

Published: September 29, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 29, 2011 04:19 IST TIRUCHI,
September 29, 2011

Irrigation park inaugurated at TNAU

To be utilised for training farmers, agricultural engineers and water managers on latest techniques



turning knob on: P.Murugesha Boopathi, vice chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, inaugurating an irrigation park at Agricultural Engineering College at Kumulur near Tiruchi recently.

An irrigation park featuring modern irrigation equipment and technologies, to be used for demonstration purposes and to train farmers, was inaugurated at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's Agricultural Engineering College at Kumulur near Tiruchi recently.

The park was inaugurated by P.Murugesha Boopathi, vice chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr.Boopathi said the irrigation park would be put to use for training farmers, agricultural engineers and water managers in latest irrigation technologies and precision farming.

Various equipment

The park features various equipment, including surface irrigation systems, micro-sprinklers, turf sprinklers, impact sprinklers, rain gun, drip and sub-surface drip irrigation for various crops.

The TNAU, he said, was taking steps for increasing crop productivity with limited use of water through application of modern technologies.

A.Tajuddin, Dean, Agricultural Engineering College, Kumulur, said farmers could save up to 60 per cent of water and achieve 100 per cent increase in yield through the use of latest technologies which are demonstrated at the park.

Fertigation devices

The head control unit of the park is equipped with valves, filters and fertigation devices.

The park would be expanded further to accommodate irrigation automation devices.

Drip irrigation

K.Kannappan, professor and head, Department of Agricultural Sciences, said emphasis was being laid on promotion of sub-surface drip irrigation for banana and sugarcane.

The park was designed and created by S.Somasundaram, assistant professor (agronomy) and K.Nagarajan, associate professor (soil water conservation), Agricultural Engineering College.

Published: September 28, 2011 23:42 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 23:42 IST

September 28, 2011

Addressing rural power shortage problems innovatively



Gear box and pulleys fixed at the end back of a bullock cart. Photo: special Arrangement

Electricity is generated using an old bicycle and bullock cart

Power shortage is nothing new to India.

“Though our country claims to have developed in terms of science and technology, erratic power supply or complete breakdown for hours together has almost become routine today,” says Mr. Chandrakant Pathak, inventor and manufacturer of non conventional energy equipment in Pune.

“Almost all States face electricity shortage in terms of a low voltage or complete breakdown and calls to the local EB office rarely fetch a proper response.

Helpless situation

“If this be the case for urban dwellers, think about the farmers living in remote villages. They need power for irrigating their crops, or lighting their cattle sheds. What can they do?” he asks.

To address such significant problems, Mr. Pathak developed a method for generating electricity using an old bicycle and bullock cart. By using these 'devices' the innovator says “farmers can overcome the power shortage problems they face.”

Explanation

Explaining how to generate power from a bicycle, Mr. Pathak says: "Take any bicycle and remove the mudguard and tyre-tube from the rear wheel. Attach a double stand to the cycle so that it remains stable in one place.

Fix a V shaped belt (commonly available in automobile shops) from the rear rim and connect it to the dynamo or alternator kept on the carrier of the bicycle.

A 12 volt dynamo, alternator or brushless D.C. generator are easily available in the market.

An hour of pedalling generates about 36 watts (12 volt X 3 amp) that can power three C.F.L. lamps (4 watts) approximately for three hours or three L.E.D. lamps (two watts) for five to six hours."

Called Vanarai

This portable device named Vanarai can be easily carried to the field or placed near any water body (5 to 7 mts from ground level) and the pump can discharge 30 to 40 litres of water per minute.

Regarding power generation from bullocks the innovator says, "for a moment, bullocks can provide approximately 15 horse-power energy."

The power generating machine from two bullocks consists of differential gear box and pulleys and is kept at the centre.

The bullocks are made to rotate around the machine in the same way as the earth rotates around the sun. They complete two rounds in approximately one minute.

"Any bullock cart having wooden, iron or rubber tyre wheels is useful for this purpose," he explains.

A brushless D.C. generator of 12 Volt capacity can be fitted on the backside of the cart and helps in charging batteries.

A pulley fitted on the inner side of the wheel is connected to another one on the generator. A V belt speed is attached to the pulley generating a voltage of 12 volt D.C. and 4-5 amp current.

Suitable

“A centrifugal water pump of 3 hp can be run by using this energy machine,” says Mr. Pathak.

This mechanism is especially useful in irrigation or for supplying water to a village. Besides this a small flour mill or grass chopping machine can be run using this energy.

“Similarly we can float a small wooden platform in the canals for irrigation purpose with a rope tied to it. Using bearing and shaft, a small turbine wheel can be put on the floating platform. It will run on flowing water. If a pulley or small gear box is fixed to the shaft of turbine wheel, 200 watts of power can be generated,” he says.

Best innovator

“Prof Anil Gupta and the National Innovation Foundation, Ahmedabad are encouraging us till date in terms of referring enquiries, documenting our work and also honouring us during their annual award ceremony as as the best innovator award,” says Mr. Pathak.

For more details contact Mr. Chandrakant Pathak can be reached at No. 144, Narayan Peth, Pune:411030, email : mtc1964@rediffmail.com, phone:020- 24452620, mobile: 9890907920.

Published: September 28, 2011 16:33 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 16:59 IST
September 28, 2011

On World Heart Day, ICRISAT comes up with healthy snack foods



Sorghum and millet based health foods from ICRISAT. Photo: Special Arrangement

The International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), on World Heart Day, has come up with a new variety of healthier and safer nutritious snacks made of sorghum and millet for the fast food consumers. These cereals have higher nutrition value than rice and wheat besides being rich in dietary fibre, a quality that makes them diabetic friendly.

These snacks were developed by the scientists at the NutriPlus Knowledge Programme (NPK), which is a part of ICRISAT's Agribusiness and Innovation Platform (AIP).

"In addition to the health snacks, we are looking at several other exciting possibilities to raise the value of these nutritious grains to have an impact on small-holder farmers who grow these crops," said Dr. Saikat Datta Mazumdar, leading scientist at the NPK Programme.

According to ICRISAT, in addition to introducing better, healthier and safer fast food for consumers, sorghum and millet snacks will create new markets for these crops. This market opportunity will link poor farmers to the Indian agro-food industry and increase their incomes.

ICRISAT's food technology researchers are also looking into partnerships with the private sector and development organisations to find solutions for post-harvest issues and explore new markets for dryland crops such as sorghum and millet.

"We would like to research the possibility of sorghum or millet-based enriched biscuits for school feeding programmes in Asia and Africa. We could also develop and promote simple processing

technologies and innovations for mothers to prepare nutritious baby foods in families where malnourishment is an issue,' said Dr. Mazumdar.

ICRISAT's Director General Dr. William Dar highlighted the value of this food technology research for reducing rural poverty. "By tapping into the health promoting properties of dryland crops like sorghum and millet we can help address an urgent public health issue at the same time creating new markets for these subsistence crops, which are produced mostly by smallholder farmers," said Dr. Dar.

Published: September 28, 2011 23:43 IST | Updated: September 28, 2011 23:43 IST
September 28, 2011

Swarna Sub1: flood resistant rice variety

Ideal to be grown under SRI

In Tamil Nadu every year, out of the 15 lakh hectares (ha) of rice cultivated during samba season an area of 3 to 5 lakh hectares gets affected by flood during the North East monsoon.

In particular, the flood-prone tail-end areas of delta districts and some of the coastal districts like Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam are often affected due to flood, and as a result very low rice production and productivity is recorded.

Water stagnation

Even though many high yielding improved rice varieties are available for cultivation, they suffer due to floods and continuous water stagnation.

If the stagnation of flood water remains for more than a week, the present day varieties are unable to tolerate and thereby yield levels are drastically affected.

Natural phenomena

As this natural phenomenon is beyond human control, to overcome this problem, TNAU, Coimbatore has introduced Swarna Sub1, a rice variety that can resist floods and therefore will be a boon to these areas.

The new variety can tolerate 14-17 days of water stagnation during floods. It is ideal for growing under SRI conditions.

Submergence tolerance

The Swarna Sub 1 variety is similar to Swarna rice variety grown in eastern parts of the country in all characteristic features except submergence tolerance.

Popularization of Swarna Sub1 cum seed distribution campaigns were organized during July 2011 through the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of Thanjavur (Needamangalam) and Namakkal (Sikkal) districts. Seeds of Swarna Sub1 were distributed to around 100 farmers who cultivate rice in flood prone conditions.

For more details on this variety readers contact Dr. Robin, Professor & Head, Department of Rice, Mobile: 94422 24409.

Published: September 29, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 29, 2011 04:19 IST
BANGALORE, September 29, 2011

KPCC speaks up for hapless areca growers



Crop loss: 'Growers were not in a position to repay loans taken from cooperative banks.' — File Photo

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has urged Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda to extend support to areca growers who have been facing difficulties. Addressing presspersons on Wednesday, senior KPCC leader B.K. Chandrashekar said the deadly Yellow Leaf Disease (YLD) has been haunting areca growers in five districts for decades and agriculture scientists and researches have failed to find a solution to the problem.

“According to the deputy commissioners of Shimoga and Chikmagalur districts, as many as 410 areca growers have committed suicide in the two districts in the past decade. Frustrated with the failure of the crop, many growers have migrated because of their inability to repay debts,” he said.

'Stop demand notices'

Mr. Chandrashekar suggested that the Government could conduct a survey on the plight of displaced areca-growing families. He also urged the Chief Minister to direct the cooperative institutions against issuing demand notices to crisis-ridden farmers and demanded waiver of loans.

Growers were not in a position to repay loans taken from cooperative banks and their outstanding dues stood at Rs. 284 crore. “Cooperative banks are issuing demand notices to repay loans in spite of knowing their plight. With no alternative, growers are committing suicide,” he said.

2009 study

Areca research institutes of Shimoga and Sringeri and agricultural universities have not found a solution against the YLD. A central team, headed by Central Horticultural Commissioner Gorakh Singh, had visited Chikmagalur and Shimoga districts to study the problems of areca growers in November 2009 and submitted a report to Union Ministry of Agriculture, he explained.

Deputy Commissioner, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), B.S. Negi, had written to Secretary to the Department of Financial Services to consider a loan waiver of areca growers having less than 4 hectares in Chikmagalur and Shimoga districts and sanctioning of fresh loans. The Union Ministry of Agriculture had directed the State governments to hand over the responsibility of rejuvenation and replacement of senile areca palm to the State Horticulture Mission.

Published: September 29, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 29, 2011 04:19 IST
THRISSUR, September 29, 2011

Lakshadweep youth get some lessons in coconut-tree climbing



Scaling heights: Youth from Lakshadweep given training in coconut-tree climbing by the Coconut Development Board and Green Army at Athani, near Thrissur, on Wednesday. —
Photo: K.C. Sowmish

Twenty youths from Lakshadweep are being trained in coconut-tree climbing at Athani, near here, under a project of the Coconut Development Board (CDB) executed by the Green Army.

The Green Army is a skilled labour bank formed by the Wadakkanchery Block Panchayat under the GALASA scheme (Group Approach for Locally Adapted and Sustainable Agriculture) to solve labour shortage in the farm sector.

Under the project, 25 batches comprising 500 youths are being trained in coconut-tree climbing.

They are being trained in coconut climbing techniques; harvesting operations; pest-control measures; pollination, hybridisation and plant-protection methods; and identification of tender, mature and seed nuts.

Each candidate is being given a stipend of Rs.150 a day. At the end of the training programme, each candidate will be given a coconut-tree climbing machine costing Rs. 4,000.

“Four more batches from Lakshadweep will be trained,” said Anup Kishore, coordinator of the Green Army.

Coconut cultivation is the lifeline of Lakshadweep, a group of islands 200 to 440 km off Kerala. Lakshadweep is India's largest producer of coconuts with about 2,598 hectares under coconut cultivation. The productivity per hectare is 22,310. Coconut-fibre extraction and production of fibre products are Lakshadweep's main industries. There are five coir-fibre factories, five production demonstration centres and seven fibre-curling units run by the government. The units produce coir fibre, coir yarn, curled fibre and corridor mattings. “Like Kerala, Lakshadweep too faces labour shortage in the farm sector,” Mr. Kishore said.

According to T.K. Jose, chairman of CDB, Kerala has over 15-crore coconut trees and at least 30,000 workers are required for coconut-tree climbing. “The CDB is trying to attract youth to the job,” he said.

Published: September 29, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 29, 2011 04:20 IST ONGOLE, September 29, 2011

Farmers, workers oppose dairy privatisation move

Farmers' organisations and trade unions on Wednesday decided to thwart the alleged move of the Prakasam District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited here to get it registered under the Company's Act.

Ahead of the dairy annual general body meeting on Thursday, the farmers' organisations and trade unions at a round table conference held here under the aegis of the Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangam decided to fight tooth and nail the anti-farmer and anti-worker step to convert the cooperative dairy into milk producer company.

The meeting resolved to seek the intervention of the district administration and expose the cooperative dairy chairman Challa Srinivasa Rao and other Board members among farmers and workers.

They feared that the interest of 2 to 2.50 lakh farmers and over 600 workers would be affected.

“Even private dairies are providing remunerative price for milk to dairy farmers thanks to the presence of cooperative milk dairy. Privatisation of the lone cooperative dairy meant doom for dairy farmers”, APRS district secretary N. Ranga Rao said.

The meeting pointed out that Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Corporation Limited is the absolute owner of the District cooperative milk union and had given the latter the operational management of the assets.

“No permanent transfer of assets has taken place in favour of the district cooperative milk union and the latter cannot bring it under the company's act”, it added.

Centre of Indian Trade Unions district vice-president K. Srinivasa Rao, State Agricultural Workers Union district secretary P. Hanumantha Rao, State Kavulu Rythu Sangam district secretary D. Gopinath, district Kisan Congress president K. Hanumaiah, Rythu Collie Sangam district secretary K. Narasimham, All India Lawyers Federation district secretary Y. Ramesh, Acharya N.G. Ranga Kisan Samastha general secretary Ch. Sessaiah, and Forum for Good Governance general secretary Shamsheer Ahamad attended the meeting.

Published: September 29, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 29, 2011 04:20 IST

BHUBANESWAR, September 29, 2011

Orissa flood situation still critical; toll rises to 38

Flood situation continues to be critical in Bhadrak, Jajpur and Kendrapara districts of Orissa as officials stumbled upon more dead bodies in affected regions taking the toll to 38 on Wednesday.

Nine deaths each have occurred in worst-affected Jajpur and Bhadrak districts. Neighbouring Kendrapara follows closely with six deaths. Besides, the State government is waiting for confirmation of three alleged deaths in Angul, Mayurbhanj and Kendrapara district.

Situation reviewed

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who reviewed the flood situation, directed officials to release Rs. 1000 to each affected village for improvement of sanitation.

“We have started sending medical teams to flood-affected districts to address health issues. People have been urged to take precautionary steps as far as possible,” said Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Surya Narayan Patro.

Vacation cancelled

Five helicopters of Indian Air Force and Indian Navy have been pressed into service for airdropping food packets in most affected areas of Jajpur and Kendrapada districts. Meanwhile, the State government has cancelled puja vacation for employed engaged in rescue and relief operation.

Published: September 29, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 29, 2011 04:20 IST
MADURAI, September 29, 2011

Tamil Nadu praised for its good rainwater harvesting model

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.

Efforts

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 29, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 29, 2011 04:19 IST

THANJAVUR, September 29, 2011

Offer Rs.3,000 per tonne: cane growers appeal to government

Farmers supplying sugarcane to the State government owned Arignar Anna Sugar Mills at Kurunkulam have appealed to the government to fix Rs.3,000 per tonne as procurement price.

At a general body meeting of the Tamil Nadu Sugar Corporation on Wednesday, they also appealed to the mills officials to finish completion of co-generation plant quickly.

They pointed out that the mills have been deducting Rs.100 per tonne of sugarcane for the past few years to meet the expenses for putting up the plant which is under construction.

Rajeev Ranjan, chairman and managing director of the corporation, presided over the meeting. Collector K.Baskaran, and directors Prakash Govindan and R.N.Sekar participated. Pichaiyah, chief executive of mills, welcomed gathering.

Mills officials urged to expedite construction of co-generation plant

© The Hindu



Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Clear

Thursday, Sep 29

Max Min
36.8° | 26.5°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 84%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: null

Sunset: null

Barometer: 1005

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Friday, Sep 30

Max Min
37° | 27°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday

Oct 1



33° | 26°

Rainy

Sunday

Oct 2



33° | 26°

Rainy

Monday

Oct 3



32° | 26°

Rainy

Tuesday

Oct 4



32° | 26°

Rainy

Wednesday

Oct 5



31° | 27°

Rainy

By Sam Paul A

29 Sep 2011 02:33:39 AM IST

Woman writes a success story with arrowroot



VADAKARA: With sheer determination and hard work, Fathima M, a middle-aged farmer in Pathiyarakkara near here, is scripting a success story.

Living on the banks of Murad river, she, for the past five years, has been engaged in the cultivation of arrowroot(koova)and is earning rich profits. Her success has added sweetness because the place is commonly known as non-conducive for cultivating most of the agriculture products other than coconut, owing to its closeness to sea and the presence of salt in the soil. Narrating her success in the field, Fathima said, “it was after my children’s marriage I thought of doing something interesting to kill time and to earn money to stand on my own feet. I preferred agriculture, and ventured into orchid and mushroom cultivation on my own land. But unfortunately, it wouldn’t taste success owing to the presence of salt in the soil. Later, I happened to read an article about the arrowroot cultivation and on an experimental basis started doing it in a small part of land five years ago. It yielded 50 kilograms of arrowroot in the first year itself.”

At present, she is cultivating in five acres of land and produces more than 500 kilograms of arrowroot powder per year. She has also become an entrepreneur by starting a firm Reem Arrowroot Products to market the powder and is earning more than Rs 2 lakh every year.

Terming her success as exemplary, M Moossa Haji, her husband, says, “normally women from our community would not embark on these kind of activities. It is her vision and the wish to stand on her own feet which made her successful.”

Fathima is also different in her method of cultivation. She does not use pesticides and is practising organic farming.

“As the arrowroot is considered as a medicine our main objective is to provide the best quality products for the people without adulteration and so we are practising organic farming,” she said. Apart from selling the products to various shops and wholesale dealers, she also market the powder and products directly to the customers by opening stalls in fairs and exhibitions around the region.

© Copyright 2008 ExpressBuzz



Jain writes to Thomas on wheat procurement

In a letter to the Centre, Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies Paras Chandra Jain has objected its irresponsible attitude towards Madhya Pradesh.

He expressed anguish at Central Government's indifference and Food Corporation of India's negligence about lifting 17 lakh metric tonnes of wheat. Jain has written a letter to Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs Prof KV Thomas on Wednesday saying that under such circumstances storage of wheat to be procured next year will become a major problem.

Jain has made it clear in the letter that 55.35 lakh metric tonnes of wheat has accumulated in Madhya Pradesh including 49.65 lakh metric tonnes procured this year and surplus of 5.70 lakh metric tonnes of last year. The public distribution system in Madhya Pradesh requires only 24 lakh metric tonnes of wheat. He has also mentioned that only 14.32 lakh metric tonnes of wheat has been lifted by Food Corporation of India against 31.35 metric tonnes as agreed upon

between the Central and State Governments. The Centre or corporation has not shown any intent to lift rest of 17 lakh metric tonnes of wheat.

The Minister has written that Madhya Pradesh Government has started preparations right now for procurement of 60 lakh metric tonnes of wheat in view estimate of bumper crop in the wake of bountiful rainfall in the State. Under such circumstance storage of wheat to be procured on this massive scale will become a major problem. Storage capacity in Madhya Pradesh is already limited and despite making all possible alternative arrangements, it will be difficult to protect such a large quantity of wheat.

Jain has urged the Central Government to instruct Food Corporation of India to lift 17 lakh metric tonnes of surplus at the earliest.

It may be mentioned that the State Government intends to benefit maximum number of farmers through procurement of wheat on support price. As a token of its sincerity, the State Government is giving bonus to farmers on wheat procurement.

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 Darwal 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.

Supply of food grain hampered, State could face crisis in October

The festival season is drawing near, and the State Government has so far not been able to smoothen the monthly foodgrain supply resulting in lapse of the distribution of a major part of monthly foodgrain quota of September month to the Kumaon division and concerned authorities here are of the opinion that in case the foodgrain supply continues to remain disrupted, people may end up facing similar foodgrain crisis in this October.

Beneficiaries of the subsidised food grains scheme of the State Government are not less worried. Though the State Government has introduced a popular food grain scheme, it has done little to ensure delivery of the same on time to the needy, said a beneficiary. While monsoon

season hit the ration supply during the month of August, now the transporters demand for a hike in transportation fee that has disrupted the ration supply in the month, added the local.

More so, in case the deadlock continues to persist between the State Government and the transporters over latter's demand of hiking transportation fees, consumers may end up experiencing similar problem in October too.

However, the State Food Supply Department has expressed hope that the supply of food grains to different districts of the Kumaon division would be restored in due course of time.

Talks are on at different levels. But so far we have not been able to reach a consensus over what could be a new transportation fee structure, said NC Pant, RMO, the State Food Supply Department (Kumaon division), while talking to The Pioneer. He informed that the State Government has already asked us to suggest a new transportation fee structure which could be acceptable to all the parties. In this context we have already taken up the matter with the district administration, US Nagar. But the district administration, US Nagar, is ready to increase the transportation fee only by about 15 per cent, while Lakhimpur Khiri (UP) and Muzaffar Nagar (UP) have raised the transportation fee by 35 per cent and 32 per cent respectively, Pant further said.

So again we are going to take up the matter with the district administration, US Nagar. If the US Nagar district administration agrees to increase the transportation fee substantially as have been hiked by some of the neighbouring districts of UP, we may then convince other districts of the region, he added. It is to note that US Nagar plays a major producer of food grains and plays a significant role in State's food supply. So in this transporters' issue too its role is vital.

Business Standard

Thursday, Sep 29, 2011

Sugar stocks down on low global prices

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai September 29, 2011, 0:43 IST

The share prices of sugar companies declined by up to eight per cent on Wednesday on perceived oversupply in global and domestic markets. Parrys Sugar stock led the fall, with a decline of eight per cent, followed by Balrampur Chini (5.25 per cent), Bajaj Hindusthan (4.5), Triveni Engineering (4.15 and Dwarikesh Sugar (2.8).

After Morgan Stanley downgraded Shree Renuka Sugars, the latter's stock declined 3.7 per cent. Morgan Stanley cut the rating to 'equal weight' from 'overweight' and lowered the target price on grounds of low global prices, currency volatility, uncertain domestic production, cane prices and lower exports.

SUGAR STOCKS		
	Sept 28	% change*
Parrys Sugar	88.25	-8.07
Balrampur Chini	46.05	-5.25
Bajaj Hind	38.45	-4.47
Triveni Engineering	21.95	-4.15
Shree Renuka Sugars	55.55	-3.73
Dhampur Sugar	39.95	-3.62
Dalmia sugar	17.00	-3.13
Dwarikesh Sugar	40.30	-2.77
Rajshree Sugar	35.00	-2.37
KCP Sugar & Inds	14.47	-2.16

Share price on BSE in ₹ * Over previous close
Compiled by BS Research Bureau

According to Naveen Mathur, associate director of Angel Broking, a falling sugar price is the only reason for a decline in stock prices, as all other negative fundamentals have been floating around for at least two months. The benchmark London white sugar futures prices have lost

nearly 18 per cent so far this year, translating into a 6.5 per cent fall in the local benchmark spot sugar prices quoted by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange.

In 2010-11, output in India is estimated at 24.2 million tonnes (mt). The government has also allowed export of 1.5 mt. The Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma), has urged the government to allow at least 2.5-3 mt of export, to reduce inventory with mills. Jayantilal Patel, president of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd, forecast a total sugar output of 26.5 mt for 2011-12. Isma supports Patel's forecast. But, the food ministry's output estimate is 24.6 mt, just above the expected demand of 22-23 mt. Global sugar markets are also expected to remain in oversupply. Abinash Verma, secretary general of Isma, said, "Fundamentals have not changed in the last two months, except a drastic decline in global sugar prices. The government's pro-active step can change fundamentals."

Meanwhile, the government has hinted that the 500 tonnes of stock holding for bulk traders will be lifted by November if the price continues to remain around the current level, which may turn the sentiment positive, Verma added.

Govt releases 19.97 lakh tonne sugar for October

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 28, 2011, 18:58 IST



The government has decided to make available 19.97 lakh tonnes of sugar for the month of October this year.

The sugar released includes 2.47 lakh tonnes of levy sugar and 17.50 tonnes of non-levy (free sale) sugar, an official statement said here today.

This quantity is sufficient to meet the internal demand of sugar for the month of October, 2011, it added.

In October, India would be celebrating festivals like Dussehra and Diwali.

The sugar factory shall sell/deliver and dispatch the entire non-levy quantity released for the month of October, 2011, only within the validity period of the release order that is up to October 31, it said.

Recently, Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar had said the government was considering an increase in the percentage of levy sugar to make more sugar available through the public distribution system.

At present, sugar mills are required to provide 10% of their total production as levy sugar.

Pawar had said sugar production for the next season "is not going to be bright".

Sugar output in the current sugar season had declined from 263 lakh tonne to about 160 lakh tonne against the domestic requirement of 225-230 lakh tonne, which had put pressure on the prices, the minister had said.

In recent weeks, the rates of sugar have reached about Rs 30 a kg in the retail market from Rs 17-18 per kg a year ago.

I-T tribunal to hear Maharashtra sugar co-ops' appeal on notice next week

Sanjay Jog / Mumbai September 29, 2011, 0:12 IST

The Maharashtra sugar industry would begin fresh arguments before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal on October 4 against the notices served to various cooperative sugar factories for income tax payment of Rs 2,500 crore as arrears since 1991-92.

The state government had taken up the issue on the sugar industry's behalf with the central government.

An official of the Federation of Cooperative Sugar Industries in Maharashtra, who did not want to be identified, said: "The recovery of such huge tax demands will adversely affect the mills' finances. The demand is for tax on payments made over and above the statutory minimum price to cane farmers. Sugar mills and the Federation, a representative body of over 170 co-operative mills in the state, are consistent in their argument that the payment was to ensure continuous and adequate supply from small and marginal farmers who are obliged to supply the cane to a sugar factory within their area. The income tax department is treating it as a profit, which is not the case."

Income tax department sources declined to comment on the issue.

Meanwhile, cooperative sugar mills have made a fresh demand to the Centre to reimpose a 60 per cent duty on imported sugar with immediate effect.

“India is in a comfortable position in the case of sugar. The production during the 2011-12 crushing season is estimated at 26 million tonnes. There is no need of import at zero per cent. We have sent a fresh memorandum to the finance minister in this regard,” the Federation official said.

THE HINDU Business Line

Godrej Agrovet launches crop nutrient Dripzyme

Mumbai, Sept. 28:

Godrej Agrovet, a subsidiary of Godrej Industries, has launched a horticulture crop growth-booster nutrient Dripzyme, a seaweed extract-based product formulated for drip irrigation crops.

Dripzyme, the company said, helps in growth of additional branches, flower and fruit buds resulting in higher yield. It helps in creating an extended root system, giving plants greater access to nutrients and water in the soil, thereby enhancing the nutritional value of the yield. It not only improves quality of produce but also aids in saving labour, time and aids in better absorption of nutrients from soil, the company said in a press release.

Dripzyme would be available in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in 500 ml, 1 litre and 5 litre packs.

Mr Balram Singh Yadav, Managing Director, Godrej Agrovet said that adoption of drip irrigation in grapes cultivation is almost 100 per cent and highest in Maharashtra among all the States.

“Dripzyme provides an opportunity to grape-growers to improve yield, quality of their produce and realise higher price. Since adoption of drip irrigation is growing fast in many States, it would definitely add value to a large number of farmers,” he said.

Grappling with huge labour and water shortage, an increasing trend of progressive framers, especially in cash crops such as vegetables and fruits, are adopting drip irrigation to save on cost. In grapes, Dripzyme will increase the formation of fruit buds and bunch size besides

improving fertility of existing buds. It also improves translocation of sugars in the berries which in turn increases TSS (Total soluble solids) content. In vegetables, it creates an extended root system, giving plants greater access to nutrients and water in the soil, increases additional branches, flower and fruit buds resulting in higher yields, said the release

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

Volume hits 4-week high at Coonoor tea auction

Coonoor, Sept. 28:

A volume of 12.44 lakh kg will be offered at Sale No: 39 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions to be held on Thursday and Friday, reveals an analysis of brokers' listing.

This is the highest volume of the last four weeks although it is 7,000 kg less than the offer made in the corresponding period last year.

Of the 12.44 lakh kg on offer, 8.93 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 3.51 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 11.59 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 0.85 lakh kg, orthodox variety. The proportion of orthodox teas continues to be low in both the leaf and dust grades.

In the leaf counter, only 0.51 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 8.42 lakh kg, CTC. Among the dusts, only 0.34 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 3.17 lakh kg, CTC. In the 12.44 lakh kg, fresh teas account for 11.57 lakh kg. Only 87,000 kg comprises teas which had remained unsold in previous auctions.

Quotations held by brokers last week indicated bids ranging Rs 43-49 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 80-127 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 47-51 for plain dusts and Rs 85-135 for brighter liquoring dusts. On the export front, Pakistan bought in wide range – Rs 48-75 a kg and the CIS Rs 47-62.

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

Global cues sap spot rubber

Kottayam, Sept 28:

Domestic rubber prices ruled weak on Wednesday. It remained under pressure following sharp declines in international markets.

On the spot, sentiments were further dampened by another weak closing on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).

However, as climatic conditions improved favouring tapping and production, more supplies are expected from major rubber-growing areas that may limit sharp gains during the season. The trend was partially mixed.

Sheet rubber dropped to Rs 209.50 (210) a kg, according to traders.

The grade slipped to Rs 210.50 (211) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to the Rubber Board.

In futures, the October series weakened to Rs. 210.10 (212.78), November to Rs. 207.00 (209.83), December to Rs. 207.49 (209.77), January to Rs. 208.50 (210.92) and February to Rs.209.05 (211.04) per kg for RSS 4 on the NMCE.

RSS 3 (spot) moved down to Rs 210.80 (214.54) a kg at Bangkok.

The October futures for the grade declined to ¥ 298.3 (Rs. 190.31) from ¥ 310.6 a kg during the day session but then recovered marginally to ¥ 300.8 (Rs. 191.91) a kg in the night session on Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates (Rs/kg) were: RSS-4: 209.50 (210); RSS-5: 207 (207); ungraded: 198 (198); ISNR 20: 206 (207); and Latex 60%: 132.50 (133).

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

Dry run in South; rain surplus down to 2%

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept. 28:

With two days to go for the season to end, the monsoon surplus has come down by another notch to two per cent on Wednesday.

This is mainly attributed to the 'dry run' in peninsular India, which hasn't had any meaningful rain for well over the past week.

SURPLUS DOWN

Regional surplus in peninsular India has wound down to one per cent, and could slip further a notch or two unless the expected rain wave from South China Sea hits the southeast coast in time.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) expects isolated rains to materialise over south peninsular India over the next three days.

The US National Centres for Environmental Prediction sees the southerly rains gradually propagating to the north along the west coast and adjoining internal peninsula during the week ending October 5.

These rains are shown to be getting stronger in the south during the week that follows, indicating the possibility of an early onset of the north-east monsoon (monsoon in reverse).

PACIFIC STORMS

Some rains are shown to break out over north-east India and adjoining east India during the period under reference.

Meanwhile, a fresh tropical storm, Nalgae, has spun up over north-west Pacific and is shown tracking to the northern tip of the Philippines already battered by typhoon Nesat.

Nesat has weakened and has entered the South China Sea as a tropical storm. London-based Tropical Storm Risk Group does not see the storm re-intensifying as a typhoon.

LIKELY LANDFALL

Nesat is heading for a landfall over Vietnamese coast, which is the likely path to be followed by tropical storm Nalgae.

The churn in the South China Sea being triggered by the two storms is what might likely get the Bay of Bengal to the immediate west into action and trigger rains over the southern peninsular India.

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

Castor perks up on industrial offtake



Rajkot, Sept. 28:

New demand, especially from the industrial sector, lifted castor futures by 1.82 per cent on Wednesday, while demand at lower-end buoyed the oilseed in the spot market.

Castor for October delivery was up Rs 77.50 or 1.82 percent to Rs 4,332 a quintal on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), with an open interest of 12,560 lots. November contracts rose by Rs 61.50 at Rs 4,220 a quintal on the exchange, with an open interest of 21,990 lots.

December contracts gained Rs 65 at Rs 4,093 a quintal on Rajkot Commodity Exchange. Spot castor increased by Rs 85 at Rs 4,109 a quintal on the exchange.

While 10,000-11,000 bags arrived in Gujarat and sold at Rs 800-820 for 20 kg, 800-900 bags arrived in Saurashtra and sold at Rs 760-801 for 20 kg.

Speculators have extended positions encouraged by demand from consuming industries and limited arrivals in local spot markets, said market sources. Higher overseas enquiries also lifted market sentiments, they said.

The gains will peter out soon as carryover stocks are high this year and sowing has doubled year-on-year, said a Rajkot based trader.

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

Festival holiday pulls down pulses



Indore, Sept. 28:

With local mandis remaining closed for the third consecutive day on Wednesday because of *Agrasen Jayanti*, pulses and pulse seeds remained sluggish.

After the Navaratri festival began on Wednesday, traders stayed away from the market. As a result, pulses fell sharply. Chana (kanta) declined to Rs 3,600 a quintal against Rs 3,650 on Tuesday. Absence of buying also dragged chana dal, with chana dal (bold) declining to Rs 4,850-4,875 a quintal (Rs 4,900-4,925). Chana dal (medium) dropped to Rs 4,750-4,775 and chana dal (average) to Rs 4,625-4,650 (Rs 4,675-4,700).

Dollar chana or chickpea ruled flat on slack buying, even though arrivals were negligible. In private trading, dollar chana remained firm at Rs 8,000-8,200 a quintal.

Masoor declined to Rs 3,050 (Rs 3,050-3,075 a quintal) on weak demand. Masoor dal also declined sharply on poor buying, with masoor dal (bold) slipping to Rs 3,750-3,775 a quintal. Masoor dal (medium) sold at Rs 3,625-3,650 and masoor dal (average) slipped to Rs 3,525-3,550 a quintal. Tur was steady at Rs 3,450 despite subdued demand while tur (Nimari) sold at Rs 2,500-2,800. Tur (marka) declined to Rs 6,500. Tur dal (full) sold at Rs 5,850-5,900 and tur dal (sawa no.) at Rs 4,950 a quintal.

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

Global cues keep edible oils sluggish



Mumbai, Sept. 28:

Edible oils witnessed a weak trend on Wednesday, tracking sluggish Malaysian palm oil futures and because of increased pressure of new arrivals in local markets.

Groundnut oil lost Rs 10 more and palmolein dipped by Rs 2 while soya oil, sunflower oil and cotton oil remained steady. Rapeseed oil increased by Rs 3 for 10 kg.

Crude palm oil futures (CPO) on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives (BMD) closed lower amid broad commodity declines. Traders said local refiners reduced prices of palmolein and soya oil by Rs 4 following declines in the Malaysian market. Resellers sold 90-100 tonnes of palmolein at Rs

547-550 in the physical market. Liberty offered palmolein at Rs 551 and soya oil at Rs 633. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 550 and soya refined oil at Rs 631.

Malaysia's BMD CPO October contracts settled lower at MYR 2,960 (MYR 2,982), November at MYR 2,922 (MYR 2,949) and December at MYR 2,910 (MYR 2,948) a tonne. Soya oil for October delivery closed lower at Rs 634.40 (Rs 640) on National Board of Trade in Indore and at Rs 613.40 (Rs 621.70) for November delivery.

Mumbai commodity exchange spot prices (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil 890 (900), soya refined oil 632 (632), sunflower exp. ref. 675 (670), sunflower ref. 740 (740), rapeseed ref. oil 687 (684), rapeseed expeller ref. 657 (654), cotton ref. oil 650 (650) and palmolein 550 (552).

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

Heavy inflows drag paddy, rice



Karnal, Sept. 28:

Heavy arrivals of PR paddy varieties pulled prices down. More than 42,000 bags of various paddy varieties arrived at the Karnal grain market terminal on Wednesday.

Government agencies are expected to start procuring fresh arrivals of paddy from October 1 when the kharif marketing season commences.

The minimum support price for this season is Rs 1,130 a quintal for super fine quality, while the fine quality will get Rs 1,080 a quintal.

According to reports, the State government has arranged sufficient cash credit limit for the purchase of paddy from the Reserve Bank of India.

Due to sluggish domestic demand in the rice market, prices of aromatic varieties fell by Rs 30-50 a quintal, while non-basmati varieties were ruling around previous levels.

Pusa-1121 (steam) fell by Rs 40 and ruled at Rs 4,900-4,950 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) was at Rs 3,920-3,950. Basmati (raw) went down by Rs 30 and was at Rs 5,700 a quintal while basmati (sela) sold at Rs 3,900 a quintal, Rs 50 down from previous level.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar ruled at Rs 3,300-3,570, Dubar was at Rs 2,600-2,930 while Mongra was trading at Rs 1,900-2,330 a quintal.

Sharbati (steam) ruled at Rs 2,900-3,050 while Sharbati (sela) was at Rs 2,870 a quintal.

PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs 2,150-2,420 a quintal, while PR-11 (raw) quoted at Rs 2,000-2,325 a quintal.

Permal (sela) sold at Rs 1,850-2,080 a quintal while Permal (raw) was at Rs 1,900-2,100 a quintal.

Among the brokens of Sharbati variety, Tibar quoted at Rs 2,400-2,750, Dubar sold at Rs 2,100-2,400 while Mongra was trading around Rs 1,700-1,850 a quintal.

Govinda variety was ruling between Rs1, 650-1,725 a quintal.

Around 27,000 bags of PR arrived and sold at Rs 1,050-1,140. Around 5,000 bags of Sugandha-999 arrived and was lifted at around Rs 1,500-1,635 a quintal. About 7,000 bags of Sharbati variety arrived and quoted at Rs 1,575-1,630. RS10 variety came with a stock of around 3,000 bags and went for Rs 1,250-1,360. The entire stock was lifted by rice millers.

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

Renewed demand sweetens sugar



Mumbai, Sept. 28:

Sugar price increased by Rs 10-15 a quintal on Wednesday on higher demand after being range-bound during the last three weeks. In the physical market with support of fresh demand at retail outlets, the price increased by Rs 15 a quintal along with improvement in volumes.

Local dispatches were higher than arrivals. Mill tender rates were up Rs 15–20, while naka rates followed the same trend on eased resale selling. The sentiment was firm as traders are expecting further increase in demand in the beginning of the next month.

A spokesman of Bombay Sugar Merchants Association told *Business Line*: “As expected with the start of the Navaratri, retail buyers entered the market with fresh orders. This year, October will start during the middle of *Navaratri* period and it will lead to strong buying sentiment. Though neighbouring States buying is not regular still, hopes are strong.”

In October, in Vashi market S-grade sugar price was at high of Rs 2,730–2,761 and low at Rs 2,640–2,686 a quintal. But in November end it went up to high of Rs 2,971-3,011 due to lower quota. Sugar fundamentals are currently indicating ample supply in the coming days.

With the support of fresh retail and inventory buying sentiment, the volume at mill level increased even after price rise. Freight rates for Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara line improved by Rs 5–7 on higher demand for trucks for lifting. Arrivals in the Vashi market were about 50-51 truckloads (each 100 bags), while local lifting was higher 53-54 truckloads.

According to market sources, mills have sold about 75,000 – 80,000 bags and about 20,000 – 25,000 bags till noon today to local and State-level stockist in the range of Rs 2,635 –2,700 (Rs 2,630–2,680) for S-grade and Rs 2,740–2,830 (Rs 2,740–2,820) for M-Grade.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates (a quintal): S-grade Rs 2,771–2,815 (Rs 2,755–2,831) and M-grade Rs 2,821- 2,976 (Rs 2,821-2,966).

Naka delivery: S-grade Rs 2,720- 2,770 (Rs 2,700 -2,750) and M grade Rs 2,810-2,930 (Rs 2,800-2,920).

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

Limited arrivals lend lustre to turmeric



Erode, Sept. 28:

Spot turmeric price increased by Rs 250 a quintal on Wednesday, with rates rising to as high as Rs 600 a quintal at the Regulated Marketing Committee. The rise was on account of farmers bringing limited stocks to the market.

“Farmers who know the impact of bringing huge stocks brought very limited quantity to the market and benefited by Rs 250-350 a quintal. Prices at all the four markets in Erode increased. Because of the slight increase, farmers were happy, but still traders awaited fresh orders from north Indian merchants,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said only 4,600 bags of turmeric arrived for sale and 60-70 per cent of the stocks were sold. Because of such low arrival, traders quoted an increased price. "The present increase is only a temporary one. Till the end of October such fluctuation will be experienced and certainly prices will not appreciate heavily like last year due to heavy production. Further, the production will be higher than this year," said Mr Ravishankar.

Due to the arrival of good quality turmeric, prices increased by Rs 600 a quintal in the Regulated Marketing Committee.

Salem Crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 4,600-5,200, the root variety Rs 4,124-4,715. A total of 1,116 bags arrived for sale and out of this, 391 were sold.

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

© The Hindu Business Line
