

Today's Paper » NATIONAL » TAMIL NADU

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Training in bee-keeping at TNAU

Staff Reporter

The Department of Agricultural Entomology of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University will organise training in bee-keeping on November 8 at the university premises.

According to a university release, hands-on training will be imparted in identification of bee colonies in nature and their rearing, artificial group rearing of bees, queen bee rearing and production techniques, and identification of natural enemies of bees and their management.

Interested candidates have to reach the Department of Entomology before 9 a.m. The fee of Rs. 150 has to be remitted.

A certificate will be given at the end of training.

Candidates can call 0422-6611214, or e-mail to entomology@tnau.ac.in for details.

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Call to increase milk procurement

Staff Reporter

The Erode District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union (Aavin) and the Primary Milk Producers' Co-operative Societies in the district have been instructed to take concerted efforts to enhance milk procurement.

The instruction was given at a meeting convened by the administration after the union had reported a fall in the milk procurement in the district.

Senior officials from the union, secretaries of 272 Primary Milk Producers Co-operative Societies, special officers, veterinarians and extension officers attended the meeting.

After analysing the reasons for the fall in the milk procurement, Collector V.K. Shanmugam said that the wholehearted support of the staff at all the milk co-operative societies was needed if the union had to achieve its procurement target.

There should be enhanced co-operation and communication between the members of societies and senior officials at the union.

Members of the societies and the officials should take a joint effort to improve milk collection, he said.

Meanwhile, officials from the union said that they had initiated a number of measures to improve the milk procurement.

The union had decided to conduct livestock camp twice a week and computerised the process of measuring the quality and quantity of the milk at the chilling units at Sathyamangalam and SK Palayam.

The union has also planned to implement an insurance scheme for milch animals in association with the Tamil Nadu Livestock Development Agency, officials said in the meeting.

Members of cooperative societies and officials asked to work together

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Fertilizer price

The farming community in Erode district has appealed to the Central and State governments to control the prices of fertilizers.

Raising the issue at a grievances meeting here, Tamil Nadu Farmers Association District Secretary Subbu said that there was a 100 per cent increase in the prices of all fertilizers and the Central Government had grossly failed to control the prices. The farmers were not benefited by the subsidy provided by the government.

Published: October 29, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: October 29, 2011 04:04 IST

Rescue farmers from rising price of inputs: toddy movement

Staff Reporter

Demands more powers for local bodies

The Tamil Nadu Toddy Movement has urged the State government to delegate more powers to the local bodies.

The movement has also called upon the government to come to the rescue of farmers who have been laid low by a slew of factors, including rise in price of agricultural inputs and fertilizers, and implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme.

A special meeting of the advisory committee of the movement was held here on Thursday which was presided over by district organiser of the movement Ilango.

State coordinator S. Nallasamy, state organiser L. Kadiresan, Namakkal district president of the Tamilaga Vivasayigal Sangam S. Ramasamy, Erode district coordinator of the movement M.C. Ramasamy, and secretary of the Lower Bhavani Project Aycutdars Association R. Thangaraju participated.

Mr. Nallasamy said the State government should delegate more powers to the local bodies to make them effective in delivering the stated Panchayati Raj goals to the people.

The movement urged the government to look into the anomalies in implementing the MGNREGP that was breeding corruption and profligacy in the rural areas. While the aims of providing livelihood resources to landless agricultural labourers could not be questioned, the rationale behind implementing the programme in core agricultural areas even after water was released from the Mettur dam smacked of irrationality.

The farmer leader wanted the State government to present an agriculture budget alongside the regular budget for 2012-13 in the Assembly. The agriculturalists were not getting remunerative prices for their produce as the cost of inputs, including fertilizers had gone up over the past 12 months while the sale price of main crop such as paddy had remained dormant.

The farmers preferred leaving their fields fallow to suffer losses.

He wanted the State government to impress upon the Centre in bringing down the price of agricultural inputs and fix remunerative price for agricultural produce.

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Rising cost of fertilizers hits farmers

S.Ganesan

62,500 ha to come under cultivation during samba and thaladi season



no unwanted elements: A farmer removing weeds in his field near Tiruchi. — Photo:M.Moorthy

Even as samba and thaladi paddy cultivation is underway in the district, farmers have been hit hard by the sharp rise in the prices of fertilizers. The Agriculture Department expects paddy to be raised in about 62,500 hectares (ha) during the samba and thaladi seasons in the district this year. So far transplantation has been completed in about 20,000 ha.

Given the prevailing conducive conditions, with the relatively good storage position at the Mettur dam and the widespread rains over the past few days, Agriculture Department officials are confident that the target would be achieved this year. But farmers of the district are a worried lot owing to the rising inputs. The sharp rise in the prices of fertilizers has come as a shocker.

The Centre's decision to go in for nutrient based subsidy is cited as the major reason for the variance in the price of fertilizers of different companies. The rise in the cost of the imported raw materials for phosphatic fertilizers has contributed to price fluctuations, official sources said.

“There has been a heavy increase in the price of potash, di-ammonium phosphate and NP 20:20:0 complex fertilizer and our input costs have gone up sharply this season,” said R.Subramanian, a farmer of Koundampatti near Tiruchi and deputy secretary of the District Cauvery Delta Farmers Welfare Association. The increase in fertilizer prices has pushed up the cost of cultivation further. But the procurement price of paddy has not increased correspondingly and farmers could face losses, said Mr.Subramanian.

The price of potash has steadily increased from about Rs.270 for a 50-kg bag to touch the current price of Rs.560 over one year. The price of DAP has increased from Rs.450 a bag to Rs.925 now. The fertilizer price differs from company to company. DAP from some of the companies is available at around Rs.750 to Rs.800, said P.Ayyakannu, state vice president, Bharathiya Kisan Sangh.

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Association seeks Rs. 2,500 per tonne of sugarcane

Staff Correspondent

The district unit of the Karnataka State Sugarcane Growers Association has urged the Government to direct sugar factories in the co-operative sector to pay Rs. 2,500 per tonne of sugarcane. In a memorandum to the Government it said a strike would be launched if the government did not announce the sugarcane price by Wednesday.

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Farmers' hopes of good rabi crop shattered

Staff Correspondent

Bellary district records a paltry 53.8 mm of rain in October

Farmers in Bellary district are worried since the rabi crop too is likely to be adversely affected by scanty rainfall. Deficient rainfall during the kharif season has already caused them huge losses.

As against the normal rainfall of 104.8 mm during October, the district has received 53.8 mm. During September the district received only 25.3 mm, the normal being 141.4 mm.

Consequently, sowing for the rabi season has been hampered. Sowing had been completed in 19,332 hectares against the targeted 1.65 lakh hectares, which includes 1.13 lakh hectares of rain-fed land and 0.51 lakh hectares of irrigated land. This works out to 11.72 per cent of the targeted area.

Taluk-wise details of rainfall are as follows (figures in brackets indicate normal rainfall): Bellary district received an average rainfall of 53.8 mm (104.8 mm); Bellary taluk 103.6 mm (107.7); Hadagali 25 mm (106.8 mm); Hagari Bommanahalli 28.8 mm (84.6 mm); Hospet 41.5 mm (102.7 mm); Kudligi 55.7 mm (96.7 mm); Sandur 102 mm (138.7 mm); and Siruguppa 20.2 mm (96.2 mm).

Encouraging

“The initial spells of light showers were not sufficient for sowing. During the last couple of days, however, the district received comparatively good rainfall, which has encouraged farmers to take up sowing,” Ramappa, Joint Director of Agriculture, told *The Hindu* .

Mr. Ramappa said that during the rabi season, a couple of good rains would be enough for the crops as they could manage with the residual moisture in the soil.

Jowar, Bengal gram, sunflower, maize and cotton are among the major rabi crops in the district.

Bengal gram has been cultivated on 12,035 hectares against the targeted 64,603 hectares, followed by jowar on 4,885 hectares (25,345 hectares); cowpea on 198 hectares (3,225 hectares); and sunflower on 1,349 hectares (52,280 hectares). None of the farmers have sown cotton even though the department had fixed a target of 6,605 hectares.

Mr. Ramappa said that there was no dearth of seeds or fertilizers.

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- *Sowing for rabi season completed in 19,332 hectares against targeted 1.13 lakh hectares*
 - *District has received comparatively good rainfall in the last couple of days: official*
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Rain hampers battle against army worm in paddy fields

Special Correspondent

300 acres in Thrissur district infested



THREAT TO CROPS: Spraying of pesticides in progress in paddy fields at Ponnamutha, near Thrissur, on Friday where outbreak of the army worm has been reported. — Photo: K.C.

Sowmish

Frequent rain is impeding efforts to check the outbreak of the army worm or swarming caterpillar (*Spodoptera* species) that has been reported in about 200 acres of paddy fields at Manalur and Thazham, and 100 acres at Ponnamutha in Thrissur district.

Pesticides were sprayed in the past two days in the fields.

“If rain does not affect spraying of pesticides and other measures in the next three days, the outbreak can be fully checked,” P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension with Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) told *The Hindu* .

The crop was 20 to 30 days old when the outbreak was reported. The caterpillars seen were of the first generation and in various stages of growth which indicated staggered egg laying and hatching.

The total life cycle of the insect is around 40 days. After the pupal stage inside the soil, adults emerge within 10 days.

Experts have instructed farmers to spray the worm-affected paddy fields and nearby vegetation with Quinolphos and Carbaryl solution. After spraying the pesticide, water from the paddy fields should be drained out.

“A day after flushing out the caterpillars, a dose of urea should be applied to the crops. It can provide higher tillering and yield,” Dr. Balachandran said.

A team of experts had examined the affected paddy fields on October 22. The team included P.V. Balachandran; Mani Chellappan, Associate Professor with KAU's College of Horticulture; Haseena Bhaskar, Associate Professor; Jiji Joseph, Associate Professor; officials of the Agriculture Department and head of the Ponnamutha Padasekhara Samithy.

In November 2009, the outbreak of army worm was reported in about 500 acres of the 750 acres of paddy fields in Pullazhi on the outskirts of Thrissur city. Farmers then inundated army worm-affected paddy fields and sprayed nearby vegetation with Quinolphos and Carbaryl spray solution. The water was later drained out. The outbreak of the pest was thus checked. Seven to eight tonnes of paddy a hectare was harvested in Pullazhi in 2010.

The achievement helped the Pullazhi Kolpadavu Cooperative Society to win a State award.

Farming activity resumes in Konaseema

B.V.S. Bhaskar



GETTING READY: A farmer ploughing his field for sowing at Gollavilli village, Uppalaguptam mandal, in East Godavari district. — Photo: S. Rambabu

After observing a 'crop holiday' for five months, farmers in ten mandals in Amalapuram division in Konaseema resumed agricultural activity. They were seen busy draining out water from the fields and keeping ready seedlings for sowing in the first week of November. "We will begin transplantation on November 6, an auspicious day," said Satyanarayana, a farmer from Allavaram.

Meanwhile, farmers under the banner Konaseema Rythu Parirakshana Samiti met Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy in Hyderabad on Friday and sought his help in increasing MSP, additional 10 kg seed to Konaseema farmers. It is understood that the Chief Minister did not give any concrete assurance to them. To mount pressure on the government, the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh staged a huge rally in Kakinada. Parirakshana Samiti leaders Rambala Bose and M.L. Prabhakar confirmed that 'crop holiday' was over and sowing would start, marking the beginning of the rabi season.

Distribution centres

On its part, the district administration is taking all measures to open seed and fertilizer distribution centres. "We will distribute 20 kg seed per acre," said K. Raju, Agriculture Extension Officer. Agriculture activity picked up in Allavaram, Uppalaguptam, Inavelli, Razole, P. Gannavaram, Amalapuram Rural, and other mandals.

Upset over the State government's apathetic attitude, Konaseema farmers made 'crop holiday' declaration at Bendamurulanka village in Allavaram mandal on May 28 this year and stopped cultivation in 85,000 to 1 lakh acres.

During their five-month-long agitation farmers took to the streets, organised bandhs, seminars and laid siege to the Collectorate and RDO offices. National leaders from the Opposition, including the BJP, visited the region. Pushed on the back foot, the government had constituted the Mohan Kanda Committee to look into farmers' grievances.

The government, in principle, agreed to implement the committee's recommendations, but the farmers were not impressed and termed it 'eyewash.'

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- *After five-month 'crop holiday', work begins in Amalapuram division*
 - *Seedlings ready; transplantation to begin on Nov. 6*
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Pallam Raju assures farmers on paddy price

Staff Reporter

Demanding remunerative price to paddy, farmers under the aegis of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh on Friday resorted to lay siege the residence of Union Minister of State for Defence M.M. Pallam Raju here. Holding saffron flags and raising slogans against the government, the farmers held the elected representatives responsible for the current agrarian crisis that was prevailing in the State.

Since Mr. Pallam Raju was not at home, his office staff tried to prevent the farmers from staging the agitation. The farmers, however, made it clear that they were not going to create a law and order problem, but stage a silent demonstration to register their protest against the nonchalant attitude of the Minister against their problems.

After half an hour, Mr. Pallam Raju came on line over telephone and spoke in detail with the representatives of the BKS.

After listening to their problems, he assured them that he would bring the problems of the farmers to the notice of the Union government and contribute his mite to secure a remunerative price of Rs. 2,033 per quintal for rice.

Earlier in the day, the farmers staged a demonstration from Balaji Cheruvu to Ananda Bharati grounds, where a public meeting 'Rythu Sankharavam' was held. All India vice-president of the BKS V. Raghava Reddy, State president B. Vijaya Kumar Raju, general secretaries Y. Suryanarayana and J. Kumaraswamy, secretary Mutyala Jameel addressed the farmers. They held the elected representatives responsible for the circumstances that forced farmers to declare crop holiday.

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Drought-hit farmers pour out woes

Staff Reporter



Two farm women showing dried bajra to a BJP delegation in Konakanamitla mandal in Prakasam district on Friday.

Peasants in Konakanamitla mandal of Prakasam district are a distressed lot due to prolonged dry spell coupled with power cut and now look to the Union and State governments to come to their rescue.

Farmers of several villages in the drought-prone mandal poured out their woes to a delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party leaders led by its state vice-president Y Raghunatha Babu.

"We have left half of our lands fallow due to deficient rainfall during southwest monsoon. Red gram, bajra and other dry crops grown in rest of lands have stunted growth and without grain formation," elderly farmer K Subba Reddy with 10 acres, told the BJP delegation comprising BJP Srikakulam in-charge V. Suryanarayana Raju and BJP farmers wing State vice-president C Krishnama Naidu.

"Farming has been loss making whether it is red gram or black gram or tobacco with ever-increasing cost of farm inputs including seeds and fertilizers on the one hand and unremunerative price for our produce," said another farmer A China Anjaiah to the delegation accompanied by BJP Prakasam district in-charge K Satyanarayana and district president G Nageswara Rao.

Showing dried up bajra crop with no seed formation, Kadiyam Kumari along with V Egamamba, said "we have raised bajra investing Rs. 5,000 per acre. But we have no other go but to give bajra with stunted growth to our cattle now".

Another farmer B. Nageswara Rao, who has raised red gram in five acres, lamented that "they have grown hardly two feet against the normal height of six feet by now".

Yet another farmer N Srinivas said "by now we would have done one or two spells of plucking if there had been good rains".

Fresh loans sought

Planning to raise tobacco during rabi after a delay of one month due to late onset of northeast monsoon, the farmers wanted the government to reschedule their kharif crop loans and sanction fresh loans for the next crop.

The BJP State vice-president observed that Prakasam peasants in rain-fed areas were in deep trouble due to lack of rains in the last 55 days coupled with power cut.

The case of farmers fed by Nagarjunasagar was no different as enough water had not been flowing into canals despite the reservoir brimming with water due to non-maintenance of canals, lamented BJP farmers wing district president G. Subbaiah.

MPs from the State which had sent largest contingent of Congress leaders to Parliament had not thought it fit to raise the farmers issues before the party high command, said Mr Krishnama Naidu.

They urged the government to declare 470 mandals as drought hit, arrange for fresh loans from banks for raising crop in rabi season and implement the recommendations of the commission on farmers headed by agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan to make farming profitable.

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Business Standard

Monday, Oct 29, 2011

Potato production set to rise in HP

Baldev S Chauhan / New Delhi/ Shimla October 29, 2011, 0:45 IST

After two crop failures in a row this year, Himachal Pradesh's well-known seed potato grown in the tribal Lahaul valley is abundant , and traders have started gathering from all over the country to buy the vegetable.

Almost the entire crop has been transported to the Kullu valley in Manali via the Rohtang pass which could be blocked any day by snowfall for the next six months. "This time we have a bumper crop after a poor output since the past two years . The crop this year could have been even higher as farmers grew less potato this time ," said Amar Chand Dogra , MD of the Lahaul Potato Growers Society (LPGS) . Close to 2.5 lakh bags of Lahaul potato have been harvested as compared to last year's 1.5 lakh bags .

THE HINDU Business Line

West Asia unrest prompts tea exporters to explore new markets

P. S. Sundar

Coonoor, Oct. 28:

With civil unrest in West Asia causing uncertainty in international tea trade, worried producers from Asia, which accounts for 89 per cent of global tea production, and Africa, which has 9 per cent global share, have called for establishing a firm base in alternative markets.

West Asia is a major tea importer but prolonged political unrest in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Libya, Bahrain, Jordan, Syria, Morocco, Algeria and Oman has upset tea trade in that region.

“Individual countries are already suffering the pinch. Sri Lanka, for instance, which depends on West Asia for almost 45 per cent of its tea exports, faces strong demand-drop. The Sri Lanka Tea Board fears a 3-4 per cent reduction in its export forecast this year,” Dr A.V.K. Iyengar, Director, Kothari Agricultural Management Centre (KAMC), told *Business Line* on the sidelines of the session on ‘international trade in the current millennium’.

Delegates representing the tea boards, tea industry and research institutes of Malawi, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal besides India attended the programme sponsored by Government of India and organised by KAMC.

Exports drop

“India is also suffering from low exports. Although India’s tea production has increased by 34 million kg (mkg) till August this year over last year, its exports have fallen by 15 mkg. Consequently, we have not been able to benefit from higher export returns despite the prices increasing,” Dr Iyengar noted. Between January and August, India exported about 109 mkg against 124 mkg in 2010. On an average, every kg fetched Rs 145 against Rs 130. Still, because of the lower volume, the overall export earnings dropped to Rs 1,581 crore from Rs 1,621 crore.

“As normalcy in West Asia is unlikely till mid-2012, we are stressing on aggressive promotion to firm up newer markets; otherwise, we will be burdened with unsold tea despite higher domestic consumption,” Dr Iyengar said.

“We are stressing on promoting tea as a symbol of hospitality bearing positive health impact and produced in eco-friendly ambience. Governments and industry should view such promotion as investment and allot necessary funds,” he added.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated October 29, 2011)

Spot rubber stretches gains

Our Correspondent

Kottayam, Oct. 28:

Spot rubber improved further on Friday. Prices strengthened following initial gains in domestic futures but the late declines on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE) put pressure on the market during closing hours. Volumes continued to be dull as the inflow of raw material was still narrow.

Sheet rubber closed at Rs 214 (211) a kg after hitting an intra-day high of Rs 215 a kg, according to traders. The grade improved to Rs 213 (211) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as quoted by the Rubber Board.

Natural rubber market may continue to lack momentum as far as global economy keeps the current slow pace according to Mr Jom Jacob, Senior Economist, Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC). The depression in NR prices since mid-October has been contributed by the following five key factors. Depreciation of Thai baht and Malaysian ringgit against the dollar, fall in crude oil price since mid-October, bearish sentiments due to slowdown and uncertainty in demand, a marginal improvement in outlook for supply during the current year and lack of support from speculative investments and hedge funds.

RSS 4 declined at its November series to Rs 213 (215.23), December to Rs 212.70 (215.08), January to Rs 213.50 (216.01), February to Rs 213.76 (216.97), March to Rs 216.65 (216.75) and April to Rs 220 (221.75) a kg on the NMCE.

RSS 3 (spot) closed firm at Rs 198.37 (195.88) a kg at Bangkok. The November futures flared up to ₹307.5 (Rs 198.01) from ₹296.6 a kg during the day session but then weakened to ₹301.9 (Rs 194.40) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 214 (212); RSS-5: 211 (210); ungraded: 204 (202); ISNR 20: 201 (200) and latex 60 per cent: 128.50 (128.50).

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Rabi sowing off to dull start in Andhra Pradesh

K.V. Kurmanath

Coverage down 50% compared with the normal acreage



All set: A farmer in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district ploughs his field in preparation for rabi sowing. Farmers had observed a crop holiday during the kharif season in view of lesser-than-expected prices for paddy. – S. Rambabu

Hyderabad, Oct. 28:

After a disastrous kharif this year, farmers in Andhra Pradesh seem to have entered the rabi season without much hope.

While cotton farmers are still hoping to get a few more 'pickings' to reduce their losses, others are waiting for favourable conditions to begin sowing, though it is just two weeks into the season.

EARLY SIGNS

As it is the beginning of the season, farmers still have enough time to speed up sowing if the situation turns positive; but early signs do not seem to be too encouraging.

In a total average (rabi) cropped area of 40.44 lakh hectares, farmers normally would have covered 5.65 lakh ha as on October 27.

WORST HIT

But they have covered only 2.96 lakh ha so far, reaching just above the 50 per cent mark.

Serious stress due to lack of moisture that had affected kharif crops on 15.70 lakh hectares, continues to pose a problem at the start of the rabi season.

Paddy, sunflower and Bengalgram are the worst hit. Against the as-on-date figure of 0.12 lakh hectare (ha), paddy has been sown on about 1,200 ha, registering just 10 per cent coverage. Sunflower, which should have been sown on 0.72 lakh ha, was sown on just 0.12 lakh ha or 17 per cent of the area.

Official figures show a deficit of 56 per cent in rains with the North-East monsoon failing to cover most parts, leaving 12 districts among those that witnessed scanty (with a deficit of 60-99 per cent) rainfall and seven districts with a deficit of 20-59 per cent. This coupled with erratic power supply has delayed sowing operations.

YIELD LOSS

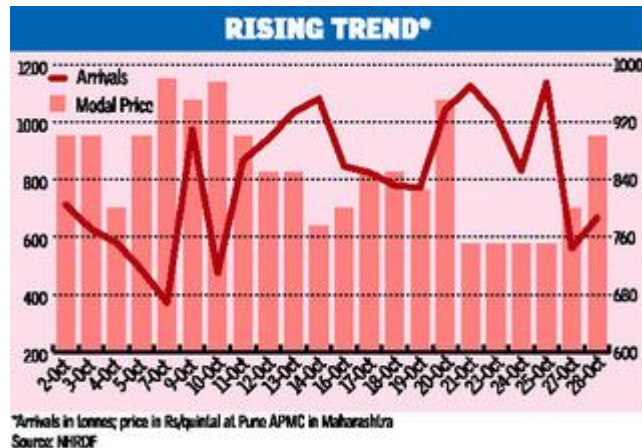
The Andhra Pradesh Government, which has pegged the number of drought-hit mandals at about 500-600, estimates that there would be severe yield losses in all kharif crops in the range of 50-80 per cent. In some mandals, this could be 100 per cent, meaning that farmers would be left with nothing.

It is blackgram (sown in 0.18 lakh ha) and chillies (sown in 0.126 lakh ha) that have crossed the averages, while maize (0.16 lakh ha) managed to reach the average figure.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated October 29, 2011)

Onions firm up on Gulf demand, low arrivals

M.R. Subramani



Chennai, Oct. 28:

Onion prices increased this week on export demand, mainly from Gulf countries.

“Export demand has re-emerged since Pakistan is unable to supply to West Asian countries.

This has helped prices pick up,” said Mr Rupesh Jaju, Director of Nashik-based United Pacific Agro Pvt Ltd.

With Pakistan being unable to cater to the demand in Gulf, India is seen as the only source that can meet their requirements.

Though low arrivals due to Diwali contributed to the rise in prices, trade sources said rates would have increased even if arrivals had been higher. According to Mr Jaju, over 7,5000 tonnes of onion had arrived in Nashik, Pune and Ahmednagar districts of Maharashtra last week.

At the Pune Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee yard, the modal price or the rate at which most trades took place increased to Rs 900 a quintal from Rs 750 last week. "Demand is likely to increase in the next couple of weeks," said Mr Jaju.

Prices could gain around Rs 300 a quintal in the next three to five trading sessions, he said.

inferior quality

Another reason for prices to rise is the inferior quality of arrivals.

"Quality of arrivals is an issue and it will tend to keep prices firm," said Mr Jaju.

With Nashik and surrounding areas not receiving ample rainfall during monsoon, the kharif onion crop could be lower this year.

"Prices could be firm in December since kharif arrivals could be low," said Mr Jaju.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated October 29, 2011)

Pulses muhurat trading seen sluggish

Our Correspondent



Indore, Oct. 28:

Barring chana, pulse seeds and pulses ruled flat in absence of buying interest. Local mandis were closed for Diwali holiday.

Contrary to expectations, pulses and pulse seeds are likely to be sluggish in *muhurat* trading once local mandis open on Saturday after four days of holiday, primarily because of bearish chana futures, said Mr Sanjay Bansal, a wholesale pulse trader.

In private trading, chana (kanta) quoted at Rs 3,550 a quintal, while chana (desi) sold at Rs 3,475. Chana dal (average) quoted at Rs 4,250-4,275, chana dal (medium) at Rs 4,450 and chana dal (best) at Rs 4,600.

Masoor and its dal ruled firm, with masoor (bold) quoting at Rs 3,000 and masoor (medium) at Rs 2,700. Masoor dal remained firm at Rs 3,450-3,650 a quintal.

Tur (Maharashtra) sold at Rs 3,400-3,450, while tur (Nimari) was quoted at Rs 2,800. Tur dal was unchanged, with tur dal (full) quoted at Rs 5,400-5,500, tur dal (*sawa* no.) at Rs 4,600-4,700 and tur (marka) at Rs 6,200.

Urad (Nimari) sold at Rs 3,900 and urad (medium) at Rs 3,200-3,300. Urad dal remained unchanged, with urad dal (medium) quoted at Rs 4,100-4,400, urad dal (bold) at Rs 4,800-4,900 and urad (mongar) at Rs 6,300-6,600.

Moong and its dal ruled flat. Moong (best quality) quoted at Rs 4,400 and moong (medium) remained firm at Rs 3,500-3,600.

Moong dal ruled steady, with moong dal (bold) quoted at Rs 5,200-5,300, moong dal (medium) at Rs 5,000-5,300 and moong (mongar) at Rs 5,600-5,900.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated October 29, 2011)

Turmeric pales as bulk buyers stay away

Our Correspondent



Erode, Oct. 28:

Spot turmeric prices dropped by Rs 200-500 a quintal on Friday as bulk buyers kept off from buying.

“After three-day closure for Diwali, the market assembled on Friday when about 4,000 bags of turmeric arrived for sale. But for want of demand, bulk buyers kept away. Only limited buyers participated in the auctions. No exporter attended the market, due to death of a local turmeric exporter.

“Sales were also very poor with only 30 per cent of the total arrival being sold,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

For want of demand, the hybrid variety also decreased by Rs 200 a quintal.

Traders said after Diwali, only the local masala firms placed orders and they bought very limited stocks.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, turmeric prices decreased Rs 583 a quintal, while in Gobichettipalayam Cooperative Marketing Society and Erode Cooperative Marketing society, the commodity decreased Rs 250 each. In the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard the yellow spice decreased Rs 515 a quintal.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety fetched Rs 3,799-4,961, root variety Rs 3,419-4,886.

Salem Crop: The finger variety sold at Rs 5,199-5,509 a quintal, the root variety Rs 4,768-5,044. Totally, 1,120 bags of turmeric arrived for sale, of which 292 were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,666-5,099, the root variety Rs 3,106-4,959. Only 36 bags were sold as against 155 on offer for sale.

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Wheat rules flat in lacklustre trade

Our Correspondent



Karnal, Oct. 28:

Prices of dara and *desi* wheat remained unchanged on Friday amidst lukewarm trading.

In the physical market, after witnessing an uptrend earlier this week, dara maintained its previous level and ruled between Rs 1,120 and Rs 1,130 a quintal. Around 80 tonnes of dara variety arrived from Uttar Pradesh and the stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,120 a quintal, while delivery at the chakki was at Rs 1,125-1,130 a quintal. Some improvement was seen earlier this week after the announcement of a higher minimum support price but the market has ruled flat since then, said Mr Subhash Chander, a wheat trader. No major impact is expected in the market as the new MSP will be applied in the next procurement year and the market is expected to trade in a range, he said.

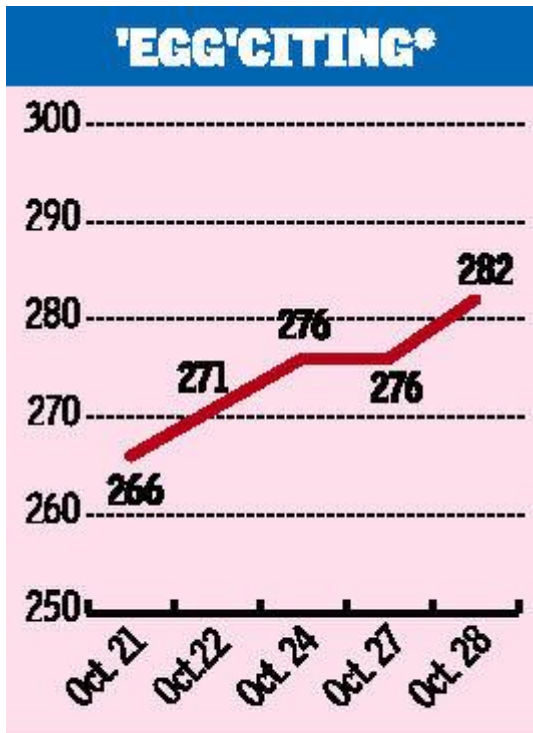
Similarly, desi wheat prices continued to rule flat. The Tohfa variety quoted at Rs 2,250, Samrat at Rs 1,850 a quintal, Lal Quila at Rs 1,835, while Rasoi sold at Rs 1,800 a quintal. On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, wheat for November delivery decreased by Rs 19.40 to Rs 1,089.8 a quintal; it had touched a low at Rs 1,076 a quintal earlier on Friday. On the MCX, wheat for January delivery was at Rs 1,164 a quintal.

Sowing begins: Sowing has started in the region and area under wheat would be around 1.7 lakh hectares this year. According to agricultural experts, 70 per cent of the sowing will be completed within the next 15 days.

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North-East monsoon has egg on boil

Gayathri G.



*Rs/100 eggs at Namakkal

Source: NECC

Chennai, Oct. 28:

The egg price is slowly inching up to touch a record with the onset of North-East monsoon.

With the austere season coming to an end and torrential rains lashing Tamil Nadu and Kerala, egg price is set to rise further. A cut in production, too, has sent the egg price up across the country.

Lower production, spiralling input costs and sudden demand due to cold weather are have lifted the price.

In Namakkal, Tamil Nadu's poultry hub, the egg price was increased to Rs 2.82 a piece from last week's Rs 2.65. Egg touched Rs 2.90 a piece during the same period last year.

Meanwhile, Palladam-based Broiler Co-ordination Committee (BCC) has retained last week's rate for cull birds at Rs 67 a kg. NECC's layer rates (for birds of 1.3 kg), too, are flat at Rs 44 a kg.

Namakkal and Palladam prices are the benchmarks for eggs and chicken in the country.

Industry sources told *Business Line* that chick placement in farms is on the rise. Mr P. Selvaraj, Chairman, NECC's Namakkal zone, said farmers have started placing layer chicks (which will start laying eggs after 24 weeks) during the austere months so that they can build up inventories. (A chick takes 24 weeks to hatch eggs.)

"Broiler prices are likely to be pruned in the coming days because of the approaching Sabarimala season in the South, a major consumer of these products," NECC sources said.

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