THE HINDU

Published: September 28, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 04:19 IST Tuticorin, September 28, 2011

“Shortage of fishmeal hits poultry units”

Quality fishmeal is priced at Rs.23 a kg

: Shortage of fishmeal, one of the vital components of poultry feed, is likely to have an impact on its nutritional value. Apart from human consumption, low-valued fishes mainly sardines are being processed accordingly before adding the key ingredient with poultry feed.

To enhance nutritional growth of poultry birds, a good combination of protein rich food was fed, according to K. Rathnakumar, Professor, Fish Processing Technology, Fisheries College and Research Institute, Tuticorin.

As for processing, the low-valued fishes would be cooked before extracting oil.

Subsequently, it would be dried up and powdered for meal. Besides livestock, fishmeal is also considered a balanced diet for growth of crabs, prawns and shrimps, he added.

Since fish productivity has failed to meet the demand here, proportion of fishmeal is inadequate to suit the requirements of poultry industry. Fishmeal centres are functioning on a small scale basis in Tuticorin.

“A composition of eight per cent of fishmeal could be added to quantities of poultry feed but the stakeholders were able to fetch only five per cent, nowadays. One kilogram of fishmeal should contain 45 per cent protein sources. Quality fishmeal is priced at Rs.23 per kg, normally and even beyond.

During rainy season, such protein food could not be obtained following its non-availability.

A total of 4,500 tonnes of poultry feed, of which five per cent of fish meal, which constitutes 200 to 250 tonnes of fish meal, is being fed to poultry birds.

About 4.3 crore (egg laying birds) are available mainly in Namakkal, Erode, Palladam and Coimbatore. Ninety per cent of this population is from Namakkal.

Around 1, 100 poultry farms are functioning in Namakkal”, reliable sources said.

When contacted, R. Prabhakaran, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary Animal Sciences University, Chennai, said since there was no constant supply of fishmeal, quality in composition of poultry feed would differ.

Without proper processing, birds would be vulnerable to microbial attack.

Moreover, consumers preferred to have organic food. Eggs were considered vegetarian food nowadays. On an average a year, 1, 078 crore eggs were being produced in Tamil Nadu, the second largest in India, Dr. Prabhakaran added.

To compensate lack of animal protein (fishmeal), plant protein rich sources including soya bean and other amino acid content food had been made available in the wake of research and developments, K. Ambasankar, Senior Scientist, Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai, said.

Published: September 28, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 04:17 IST

MADURAI, September 28, 2011

Praises shower on rainwater harvesting

The Advisor to Government of India's Department of Science and Technology, G. J. Samathanam, has praised Tamil Nadu for giving a good rainwater harvesting model to rest of the country.

“Today, other States are emulating it. Tamil Nadu was the first State to create a Rain Water Harvesting model by creating provisions for it at all levels. Approvals for house construction and town planning were based on whether provision was made for rain water harvesting,” he said on Tuesday.

Dr. Samathanam's words of appreciation to Tamil Nadu and to the Government that introduced it came at the inaugural function of an international groundwater conference organised by the

Yadava College in the city where delegates from national/international level organisations are participating. He asked the conference delegates to come out with achievable recommendations for groundwater conservation and management of water resources in India.

The Vice-Chancellor of Gandhigram Rural Institute, SM.Ramasamy, has expressed concern that India's diverse geological system with huge rivers and water bodies had now become complex and threatening.

“It was said that Tamil Nadu had 43,000 water bodies in the past. But that number was feared to have come down and it is time for having groundwater modelling to prevent the coming down of water level. It is also time to study the impact of sand mining on water sources,” Dr. Ramasamy observed.

Experts from the Central Ground Water Board in New Delhi and the National Groundwater Research Institute, Hyderabad, were among those who are participating in the meet.

The efforts taken by the Yadava College in Madurai in bringing groundwater experts to deliberate on a timely topic were also lauded by the DST Advisor and scientists from national research bodies.

Published: September 28, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 04:02 IST
THANJAVUR, September 28, 2011

Training in fish culture

IOB Rural Self Employment Training Centre is offering three days training in fresh water ,ornamental fish culture at the institute from September 29 to October 1, according to a release issued here on Tuesday. Those interested in the programme should reach the centre at 9.30 a.m. on September 29. Lunch, bus fare, training materials will be provided free of cost. Institute is functioning at No 4, Pakkirisamy street, Easwari Nagar, Medical College Road, Thanjavur 613 004.

Published: September 28, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 04:04 IST Tirupur, September 28, 2011

Sugarcane cultivation to be improved in Tirupur

Sugarcane growers in the district, who are confronted with fluctuations in productivity, can heave a sigh of relief as Department of Agriculture is all set to introduce a cluster-based sustainable initiative programme at an outlay of Rs. 20 lakh.

“The sustainable initiative is an approach based on the principle of ‘more with less' which means that the farmers would be taught to cultivate sugarcane with lesser quantity of seeds and water, and optimum use of fertilizers and land to achieve more yields and also higher profitability from a unit area,” Joint Director of Agriculture S. Muthusamy told *The Hindu* .

At present, the productivity of sugarcane in the district fluctuates between 95 tonne/ha to 115 tonne/ha.

With the introduction of the programme, the average yield is expected to be raised to 135 tonne/ha

To help the farmers improve the productivity, subsidy assistances would be extended for implementing precession farming practices and for supply of critical inputs including farm yard manure, water soluble fertilizers, plant protection chemicals and nutrient supplements to select farmers in predominant sugarcane growing areas in the district.

Under the precession farming component, drip irrigation systems would be laid out with a lateral spacing of five feet and a gap of two feet between the drippers for ensuring optimal usage of water.

“Subsidy assistance for setting up drip irrigation will be limited to a maximum of Rs. 70,000 a hectare,” Mr. Muthusamy pointed out.

Apart from financial assistances, training of farmers on precession farming at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and introduction of new varieties of sugarcane were in the offing for increasing the yield.

Published: September 28, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 08:23 IST
Udhagamandalam, September 28, 2011

Farmers in Ooty asked to adopt healthy soil management schemes

Call to avoid indiscriminate use of inorganic chemical fertilizers

The need to promote healthy soil management techniques was emphasised by the Executive Director, Tea Board, R. Ambalavanan while inaugurating a programme to enhance awareness about organic manure and its benefits organised by the Chennai-based Integrated Waste Management and Urban Services Company (IWMUST) here on Tuesday.

Lamenting that soil health both in the plantation and agriculture sectors had been badly affected due to indiscriminate use of inorganic chemical fertilizers, he underscored the need to reverse the trend.

Depletion of soil nutrients should be checked.

Stating that the farming community should go in for organic manuring and composting technologies, he said that emphasis should be on quality.

People at all levels should be encouraged to convert waste into wealth. Apart from espousing the cause of the environment it would help augment their income.

Organic products were not only in great demand but they also commanded a premium. Suitable technologies should be adopted to produce compost without causing any inconvenience to the people in the neighbourhood.

The government should encourage public-private partnership by extending infrastructural facilities.

The Chief Operating Officer, IWMUST, R. Sarto said that the company was now operating full-fledged solid waste management plants in Erode, Pollachi, Mettupalayam, Coonoor, Udamalpet and Trichy. They were handling about 650 tonnes of garbage daily.

Among the participants were farmers, planters, scientists, government officials and students.

Published: September 28, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 04:17 IST
ATTAPPADY (PALAKKAD), September 28, 2011

Action plan to develop agriculture in tribal areas

Rs.64-crore programme under MGNREGS in Attappady

A Rs.64-crore action plan for developing agriculture in tribal areas is being implemented by the Department of Tribal Welfare under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) at Attappady in the district.

The action plan was finalised at a meeting of district-level officials of the Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development, Tribal Welfare, Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), and the Attappady Hill Area Development Society (AHADS) convened by District Collector K.V. Mohan Kumar last month.

Society revival

Under the plan, the five tribal cooperative societies at Sholayur, Kottathara, Pudur, Agali, and Mukkali would be revived to get agriculture loan and set up marketing facilities for their products.

The meeting decided to revive the Attappady Cooperative Farming Society and bring vast areas under it at Karuvara, Chindakki, Pothupadi, and Varadimala under agriculture.

Major scheme

The revival of tribal agriculture is a major scheme being taken up by the MGNREGS at Attappady in the last two years. It had helped in reviving cultivation on hundreds of acres earlier kept fallow by the tribal people.

Most of the tribal people had abandoned agriculture due to land alienation at Attappady.

The majority of the 30,000-strong tribal population dropping agriculture as a livelihood due to loss of fertile land and lack of means to take up cultivation had threatened their food security resulting in starvation and malnutrition.

Attappady block officer P.V. Radhakrishnan said during the last financial year, 273 tribal families in 106 hamlets at the three grama panchayats of Pudur, Sholayur, and Agali took up cultivation on 352 acres. Of the total 13,000 acres of fallow land at Attappady, 5,500 belonged to the tribal families.

He said if the tribal people were given quality seed, fertilizer, irrigation, and marketing facilities they would be able to take up cultivation as a vocation.

It not only ensured employment but also helped in developing agriculture among the tribal people.

Meanwhile, a team of officials from the Rural Development Department of Tamil Nadu, headed by Additional Secretary Ponnayyan, visited tribal farms at Kudanchala and Bodychala in Sholayur grama panchayat last week.

They were impressed by the scheme and wanted to replicate it in tribal areas there, Mr. Radhakrishnan said.

- *Majority of the tribal people had left farming*
- *Plan expected to help revive agriculture*

Published: September 28, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 04:19 IST
KARIMNAGAR, September 28, 2011

Farmers stage dharna for fertilizer

Farmers across the district have come on to the roads demanding supply of adequate quantity of fertilizer on Tuesday.

Following reports about the arrival of fertilizer, the farmers of Manthani region have arrived in large numbers at a distribution centre today morning.

There were 1,350 bags but the farmers were over 3,000. During the distribution, there was mild tussle with the police, who were regulating the queue lines. When the situation was going out of control, the police downed the shutters distributing the fertilizer. Irked over this, the farmers staged a rasta roko and dharna demanding the supply of fertilizer. Similarly, farmers have staged dharna and rasta roko at Dharmaram mandal headquarters following the closure of fertilizer shop by the owner without distributing the required quantity to the farmers. The farmers have also staged a dharna at Kataram mandal headquarters also.

Published: September 28, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 04:18 IST ONGOLE, September 28, 2011

Cut down production, tobacco growers told

Predicting sluggish demand for Indian tobacco in the global market during the 2011-12 cropping season, the Indian Tobacco Association on Tuesday urged the growers to voluntarily cut down production by 20 to 30 per cent to avoid getting their ‘fingers burnt'.

ITA president Bellam Kotaiah told a press conference here on Tuesday that “though the Tobacco Board has fixed a crop size of 162 million kg for 2011-12, farmers in their own interest are advised to cut down production.”

“The buyers are saddled with 30 to 40 million kg of carryover stock of last two years,” he explained.

Published: September 28, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 04:16 IST JAIPUR, September 28, 2011

Experts call for prudent use of fertilizers, pesticides

Agricultural experts addressing a seminar on chemical fertilizers and pesticides here on Tuesday called for their “prudent use” at farm landholdings and said safety measures should be especially popularised among the farmers during the ongoing rabi season while apprising them of the techniques for crop augmentation.

The Rajasthan State Cooperative Marketing Federation (RAJFED) and public sector Hindustan Insecticides jointly organised the seminar on “Role of pesticides in agricultural production”. Experts said agricultural scientists should also evolve coordination with farmers for transferring to the latter the practical knowledge and safety skills.

Principal Cooperative Secretary Tapesh Pawar said the farmers could be told about the safety aspects of fertilizers and pesticides through demonstrations and drills. The village cooperative societies could play a significant role in these exercises, he added.

Mr. Pawar affirmed that pesticides and chemicals should be used in agriculture “only to a limited extent” in view of farming in the desert State depending mostly on rain.

Principal Agriculture Secretary D. B. Gupta said a record sowing of crops is expected during the rabi season in the wake of good monsoon rain this year. He said Rajasthan had occupied first rank in the production of pulses as a result of innovative practices and water-saving techniques such as drip irrigation and use of sprinklers.

State Agriculture Commissioner Bhawani Singh Detha said the seminar would enable the experts to help out the farmers in planning the right quantity of inputs on sowing of crops as well as during irrigation.

Hindustan Insecticides chairman and managing director K. Hari Kumar said the company had been supplying the pesticides of high quality to the farmers in the State following a tripartite agreement signed in January this year.

Registrar of Cooperative Societies P. S. Mehra said farmers in the State were using an average of of 124 grams of pesticides for each hectare of land against the national average of 500 gm. He said the cooperative institutions were playing an important role in making available seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

RAJFED General Manager Sheetal Sharma, Hindustan Insecticides Director (Marketing) R. R. Sharma and representatives of cooperative institutions were among those who attended the seminar.

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hindustantimes
Wed,28 Sep 2011

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather

Tomorrow's Forecast

Clear	**Wednesday, Sep 28** Max Min 36.6º | 26.2º	Rainy	**Thursday, Sep 29** Max Min 36º | 25º
Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs Humidity: 70% Wind: Normal	Sunrise: null Sunset: null Barometer: 1006		

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Sep 30	**Oct 1**	**Oct 2**	**Oct 3**	**Oct 4**
32º | 26º	33º | 26º	33º | 26º	32º | 26º	32º | 27º
Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Wed, Sep 28, 2011 | Updated 09.56AM IST

28 Sep, 2011, 06.26AM IST, Madhvi Sally,ET Bureau

New cotton crop arrives in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh markets; supplies to pick up post-Dusshera

AHMEDABAD: Just-harvested cotton is available in markets across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and supplies are expected to pick up post-Dusshera festival.

Buying by mills, exporters and ginners will begin with the onset of the auspicious period of Navratras beginning from Wednesday. Farmers are getting 5-10 % higher returns from the previous year. "From Wednesday, ginners, traders and exporters would start purchasing cotton," said Kailash Khandelwal, trader and ginner from Sendhwa market in Badwani district of Madhya Pradesh.

He added that although supplies began a week ago, there were no major purchases owing to the Shraadh period. On Monday, 800 quintals were available in Sendhwa market with total supplies pegged at 18,000 quintal in the state. Supplies have begun in Anjad and Khargone markets in the state with farmers getting Rs 3,400 a quintal to Rs 5,000 a quintal for the H4 variety.

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the pioneer

CM assures all help to Sambalpur flood-hit farmers

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and a Central team on Tuesday visited the flood-affected areas of the district separately. While Patnaik visited the rural areas under Rairakhol and Rengali constituencies, the Central team was confined to Sambalpur town only.

Chief Minister Patnaik landed at Dhama and visited different villages to take a practical experience of the flood and the situation afterwards. "The flood is really devastating and was unseen during the last 40 years," admitted Patnaik after his visit. "I realise the troubles the people might have faced," the Chief Minister added. But at the same time, he highly praised the district administration and the relief measures taken up by them on war footing basis while the people were in problem. "The victims told me that they were properly taken care of during the flood and all credits goes to the Collector and the local officers," Patnaik said. He also sought for the cooperation of all to help the flood victims and make them self sufficient very shortly.

He also appealed the farmers to do hard work during the Rabi crop to make up the loss, the Chief Minister further assured all sorts of help from the State Government and Agriculture

Department in particular to the farmers. "There would be no dearth of Government help to the flood victims and the farmers," he promised.

He also visited a relief camp inside the Dhama health centre and distributed cheques and kits to the flood affected people. Total 50 people availed the cheques in the camp.

Rairakhol MLA and Health Minister Prasanna Acharya, former Minister Sanatan Bisi and all senior leaders of the party were present during the Chief Minister's visit. District Collector Mrunalini Darswal and all the block and sub -divisional level officers were also present and briefed the Chief Minister on the situation.

Massive police arrangements were made for smooth visit of the Chief Minister as people here are up in the arms against the visit in view of the proposed Sindhol project. As precautionary measures, the police arrested 22 persons belonging to the BJP earlier. The police also arrested Govind Agrawal, Surya Kumar Panigrahi and Saurav Mahapatra who showed black flags protesting the Chief Minister's visit. The four-member Central team led by Chief Engineer of Road Transport and Highways Sunil Kumar Verma also visited the town and realised the gravity of the situation even after 15days of the flood. They visited Mandaliya, Durgapali, Mahanadi Ring Road, Balibandha and interacted with the locals. The district administration also handed over a status report on flood to the team. On their part, the team assured to submit a genuine report to the Government of India as to the flood situation in the town and the loss there off. "The loss is really irreparable," the team admitted and Verma said.

Palm oil scam: Ruckus in Kerala Assembly

The CPI(M)-led Opposition LDF disrupted the proceedings of the Kerala Assembly on Monday over the issue of a Vigilance judge recusing himself from the case pertaining to the sensational palm oil import corruption scandal, in which Chief Minister Oommen Chandy was facing a probe, allegedly due to pressures from the Government.

The first day of the second session of the 13th Kerala Assembly witnessed pandemonium with the Opposition demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Chandy over the scam and the removal of Government Chief Whip PC George from the position for demanding Executive action against the judge who had ordered a probe against Chandy over the palm oil scam.

The Opposition marched twice into the well of the House shouting slogans demanding Chandy's resignation, thus forcing Speaker G Karthikeyan to adjourn the Assembly for the day after rushing through the day's business by noon. The House also witnessed noisy scenes over removal of a question on the infamous ice cream parlour sex scandal from the list.

"Chief Minister Chandy is a Gangotri of corruption," said Deputy Opposition leader Kodiyeri Balakrishnan while moving notice for an adjournment motion over the recusal of Judge PK Haneefa from hearing the palm oil case after the Chief Whip wrote to the President and others seeking action against him for trespassing legal limits to order a probe against Chandy.

The Opposition alleged that there was a conspiracy behind George's complaint hatched by Chandy and Finance and Law Minister KM Mani. It said the Government was using the administrative mechanism to scuttle the palm oil case. Efforts by the Speaker to sort out the issue by holding discussions with floor leaders of both sides failed to yield any result.

Replying to the notice for the adjournment motion, Chief Minister Chandy reiterated that the Government had nothing to do with the complaint lodged by George. He said the Government only intended to strengthen the Judiciary and claimed that it had not caused any hurdle in the way of the probe into the palm oil case.

Refusing to be pacified by the Chief Minister's reply, Kodiyeri alleged that Chandy was leading the efforts to scuttle the investigation. "On the one side, the Government says it is only strengthening the Judiciary while on the other it sabotages court proceedings. Judges are recusing themselves from the case fearing humiliation," he said.

Opposition leader VS Achuthanandan said the Government's refusal to write to the President and others distancing itself from George's complaint was proof of its connivance in the effort to sabotage the case. He also alleged that George had through a remark in his letter tried to humiliate the judge religiously.

George had allegedly written in the letter that the Judge – Haneefa – had done things that even Pakistanis would not do to Indians. After the Speaker adjourned the House by noon, the LDF leaders told newsmen that they would continue their agitation in the House to demand resignation of Chandy and the removal of George.

Judge Haneefa had on Saturday withdrawn himself from hearing the case regretting the personal attack against him by George. The case pertained to import of 32,000 tonnes of palm oil from Malaysia which allegedly caused loss of Rs 2.32 crore to the Exchequer in 1992. Chandy was finance minister in the then K Karunakaran ministry.

That the Opposition members were determined to put pressure on the Government was obvious at the very start of the day in the Assembly as they raised the issue of exemption of a question relating to the ice cream parlour sex scandal in which Industries Minister PK Kunhalikutty was allegedly involved.

The allegation was that the Speaker himself and the Minister had conspired to drop the question which was earlier selected to be asked in the House. “The Speaker wants the Opposition members to remain in the House totally inert. We are not intending to do so,” said Opposition leader Achuthanandan.

Business Standard

Wednesday, Sep 28, 2011

India heads for worrying sugar surplus, says industry body

Reuters / New Delhi September 28, 2011, 0:51 IST

India is heading for a ‘worrying’ sugar surplus in 2011-12 and the government should help by allowing four million tonnes (mt) of exports and buying two mt to trim stocks, the head of a producers' body said on Tuesday.

Output for the world's second-biggest producer after Brazil is expected to be 26.5 mt in 2011-12, Jayantilal B Patel, president of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd (NFCSF), told an industry meeting.

In 2010-11, India is likely to have produced around 24.2 mt and with demand of around 22 mt — making it the world's biggest consumer — the government has already allowed unrestricted exports of 1.5 mt. “This expected surplus production of sugar during 2011-12 is worrying,” Patel said. The Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma), another producers' body, shares Patel's 2011-

12 output forecast, as does agriculture minister Sharad Pawar. However, food minister K V Thomas last week estimated output in 2011-12 at 24.6 mt.

“The sugar year 2010-11 has been a year of surplus production after two years of deficit. I shudder when I visualise what the situation would have been if the government had not permitted exports of 1.5 mt in three equi-tranches,” Patel said.

Thomas last week said the government would take a call on permitting overseas shipments only after Diwali, the festival of light, in October. Sugar consumption peaks during the Diwali as sales of confectionery and traditional gifts of sweets soar.

The government should also buy 2 mt of sugar from the local market to help cut stocks with mills as 2011-12 output is expected to be 26.5 mt, Patel said.

Veg oil imports may fall 5% on increased supply

BS Reporter / Mumbai September 28, 2011, 0:40 IST

Vegetable oil imports are likely to decline by five per cent this oil year (November-October), due to rising availability from domestic mills.

According to Dorab Mistry, director of Godrej International, total import of vegetable oil may fall to 8.8 million tonnes (mt) this year as compared to 9.2 mt in the last year.

Overall veg oil imports during November-August also recorded a decline of 7.9 per cent to 6.86 mt from 7.44 mt during the same period of last year. The Solvent Extractors’ Association of India (SEA) clarified that imports in the second quarter of the oil year were low due to higher crushing of oilseeds and production of oils. Import of vegetable oils in the third quarter increased 15.4 per cent.

SEA data show the overall import of vegetable oil in the country slumped to 817,440 tonnes in August as compared to 1.06 mt in the corresponding month of the previous year. However, decline was 10.5 per cent when compared with the previous month. After three months of subsequent rise, vegetable oil imports plunged 23.2 per cent in August, due to excessive availability from domestic sources.

The decline was in sharp contrast to the general trend across the oil year. Generally, veg oil imports decline in the first half, ending April, due to revival in rabi oilseed crushing domestically. Imports rise in the second half due to non-availability of oilseed for crushing in the domestic market. The period from April to October is generally considered a lean season for the domestic oilseed crushing industry. In this period refining activity increases with imported crude veg oil.

With an estimated 31 mt of oilseed production, total vegetable oil availability from domestic sources is estimated at 7.2-7.5 mt as compared to a sustained production of 6.5-6.8 mt over the past several years.

Between November 2010 and August 2011, import of RBD palmolein was down by 17 per cent at 818,640 tonnes as compared to 987,959 tonnes during the same period last year. The share of refined oil was 12 per cent, while crude oil stood at 88 per cent, at 5.79 mt, as compared to 6.11 mt during corresponding period of the previous year.

Import of non-edible oils, used largely for soap making, during August was recorded at 31,922 tonnes as compared to 64,699 tonnes during the same period last year. The total non-edible oil imports during the first 10 months were 246,052 tonnes, as compared to 347,415 tonnes during the same period of last year, a decline of 29 per cent.

Pepper futures surge 2.62% on tight supply

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 27, 2011, 14:48 IST

Pepper prices surged by Rs 940 to Rs 36,815 per quintal in futures trade today on rising spot market demand against tight supply.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, pepper for delivery in December rose by Rs 940, or 2.62%, to Rs 36,815 per quintal, with an open interest of 446 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in October shot up by Rs 800, or 2.30%, to Rs 35,635 per quintal, with an open interest of 8,387 lots.

Analysts said apart from limited arrivals from producing belts, rising demand in the spot markets mainly led to an upsurge in pepper futures prices.

Now, carbon credit through green grass

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai September 28, 2011, 0:47 IST

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has changed the definition of carbon credit, with its new finding of green grass as the potential area.

Until now, carbon credit was allowed to be claimed from industrial units reducing emission of major polluting gases — SO_2, CO_2, CO and Nox — into the environment. Now, the reduction of obnoxious gases through green grass will also be entitled to claim carbon credit.

Each tonne of reduction in the release of obnoxious gases is entitled for one carbon credit. Green grass, which not only spread greenery all around, also absorbs obnoxious gases from the environment and reduce the quantum of such gases directly into the environment.

The vast potential of grasslands to support sustainable livelihoods while trapping atmospheric carbon and helping slow global warming is one step closer to being realised, thanks to a new methodology developed by FAO in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the World Agroforestry Centre.

Large swathes of the world’s grasslands are moderately to severely degraded. Restoring these to a healthy state could remove gigatonnes of carbon from the atmosphere and improve resilience to climate change. So far, however, carbon crediting schemes that pay projects for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and sequestering carbon have largely ignored agriculture, including grazing-based livelihood systems.

One key challenge has been finding reliable and affordable ways to measure how much carbon is being trapped in agricultural mitigation projects.

“We think we have cracked the problem and come up with a reliable way for herders who are investing in restoring grasslands to prove they are sequestering measurable amounts of carbon, and fund their activities by accessing mitigation finance,” said Pierre Gerber, an FAO livestock policy specialist who is working on the project.

The breakthrough of FAO's new methodology is that it provides an affordable way to reliably estimate the amount of GHG emissions removed from the atmosphere through improved management of grasslands.

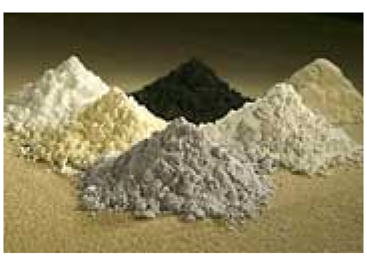
"Our approach allows not only for direct measurement of carbon sequestration through soil sampling but also computer modelling of sequestration based on soil types and activities undertaken," said Leslie Lipper, an FAO economist involved in the project. "Being able to demonstrate reliable monitoring is a must for projects wishing to participate in carbon markets, and modelling reduces monitoring costs, making it possible for small-scale herders and livestock raisers to participate."

The methodology is being applied to a pilot project in Qinghai Province, China, which will eventually be able to deliver significant carbon offsets for a period of 10 years. FAO has sent its methodology for approval to the non-profit Verified Carbon Standard (VSC), a greenhouse gas accounting programme used by projects around the world to verify and issue carbon credits in emissions markets.

China curbs push prices of rare earth minerals

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai September 28, 2011, 0:45 IST

High-end consumers to be hit as products like plasma TVs, smartphones will cost more.



In a major blow to high-end consumers, the prices of rare earth minerals have almost doubled in the second quarter of the current calendar year from the first quarter, mainly on account of various restrictions imposed by the Chinese government.

Rare earth minerals are used extensively for manufacturing plasma televisions, smartphones and energy-saving light bulbs, among a growing number of items. Almost the entire world supply comes from China.

The average price of europium oxide, for example, has risen by 155 per cent to $1,850 a kg in the second quarter of this year from $725 a kg in the first quarter. In the past three years, the commodity's price has quadrupled from $425 a kg in the first quarter of 2008.

Similarly, lanthanum oxide has almost doubled to average at $140 a kg from $75 a kg in the period under consideration. The price has surged nearly 13 times in the past three years. Another rare earth element dysprosium oxide, used in magnets, lasers and nuclear reactors, has risen from $700-740 a kg to trade currently at $1,470 a kg.

In 2008, China suspended shipments of these minerals to numerous destinations worldwide. Its quota for export are being reduced. With this supply decline, prices have surged through 2010-11. Mining companies involved in rare earths worldwide are finally responding to the rise in prices by making significant investments in long-term operations. Australia, South Africa, Alaska, Canada and Sweden are reported to have the leading mines globally in terms of quality, outside of China. There are a little over 200 non-Chinese rare earth projects under evaluation.

The estimated volume of the rare earths oxides (REO) market in 2010 was 125,000 tonnes, with an estimated value of about $4-6 billion. China supplied 95 per cent of global demand and consumed 58 per cent of the supply. Current world reserves of rare earths, as assessed by the US Geological Survey, are estimated to be about 110 million tonnes of REO.

The production of rare earth minerals outside China is likely to increase 10-fold to 40,000 - 60,000 tonnes per annum by 2015 from 4,000-6,000 tonnes now. The indicative demand by 2020 is about 240,000-280,000 tonnes.

COSTLY AFFAIR

Chinese rare earth minerals export prices (FoB China, $/kg)

Products	Q1, ‘08	Q1, ‘09	Q1, ‘10	Q1, ‘11	Q2, ‘11
Lanthanum oxide	5.50	7.00	5.75	75.00	140.00
Cerium oxide	3.75	4.50	4.15	77.00	140.00
Praseodymium oxide	31.00	14.25	26.00	117.00	215.00
Neodymium oxide	31.00	14.25	26.50	125.00	225.00
Europium oxide	425.00	435.00	490.00	725.00	1850.00
Dysprosium oxide	105.00	92.50	140.00	405.00	980.00
Terbium oxide	700.00	360.00	405.00	690.00	1750.00

Yttrium oxide	13.50	15.25	10.50	95.00	160.00

The Indian government has also stepped up efforts to boost domestic production. It has allotted Rs 160 crore to Indian Rare Earths Ltd (IRE) to produce the hi-tech minerals at a plant in Orissa, which had been closed in 2004 in the face of cheaper competition from China. Also, several companies are getting into rare earth production in India. Meanwhile, for Indian consumers, the prices of end-products are likely to rise.

“The growing demand for rare earths in domestic and international markets has opened up numerous opportunities for Indian mining companies in this domain, which in turn would be a boon for the Indian economy. China has been extensively catering to global demand for rare earths across application avenues, but it's time for the rest of the world to take initiatives towards meeting this increased demand,” said Kiran Mehta, chairman and managing director, Varun Industries Ltd.

Cotton price ruling high in Punjab due to less arrival

Vijay C Roy / New Delhi/ Chandigarh September 28, 2011, 0:31 IST

The farmers of Punjab are reaping rich dividends, as the prices of cotton continue to rule high due to less arrival of cotton in the mandis of the state as compared to the corresponding period last year.

There has been a 32 per cent decline in arrival of cotton in the state’s traditional markets as on yesterday, as compared to corresponding date last year.

According to the data compiled by the Mandi Board, the average price of long staple cotton is hovering between Rs 2,800 and 4,865 per quintal, and Rs 3,400 and Rs 4,345 per quintal for medium staple.

As on September 26 this year, 74,197 quintals (approximately 14.839 bales) of cotton arrived in the state’s mandis as compared to 1.09 lakh quintal (21,779 bales) during the corresponding period last year.

Considering the data, there has been shortfall of 32 per cent in arrival as compared to last year. Experts say the farmers were able to get better price of their produce, due to less arrival, coupled with increase in demand. At present, the procurement is dominated by private players and government agencies like Cotton Corporation of India and Markfed are yet to enter the mandis of the state.

Among the private players, Textile mills and private traders are dominating the procurement. The private traders and millers managed to procure 74,197 quintals till this September 26, as compared to 1.09 lakh quintal last year. The traders anticipates the near future will see the price of cotton further heading north, as rain has affected the crop.

This year, cotton was sown in Punjab in an area of 5.50 lakh hectare as against 4.83 lakh hectares last year. But inclement weather conditions mainly owing to heavy and prolonged rain (in end-August and early this year) has affected the crop in parts of the state. Rough estimates put it at 90,000 hectares. (The exact data about the damage crop has yet to be compiled.)

Business Standard did report earlier that rains in the state could damage the cotton cultivation following delay in the picking operations and the resultant late arrival of the crop in the markets.

Sugarcane crushing in state to remain flat in 2011-12

BS Reporter / Mumbai/ Ahmedabad September 28, 2011, 0:05 IST

Even as the sugarcane crushing season starts from next month, sugar millers expect cane crushing in the state likely to remain flat in the current year.

As per the estimates provided by the sugar industry players, sugarcane crushing in the state this year is likely to remain flat at 13-13.5 million tonnes. "Cane crushing by all the co-operative sugar factories in Gujarat is seen flat this year. The stagnancy in sugarcane crushing can be attributed to the fact that there was no increase in sugarcane plantation in 2011-12," Dilip Bhakta, chairman, Madhi Sugar Factory.

Sugarcane in Gujarat is mainly planted on irrigated land and there has been no rise in the acreage, which stood more or less at around 200,000 hectares. Good monsoon in cane growing regions of Gujarat ruled out fears of a sharp declined in the acreage of the crop.

According to Bhakta, cane yield too is likely to remain unchanged at 70-72 tonnes per hectare in Gujarat this season. Meanwhile, the government gives a conservative estimate of cane crushing this year at 12.5 million tonnes lower by about a million tonnes against the industry's estimate of around 13 million tonnes.

"Cane crushing in the state would remain in the range of 12.4 to 12.6 million tonnes for the current season. All 14 private khadsari units (cottage sugar mills) and 18 cooperative sugar mills are likely to operate at the same level as they did last year. The good part is that we could save ourselves from a possible decline in the sugarcane production as we received fairly good rainfall," informed a senior official from state sugar directorate.

According to industry estimates, with cane crushing being projected at around 13 million tonnes, sugar production in the state would be about 1.3 million tonnes. The recovery from sugarcane is expected to remain over 10 per cent.

The industry had raised concerns of a possible fall in the recover below 10 per cent last year due to poor quality of cane and extended crushing season. However, last year the recovery stood around 10.04 per cent.

As per the government data, recovery percentage from sugarcane crushing was 10.4 per cent in 2008-09, while in 2009-10 it stood at around 10.8 per cent. Sugar production in the state is 100 per cent controlled by cooperative sector, while there are a few private khadsari units (cottage sugar mills).

THE HINDU Business Line

Plea to extend subsidy on tea machinery

Coonoor, Sept. 27:

Tea Board members from the Nilgiris, Dr S. Ramu and Mr Koshy Baby, are taking up with the Union Government the sudden stoppage of the 25 per cent subsidy given to factory owners for upgrading their machinery.

“At the Board meeting held in Kolkata on Wednesday, we highlighted the plight of the factory owners who have invested huge sums and are awaiting the disposal of subsidy,” Dr Ramu said.

“This is a highly patronised scheme aimed at improving quality to keep pace with global competition. Suddenly, the Board has asked its officials not to entertain fresh applications and not to conduct post-installation inspections. This will affect 1,085 applicants waiting for Rs 100 crore subsidy in the Nilgiris, ” he disclosed.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)

Experts worried over falling long staple cotton crop

Our Bureau

Share · print · T+

Coimbatore, Sept. 27:

Dwindling crop levels of extra long staple fibre (ELS) cotton is a cause for concern, industry experts said, calling for a pan-global effort to improve the ELS crop.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 32 {+n} {+d} Annual General Meeting of the South India Cotton Association (SICA), Mr A Ramani, the cotton lobby's newly-elected Secretary, said ELS cotton's current year production has plunged to around 2 lakh bales. “ELS cotton requirement (in India) is roughly around 8-10 lakh bales. We import substantial volumes of Egyptian cotton and from the US,” he said.

Dwindling ELS production in countries such as India, Egypt (which is producing more of the long staple variety and reducing ELS), Sudan, member nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States and others, is a cause of worry for end consumers.

“The Government should rescue and protect Suvin, which is unique to our country. The Southern India Mills' Association's Cotton Development and Research Association has been able to restore the earlier characteristics of Suvin. Funding is required,” said Mr J Thulasidharan, the incoming President of SICA.

He said the association had suggested to the Government that a Directorate of ELS Development be set up with a funding of Rs 100 crore.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)

From Oct 1, S. India cotton body will be Indian Cotton Federation

Our Bureau

Share · print · T+

Coimbatore, Sept. 27:

Beginning October 1, the 32-year old South India Cotton Association (SICA) will change its name to Indian Cotton Federation.

This has been a long pending demand of SICA, considering the resource and recognition that the association earned at all cotton related events, be it the Cotton Advisory Board, Ministry of Textiles, State Cotton Council or APMC.

The presence of SICA has been duly recognised both in India and globally. This recognition prompted the necessity for a name change, said the outgoing President Mr C. Soundara Raj, at the 32 {+n} {+d} annual general meeting of the association here.

The association has received a communication to this effect from the Registrar last week.

"The change in name would be aptly supported by several new activities," he added.

The association later announced the newly elected office bearers for 2011-12, with Mr J. Thulasidharan taking over as President, Mr K.N. Viswanathan (representing the trade) and Mr P. Nataraj (representing the mill sector), as Vice-Presidents and Mr A. Ramani as its Secretary.

Mr Thulasidharan said that the association would impress upon the Government the need for a separate Cotton Board, as cotton came under three Ministries – Agriculture, Textile and Commerce.

'We need a cotton board such as the coffee, tea, rubber and spices board,' he said, adding 'out of the 120 million bales of cotton in the global market, India's contribution is roughly around 21 per cent in production and 19 per cent in consumption.

We are also the second largest cotton producing country. India could soon turn to be a trend setter say in contract fixation or any other issue. There would be less confusion if a separate board is in place for cotton.'

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(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)

Groundnut oil dips on lack of buying

Our Correspondent

Share · print · T+

Rajkot, Sept. 27:

Lack of retail and stockist demand dragged groundnut oil. Expectations of an increase in supplies of groundnut has aided the decline since last week.

Groundnut oil was down Rs 15 at Rs 1,530-1,535 for a 15-kg new tin, while loose (10 kg) sold at Rs 840-845 in Saurashtra. Fifty to seventy tonnes of groundnut oil were traded. Cotton oil sold at Rs 1,055-1,065 for 15 kg and 150-200 tonnes were traded. Millers expect prices to come down after the new crop of nuts arrives.

Demand for groundnut oil and cotton oil is nominal now but festivals will lift it in mid-October, a Rajkot-based retailer said.According to Department Of Agriculture's data, 1.43 million hectares were sown as on September 12 in Gujarat, down from 1.67 million hectares in year-ago perod. --

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)

Spot rubber unchanged at Rs 210/kg

Aravindan

Share · print · T+

Kottayam, Sept. 27:

Spot rubber finished unchanged on Tuesday. Prices managed to sustain at the prevailing levels following a rebound in TOCOM futures. Moderate gains in the domestic futures also extended support to the physical market but it failed to improve on buyer resistance. Meanwhile, TOCOM rubber futures, which hit a one-year low on Monday was seen recovering, tracking the gains in equities and oil prices.

Sheet rubber finished flat at Rs 210 a kg, according to trades. The grade closed unchanged at Rs 211 a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board.

The October series recovered to Rs 212.95 (209.94), November to Rs 209.90 (207.65), December to Rs 210.07 (208.09), January to Rs 211 (208.32) and February to Rs 211.25 (209.43) a kg for RSS 4 on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) declined to Rs 214.54 (219.74) a kg at Bangkok. The October futures bounced back to ¥310.6 (Rs 199.35) from ¥297.7 a kg during the day session and then to ¥315.5 (Rs 202.49) a kg in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 210 (210); RSS-5: 207 (207); ungraded: 198 (198); ISNR 20: 207 (207) and latex 60 per cent: 133 (133).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)

Stockholding limits for sugar may go after Nov

Our Bureau


Prof. K.V. Thomas

New Delhi, Sept. 27:

The Government may remove stockholding limits for sugar traders after November, following expectations of higher output in the next season starting October.

“The stockholding limits have recently been reviewed by the Empowered Group of Ministers and it has been decided to extend it up to November in view of the ensuing festival and marriage season when demand for sugar will peak,” said the Union Minister of State for Food Minister, Prof K.V. Thomas.

“I hope sugar prices will remain at reasonable level during these months and there may not be any need to extend the limits beyond November,” Prof Thomas told the 52nd annual general meeting of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd on Tuesday.

The stockholding and turnover limits were imposed to check hoarding by unscrupulous traders who increase prices by creating artificial scarcity in the market. Stating that the Government was not averse to decontrol of sugar, Prof Thomas called upon the industry to suggest an alternate mechanism to ensure availability of sugar throughout the year at reasonable prices.

“I have requested the Prime Minister to request Dr C. Rangarajan to look at the issues relating to de-regulation of the sugar sector so that the long-standing demand of the industry is examined in a non-partisan manner,” Prof Thomas said.

The Minister also hinted at review of the initial output estimates for new sugar-year 2011-12. “Coming to ensuing 2011-12 sugar season, I am aware that there is some difference on preliminary estimates of sugar production and efforts are on to reconcile the figures,” Prof Thomas said.

The Food Ministry had recently estimated 2011-12 output at 24.6 million tonnes, up from current year's 24.3 million tonnes. The Food Ministry's estimates were lower than the industry projections of 26 million tonnes and the Agriculture Ministry's forecast of 25.5 million tonnes to 26 million tonnes.

“The excess production can depress prices…. Keeping in view the estimated opening sugar stocks and the estimated domestic production and consumption in 2011-12 season, the Government will take appropriate steps to maintain price stability so as to ensure that sugar factories make fair realisation and pay remunerative cane price to sugarcane farmers and sugar prices remain at reasonable levels,” Prof Thomas said.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)

Chana perks up on buying support

Our Correspondent

Share · print · T+

Indore, Sept. 27:

Barring chana, pulses and pulse seeds either ruled flat or declined marginally on sluggish demand. Even as local mandis remained closed on Tuesday on account of *Amavasya* (no moon), in private trading, chana (kanta) gained marginally on improved buying support at Rs 3,650-3,675 a quintal against Rs 3,600-3,625 on Monday.

Chana dal, however, ruled flat with chana dal (bold) being quoted at Rs 4,900-4,925, chana dal (medium) at Rs 4,800-4,825, while chana dal (average) ruled at Rs 4,675-4,700 a quintal. Weak demand continued to drag down masoor prices lower.

In private trading, masoor further declined to Rs 3,050-3,075 a quintal against Rs 3,100 a quintal on Monday.

Masoor dal ruled steady on subdued demand with masoor dal (bold) ruling at Rs 3,850-3,875 a quintal, masoor dal (medium) at Rs 3,725-3,750 and masoor dal (average) quoted at Rs 3,625-3,650 a quintal.

Tur also declined marginally on weak demand with tur (Maharashtra) being quoted at Rs 3,450-3,500 a quintal against Rs 3,500-3,550 on Monday, while tur (Nimari) ruled at Rs 2,500-3,000.

Tur dal, on the other hand, ruled flat with tur marka remaining stable at Rs 6,500-6,600, tur dal (full) at Rs 5,850-5,900 and tur dal (sawa no.) ruled at Rs 4,950-5,000 a quintal.

Moong and urad remained stable on subdued demand, though arrivals of new moong and urad declined to 300-400 bags because of closure of mandis.

Moong (new) ruled at Rs 4,000-4,400, while moong (medium) quoted at Rs 3,600-4,000.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)

Edible oils steady despite new arrivals

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Sept. 27:

Edible oils were steady on Tuesday despite pressure of new arrivals.

Groundnut oil lost Rs 30 for 10 kg as selling increased, losing Rs 115 in last 20 days. In Saurashtra, too, prices have crashed to Rs 1,305 for a *telia* tin of groundnuit oil from Rs 1,630. Soya refined oil declined by Rs 3, sunflower expeller refined by Rs 5 and sunflower refined oil by Rs 15. Rapeseed oil dropped by Rs 8. Cotton oil and palmolein remained unchanged.

Crude palm oil (CPO) futures on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives (BMD) rebounded from Monday's sharp fall, in line with broad market gains following reports of a special purpose vehicle to help stem the debt contagion in Europe. A refiner sold 550-600 tonnes of palmolein directly at Rs 552-553. Resellers sold another 80-100 tonnes at Rs 550-552. Local refiners raised prices of palmolein and soya oil by Re 1. Liberty offered palmolein at Rs 554 and soya oil at Rs 634. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 553 and soya refined oil at Rs 633. Malaysia's BMD CPO October contracts settled lower at MYR2,982 (MYR2,935), November at MYR2,949 (MYR2,908) and December MYR2,948 (MYR2,905) a tonne. October contracts of soya oil were up at Rs 640 (Rs 636) and November at Rs 621.70 (Rs 620.20).

Mumbai commodity exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil 900 (930), soya refined oil 632 (635), sunflower exp. ref. 670 (675), sunflower ref. 740 (755), rapeseed ref. oil 684 (692), rapeseed expeller ref. 654 (662), cotton ref. oil 650 (650) and palmolein 552 (552).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)

Mixed trend in sugar market

Our Correspondent

Share · print · T+

Mumbai, Sept. 27:

S-grade sugar lost Rs 4-5 a quintal in the spot market while M-grade remained unchanged.

S-grade remained unchanged in the *naka* delivery market, while M-grade rose by Rs 10-15 despite limited selling by resellers. Mill tender rates were unchanged as local demand remained need-based. Enquiries from neighbouring states were absent. Sugar prices have remained range-bound for three weeks now despite festival days as demand has matched supplies, said Mr Mukesh Kuwadia, Secretary of Bombay Sugar Merchants Association. Higher output in the current year, likelihood of record output in the next season and carryover stocks have checked stock-buying and the market is awaiting the announcement of free-sale quote for the next month, he added.

Volumes were lower than Monday because there was no new stock-buying. Arrivals in the Vashi market were at 52-53 truckloads of 100 bags each while local lifting was at 49-50 truckloads. According to market sources, 14-15 mills offered tenders and sold 50,000-55,000 bags of S-grade to local and state-level stockists at Rs 2,630-2,680 (Rs 2,630-2,690) and of M-grade Rs 2,740-2,820 (Rs 2,745-2,830) on Monday.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot prices: S-grade Rs 2,755-2,831 (Rs 2,761-2,831) and M-grade Rs 2,821-2,966 (Rs 2,826-2,961).

Naka delivery rates: S-grade Rs 2,700-2,750 (Rs 2,700-2,750) and M-grade Rs 2,800-2,920 (Rs 2,790-2,890).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)

Turmeric pales on poor N.India demand

Our Correspondent

Share · print · T+

Erode, Sept. 27:

Poor demand from North Indian buyers and a drop of Rs 100 a quintal in the futures market dragged spot turmeric prices by Rs 300 a quintal." The market assembled after three days on Tuesday, and everyone expected that prices might go up. So farmers brought limited stocks, " said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said prices on the futures market increased three per cent at the start but suddenly decreased six per cent, which has reflected in the sales at the market. With the beginning of Dasara festivities on Tuesday, north Indian demand will come to halt, he said. Now, the local traders are buying to fulfil previous orders.

Because of quality issues, price of hybrid variety decreased by Rs 400 a quintal. Totally, about 6,000 bags of turmeric arrived for sales and 55 per cent of the stocks were sold.

In the Regulated Market, prices fell by Rs 370 a quintal; at Erode Cooperative Society by Rs 275 a quintal.

Some traders said that the decrease in gold prices and also the tumble in share markets affected the turmeric market and traders quoted lower.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,569-4,509 a quintal, the root variety Rs 3,300-4,891.

Salem Crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 4,437-5,200, the root variety Rs 3,811-4,307. Totally 1,612 bags arrived for sales and 402 were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,279-4,812, the root variety at Rs 2,610-4,420. Of 177 bags kept for sales, 146 were sold. At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,009-4,559, the root variety Rs 3,799-4,749. Out of 795 bags kept for sales, 721 were sold. At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,129-4,489, the root variety Rs 4,099-4251. Out of 795 bags, 721 were sold.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)

Wheat rules firm on lower arrivals

Our Correspondent

Share · print · T+

Karnal, Sept. 27:

Lower arrivals, coupled with steady domestic demand, kept wheat prices firm on Tuesday, with almost all varieties ruling at their previous levels.

After moving higher over the last few days, the dara variety is ruling firm ever since the previous weekend and is quoting between Rs 1,120 and Rs 1,125 a quintal.

The market situation was anticipated as farmers are now busy in harvesting paddy. This has resulted in a decline in wheat arrivals, said Mr Sewa Ram, a wheat trader. Traders expect wheat arrivals to fall further. P

rices of the dara variety may see a rally in October, he added.

The recent price rise has come about due to heavy buying by the flour mills.

Just around 30 tonnes of the dara variety arrived from Uttar Pradesh and the stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. The mill delivery price was Rs 1,120 a quintal.

Similarly, desi wheat varieties continued to rule flat amid restricted trading in the market. The Tohfa variety quoted at Rs 2,150-2,175 a quintal, Samrat ruled at Rs 2,000 a quintal, Lal Quila sold at Rs 1,925 while Rasoi was at Rs 1,900 a quintal.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, wheat for October delivery increased by Rs 3.40 to Rs 1,127.20 a quintal; it had touched a low of Rs 1,126 a quintal earlier on Tuesday.

Despite a steady trend in wheat, flour prices went up by Rs 10 and settled at Rs 1,150 for a 90-kg bag, while Chokar prices decreased by Rs 15 after ruling firm at its highest level of this season for almost 10 days, quoting at Rs 535 for a 49-kg bag.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)

Sunny weather may cool coconut oil next fortnight

C.J. Punnathara

Kochi, Sept. 27:

Coconut oil slipped further to Rs 86 a kg in Kerala's wholesale markets and to Rs 80 in Tamil Nadu. With fair and sunny weather prevailing over coconut-growing belts in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, prices are likely to weaken further in the coming weeks, sources in the trade said.

The good weather is enabling the farmers and millers to convert greater quantity of coconuts into copra that is further converted into coconut oil. With increased availability, prices are expected to rule weak. But as North-East monsoon is likely to commence in Tamil Nadu soon, the conversion process is likely to be hampered and prices are expected to rebound, the sources said.

This is an annual phenomenon as traders and millers increase their stocks during the lull between the South-West and North-East monsoons and wait for the shortage to emerge during the months ahead. While prices are expected to slip further during the next fortnight, sources said that no major plunge is expected as competing oils have been ruling steady.

Rain to boost production

Palm oil and palm kernel oil were quoting at last week's levels of Rs 55 and Rs 74 a kg respectively. Good rain is expected to further boost production in the coming weeks resulting in increased arrivals.

The post- *Onam* demand from Kerala is still to pick up and the flow of coconut oil from Tamil Nadu to Kerala is remains subdued. With prices continuing to remain low, most of the arrivals are being stocked by traders and stockists in Kerala.

With the onset of the Dasara and Diwali festivals in North India, there could be some revival of demand for edible copra in the coming weeks. Most of this demand is being currently met from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu production. Copra prices are quoting at Rs 56 a kg in Kerala markets against Rs 54 in the wholesale markets of Tamil Nadu.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 28, 2011)