

Published: September 13, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 13, 2011 04:18 IST  
HYDERABAD, September 13, 2011

## **Women and Farmers Week fete from Sept. 15**

The State government has decided to celebrate Farmer and Women Week from September 15 to 25 and distribute crop insurance, interest waiver and 'pavala vaddi' benefits worth about Rs. 3,000 crore during the fete.

According to an official press release, launching of Stree Nidhi Women's Bank with Rs. 1,000 crore, inauguration of 4,284 nutrition-cum-day care centres with Rs. 214 crore, construction of Stree Shakti Bhavans with Rs. 300 crore, and release of 'pavala vaddi' benefit (up to March 2011) worth Rs. 480 crore would be taken up during the week. These programmes will benefit about 50 lakh women.

Besides, 7.48 lakh farmers will be distributed Rs. 765.76 crore crop insurance for kharif-2010, 20 lakh farmers will get Rs. 352.3 crore interest waiver for kharif-2010 covering 680 mandals and 9.6 lakh farmers will get 73.5 crore 'pavala vaddi' benefit for 2009-10 during the celebrations. A teleconference was conducted by the Agriculture Department on Monday.

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KULITHALAI, September 13, 2011

## **Crops at Krishnarayapuram, Kulithalai fall prey to peacocks**

A peacock might be a joy to behold especially when it spreads its colourful feathers in merriment. However, for the farmers in Kulithalai and Krishnarayapuram regions of Karur district, the blooming birds connote suffering, as the huge birds prey on the crops .

Affected farmers are now demanding the State government to compensate for the losses suffered due to crop damage by peacocks.

Peacock population in the district, has increased considerably over the years, much to the delight of wildlife enthusiasts. Large scale proliferation of peacocks has been noticed in Karur, Krishnarayapuram, Kulithalai, Thogamalai and Kadavur taluks, but, there is hardly any data with respect to the number of birds in the district. However, the farmers have now started to feel the pinch of an increased peacock population in the Karur-Kadavur belt that spans five taluks in the district. The birds live off the crops and grains the farmers raise in their fields, besides of course, the insects and reptiles. . ``We now dread the sight of peacocks invading our fields. Farmers are already hemmed in by various factors that had hit their production. Damage caused by peacocks should not be one among them, " points out R.Satheesh, convener, Farmers Discussion Group, Valayapatti, a peacock infested area. The government has been compensating farmers who live on the fringes of the forests when their crops and fields are damaged by animals such as elephants. If that could be done, then the government should not have any qualm in addressing our concerns as our fields are in the countryside and peacocks are intruding into our space, says Karur district president of the Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam V.K.Thangavelu of Taragampatti.

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NAGAPATTINAM, September 13, 2011

## **Farmers trained on technology transfer and market advocacy**

NABARD joins hands with NGO to promote organic farming



sharing knowledge: K.Venugopal, assistant general manager, NABARD, speaking at the workshop in Nagapattinam. Photo:B.Velankanni Raj

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in partnership with the Centre for Knowledge Systems (CIKS) organised a one-day workshop on technology transfer and market advocacy on organic farm products here in Nagapattinam on Monday.

The initiative is a take-off from the farmers clubs that are functioning under the aegis of NABARD and knowledge support of CIKS, a non-governmental organisation engaged with organic farmers in five districts of Tamil Nadu.

Under this, innovative farmers as 'master-trainers' are selected from among the members of village-level farmers' clubs, and imparted training in technology transfer, credit consultancy, market advocacy and forecasting.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Subhashini Sridhar, Project Coordinator, CIKS, stated that the master trainers were conceived to perform the role of "extension functionaries," to transfer the knowledge and training, imparted to them through these workshops, to farmers of their respective areas. Of the farmers clubs functioning in eight of the 12 blocks in the district under CIKS, 'master-trainer' farmers were selected from 20 farmers clubs.

Two farmers have been chosen from each farmers club, screened on the basis of will to learn, impart, innovate and implement best practices in organic farming.

"These master-trainers are being trained on different topics, in each break-away session of 18-day duration," says Ms.Sridhar. The master-trainer farmers have since been trained in post-harvest technology via exposure visits to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, and credit consultancy under the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Thanjavur.

The master-trainers will in turn select 20 master trainers from their respective farmers clubs in their villages. "We propose to create 400 master trainers," ,," says Ms.Sridhar.

According to K.Venugopal, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, the workshop envisions progressive leap for farmers clubs that were dysfunctional at many villages. It is also a bid to

streamline the functioning of farmers clubs by giving them access to an agency in knowledge training.

The programme entails coverage of soil testing and summer ploughing under technology transfer, banking schemes and loan components under credit consultancy, and topics on market fluctuations, post-harvest management, storage, packing, labelling and economics of delayed marketing and market forecast under the market advocacy component.

The training module envisages participation from Krish Vigyan Kendra, Sikkal, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute (TRRI), Aduthurai, and RSETI, Thanjavur.

The farmers clubs, which require just about 10 to 20 farmers for its constitution, was envisaged to provide space for sharing and learning from experiences, dissemination of information on government schemes and institutional credit support through banks among others.

A special training on market-forecasting was conducted under Prof. Senthil Nathan, Department of Economics, TNAU.

Collector T.Munusamy presided over the concluding session; R.Ranjendiran, Head, KVK, Sikkal; R.Muruganantham, Joint Director, Agriculture; D.Sankara Narayanana, Senior Regional Manager, IOB; N.Sundar, Deputy Director, Agri Business Marketing; V.Rajendiran, Deputy Director, Agriculture, were the resource persons.

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Published: September 13, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 13, 2011 04:03 IST Tirupur, September 13, 2011

### **'Farm plan cards' for small, marginal farmers**

The Department of Agriculture is all set to distribute 'Farm plan cards' to entire small and marginal farmers in the district so as to help them strategise agrarian activities in a productive manner and thereby, increase the earnings multi-fold.

## **Handbook**

The card will be an integrated handbook that would incorporate the personal details and farm practices adopted by the card holder in the last few years and an action plan for the next three years, which will be prepared by agriculture experts in consultation with respective farmers.

“At present, 1,35,151 are classified as small and marginal farmers in the district out of the total 1,68,938 farmers enumerated,” Joint Director of Agriculture S. Muthusamy told *The Hindu* .

## **Phased manner**

The cards would be distributed in a phased manner with 45,051 small and marginal farmers to be covered before the end of the current financial year.

Mr. Muthusamy said the action plan to be drafted on an individual farmer basis would enable us to give technical advices and earmark distribution of inputs much more effectively. Arrangement of farm credit too would become easier, he added.

## **Soil health**

As a bonanza, each of the small and marginal farmers who were to be covered under the project would be given a soil health card too.

The soil at the respective farms would be tested by experts and data on the soil analysis of the holding entered into the card. “The details will come in handy for technocrats to advice the farmers on the fertilizer and nutrient mixture they should use,” Mr. Muthusamy said.

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Published: September 13, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 13, 2011 04:04 IST KANNUR, September 13, 2011

## **KVK's innovations a boon to farmers**

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kannur, (KVK) at Panniyur here has become a household name among farmers in the region with its innovative extension services since its inception in 2004.

Started in a small dilapidated quarter inside the compound of the Pepper Research Station at Panniyur on the Taliparamba-Alakkode route, the KVK of the Kerala Agricultural University is now bustling with activities as farmers, entrepreneurs, students, and self-employment pursuers visit there for information, training, consultancy, purchase, and sight-seeing.

### **'The youngest'**

In 2009, just as it completed five years, it was the youngest KVK to bag the national best KVK award. There are 589 KVKs in the country.

“The KVK, since its inception, has played a leadership role in the agricultural development process of the district,” KVK head K. Abdul Kareem told *The Hindu*. It had made achievements in a short span of time with novel initiatives and successful project model in the farming sector, he said, adding that interventions of the KVK had drawn attention across the State and even at the national level.

### **In technology**

A major innovation is the grooming of teams trained in the use of machines, technologies, personality development, and customer relationship. They do what farm workers do on contract basis, but they are trained in science-based technologies to undertake the works.

The State Planning Board had recommended the 'KVK model' for addressing the alarming decline in area under paddy and sanctioned Rs.1 crore for its State-level adoption, Prof. Kareem said. The Paddy Task Force under the KVK was the first ever mechanised labour force in the State, he said.

### **Repair too**

A Farmers' Engineering Service and Training Centre would soon be established at the KVK to extend services such as repair and maintenance, spare parts, ambulance service, and training on repair and maintenance, he said.

The KVK was first applauded for its innovative extension approach named Compact Area Group Approach for combating endemic problems such as bud rot disease of coconut and stem bleeding. KVK officials said the approach could effectively curb the spread of diseases. It has

also introduced and popularised new technologies compatible with conditions in the district. Rope culture of green shell mussel farming, new varieties of black pepper, ginger, cashew, tapioca, and vegetable that are high-yielding and pest-resistant are among them.

### **Post-training aid**

“Experiences have shown that imparting technological training alone cannot make an entrepreneur unless certain traits are inculcated into his or her personality,” Dr. Kareem said stressing the importance of post-training assistance and efforts to link the entrepreneur with various agencies.

The State Bank of India-KVK Loan Window and the KVK Mall are two unique facilities established at the KVK to promote entrepreneurship, he said.

The KVK had its own success story of entrepreneurship training in developing the first-ever cashew apple processing unit in the State under the brand name Tomco, he said.

The KVK Mall sells value-added coconut, rice, banana, cashew apple, and black pepper products which KVK promoted among entrepreneurs. Apart from CAGA, the KVK has pioneered several innovations in extension such as the Farmers' Science Congress and Creative Extension, a new branch of agricultural extension, which uses art forms and for communication of innovations. The Farmers' Science Museum and Federation of NABARD-KVK Farmers' Clubs, Mango Villages and Bio-pharmacy are other exceptional innovations of the KVK. The Farmers' Science Congress is adopted by the ICAR at national level as National Innovators' Meet. The sub-surface dyke built by the KVK to alleviate water scarcity has now become the largest rainwater harvesting system in the region and a model demonstration unit.

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KATTAPPANA, September 13, 2011

### **Water level up in Idukki reservoir**

The water level in the Idukki reservoir was 2,391.58 ft on Monday as against 2,370.3 ft on the corresponding day last year. An official of the Dam Monitoring Cell, Cheruthoni, said that it was

86.187 per cent of the total capacity of the dam and was one of the highest levels in recent years.

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HYDERABAD, September 13, 2011

### **Kanda panel submits report on 'crop holiday'**



**TASK ACCOMPLISHED:** Former Chief Secretary Mohan Kanda and his team handing over the report on 'crop holiday' to Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha in Hyderabad on Monday. — Photo: By arrangement

The high-level committee headed by former Chief Secretary Mohan Kanda to study the 'crop holiday' protest by farmers submitted its report to Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy at the camp office here on Monday.

The committee made several rounds of field visits to Konaseema area in East Godavari district where farmers declared crop holiday in over one lakh acres to protest against lack of remunerative prices to their produce, mainly paddy. The committee, in its interaction with farmers and farmers' leaders, learnt about their grievances from cultivation stage to the marketing of their produce and submitted a comprehensive report to the government. It also interacted with officials of irrigation, civil supplies and marketing departments.

Mr. Reddy said he would study the report in detail and take appropriate decisions to help the farming community in distress.

Some of the recommendations related to increase in Minimum Support Price taking into account the steep hike in production cost, integrating national rural employment guarantee scheme with



agriculture, ensuring major quantity of paddy procurement by government agencies, IKP and cooperative societies without leaving farmers to the mercy of rice millers, setting up purchase centres at village level, creation of adequate godown space to facilitate faster procurement, penal action against those millers not paying MSP etc.

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VIJAYAWADA, September 13, 2011

### **Training for SHGs in disaster management**

Additional Municipal Commissioner P. Venkataramana on Monday said around 100 self-help groups and community volunteers will be imparted training in disaster management soon.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the training session organised by the Urban Risk Reduction Project under UNDP-GOI for the National Social Service volunteers from city colleges on disaster management at Patamata indoor stadium, Mr. Ramana exhorted the students to put to use all the knowledge they had gained in the training session during natural disasters like floods, earthquake, landslides and fire mishaps. Around 50 students from Montessori, Sarada, and Nalanda Colleges took part in the training session held under the supervision of officers from the Natural Disaster Response Force.

The students were taught how to reduce the intensity of the calamity and also on the preparedness. Crucial issues like first aid, safety, cleanliness, and reaction were imparted to the trainees by the experts. The experts also imparted training in gadgets and implements that are used in dealing the disasters. Natural Disaster Response Force officers B. P. Singh, B. Roy, and Prabhakar conducted training classes.



**Zia Haq, Hindustan Times**

Email Author

New Delhi, September 13, 2011

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Last Updated: 01:51 IST(13/9/2011)

## **No respite from high food prices till 2012**

Food prices are likely to remain high this year despite a better-than-expected monsoon, staying closer to the double-digit zone until mid-2012, economists say.

Analysts are trying to figure out the reasons behind sustained prices, amid what has been the longest spell of generalised inflation since the mid-90s.

Worryingly, many now view India's inflation as more deep-seated among all fast-growing economies, with the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) still pushing nearly 10%. In August, consumer prices in China rose 6.2%, while in South Korea and Brazil, they went up 5.3% in 7.2% respectively from a year ago, according to World Bank data. In India, prices may fall and rise, economists believe, but they won't drop back to "ideal levels" immediately.

The WPI for food articles rose 9.55% from a year earlier in the week ended Aug. 27, easing slightly from a 10.05% gain in the previous week, which was the highest in four months. This spike was the result of June's diesel-price hike, which took a while to show up in food markets. Unlike diesel, however, petrol prices hikes have contributed directly to inflation because it is accounted for in the WPI basket. While higher demand has fanned prices of manufactured goods, food prices have gone up on the back of both higher demand and cost of production, NR Bhanumurthy of the National Institute for Public Finance and Policy said.

### **INFLATION TRIGGERS**



- **Growing demand:** With rising incomes, average Indians have shifted to richer diets, milk and meat
- **High input costs:** Assured jobs from NREGA plan has made farm labour very expensive
- **No free lunch:** With no govt discounts on fuel prices, Indians are having to pay their way for the first time

Higher incomes have caused demand to shift from staples to protein-rich diets, fruits and vegetables.

This has offset gains in higher cereal output from good monsoons.

"We expect high dependence on costly imported edible oils to continue," said Mr KRavichandran of ratings agency ICRA. Given the high reliance on imports, domestic edible oil prices have largely been pegged to international edible oil prices.

The Reserve Bank of India executive director Deepak Mohanty says there have been four inflationary phases so far: October 2009-March 2010; April-July 2010; August-November 2010; and December 2010 onwards.

With each phase, inflation has evolved, becoming more complex and mutating like a gene.

Many blame a national rural jobs plan for pushing up costs of farm labour, while a countrywide school meal programme - the largest food-based welfare scheme in the world - has additionally strained grain supplies.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/744905.aspx>

## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

**Tuesday, Sep 13**

Max    Min  
35.8° | 24.7°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 89%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:58

Sunset: 18:12

Barometer: 1004

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

**Wednesday, Sep 14**

Max    Min  
34° | 26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday Sep 15	Friday Sep 16	Saturday Sep 17	Sunday Sep 18	Monday Sep 19
				
31°   27°	30°   27°	29°   26°	29°   26°	29°   26°
Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy

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### Floods in delta region continue to play havoc

Despite the flood waters receding on Monday, the situation in the Mahanadi delta region continued to play havoc leaving 17 dead. An estimated 20 lakh people remained under the impact of the flood even as around 24,000 families were rendered totally homeless and 1,100 villages still marooned, official sources said.

Though all major rivers are receding, the Mahanadi and its tributaries are still flowing above the danger level, the sources said, adding that all precautionary measures were taken to see that no breaches took place.

On the third day of the floods, the State Government stepped up relief activities through aerial route to the marooned and inaccessible areas of Kendrapada, Puri and Jagatsinghpur districts with the help of four helicopters provided by the Central Government. Besides, the local administrations have opened relief camps-cum-free- kitchen centres to provide cooked food and other essential commodities.

While Chief Secretary Bijoy Patnaik reviewed the flood situation and relief operations, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, along with the Revenue Minister, for the second day, made aerial survey of the flood areas of the western Odisha districts of Sambalpur, Bargarh, Subarnapur and Boudh. At the same time PCC chief Niranjan Patnaik along with the Leader of the Opposition had also made an aerial survey of the flood-hit western and coastal areas.

An official spokesman said with the receding of flood waters and establishment of communication, the focus on relief operations, health measures, drinking water and restoration works would be stepped up.

Though 911 boats have been pressed into service for rescue and relief operations, they are found to be ineffective as the currents of the flood waters are very strong. Besides, drinking water has become a big problem in the flood areas as the tubewells are either submerged or defunct.

There have been large-scale complaints from the flood areas that relief in any form has not been made available to the distressed for the last three days, not to talk of fodder for the cattle. People are spending days and nights under the open sky without a polythene sheet at many places. There is a mess in the relief distribution process as there has been no coordination between the elected representatives at the local level and the administrative machinery.

The administration virtually ignored the local representatives, it is alleged.

Reports of the Special Relief Commissioner said 3,505 villages spread over 93 blocks and 866 gram panchayats in 19 districts, namely Angul, Balasore, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Kendrapada, Khurda, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Puri, Sambalpur and Subarnapur, have been affected by the current floods in Mahanadi, Baitarani, and Subarnarekha river systems. The floods have wrought heavy damage in Puri, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur and Subarnapur districts, the reports said. As per the reports received from Collectors of 12 districts, 1.48 lakh persons have been evacuated from low-lying and marooned areas to safer places and provided with emergent food assistance and around 1.10 lakh affected persons have been covered under 270 relief camps.

The reports estimated 1.50 lakh hectares of crop areas to have been damaged due to submergence of flood water.

Stating that the situation in Puri district, particularly in Gop area, was very grim, an eye witness said that 14-feet-high flood water was still flowing in the block, leaving over 50,000 people in helpless conditions. In some places people are seen perching on tree tops and there are no power boats to rescue them. Flood waters have entered the Gop area as the river Kushabhadra is breached at many places.

According to official sources, river Bhargavi breached on Monday afternoon at Rupadeipur near Balanga, which threatened the Bhubaneswar-Puri National High Way No 203. However, traffic has been controlled at both ends and the Works and Irrigation Departments have made elaborate arrangements to avert inundation of the NH in the case of any further breach, the sources said.

Official sources in the Revenue Department said substantial decrease in the inflow into the Hirakud reservoir following no rain in the upper catchment in Chhatisgarh, has come as solace to the administration in addition to halt of rains in the lower catchment

On Monday, due to reduced inflow, the Hirakud Reservoir authorities have only opened 16 sluice gates maintaining the inflow and outflow at 2.78 lakh cusecs. With the regulated water discharge, floods in the Delta region of the Mahanandi system would further improve, the sources claimed. The gauge level of Hirakud Reservoir stood at 628.43 feet, they said.

However, the spokesman said that the discharge of flood waters to the Bay of Bengal has become tardy due to high tide triggered by the full-moon day on Monday.

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### **Transporters' stir hits flow of foodgrain to Kumaon division**

Supply of foodgrain quota of September under the public distribution system to the Kumaon division remains totally disrupted as the transporters have stopped lifting foodgrain, protesting against overloading by the local administration.

More so, the transporters have demanded hike in transportation charges up to 40 per cent, making the issue more complex. Following strict drive against overloading, the transporters

have stopped lifting foodgrain quota of the entire kumaon, said NC Pant, RMO, State food supply department, while talking to The Pioneer.

Therefore the food grains quota of September i.e. around 59,000 metric tone(MT) for the entire kumaon regions has not been lifted so far.

“Since the Government is very serious about overloading issue, the transporters have now demanded about 40 per cent increase in transportation charges. This issue can be solved only at the local administration level. So we are taking up the matter with the district administration US Nagar. If the issue is solved only then the smooth supply of foodgrain could be restored,” Pant added.

As per the Supreme Court’s order, the sanctioned load for a medium mode vehicles is nine MT and 15 MT for heavy mode vehicles but the transporters carry up to 12 MT to 15 MT in the nine MT capacity truck and up to 30 MT in the 15 MT load sanctioned truck, said Pant.

There is huge anger in the mind of the transporters against Government’s strict action against overloading. By viewing the overloading problems administration has decided to strictly deal with the violators of the laid down guidelines, yet the transporters have been continuously violating these rule. Even in UP there are strict provisions to deal with overloading issue.

Apart from risk of road accidents, damage to roads is worse. However, the fact is that except US Nagar and plain areas of Nainital, other districts of kuamon division including Almora, Bageshwar, Pithoragar and Champawat are poorly connected with transport services.

If the deadlock on the issue of overloading continues, people particularly those are dependent on the subsidised good grains in the above mentioned areas may end up facing a tough time ahead. There are about 9,75,926 consumers including APL, BPL and antodaya cardholders, dependent on the public distribution system for food grains.

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### **Maharashtra parties unite on lifting ban on onion export**

All major political parties in Maharashtra, including the ruling Congress and the NCP, on Monday threw their weight behind the onion-growers, who blocked the traffic on the Mumbai-Agra National Highway at Pimpalgaon in north Maharashtra, to protest against the ban on onion

exports. On a day when the agitating onion-growers brought the traffic on the busy Mumbai-Agra National Highway to a standstill at Pimpalgaon, near Nashik, for over three hours, senior NCP Minister, Chhagan Bhujbal, made demanded immediate withdrawal of the ban on onion exports.

Bhujbal, who is the Guardian Minister for Nashik district, met Prime Minister's Principal Secretary, TAK Nair, and submitted a memorandum seeking the PM's intervention in lifting the onion export ban and providing relief to onion-growers in Nashik. Simultaneously, senior Congress Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil visited the agitating onion-growers, led by NCP MP from Nashik, Sameer Bhujbal, and BJP MP from Dindori, Harishchandra Chavan, at Paimpalgaon and expressed his solidarity with their cause. Vikhe-Patil charged that the Centre had chosen to ban the export of onions without taking the Congress-led Government into confidence, despite the fact that Maharashtra contributed to over 60 per cent of the total annual onion production in the country.

Meanwhile, the Opposition Shiv Sena shot off a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, demanding the withdrawal of ban on onion exports. "As the onion-growers are incurring huge loss owing to the ban, we have written to the Prime Minister, demanding that the ban be lifted immediately," Sena MP, Sanjay Raut, said. As many as 14 wholesale onion markets remained closed for the third consecutive day, following the Centre's notification banning the export of onions.

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## Business Standard

Tuesday, Sep 13, 2011

### **Crop damage hits soybean estimates**

**Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai September 13, 2011, 0:46 IST**

After crop damage due to waterlogging in major growing states, analysts have cut the soybean output forecast from a bumper to a normal crop this kharif season.



Output this year is likely to remain at 9.5-10.5 million tonnes, as compared to 9.5 mt last year. Earlier, traders had forecast a record 11.5-12 mt.

Soybean is a major rainfed kharif oilseed crop, grown largely in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The crop requires frequent rain but waterlogging during the maturing period hits germination. Soybean meets seven to eight per cent of India's annual vegetable oil requirement of nearly 15 mt.

According to Rajesh Agrawal, spokesperson of the Indore-based The Soybean Processors Association of India (Sopa), about 15-20 per cent of the soybean crop has been damaged due to water logging. "A large area in western and central MP, along with parts of Maharashtra and Rajasthan, was submerged due to the latest spell of heavy downpour," he said.

Satyanarayan Agarwal, president of the Central Organisation for Oil Industry & Trade (COOIT), said, "Still, total output will rise between five and seven per cent from last year, to 10-10.5 mt this year." The sown area as on September 9 was 10.3 million hectares, a rise of 10.7 per cent as compared to last year.

The US department of agriculture has, however, maintained India's output forecast at 9.8 mt, unchanged from last year. A Ruchi Soya spokesperson also maintained a production estimate of 10.5 mt.

Import demand remains strong in China and there are small increases in the European Union and Turkey. Exports are expected to remain strong in Brazil and Argentina, at 36.5 mt and 11.8 mt, an increase of 18 per cent and 39 per cent, respectively, as compared to last year. Shipments from the US, the third major producer, is expected to decline by eight per cent as compared to last year.

Spot prices at the Indore mandi moved between Rs 2,366 and 2,424 per quintal. The near-month futures on the NCDEX touched Rs 2,474 per qtl, a rise of Rs 13 from Rs 2,461 per qtl in the beginning, but then settled at Rs 2,411 per qtl.

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## Pepper falls 0.6% on profit-taking

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 12, 2011, 14:16 IST



Pepper prices fell by Rs 201 to Rs 34,045 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators booked profits, driven by sluggish demand in spot market.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, November pepper fell by Rs 201, or 0.59% to Rs 34045 per quintal with an open interest of 410 lots.

The September contract lost Rs 125, or 0.38% to Rs 33002 per quintal in 5042 lots.

Analysts said profit-booking by speculators and subdued spot market demand at prevailing higher levels, mainly led to the fall in pepper futures prices.

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## Sugar down on ample supply

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 12, 2011, 14:08 IST



Sugar futures fell by 0.35% to Rs 2,815 per quintal today after some speculators offloaded their positions amid higher supplies in the wholesale markets.

However, increased demand for the ongoing festivals, capped the losses.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, November sugar fell by Rs 10, or 0.35%, to Rs 2,825 per quintal, with an open interest for 3,690 lots.

The October delivery fell by Rs 8, or 0.29%, to Rs 2,789 per quintal, with an open interest for 11,480 lots.

Analysts said the fall in sugar futures prices was mostly due to off-loading of positions following adequate stocks on higher supplies position in physical markets.

However, a rise in spot demand for the festival season limited the losses.

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### **Chana futures rises on spot market demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 12, 2011, 13:48 IST**



Chana prices traded higher by Rs 4 to Rs 3,478 per quintal in futures trade today due to pick up in demand in the spot market following the ongoing festive season.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, November chana edged up by Rs 4, or 0.12% to Rs 3,478 per quintal with an open interest of 80,660 lots.

The October contract traded higher by Rs 3, or 0.09% to Rs 3,411 per quintal in 271,930 lots.

Traders said speculators said pick up in demand in the spot market due to the ongoing festive season helped chana futures prices to trade higher.

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### **Potato sheds 2.1% on subdued demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 12, 2011, 13:38 IST**



Potato prices declined by Rs 11.10 to Rs 502.50 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators offloaded their positions, driven by a weak demand in the spot market.

Adequate stocks position in the physical market following increased arrivals from producing regions also put pressure on potato prices.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, October potato declined by Rs 11.10, or 2.16% to Rs 502.50 per quintal in business turnover of 719 lots.

The September contract shed Rs 1.40, or 0.23% to Rs 474.30 per quintal in 95 lots.

Traders said potato futures prices fell due to off-loading of positions by speculators on subdued demand against increased arrivals from producing regions.

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### **Cardamom declines on sluggish demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 12, 2011, 13:17 IST**



Cardamom futures fell by Rs 10 to Rs 745.80 per kg in futures trade today as speculators offloaded their positions on the back of sluggish spot market demand.

Adequate stocks position on increased supplies in the physical market also influenced the trading sentiment.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, October cardamom fell by Rs 10, or 1.32% to Rs 745.80 per kg in a business turnover of 442 lots.

The September contract shed Rs 7.80, or 1.16% to Rs 664.80 per kg in 322 lots.

Traders said sluggish demand spot market demand at existing higher levels against adequate supply from producing regions, mainly led to the fall in cardamom futures prices.

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### **Coriander gains 2.5% on spot demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 12, 2011, 14:22 IST**

Coriander prices gained Rs 132 to Rs 5,320 per quintal in range-bound trade today as speculators created fresh positions, driven by a pick up in demand in the spot market.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, coriander for delivery in September month rose by Rs 132, or 2.54% to Rs 5320 per quintal with a business turnover of 12 lots.

Analysts said fresh buying by speculators on the back of a rise in spot market demand against restricted arrivals, mainly pushed up coriander futures prices here.

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### **Guargum up on increased buying**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 12, 2011, 13:52 IST**

Guargum prices flared up by Rs 151 to Rs 13,810 per quintal in futures trade today due to increased buying in line with a firm spot market sentiment.

Marketmen said tracking higher domestic spot market trend, traders indulged in building up positions in futures trade.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, September guargum gained by Rs 151, or 1.11 per cent to Rs 13,810 per quintal, witnessing an open interest of 11,910 lots.

The November contract also went down by Rs 171, or 1.27 per cent to Rs 13,600 per quintal in an open interest of 6,770 lots.

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### **Castorseed gains on fresh buying**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 12, 2011, 13:50 IST**

Castorseed price hardened by Rs 52.50 to Rs 4,895 per quintal in futures trade today following aggressive buying by traders in line with firm overseas and domestic market cues.

Marketmen said heavy buying by consuming industries in physical markets in line with firm global sentiments, encouraged traders to built up fresh positions here in future markets.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, September castorseed rose by Rs 52.50, or 1.08% to Rs 4,895 per quintal, clocking an open interest of 8,940 lots.

The November contract improved by Rs 43.50, or 0.92% to Rs 4,770 per quintal in an open interest of 15,730 lots.

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# THE HINDU Business Line

## Farmers' protest against onion export ban spreads

Mumbai/Pune, Sept. 12:

The Union Government's ban last week on onion exports has created an explosion of protest in Maharashtra where the onion *mandis* have remained closed since Friday, with farmers and traders incensed at the move.

The protest, on Monday, spread to all four onion-producing districts in Maharashtra, with farmers refusing to bring their produce to auctions at the various Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) yards.

The APMC yards have decided to keep the markets closed indefinitely.

According to Mr Babanrao Kale, Vice-President, Shetkari Sanghatana, following the ban, onion prices have fallen to less than half of the production price determined by the State Government body for prices of agro produce.

"Last week, the Agricultural Price Cell informed us that the cost of onion production was Rs 800 a quintal," he said, adding that this figure was based on a study conducted by a college under the Marathwada Agricultural University.

"Onion stocks are considerable and exports have been much less compared with the previous year. It is surprising that an export ban comes at such a juncture," said Mr C.B. Holkar, Vice-President of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).

### Stocks piled

There are stocks of 6-7 lakh tonnes from the summer crop currently lying with farmers and traders.

Exports as at August-end this year amounted to only 5,30,000 tonnes against 9,40,000 tonnes in the corresponding period last year, he said.

“Not only will prices fall if exports are banned, but the unsold stocks will rot; at least 50-60 per cent of the stock will rot if kept beyond six months,” said Mr Holkar.

### **Minimum export price**

Even without the ban, onions exports are already lower this year because of the high minimum export price of \$475 a tonne f.o.b which makes India uncompetitive in export markets.

The MEP was \$300-350 a tonne the previous year, he said.

“We were surprised at the ban,” said an industry expert with a Union Government agency. Neither the wholesale price nor the consumer price was that high as to warrant an export ban, he said.

The modal price or the rate at which most trades took place in Lasalgaon, the largest onion market in Asia, on Friday was only Rs 1,000 a quintal. In Delhi and Chennai, it was a little higher at Rs 1,233 and Rs 1,500 a quintal, respectively on Friday.

“Retail prices at between Rs 15 and Rs 20 a kg are not all that high either,” said the expert.

### **Losses**

Even at Rs 1,200 a quintal many farmers are making a loss of Rs 100 to Rs 150, said Mr. Holkar. Following the ban, the prices of the bulb which ranged from Rs 1,200-1,400 a quintal prior to the ban had dropped to Rs 350-600 a quintal, Mr Kale said. The industry expert alleged that retailers were possibly trying to exploit the situation ahead of the festival season, so that spoilt stocks would lead to a shortage, leading to higher prices and margins for them. The Maharashtra Agriculture Minister, Mr Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, visited protesting traders and farmers in the Nashik area on Monday. Maharashtra is the largest onion producer in the country, and Nashik accounts for more than half of the onion harvests in the state.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 13, 2011)

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## India may go for 'refuge in the bag' for Bt cotton

St. Louis, (US) Sept. 12:

While biotechnology is revolutionising world agriculture and farmers in over two dozen countries have benefited from it, in developing a regulatory framework, careful thought must be given to defining a uniform standard of safety and in creating an enabling environment for local developers, particularly those in small and medium enterprises and the public sector, according to Dr Rashmi Nair, Director - Emerging Markets, Regulatory Policy and Scientific Affairs, Monsanto Company.

Addressing a group of presspersons, industry representatives and farmers from India, she said a functional regulatory system should be science-based, clear in processes and requirements, workable, predictable, transparent and adaptable. The compliance costs for insect-resistant maize are estimated at anything between \$7 million and \$15 million, she pointed out.

Talking specifically about maize in India, she said the rapidly expanding demand for the crop from users across poultry, livestock and starch industries will have to be matched by rapid expansion in production. Suggesting that innovation can drive growth, she said adoption of high-yielding hybrids, introduction of technology and agronomic practices will have a positive impact. For the record, in 2010-11, India harvested 21.3 million tonnes of maize, a new high and sharp rebound from weather-hit 16.7 million tonnes of the previous year. Interestingly, States with higher hybridisation have registered higher yields.

Dr Nair referred to the success story of Bt cotton in India and remarked that while refuge area (area specified for non-transgenic crop) was important, growers in the country did not allow refuge fearing loss of area and profits. Clearly, refuge is a regulatory issue; and the new refuge area is down to 5 per cent from the earlier 20 per cent. Monsanto Company has recommended the new system of 'refuge in the bag' which is that non-transgenic seeds to the extent of five per cent are mixed in the bag containing transgenic seeds and therefore, the farmer need not specifically earmark a separate area for refuge. It was hinted that the Central Institute of Cotton Research at Nagpur has accepted the refuge in the bag recommendation for Bt cotton.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 13, 2011)

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## **Tea prices gain at Coonoor sale**

Coonoor, Sept. 12:

Unmindful of Onam holiday mood, strong business activity prevailed at sale no 36 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions with nearly 84.5 per cent of the 24-week low offer of 11.96 lakh kg being absorbed. Prices rose by Rs 2-3 a kg. "Orthodox leaf gained substantially up to Rs 10 a kg. Medium CTC leaf fetched Rs 2-4 more but high-priced sorts eased Rs 2-3.

Primary orthodox dusts sold up to Rs 10 more and others, Rs 1-3. High-priced CTC dusts were dearer by Rs 1-3. Cleaner blacker sorts fetched up to Rs 3 more," an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

Among CTC teas, Homedale Estate, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped at Rs 139. Shanthi Supreme got Rs 138, Blue Mont Speciality Rs 136, Vigneshwar Estate Rs 134, Darmona Estate and Sree Tea Supreme Rs 127 each and Hittakkal Estate Rs 126. In all, 58 marks got Rs 100 and more.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 13, 2011)

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## **Cardamom gains marginally on buying interest**

Kochi, Sept. 12:

Cardamom prices gained marginally last week on export and domestic buying interest and some regulated supply at the auctions.

Export inquiries and domestic buying also emerged for the festival/marriage seasons, trade sources said.

From next week onwards domestic buying will pick up and exporters are also expected to cover for the overseas consumers for the festivals, they said.

Last week, exporters bought an estimated 15 tonnes of cardamom, they said.

**Small and bold**

Because of the high productivity, the size of the capsules was small and consequently bold size cardamom arrivals was smaller than normal at this time of the season at around 25-30 per cent, traders said. Bold eight mm capsules were also limited and it fetched Rs 850-900 a kg in Kumily, a trader said.

“Probably a regulated release coupled with emergence of some buying interest have aided an improvement in the prices last week, pushing the auction average close to Rs 600 a kg,” Mr P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, told *Business Line*.

Continued shortage of workers to handle the huge quantity every week is also negatively affecting the trade, traders said. Continuous heavy rain in the growing areas in recent weeks resulted in fungus attacks and decaying of stems and that might lead to a decline in the output in the coming rounds, some in the trade pointed out.

At the Sunday auction by KCPMC, arrivals were at 74.8 tonnes against 81 tonnes the previous Sunday and the entire quantity was sold out, Mr Punnoose said.

The maximum price was at Rs 937.50 a kg and the minimum was Rs 337 a kg, while the auction average increased to Rs 578.65 a kg from Rs 543.08 the previous Sunday.

There were no auctions last Friday and Saturday last on account of Onam while the CPA auction at Bodinayakannur today will not be held due to the festival.

### **Fall in prices**

Sharp fall in the cardamom (small) prices during the current season paved the way for an increase in exports of the commodity so far during the current fiscal.

Total shipments of it during Apr-July stood at 975 tonnes valued at Rs 91.47 crore at unit value of Rs 938.17 a kg, according to the Spices Board sources.

### **Arrivals**

Total arrivals during the current season up to September 11 stood at 2,309 tonnes as against 1,057 tonnes in the same period the previous season.

Sales during the period were at 2,256 tonnes and 1,051 tonnes respectively. Weighted average price was at Rs 589.47 a kg while that on the same day last year was at Rs 1,299.88 a kg.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 13, 2011)

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### **Lack of buying saps spot rubber**

Kottayam, Sept. 12:

Spot rubber remained under pressure on Monday. Though the market was expected to regain strength after the Onam holidays, the absence of follow-up support from major consuming industries and the overall negative sentiments in commodities and stocks weighed on the prices.

Meanwhile, widespread monsoon rain continued to disrupt tapping but stocks in warehouses were seen rising slowly during the past couple of weeks according to reports.

Sheet rubber weakened to Rs 214 (215) a kg, according to traders. The grade dropped to Rs 214.50 (215.50) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to the Rubber Board.

The September series for RSS 4 closed at Rs 219.25 (222.35), October at Rs 213.87 (213.57), November at Rs 212.90 (213.41), December at Rs 214.50 (214.18), January at Rs 217 (216.10) and February at Rs 217.99 (217.06) a kg on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) improved to Rs 218.68 (217.88) a kg at Bangkok. The September futures declined to ¥350.1 (Rs 214.61) from ¥357.5 a Kg during the day session and then to ¥350 (Rs 214.55) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 214 (215); RSS-5: 205 (206); ungraded: 199 (200); ISNR 20: 210 (210) and latex 60 per cent: 133 (133).

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### **Rubber output dips on continuous rain**

PERFORMANCE OF NATURAL RUBBER					
	Production	Consumption	Import	Export	Stock at the end
August 2010	72,500	79,500	24,209	17	2,02,798
August 2011 (p)	71,200	77,000	14,060	1,082	2,66,081
April to August 2010	2,97,750	3,88,550	85,058	4,364	
April to August 2011 (p)	3,11,200	4,00,995	76,116	12,219	
% Growth(-)	(4.5)	(3.2)			

(p) provisional

Kochi, Sept. 12:

Natural rubber production in the country dipped by 1.8 per cent in August. Terming the fall as marginal, sources in the Rubber Board said that the production was up from July, while it recorded a small fall over the corresponding month of last year.

Persistent rain during August impacted tapping operations.

This was more particularly so in the major rubber-growing districts of Kottayam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Ernakulam in Kerala.

Protection and sustenance of the tree is of paramount importance to the farmer and he would not pursue tapping operations if it would affect the stem of the rubber trees.

### Tapping operations

However, extensive rain guarding has helped to undertake tapping operations even during monsoon showers and production was a notch lower than same period a year ago.

With prices continuing to remain attractive, the tapping intensity exhibited by farmers has increased.

Prices which were ruling around Rs 160 a kg levels last year are now holding above Rs 200 this year.

This has provided the right incentive to the farmer to continue with his tapping operations irrespective of the rain.

The continuous rain seems to be abating this month and Rubber Board sources expect a pick up in production to continue in the coming months as well.

The growth in production is expected to sustain in October, November and December, which is the peak tapping season for rubber production.

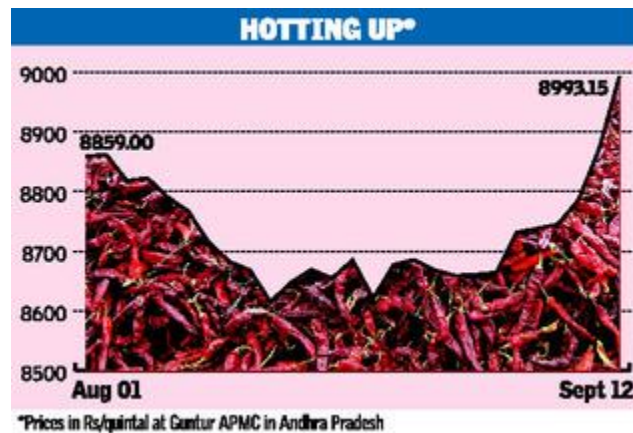
## Consumption

Against 82,000 tonnes in July, consumption of natural rubber dipped by 6.1 per cent to 77,000 tonnes in August. Rubber stocks available in the country at the end of August is estimated at 2,66,081 tonnes. Despite increased capacity being added by the tyre industry, rubber consumption will continue to be guided by sales trends in the automobile industry. For the moment, it does not seem likely that the spirited growth in automobile sales of last year will be revived in the coming couple of months. With production during the April-August period perking up by 4.5 per cent over last year, Rubber Board officials are confident that the production targets set for the year will be achieved. The Government has set a production target of 9,02,000 tonnes for 2011-12, while consumption is expected to grow to 9,77,000 tonnes.

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## Buying by Pakistan spices up chilli



Chennai, Sept. 12:

Chilli prices have gained over Rs 300 a quintal in the last couple of weeks as Pakistan has begun buying more of the spice from India.

“Buying by Pakistan is 10-12 truckloads (15 tonnes each) every day. Due to this, the medium best quality price has increased to Rs 8,000 a quintal,” said Mr Abhishek Bhandari, a chilli trader from Guntur.

With medium-quality chilli gaining, prices of superior varieties are now ruling around Rs 10,000 a quintal.

Pakistan is a regular buyer of Indian chilli and enters the markets at least once a quarter. "For the current quarter, it has entered now helping to push up prices further," said Mr Bhandari.

In Guntur spot market, chilli was quoted at Rs 8,993.15 a quintal on Monday against Rs 8,870 on Saturday.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, October contracts gained Rs 272 a quintal at Rs 8,762, while November contracts ended at Rs 8,498, up Rs 210.

"Usual export demand continues from Malaysia and Singapore," said Mr Bhandari.

Good buying in the domestic market, too, is lending support to chilli. However, buying by traders from Rajasthan and Bihar is slow.

According to Karvy Commodities Trade, domestic demand is stable, though export demand seems to be weak. Chilli seems to be benefitting from reports of lower sowing of the crop in Andhra Pradesh. According to Andhra Pradesh Government data, chilli has been sown in 93,000 hectares against 1.52 lakh hectares during the same period a year ago.

"Rain has been delayed. Therefore, sowing is lagging," said Mr Bhandari.

The chilli crop begins arriving from February onwards with sowing being done now.

On the other hand, traders have ample stocks of chilli. "Those who hold stocks had bought at a higher price of Rs 10,000 a quintal and may not be interested to sell now," said a trader.

The average annual production of chilli is 13 lakh tonnes, with Andhra Pradesh alone accounting for 7.5 lakh tonnes.

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## Cotton seen firm till new arrivals begin



Rajkot, Sept. 12:

Tight supplies and demand from mills and exporters lifted cotton prices by Rs 500-1,000 a candy of 356 kg. . Demand will keep prices firm until new arrivals start in 15-20 days, said Mr Jatinbhai, a Rajkot-based broker.

Sankar-6 variety increased by Rs 500-1,000 a candy to Rs 40,500-41,000 a candy. Its medium grade fetched Rs 33,000-35,000 a candy. Kalyan variety was traded at Rs 23,000-27,000 a candy.

Raw cotton sold at Rs 900-940 for a *maund* of 20 kg. While 5,000 bales of 170 kg each arrived in Gujarat, 7,000-7,500 arrived in the rest of the country.

The Textile Ministry has increased its export forecast for the current cotton year to seven million bales from the earlier restricted quota of 6.5 million bales. Consequently, the closing stocks is estimated at 4.75 million bales for 2010-11, as against the previous forecast of 5.25 million bales. Export volume is likely to remain unchanged at seven million bales during the coming season of 2011-12.

Supply for 2011-12 is forecast at 40.75 million bales, including 0.5 million imported bales. Consumption is estimated at 35.1 million bales, resulting in an opening stock of 5.65 million bales for 2012-13.

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### Non-basmati varieties steam up



Karnal, Sept. 12:

While buying pushed up prices of non-basmati varieties and brokens, full-grain aromatic varieties ruled around previous levels on Monday.

Mr Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told *Business Line* that good demand for old non-basmati varieties lifted prices of Sharbati and PR. Last weekend, the trade was badly affected due to heavy rainfall. But as the weather turned favourable, the market did well on Monday, he said.

Low availability has pushed up prices of brokens, and further increase is likely, said Mr Chandna. Preference for old rice has led to increased buying, even as arrivals of new rice is likely to start within a month, he said.

Sharbati (steam) went up by Rs 100 to Rs 2,900-3,000 a quintal, while the Sharbati (sela) was at Rs 2,800, up Rs 60 from the previous level.

Brokens of both aromatic and non-basmati varieties rose by Rs 15-40 a quintal. Among the brokens of Sharbati variety, Tibar quoted at Rs 2,350-2,590, Dubar at Rs 2,100-2,270 and Mongra at Rs 1,700-1,765.



The PR and Permal varieties moved upwards marginally. PR-11 (sela) increased marginally by Rs 10 to Rs 2,100-2,320 a quintal, while PR-11(raw) quoted at Rs 1,925-2,170.

Permal (sela) increased by Rs 30 and sold at Rs 1,800-2,000 a quintal while Permal (raw) was at Rs 1,900-2,050 a quintal, up Rs 25 from the previous level.

Pusa-1121 (steam) ruled at Rs 4,900-5,025 a quintal, and Pusa-1121 (sela), Rs 3,920-3,950.

Basmati (raw) was ruling at Rs 5,730-5,790, while Basmati (sela) sold at Rs 3,970-4,010.

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### **Malaysian futures buoy soya oil**



Indore, Sept. 12:

Soya oil gained on higher Malaysian palm oil futures and improved local demand.

Soya refined fetched Rs 633-634 for 10 kg on Monday in the local market, against Rs 630-632 on Saturday. Resellers sold soya refined at Rs 632. Soya solvent also perked up on buying and strong foreign markets, quoting at Rs 603-607 a quintal in the spot and delivery markets, against Rs 597-598 on Saturday.

Soya-oil futures gained on strong buying, with September and October contracts of soya refined on National Board of Trade closing higher at Rs 667.70 and Rs 658.70 for 10 kg, after opening at Rs 666.50 and Rs 654.70 in the morning. On Saturday also, soya refined contracts had closed higher at Rs 662.70 and Rs 652.90.

Soya-oil futures traded higher on strong buying on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, too, with its September contracts closing Rs 14.40 higher at Rs 668.10 and October at Rs 4.15 at Rs 658.35 for 10 kg.

Soya seeds also traded higher on weak arrivals and strong buying. At mandis in Madhya Pradesh ex Indore it was quoted at Rs 2,300-2,360 a quintal, up Rs 10-15, while in Indore mandis it ruled at Rs 2,300-2,350. Plant deliveries of soyabean also gained at Rs 2,300-2,430 a quintal, up Rs 10-15 on improved local demand for soya de-oiled cake. Arrivals of soyabean to State mandis dropped to 20,000 bags on Monday because of a festival holiday.

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### **Turmeric plunges as farmers liquidate stocks**



Erode, Sept. 12:

Spot turmeric prices decreased by Rs 460 a quintal on Monday at the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society as heavy arrivals continued and farmers liquidated stocks on hopes next year too will see a bumper harvest.

“Turmeric farmers are selling the commodity at low rates as they are determined to exhaust their entire stock before November-end, since they are expecting another bumper crop in 2012,”, said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said turmeric futures were unchanged at Rs 5,070 a quintal. Over the past ten days, local market prices have declined sharply. Mr Ravishankar said that since rates in other markets

were also lower, turmeric prices may not rise in the coming days . If demand from north Indian merchants is higher, then turmeric prices and volumes will go up, he said.

Farmers, too, said that the turmeric season is now past, and that there would be no heavy selling in the remaining months. Prices too would not improve, they said. Since they now require money to raise other crops, they have decided to exhaust their stocks at prevailing market rates. On Monday, 7,800 bags of turmeric arrived for sale, of which 60 per cent was sold.

Rates at the Gobichettipalayam Cooperative Marketing society decreased by Rs 350 a quintal due to lack of competing buyers .

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, finger variety was sold at Rs 3,772-5,014 a quintal and root variety at Rs 3,566-4,417 a quintal.

**Salem Crop:** The finger variety was sold at Rs 4,617-5,569 and the root variety at Rs 4,417-5,030. Totally, 1,754 bags of turmeric arrived for sale, of which 390 were sold.

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