimoga nad Davangere districts. This variety, which is expected to be more profitable for farmers, will yield 62 to 67 quintals a hectare, he added.

The other two new varieties of paddy are KHP-11 and KHP-12, which are resistant to blast disease, are suitable for cultivation in the coastal districts.

For better yield

A high-yielding sugarcane variety titled CoVc-99463, which is suitable for cultivation in the command areas of the Cauvery river basin, will also be released. Mr. Shivanna explained that the yield of the new sugarcane variety would be 15 per cent more than that of the present varieties. While the yield is expected to be in the range of 170-180 tonnes a hectare, the sugar recovery percentage will be from 8.5 to 9.5 per cent, he added.

A new hybrid variety of castor DCH-177, which can withstand drought, will be promoted as an alternative crop to groundnut in the dry areas of Tumkur district, including Pavagada. This three-to-five-month crop would yield 15.75 quintals of seeds per hectare and could get fetch good income to farmers as the castor prices are ruling around Rs. 4,000 a quintal, he said.

Fodder sorghum

The sixth new variety is fodder sorghum titled CoFS-29, recommended for cultivation in southern Karnataka, to support dairy farming.

Published: November 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: November 5, 2011 04:04 IST

56,000 hectares under samba paddy in Pudukottai this year

Special Correspondent

for high yield: Paddy raised using the system of rice intensification technique in Pudukottai district.

An extent of 56,000 hectares has been brought under samba cultivation this season against the usual area of 90,000 hectares.

Agriculture department officials are confident of bringing additional area under cultivation with the monsoon stabilising further.

A maximum of 12,373 hectares have been brought under samba in Aranthangi block, 14,960 hectares in Avudaiyarkovil block, and 6,561 hectares in Manamelkudi block.

Officials say a majority of farmers have resorted to direct sowing method and paddy growers who have raised the crop on about 25,000 hectares will be the largest beneficiary of the monsoon. The chief varieties grown in the district are ADT-39; BPT-5204; CR-1009 besides Ponni.

Sources say DAP, urea and complex fertilisers have been stocked at all the godowns for immediate supply to the farmers. Seeds have also been stocked.

Although the current spell of rain has not resulted in sharp rise in the level of major tanks, it is sufficient for ploughing and preliminary cultivation practices especially in the tail-end areas.

A large number of farmers have applied system of rice intensification (SRI) technique in about 20,000 hectares this season.

Published: November 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: November 5, 2011 04:16 IST

Theni farmers reaping benefits of SRI technique

The average yield is 9,350 kilograms per hectare: official

Aplenty: A paddy field brought under System of Rice Intensification technique. — File Photo

Adoption of System of Rice Intensification method in paddy cultivation has helped farmers in the district get bumper yield this year. Harvest is in full swing.

Kuruvai variety of paddy crop was cultivated in 6,562 hectares in Cumbum, Uthamapalayam, Chinnamanur, Bodi and Theni blocks using Periyar water for irrigation. Of these, 3,823 hectares have been brought under the SRI method of cultivation, thanks to massive propagation by the agriculture extension officials, and abundant enthusiasm and interest shown by farmers and their desire to employ innovative measures.

Their ready-to-accept-new-thing mind set and quick implementation has yielded best results at the time of harvest. With harvest being taken up in full swing in the valley, farmers have been getting the best yield of the season.

Under the new system, farmers had raised hybrid and high yielding paddy varieties. This system had helped farmers cut production costs from sowing to raising nurseries and from transplantation, weeding and application of fertilizers.

Mechanisation of farm activities from levelling the field to transplantation and weeding to harvesting too had scaled down their expenses considerably and helped them manage labour shortage.

To assess the quantum of benefit enjoyed by the farmers and assess the yield of Kuruvai season, the Agriculture Department officials had conducted crop cutting experiments in the fields chosen randomly in Cumbum valley recently. The results were amazing. The average yield obtained was 9,350 kilograms per hectare which was above the normal yield of 8,500 kg per hectare, said Joint Director of Agriculture R. Imamdeen.

In Chinnamanur block, the highest recorded yield was 10,352 kg per hectare in the farm owned by S. Nazeer. He had raised hybrid paddy and adopted all modern techniques and good agriculture practices. He used farm equipments at various stages to cut costs, he added.

When contacted, Collector K.S. Palanisamy said, “adoption of SRI method of paddy cultivation ensured not only higher profit to farmers but also judicious use of water and fertilizers, and better labour management. All these reflected in the yield. Moreover, timely release of water, no incidence of pest and disease infestation, and strong support by agriculture officials were other factors that helped farmers in obtaining the best yield of the season.”

Paddy has been cultivated in around 45,000 acres in the double cropping area in Cumbum valley stretching between Goodalur and Veerapandi, six km away from Theni town.

The district administration too has opened direct procurement centres in three places to enable paddy growers to get better price for their produce.

Published: November 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: November 5, 2011 04:16 IST

Advisory to farmers on combating crop disease

Staff Correspondent

Scientists of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra released an advisory to farmers here on Friday about combating diseases that affect the red gram crop.

A survey by a team of scientists at the kendra has revealed that the crop is affected by the pod borer (Heliothis) insect in some villages.

The presence of these insects was detected in Markal, Janawada, Santpur, Thanakushnoor, Bhalki, Dubalgundi, Khedwadi and surrounding villages.

“It can be controlled if pest management is started early,” the release said.

Farmers should prepare a ixture of Propenophas 50 EC, 2 mm and Thaiodicab 75 WSP 0.6 gm or Methomyl 40 SP 0.6 gm per litre of water and spray it on the crop, according to the release.

Every acre needs 300 litres to 400 litres of the solution.

If the pests are older and big in size, then a solution of Indoxicarb 14.5 SP, 0.3 ml, or Spinoside 45 SP, .01 ml or Imamectin Benzoite 0.5 SP, 0.2 gm or Flubendiamide 480 SP, 0.075 ml has to be mixed with one litre water and sprayed.

Farmers should contact the vigyan kendra office on Janawada Road in case of difficulties, according to the release.

Published: November 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: November 5, 2011 04:20 IST

International meet on natural farming tomorrow

Team toured district to interact with farmers

An international conference to propagate natural farming and sustainable agricultural practices, which will see the participation of farmer representatives from several countries, will be held here on Sunday.

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) leader, K.S. Puttannaiah, told presspersons here on Friday that food sovereignty of the country was at stake, thanks to globalisation and liberalisation. The “seed freedom” had been passed into the hands of capitalists and multinational retail chains, he alleged. It would destroy the prospects of Indian retailers and go against the interests of crores of people in the country who were left to starve every day.

The international conference was an attempt to introduce the system of natural farming to the entire world, not just India. The perils of the use of fertilizer were well known. Organic farming too was not an advisable mode of agricultural operation, Mr. Puttannaiah contended. Natural farming practices would start with zero investment by farmers, where cow dung and urine would be put to maximum use. The lot of farmers would improve only if they resorted to farming practices on their own, free from the obligations of “outsiders”, he stated.

Tour

Chukki Nanjundaswamy of the KRRS said farmers attending the conference from several countries such as Indonesia, Korea, Thailand, China, Japan and other countries, apart from India, would share their experiences with participants. Their team was touring various parts of Mysore district. They were in K.R. Pet in Mandya district on November 2, Bannur in Mysore district on November 3 and were touring Kollegal on Friday. They would visit Chamarajanagar on Saturday, to interact with farmers and share their views on natural farming, she said.

An international group of farmers rallying under the banner ‘La Via Campesina' (an international peasant movement)comprising crores of members including marginal, small and medium farmers, the landless, women farmers, locals and migrants had come together across the world to support natural farming methods which would be sustainable, Ms. Nanjundaswamy said. Exercising hold over food security and destroying colonial methods of control over agriculture were the main objectives of the movement, she added.

- *‘Perils of fertilizer use well known'*
- *‘Food sovereignty is at stake'*

Published: November 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: November 5, 2011 04:23 IST

Farmers demand support price of Rs. 2,000 a quintal for maize

Staff Reporter

Suresh Kumar promises them of a meeting with Chief Minister

Demanding their due: Members of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Mathu Swa Sahaya Stree Shakti Sene during a protest at Freedom Park in Bangalore on Friday. — Photo: K. Murali Kumar

Hundreds of activists of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Mathu Swa Sahaya Stree Shakti Sene, who staged a rally here on Friday seeking implementation of their several demands, were promised of a meeting with the Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda. Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs S. Suresh Kumar, addressing the gathering, said that he would bring the list of demands to the attention of the Chief Minister, and a meeting would be convened with the leaders.

In all, the sene has placed 17 demands before the State Government that includes minimum support price of Rs. 2,000 a quintal of maize, Rs. 3,000 a tonne of sugarcane, and Rs. 2,000 for a quintal of paddy.

Apart from this, it has sought revival and promotion of traditional wrestling across the State and increase in the honorarium for anganwadi teachers and assistants.

The sene has also demanded ban on mining, financial assistance to self-help groups and providing interest-free loans to farmers.

“The State Government should accept the demand of the farmers and women,” sene state president H.M. Maheshwara Swamy said.

Published: November 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: November 5, 2011 04:22 IST

Need-based research in floriculture stressed

Staff Reporter

Meeting calls for cutting imports in the sector

For self-reliance: H. P. Singh, Deputy Director-General of Horticulture, New Delhi, lighting the lamp to mark the inauguration of an annual meeting at CTRI in Rajahmundry on Friday. — Photo: S. Rambabu

Floriculture scientists from different parts of the country have stressed the need to take up research work on floriculture which is to be need-based and it should cut imports by our country.

The 21st Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Floriculture was held here in CTRI on Friday organised by YSR Horticulture University. HP Singh, Deputy Director-General of Horticulture, New Delhi, attended the conference along with CVSK Sarma, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr. P. Das, Floriculture Expert, Dr. Srivatsava, Additional Deputy General, Horticulture, Dr. V. Krishna Murthy, Director, CTRI and other scientists attended the meeting. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Singh said that the meeting was aimed at reviewing All India Coordinated Research Projects on Floriculture during the year 2010-11 and formulate programmes for the year 2011-12. He said that there was a lot of scope for research in floriculture, but it should be need based and pro-farmer in the backdrop of global scenario.

Call to scientists

He asked the scientists to develop seeds and varieties which suits local climatic conditions and also reduce imports, improve quality in this sector.

CVSK Sarma, Vice-Chancellor said that as the Kadiyam nurseries were having a lot of importance in floriculture, they had decided to have their meetings in Rajahmundry.

THE HINDU Business Line

MPEDA to promote organic aquaculture

Kochi, Nov 4:

Owing to a surge in global demand for organic feed, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) seeks to actively promote organic aquaculture in suitable areas.

Ms Leena Nair, Chairperson, MPEDA, said fish products are considered health food and the organic fishery market is valued at $800-900 million. Organic aquaculture enjoys global demand, which is increasing by 10-15 per cent a year.

MPEDA will introduce a scheme to promote organic aquaculture that meets international standards, she said. This practice is very similar to traditional aquaculture practices in the country. Each farmer group can formulate an Internal Control System (ICS) to implement the programme successfully.

Inputs such as seed and feed have to come from a certified organic hatchery or feed mill.

Use of chemicals is prohibited at any stage of the culture period. Organically processed fishes/ shellfishes command a premium over conventional products.

Ms Nair said MPEDA has introduced an attractive assistance package that provides farmers 50 per cent of the cost of procuring organic seed and feed, as well as certification. Supplies can come only from approved hatcheries and feed mills. . The subsidy ceiling has been raised to Rs 50,000 a hectare of water.

Each beneficiary is entitled to subsidy for a maximum of 6 hectares, subject to the financial ceiling of Rs 3 lakh. In the case of a group/ cluster/ society/ *padasekaram*, the upper limit is Rs 15 lakh for 30 hectares or more. Subsidy is available for the conversion crop as well as succeeding three organic crops.

MPEDA also arranges technical training related to the organic certification process, both for farmers and other stakeholders.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 5, 2011)

Short supply keeps nutmeg, mace prices firm

G.K. Nair
Kochi, Nov. 4:

Prices of nutmeg and mace continue to rule high on short supply in the domestic and international markets.

A similar situation is likely next year also, according to trade sources.

The weakening of the rupee against the dollar has paved the way for a rise in the price of imports.

Unfavourable weather conditions in the growing countries, such as Grenada, Sri Lanka and Indonesia, have reduced the output this year leading to acute shortage pushing the prices up, trade sources here said.

Unseasonal rains

Meanwhile, industry sources claimed that in India unseasonal rains have destroyed the flowers and consequently, there was about 30 per cent fall in output in 2011 season.

According to them, a shortage of the crop in Sri Lanka also is likely this year. Their next crop is slightly better, but is projected to be below the usual good crop, they said.

Overall output in 2012 is also, according to early projections, likely to be below the normal world production, they claimed.

Grenada which used to produce 3,000 tonnes had only 500 tonnes this year and its production next year also projected to be much less, they said.

Decline in output in the supply sources has pushed up the prices of mace (superior grade - yellow) in the domestic market to Rs 1,300 a kg, while red was being sold at Rs 1,100 a kg, trade sources in Kochi told *Business Line*.

Farm grade nutmeg with shell is ruling at Rs 450 a kg, while the one without shell is quoting at Rs 750 a kg and above, they said.

Indian output of nutmeg with shell is estimated at 12,000 tonnes and when the shells are removed it would come to about 8,000 tonnes.

Indian domestic demand for mace is estimated at around 1,500 tonnes a year and as against this the production is around 800-1,200 tonnes.

The shortfall is met by imports mainly from Sri Lanka under duty free imports, they said.

Meanwhile, one section of the trade said the requirement of nutmeg has ranged between 13,000 tonnes (without shell) and 15,000 tonnes, of late, given its growing use in indigenous medicines/drugs, cosmetics and in various food products.

The demand includes exports which ranges between 1,500–3,000 tonnes depending upon availability and price, they said.

The area under the crop went up to 16,400 hectares in 2008-09 from 11,270 hectares in 2005-06, but the output has not kept pace with the growing demand, they said.

Changes in food habits following a change in lifestyle has been responsible for the rise in demand for many such commodities.

The annual growth in demand for nutmeg and mace, therefore, is estimated at five to 10 per cent of late, trade sources said.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 5, 2011)

Global black tea output falls

P.S. Sundar
Coonoor, Nov. 4:

World black tea production in the first nine months of the current calendar has fallen by one per cent over the same period a year ago, reveals an analysis of the latest information available with tea trading organisations.

“According to our compilation, global black tea production totalled 1419.57 million kg (mkg) so far this year against 1433.37 mkg,” Mr Rajesh Gupta, Director, Global Tea Brokers, told *Business Line*.

This fall of 13.80 mkg marked a decline of about one per cent. The sharp decline in Kenyan output has offset the marked rise in Indian production.

Kenya lost 29.70 mkg with production dipping to 259.77 mkg. Indonesia's production fell by 9.40 mkg to 41.50 mkg, Uganda by 6.32 mkg to 36.51 mkg, Malawi by 3.19 mkg to 35.50 mkg and Sri Lanka by 3.11 mkg to 245.16 mkg.

Against this, India's production rose by 36.66 mkg to total 729.66 mkg. But, here again, South India lost 4.65 mkg to dip to 175.70 mkg. North Indian production increased by 41.31 mkg to total 553.96 mkg. This was the highest increase posted by any region so far this year.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 5, 2011)

Spot rubber under pressure on global cues

Our Correspondent
Kottayam, Nov. 4:

Spot rubber continued to remain under pressure on Friday. Declines in domestic futures and unhealthy reports from the international markets were putting immense pressure on the physical market and it lacked follow-up buying from traders or major consuming industries. Despite reports that arrivals and stocks in warehouses were low amidst peak production season, the commodity was already under the shadow of a gloomy and uncertain macro economic outlook.

Sheet rubber closed at Rs 205.50 (207) a kg, said traders. The grade weakened to Rs 206 (207.50) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to the Rubber Board.

The November series dropped to Rs 206 (206.81), December to Rs 203.50 (204.20), January to Rs 203.65 (204.78), February to Rs 205 (205.98) , March to Rs 207.10 (209) and April to Rs 209.99 (209.10) a kg on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) slipped further to Rs 186.27 (186.69) a kg at Bangkok. The November futures improved to ¥287.5 (Rs 181.30) from ¥285.4 a kg during the day session but then dropped to ¥284 (Rs 179.10) a kg in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 205.50 (207); RSS-5: 203 (205); ungraded: 193 (197); ISNR 20: 192 (196) and latex 60 per cent: 125.50 (126.50).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 5, 2011)

EID-Parry, New Holland in pact to mechanise cane cultivation

Overcoming labour woes: Mr Ravindra S Singhvi, Managing Director of EID Parry; Mr Stefano Pampalone, Country Head of New Holland Fiat (India) Ltd; and Mr Rakesh Malhotra, Managing Director of New Holland Fiat (India) Ltd; at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Chennai on Friday. – Bijoy Ghosh

Chennai, Nov. 4:

Murugappa Group's EID-Parry has tied up with New Holland Fiat (India) Pvt Ltd to facilitate the mechanisation of sugarcane cultivation in its command area.

The agreement between the two provides for EID-Parry, which plans to bring in over Rs 100 crore over the next 2-3 years on its own and by farmers supplying cane to its mills, to work with New Holland, a manufacturer of agriculture equipment including sugarcane harvesters.

Mr Ravindra Singhvi, Managing Director of EID-Parry, said labour shortage and increasing labour cost is the single largest challenge that the sugar industry is facing.

However, while mechanisation is the obvious solution, initial costs of mechanisation, changes in the agronomic practices that will be needed and the logistics required to keep the equipment in peak working conditions need to be addressed.

Cost of harvest

Cost of sugarcane harvesting has been growing by the season and last year, it touched up to Rs 800 a tonne against the price of about Rs 2,000 a tonne for sugarcane.

With sugarcane harvesters, the company has pegged the cost of harvest at about Rs 360 a tonne, apart from the diesel cost.

However, the initial investment ranges between Rs 80 lakh and Rs 1.5 crore a harvester. Farmers need to be convinced that the changes in cultivation practices will not affect yield.

Equipment

In addition to its own investments in mechanisation, the sugarcane company hopes to encourage large farmers and entrepreneurs to invest in planting and harvesting equipment. In addition to saving on labour costs, it can be a revenue stream for farmers who can hire out the equipment to others.

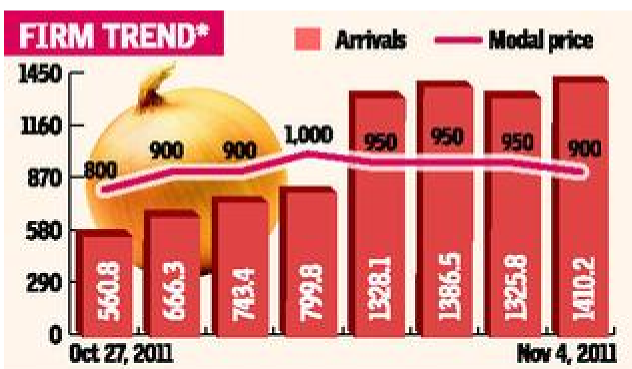
New Holland will provide the technical know-how and the support structure needed for operation and maintenance of the equipment.

Mr Stefano Pampalone, Country Manager, New Holland, said mechanisation of sugarcane cultivation is happening fast in most growing areas. The company which sold over 30 machines in the last two decades has sold over 300 in the last two years.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 5, 2011)

Onions keep inching up as arrival dips

M.R. Subramani



*Arrivals in tonnes; price in Rs/quintal at Pune APMC in Maharashtra
Source: NHRDF

Chennai, Nov. 4:

Onion prices continued to rise in various markets near growing centres in Maharashtra and Gujarat on demand from the Far-East and low arrivals.

Prices at Lasalgaon Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) yard, Asia's biggest onion market, in Maharashtra increased to as high as Rs 1,050 a quintal on Wednesday before settling at Rs 950 on Friday. On November 21, when the market worked last before Diwali, the modal price or the rate at which most trades took place was Rs 815. At Pune APMC, the modal price increased to Rs 900 on Friday from Rs 750 on November 25.

“Prices are higher because arrivals are lower. Demand from countries, such as Malaysia and Indonesia, has increased,” said Mr Rupesh Jaju, Director of Nashik-based United Pacific Agro Pvt Ltd that exports onion.

“Arrivals are poor because the stored rabi onions are near the end of their shelf life. There is no guarantee that the crop will last further,” said Mr Jaju. “It is proving to be a tough job to find onions for export,” he said. “New crop has begun to arrive in remote centres of Maharashtra but they are either wet or need to have grown more,” said Mr Madan Prakash, Director at Chennai-based Rajathi Group of companies that exports agri-produce.

“But for lack of rains, the kharif crop would have been good,” said Mr Prakash.

In the last three days, 18,500 tonnes of onions arrived in various markets of Maharashtra.

“Enquiries from the Far-East were good last week since Pakistan's crop is coming to an end,” Mr Prakash said.

“Pakistan is not able to supply and the shortage has made Far-Eastern countries to turn to India,” said Mr Jaju, adding that demand from the Gulf was constant despite a higher minimum export price (MEP) of $475 a tonne fixed by the Centre. Prices are likely to strengthen further mainly due to short supply. “With the MEP being so high, exports will surely not be a reason for rise in prices,” said a trading source.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 5, 2011)

Cotton seen falling after mid-November

Rajkot, Nov. 4:

Cotton prices remained static as arrivals matched demand on Friday. Traders and brokers expect prices to fall after mid-November on higher arrivals and as buyers are looking to purchase only at lower prices.

The Sankar-6 variety was at Rs 39,200-39,500 a candy of 356 kg. Raw cotton or *kapas* was traded at Rs 955-960 for a *maund* of 20 kg and at Rs 980-990 for a *maund* for delivery to ginners. While 27,000-28,000 bales of 170 kg each arrived in Gujarat, 80,000-90,000 bales arrived in rest of the country.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, December contracts were down Rs 30 to Rs 18,050 a bale and January fell by Rs 20 to Rs 18,110 a bale.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, kapas for February delivery increased by Rs 1.40 to Rs 742 for a *maund*, with an open interest of 151 lots gained Rs 2 at Rs 734.20 for April delivery, with an open interest of 8,496 lots.

The Kalyan variety sold at Rs 24,000-26,000 a candy.

The market has stabilised after Diwali because, on one hand, demand is limited as buyers await a drop in prices while, on the other hand, farmers stick to current prices, said a Rajkot-based broker.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 5, 2011)

Aromatic paddy quotes 25% lower than last year

Our Correspondent

Karnal, Nov. 4:

Paddy arrivals remained sluggish at the Karnal grain market terminal on Friday, following low prices offered by traders for aromatic varieties.

Pusa-1121 is ruling at Rs 1,600-1,800 a quintal against Rs 2,000-2,400 last year. Traditional basmati varieties quoted at Rs 1,650-1,850, compared with Rs 2,500-2,600 last season, farmers said.

According to market sources, exporters have asked the Haryana Government to abolish the 4 per cent market fee and rural development fund levied on basmati paddy to ensure good returns for farmers.After witnessing a decline earlier this week, prices of aromatic and non-basmati rice remained almost unchanged on Friday.Mr Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Co, told *Business Line* that new advance contracts of Pusa-1121 (steam) were signed at Rs 4,400-4,550 a quintal while Pusa-1121(sela) were signed at Rs 3,400-3,600.Pusa-1121 (steam) quoted at Rs 4,770 and Pusa-1121(sela) around Rs 3,910.Pure Basmati (raw) sold at Rs 5,400 and Basmati (sela) Rs 3,760.Sharbati (steam) ruled at Rs 2,900-2,980 and Sharbati (sela) Rs 2,800. PR11 (sela) sold at Rs 2,100-2,160, and PR11(raw) Rs 1,900-2,100.Permal (sela) sold at Rs 1,800-1,950, Permal (steam) Rs 2,050 and Permal (raw) around Rs 1,900.

Arrivals: Around 1.1 lakh bags of different paddy varieties arrived. Around 50,000 bags of PR arrived and sold at Rs 1,080-1,160; around 10,000 bags of Sugandha-999 (Rs 1,350-1,600); about 10,000 bags of Sharbati(Rs 1,450-1,530); 15,000 bags of DB (Rs 1,500-1,650); around 18,000 bags of Pusa-1121 (Rs 1,600-1,800); and 6,000 bags of Pure Basmati (Rs 1,650-1,830).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 5, 2011)

Futures, buying perk up spot chana

Indore, Nov. 4:

Chana and masoor gained on improved buying support and higher futures, while tur ruled firm on improved demand from millers.

Chana (kanta) rose to Rs 3,450-3,475 a quintal (Rs 3,325-3,350). Chana (desi) perked up to Rs 3,400 (Rs 3,300-3,325). Higher spot chana lifted its dal, with chana dal (average) being quoted at Rs 4,300-4,325 (Rs 4,225-4,250), chana dal (medium) at Rs 4,400-4,424 (Rs 4,325-4,350) and chana dal (bold) at Rs 4,525-4,550 (Rs 4,450-4,475).

Improved buying support also lifted masoor and its dal. In the spot market, masoor (bold) quoted as high as Rs 2,900-2,925 (Rs 2,875). Masoor (medium) sold at Rs 2,650-2,700. Rise in demand perked up masoor dal (average) at Rs 3,350-3,375 (Rs 3300), masoor dal (medium) at Rs 3,450-3,475 (Rs 3,375-3,400) and masoor dal (bold) at Rs 3,525-3,250 (Rs 3,475-3,500).

Tur (Maharashtra) ruled firm at Rs 3,400-3,450, while tur (Nimari) remained unchanged at Rs 2,300-2,500. Tur dal was unchanged, with tur dal (full) being quoted at Rs 5,500-5,550, tur dal (*sawa* no.) at Rs 4,500-4,550 and tur (marka) ruled at Rs 6,250.

Moong and urad ruled flat on subdued demand. In the spot market, moong (bold) was at Rs 4,200-4,400, while moong (medium) sold at Rs 3,800-4,000. Moong dal was unchanged, with moong dal (average) being quoted at Rs 5,100-5,150, moong dal (bold) sold at Rs 5,450-5,500 and moong (mongar) at Rs 5,700-5,800.

Urad and its dal were unchanged, with urad (bold) at Rs 3,600-3,700 and urad (medium) at Rs 2,900-3,200.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 5, 2011)

Nabard workshop on animal husbandry at Malappuram

Our Bureau
Kochi, Nov. 4:

Nabard has conducted a workshop on subsidy-linked investment credit-related central sector schemes in animal husbandry sector at Malappuram.

Inaugurating the workshop Mr N.K. Antony, Additional District Magistrate, stressed the need of to achieve self-sufficiency in milk production in the State rather than depending on the neighbouring States.

In agriculture sector, he said the investment credit activities will result in capital formation and in turn benefit the farmer in getting sustainable livelihood.

In this context, he requested the bankers, the dairy co-operatives, the Government Departments officials to help the farmers and entrepreneurs of the district to make full use of the various subsidy schemes such as Venture Capital Fund for Poultry Sectors, Dairy Entrepreneurship Development scheme and other Capital Investment Subsidy schemes on male buffalo rearing, rabbit rearing and goat rearing to be promoted in a big way in the district. All the activities have immense potential in Malappuram district, which has a huge non-vegetarian population.

Earlier Mr P. Unnikrishnan, Lead District Manager, welcomed the participants to the workshop. Mr K.P. Padmakumar, District Development Manager, made presentation on various schemes and guided the workshop.

He stressed the need of co-ordinated efforts of Bankers, Departments, Farmer Clubs and NGOs towards grass root level promotion of the schemes.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 5, 2011)

Sugar rules firm on export hopes

Mumbai, Nov. 4:
Sugar prices extended gains by Rs 5-20 a quintal on Friday in the physical market, tracking firm trend at the upper-mill level. Mills sold a substantial quantity at Rs 25-30 a quintal higher to local stockists, leading to a rise in Naka rates Rs 20-50.

Arrivals and local dispatches were at the usual level. Start-of-the-month retail demand is expected to continue till this weekend. The market sentiment was positive, said a wholesaler.

Possibility of more sugar exports from India and farmers demanding higher cane prices will not allow prices to fall from present level, said analysts. Crushing in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat has started and is expected to pick up soon.

Market sources said the Vashi physical market saw new local demand and enquiries from neighbouring States, keeping the sentiment firm at producer level. Local stockists bought 75,000-80,000 bags through tenders offered by 20-22 mills on Thursday. Mills sold S-grade at Rs 2,720-2,780 (Rs 2,700-2,760) and M-grade at Rs 2,840-2,930 (Rs 2,820-2,900). Arrivals in Vashi market were estimated at 54-55 truckloads, while local dispatches were at 50-52 truckloads. Freight rates were steady. Buyers from the East kept away from fresh bets on Thursday as they were eyeing lower rates

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates (Rs/quintal) : S-grade — Rs 2,851-2,925 (Rs 2,846-2,900) and M-grade — Rs 2,951-3,076 (Rs 2,941-3,061).

***Naka* delivery :** S-grade — Rs 2,830-2,870 (Rs 2,780-2,850) and M-grade — Rs 2,930-3,030 (Rs 2,920-3,020).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 5, 2011)