

Published: September 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 5, 2011 04:02 IST Mysore,  
September 5, 2011

## Higher penalty for unauthorised tobacco cultivation in Karnataka

Tobacco Board decides to reduce crop size this season



Demands: Tobacco farmers airing their grievances at a meeting convened by the Tobacco Board in Mysore on Sunday. — Photo: M.A. Sriram

G. Kamalavardhana Rao, Chairman of Tobacco Board, on Sunday indicated that unauthorised tobacco farmers would have to cough up higher penalty rates in the current season.

Interacting with tobacco growers at the Karnataka Institute of Agricultural Marketing premises here, he said the board had taken a decision to reduce the crop size in the current season to secure better floor price for the commodity. Farmers must cultivate the crop judiciously so that they could realise good remunerative price, Mr. Rao said.

Farmers aired their grievances, mainly demanding higher prices for tobacco since the processing of Virginia Fuel-Cured tobacco for the 2011-12 season is currently in progress. The auctions will start mid-September. A.H. Vishwanath, Mysore MP; Venkatesh, Periyapatna MLA, and Manju Pillay, Director (Auctions) of the Board, attended the meeting.

There was commotion for some time when Mr. Venkatesh said that the same group of people were coming out with grievances in the past few years. Farmers took exception to the remark and said they were representing the tobacco farming community, not just themselves. One of the farmers said that the Government should take their problems seriously and strive to secure remunerative price for the produce. A few were of the opinion that the tobacco auction should be completed in three months. This would prevent excess cultivation, they said. Whatever step the board or the Government could take, it should help the farmers to realise a price over and above its cultivation cost, he added. Another farmer requested Mr. Vishwanath to raise the issue in Parliament. Some others wanted MLAs representing the tobacco growing regions to take up the issue on the floor of the Legislative Assembly. As per the statistics released by the board at the meeting, Karnataka produced 128 million kg of tobacco during 2010-11, which was 28 million kg more than the production target. They were sold through auctions at an average price of Rs. 92.3 per kg. Auctions started on September 17 and ended May 15. The board has fixed a target of 101.62 million kg for 2011-12.

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- *Farmers demand higher prices for tobacco*
  - *'Tobacco auction should be completed in three months'*
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SIVAGANGA, September 5, 2011

### **Farmers urged to be prompt in repayment of agricultural loans**

Utilise low rate of interest offered by banks: P. Chidambaram



Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram giving away loan to a beneficiary at Ram Nagar in Devakottai on Sunday. — Photo: L. Balachandar

Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram on Sunday asked the farmers to repay farm loans promptly so as to maximize the interest benefit.

Speaking at a function after inaugurating the Kandadevi branch of Indian Overseas Bank at Ram Nagar near Devakottai, he said though agriculture loan had been offered at 7 per cent interest, the banks would write off 3 percent interest if the farmers repaid the loan within the stipulated timeframe. Since the rate of interest was very low the farmers could be immensely benefited. They could not avail loans at such low rates of interest even from very close acquaintances. Hence, the farmers should come forward and utilise the advantage of this loan from banks and they should make it a point to repay the loan promptly.

### **New accounts**

Stressing the need for opening new accounts, Mr. Chidambaram said the Central government had been taking a number of steps to expand the banking network across the country. It was aimed at enabling people to open bank accounts. Women, students, farmers and others could open accounts with minimum balance. It would enable them to explore the benefits of banking services .

M. Narendira, Chairman and Managing Director, IOB and others took part.

*“Though agriculture loan is offered at 7% interest, 3% will written off on prompt payment”*

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Published: September 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 5, 2011 04:03 IST KOCHI,  
September 5, 2011

### **Awards for coconut farmers**

K. Balasubramaniya, Kumbala, Kasaragod, Kerala, and Kondana Chandrasekhar Gatty, Mangalore, Karnataka, received the Coconut Development Board's special awards for the best coconut farmer. S.C. Veerabhadrapa from Karnataka won the award for the best coconut farmer under the national best farmer category.

The awards, instituted by the board in various categories, were distributed at a function in Guwahati on the occasion of World Coconut Day on Friday.

Marico Limited, Kanjikode, Palakkad, received the award for the best coconut processor in the conventional products category. Under the non-conventional products category, Active Char Product Private Limited, Binanipuram, Ernakulam, received the award.

Silver Oil Mills, Malappuram, and Alfa Enterprises, Malappuram, received the special award for the best coconut processor under the conventional and non-conventional products categories respectively. T. Rajamohan, Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry, University of Kerala, received the award for the best research work for finding new applications for coconut. Tapas Pal of West Bengal received the award for the best craftsman. Subicsha Coconut Producer Society Company Limited, Nadavannur, Kozhikode, received the award for the best NGO/cooperative society. Binesh V.R., agriculture officer, Kadakkavoor, Thiruvananthapuram, received the award for the best development worker and Indo German Carbons, Industrial Development Area, Edayar, Ernakulam, got the award for the best exporter of coconut products.

T.K. Jose, Chairman, Coconut Development Board, said it was for the first time that the board was celebrating World Coconut Day, and the award distribution function was held in North-East. Assam has more coconut productivity than Kerala and 14 districts in Assam have a higher productivity than the national average.

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Published: September 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 5, 2011 03:59 IST Gulbarga, September 5, 2011

### **Minister promises ambulance facility for livestock across State**



Bringing home benefits: Minister for Animal Husbandry Revu Naik Belamagi greeting residents of Srinivas Saradagi village on Sunday .

The State Government will provide ambulance facility for animals in all districts of the State, Minister for Animal Husbandry Revu Naik Belamagi has said. He was speaking at the inauguration of several development works at Srinivas Saradagi village here on Sunday. "The scheme is operational in five districts now on a pilot basis. It will soon be available across the State," he said. The scheme provides ambulance facility with state-of-the-art equipment to provide first aid to animals. Farmers can make use of the facility free of cost by dialling the helpline number 108. The scheme works on the same model as Arogya Kavacha, he said.

## **Loans**

According to Mr. Belamagi, the State Government had tied up with banks to provide loans to farmers for buying livestock. Under this scheme, nearly one crore people in rural areas will be able to take up livestock rearing, the Minister said. He asked officials to create awareness about the scheme among the rural people. He inaugurated works on cement concrete roads in Kesaratagi village, Dharmapur Wada, Dharmapur tanda, Bapu Naik tanda, Bolewad village, Srinivas Saradagi, Bhopal Teganur, Malagatti and Azadpur.

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Published: September 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 5, 2011 03:59 IST Raichur, September 5, 2011

## **Faulty transport system creates fertilizer shortage**

Goods fail to take off from Raichur railway shed



Inadequate supply: Farmers queue up before a fertilizer shop in Raichur on Sunday .

Even though the district received adequate quantity of fertilizer this season, farmers face a shortage, which has been attributed to faulty transportation system at the Raichur railway station.

Talking to presspersons here on Sunday, Vishwanath Patil, chairman of the Raichur District Cooperative Central Bank and zilla panchayat member, said the fertilizer allocated to the district is transported by rail and dumped at railway goods shed.

From here, transporters shift the goods to dealer point in various parts of the district. However, lack of proper transportation had created a shortage in the market.

### **Demand and supply**

The district, he said, received about 81,000 tonnes of fertilizer until last month, against a demand of 1.1 lakh tonnes this kharif season.

More fertilizer from the manufacturing point was expected to be despatched shortly.

However, farmers may still be short of fertilizers as the district administration had not initiated any measures to ensure the stock was transported out of railway goods shed here.

### **Transporters**

Mr. Patil said there was no need for farmers to worry about transporters as the district was expected to receive an additional allotment from the Centre.

However, the required quantity of fertilizer may not reach farmers on time due to delay in transportation. Transporters in the district had limited to carrying 10 tonnes of fertilizer per load.

It would be helpful in maintaining adequate supply if they agreed to carry 15 tonnes a load, he said.

The bank had requested the district administration to look into the problem and convince transporters in this regard, said Mr. Patil.

## Shift sought

The bank, Mr. Patil said, had also requested the district administration to shift railway goods shed to Yermarus railway station near the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee. This would help in minimising transportation cost and facilitate distribution.

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- *'District received 81,000 tonnes of fertilizer till last month, against a demand of 1.1 lakh tonnes'*
  - *Request to shift goods shed to Yermarus railway station near APMC*
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KATTAPPANA, September 5, 2011

## Training course in cultivation

The Medicinal Plants Research Centre, Odakkali, will hold a two-day training course for farmers from September 28.. For details, call ph: (0484) 2658221.

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Published: September 5, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 5, 2011 04:03 IST September 5, 2011

## Farmers in favour of a crop holiday

While farmers of West Godavari district want a crop holiday, opposition parties have taken up the “onerous task” of making them sow paddy this season.

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COIMBATORE, September 4, 2011

## Farmers advised to sell sunflower seeds immediately

The Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has forecast the price of sunflower seeds to be in the range of Rs. 31 and Rs. 34 during September-November.

Since there is limited chance for the price to increase, it is recommended that farmers can sell the seeds immediately on harvest without going in for storage.

The forecast has been made based on the 11-year analysis of the market survey at Vellakovil Regulated Market.

The total area of sunflower and production in Tamil Nadu during 2008-09 were 0.29 lakh hectares and 0.34 lakh tonnes respectively. The major sunflower growing districts in the State are Karur, Tiruchi, Dindigul, Tuticorin and Thiruvannamalai.

Sunflower occupies the fourth place among oilseed crops in terms of acreage and production. In India, sunflower seed production in 2009-10 was 3.2 lakh tonnes and in 2010-11 was 1.35 lakh tonnes. The major producers of sunflower are Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

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Published: September 4, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 4, 2011 04:09 IST  
COIMBATORE, September 4, 2011

**Cotton yarn prices continue to be a matter of** Textile industry representatives discussed the trends, issues of concern, competitiveness of the industry in the global market, and strategies to sustain growth at a two-day CEO Conference organised by the Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) here.

Inaugurating the conference on Friday, B.K. Patodia, Chairman and Managing Director of GTN Group, said normally the textile mills do not have more than 15 to 20 days stock of yarn.

However, when yarn exports were restricted last financial year, the mills were unable to export for over two months and stocks increased with the units.

Though exports had resumed now, the mills were unable to realise better prices for yarn.

Nearly 90 per cent of area under cotton was under Bt cotton in the country and yields had increased. Cotton production was expected to be 355 lakh bales in 2011-2012 and Indian production could reach even 400 lakh bales in a couple of years.

The domestic mills should also look at timely and regular purchase so that prices did not shoot up, he said.



Manickam Ramaswami, Deputy Chairman of Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, said the Indian textile and clothing industry would be able to capture 40 per cent to 50 per cent of world yarn market and 20 per cent to 25 per cent of grey cloth market in three years.

### **Stable policy**

It required a stable Government policy, modular incentive package, and no quantitative restrictions on exports. The Commerce Ministry should encourage exports. Every segment of the textile sector should improve its competitive edge in the international market.

The inter-dependence of various segments of the industry should be understood. Cotton should be available in surplus and farmers should be encouraged to cultivate cotton.

The cotton development and research wings of the textile industrial associations should focus on developing cotton by-products. "Two cents per pound freight equalisation tax should be levied to compensate for higher freight charges to Indian mills," he suggested.

J. Thulasidharan, former chairman of the Southern India Mills' Association, said the Centre should announce the National Fibre Policy at the earliest to ensure price stability and level-playing field for the domestic textile industry.

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THANJAVUR, September 4, 2011

### **Cattle protection camps**

A total of 5,100 cattle protection camps would be held in the State this year, said R. Vaithilingam, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, at Thiruvonam panchayat union on Saturday. Inaugurating a cattle protection camp, the Minister said the government has allotted Rs 2.21 crore for holding the camps.

A veterinary college would be opened at Orathanadu. Collector K.Baskaran said 204 such camps would be held in the district.

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Published: September 4, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 4, 2011 04:11 IST  
Tiruvannamalai, September 4, 2011

### Loans for milk producers to augment supply

Dairy development authorities have been fixed targets to arrange loans for people to purchase 4,600 milch animals in Tiruvannamalai district shortly, to give a fillip to milk production.

This was stated at a meeting convened by Collector Anshul Mishra here on Saturday to find ways to improve milk production in the district.

He said the daily average milk production during August was 1.9 lakh litre against the 2.1-lakh litre target. Officials should see to it they achieve the augmented target. Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS) and NABARD should offer loans to people to purchase milch animals, he said.

Plans to enhance productivity, which were discussed at the meeting, include a plan to purchase 300 tonnes of pellats (Kalappu Theevanam) and distributing 15 kg each to milk producers and plan to supply CO-3, CO-4 grass varieties and mineral mixer to milk producers through Aavin. Aavin Managing Director S. Sundaresan, Assistant General Manager, NABARD S.D. Sudharsanam, Special Officer, District Central Cooperative Bank, K.Jayam and Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies (Dairy Development) Muniraj were present.

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**hindustantimes**  
Mon,05 Sep 2011

### Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Monday, Sep 5

Tomorrow's Forecast



Tuesday, Sep 6

Partly Cloudy

Max Min  
35.3° | 25.6°

Rainy

Max Min  
34° | 26°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Sunrise: 5:57






Humidity: 53%

Sunset: 18:18

Wind: Normal

Barometer: 1003

#### Extended Forecast for a week

Wednesday Sep 7	Thursday Sep 8	Friday Sep 9	Saturday Sep 10	Sunday Sep 11
				
31°   26° Rainy	32°   26° Rainy	32°   26° Rainy	31°   26° Rainy	30°   26° Rainy

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*By Express News Service*

*05 Sep 2011 08:45:55 AM IST*

#### Vegetables fairs begin in city

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: With Onam just around the corner, vegetables fairs opened across the city on Sunday in a bid to check price rise during the festival season and provide fruits and vegetables at an affordable price to the public. Three separate fairs - 'Onakkazhcha' - were opened at Thycaud, Pazhavangadi and on the University Stadium premises on Sunday.

Organised respectively by the State Horticulture Mission, HortiCorp and the Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council, Kerala, the fairs offer customers a 30 per cent subsidy on the produce. Transport Minister V S Sivakumar inaugurated the three fairs. He said that the state government, through the fairs, was offering the people fresh produce procured directly from farmers. The procured vegetables are then sold at a subsidy of 30 per cent.

“The initiative is meant to provide natural vegetables to the public. The domestic farmers are also benefited from this programme,” said Dr K Prathapan, Director, State Horticulture Mission. Vegetables and bananas at the fairs have been procured from different parts of the state. Winter season vegetables like carrot, beetroot, potato, cabbage and beans produced at the high altitudes of Idukki are also lined up for sale here. Special jaggery manufactured by the Sugarcane Seed Farm at Pandalam is another attraction at the fairs. High quality pineapple produced from Vazhakulam has also found its way to the stalls. Vazhakulam pineapple is known for its taste and aroma. The Kerafed stall sells coconut oil at a rate which is Rs 5 less than the market price. In addition to the vegetables, various products made from banana and vegetables, including pickles, banana wine and chips, are also available at the fairs.

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*05 Sep 2011 12:01:02 AM IST*

### **Agriculture, a hit with the youth**

KOCHI: Every attempt to revive the long-lost charm of agriculture is always welcome for it has been shunned by the youth for a long time, calling it a less paying vocation. But things are changing as many youths are emerging from their cocoons and looking at agriculture as a serious option.

P K Vijayan from Puthiyoor took a degree in Botany for he wanted to pursue agriculture as his vocation. Thomas J George who is an architect by profession is also pursuing farming out of sheer passion for it. Narayanan Ilayathu from Kakkanad was yet another major success in this regard.

Vijayan says that though he had to overcome a lot of hardships in the initial stages, he never ever thought of moving back from the vocation he always loved.

“I did Botany for I was interested in agriculture right from the beginning. My parents were also into farming. I did a lot of odd jobs, but it never gave me any satisfaction,” he said. His love for agriculture has also led him to form a committee called ‘Oruma’ which has been operational since 2011. Its main purpose is to attract a lot of youngsters towards agriculture. “The indifferent attitude of the youth towards agriculture is the main impediment which should be changed. It is not difficult to grow a small garden in your compound. If there is less availability of space, you can resort to roof-top farming.”

Though he would like to stick to conventional methods of farming, he said that it was not easy. “I am using the conventional methods, but it is not easy to cover 50 cents of land when it comes to

tilling soil.”

The only regret he had during these years is that when he approached the Thrikkakara Municipality to get the tiller which has been rusting for quite long time due to disuse, it was rejected.

Speaking on the help received towards such a venture, he said that he always got support from the Krishibhavan. “I get manure at a very subsidised rate, which helped me a lot.” He has been growing various crops in his 50 cents of land.

“I never thought it could be a lucrative profession when I started this. But my life has completely changed when I switched over to this profession,” he said.

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### **Cotton exports may jump by 21%: USDA**

**Agencies** Posted online: Sun Sep 04 2011, 18:19 hrs

**New Delhi** : India's cotton exports are projected to jump by 21 per cent to 8 million bales in the 2011-12 marketing year (August-July) on the back of record output and a possibly less restrictive government policy, a US Department of Agriculture (USDA) report has said.

The country had shipped 6.6 million bales of cotton overseas in the 2010-11 marketing year, the USDA said in the report.

"For the 2011-12 season, exports are forecast at 8 million bales," it added.

One bale is equal to 170 kg.

Exports are seen higher as the country's cotton output is estimated at a record 35 million bales in the 2011-12 marketing year, as against 33 million bales last year, the report said.

The USDA report also noted that India, the world's second-largest cotton producer, may adopt a less restrictive export policy to prevent any steep fall in domestic prices due to an expected increase in output in other countries, especially China.

"While the export situation is uncertain, there are several factors that point to the possibility of a less restrictive approach to cotton exports during 2011-12," the report said.

The USDA explained that India may have fewer export restrictions to ensure domestic cotton prices do not fall below the minimum support price and avoid a situation where its procuring agency, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), is required to buy large volumes and run the risk of selling at a loss.

That apart, the domestic yarn industry is less likely to push for export controls due to significant stocks, it added.

In the 2010-11 season, India had capped cotton exports at 5.5 million bales and subsequently increased the quota to 6.5 million bales.

While the quantitative restrictions on cotton exports were lifted in August, 2011, the government imposed several other conditions for obtaining a registration certificate as a means of controlling exports, the report said.

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# THE HINDU Business Line

## Approvals for GM crop field-trials run into delays



Companies are mandated to conduct field-trials before they get final approvals to market their biotech agri-product locally

More than 100 applications pile-up

Mumbai, Sept. 3:

Over the last few months, there has been a pile-up of more than 100 applications seeking regulatory approvals to conduct field-trials of genetically-modified (GM) crops.

The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) had, in June, directed industry applicants to get a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from respective State Governments before undertaking open field trials.

Companies are mandated to conduct field-trials before they get final approvals to market their biotech agri-product locally.

With several States taking time to give an NOC, there has been a pile-up of over 100 applications at State Agriculture Ministries, said Mr V.R. Kaundinya, Chairman of the Association of Biotech Led Enterprises – Agriculture Group (ABLE-AG).

There have been a few approvals from States such as Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Haryana, but others like Karnataka and Bihar have indicated they would not give approvals, he told *Business Line*.

Other States where companies have applied for field trials and are awaiting approvals include Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. In fact, the agri-biotech industry has sought a meeting with the new Environment Minister, Ms Jayanthi Natrajan, seeking clarity on this and other issues facing the industry. Timely approvals are necessary “to generate reliable data about the efficacy, safety and agronomic performance of the product without losing one year”, the Association had said, in an earlier letter to former Environment Minister, Mr Jairam Ramesh.

The Government needs to spell out clearly its position on GM products, instead of changing the eligibility criteria after agri-companies have invested in research and field-trials, says an industry representative, concerned about the delay. Mr Kaundinya said the delays hurt domestic companies more, as they do not have deep pockets like the multinationals. The delay also upsets the company's cycle for an entire year, as the seed company would have missed the kharif period (in the monsoons), he added.

The applications for both kharif and rabi (winter) season trials were for maize, cotton, and rice made by companies including Monsanto, Syngenta, Pioneer Overseas Corporation, Bayer and Dow AgroSciences.

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### **Hatsun Agro to give its dairy products a national push**

They have contributed to over Rs 20 crore to the business





Mr R.G. Chandramogan (file photo)

Chennai, Sept. 4:

Hatsun Agro Product is in the process of consolidating its Hatsun range of dairy products brand which gives it a national presence.

Hatsun Agro's Arokyia brand of milk is the largest private sector dairy brand in the country but is restricted to South India, particularly Tamil Nadu.

The liquid milk brand also contributed the lion's share of the company's Rs 1,355-crore turnover in 2010-11, which also makes it the largest private sector dairy company.

### **contribution**

However, the Hatsun range of dairy products, which the company categorises as the “long shelf life products” such as ghee, dairy whiteners, butter and branded skimmed milk powders, have given it a national presence.

As of now, these have contributed to over Rs 20 crore to the business and they have stabilised in the market and will increasingly contribute to the company's growth, according to Mr R.G. Chandramogan, Chairman and Managing Director, Hatsun Agro.

Last year was the phase of consolidation of the Hatsun brand and expenditure relating to brand promotion, Mr Chandramogan told *Business Line*.

The range has attained a threshold and will now see growth making it a third major division in the company in addition to liquid milk and the flagship brand of Arun Ice Creams which contributes about 7 per cent of its turnover.

### **Demand buoyant**

Addressing shareholders at the company's AGM, he said the demand for milk and milk products continues to be buoyant for quality products.

The company is well set to exploit this opportunity with an established daily milk processing capacity of about 24 lakh litres of milk spread across eight processing units.

This gives the company economies of scale, efficiency and spare capacity to handle the flush seasons.

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***“Last year was the phase of consolidation of the Hatsun brand and expenditure relating to brand promotion.”***

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

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### **Demand-supply mismatch continues to keep pepper hot**

Kochi, Sept. 4:

Pepper market has witnessed an unprecedented price rise in recent days on reports of squeeze in availability in all the origins coupled with bullish sentiments emanating from the overseas markets.

Vietnam is reported to have exhausted much of its current crop after shipping out good quantities so far this year. Indonesian output, according to International Pepper Community reports, is also likely to be lesser than what was being projected earlier. Supply from Brazil is said to be disrupted by some financial problems. Add to this buyers were reportedly hesitant to buy at higher rates because of the additional cost involved in processing the pepper in the US. Also there were conflicting reports about the crop which some claimed is normal to better while others projected a lower output, trade sources said.

At the same time availability in India, which has huge domestic market capable of absorbing more than 50,000 tonnes of pepper a year, is also limited with exchange is the main source, market sources told *Business Line*.

They said the incessant heavy rains in the State, especially in the pepper growing high ranges, has put mainly the medium and small dealers in the primary markets and growers in serious problems. Indian parity in the international market was at around \$7,600 a tonne and stayed in line with other origins which were also reportedly firmer.

In the domestic market also a similar situation is prevailing and since the winter season is round the corner the demand from the consumers as well as the industrial buyers is expected to pick up. This is, in fact, the peak demand period because of the festival and wedding season in many parts of the country.

Last week also, as usual, futures market witnessed high volatility with the prices fluctuating heavily almost every day. Sep, Oct and Nov contracts moved up by Rs 107, Rs 186 and Rs 227 respectively to close at Rs 33,335, Rs 34,046 and Rs 34,463 a quintal.

Spot prices during the week hit the highest ever price of 30,600 a quintal for ungarbled and Rs31,600 a quintal for MG1 on Friday. However, it declined on Saturday to close at Rs 30,400 and Rs 31,400 a quintal respectively.

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

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### **Strong demand continues for Coonoor tea**

Coonoor, Sept. 4:

Strong business mood prevailed, for the third consecutive week, at Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions which opened with sale no 35 after Ganesh Chaturthi holiday. About 87 per cent of the four-week high offer of 15.47 lakh kg was absorbed. Prices, however, did not show much improvement.

“Orthodox leaf gained Rs 2-3 a kg. High-priced CTC leaf and better mediums were irregular. Blacker, cleaner smaller plainer grades fetched Rs 2-3 more. Orthodox dusts lost up to Rs 15. High-priced CTC dusts eased Rs 2-4. Mediums gained Rs 2-3. Cleaner blacker sorts fetched up to Rs 3 more,” an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

Among CTC teas, Homedale Estate, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped at Rs 138. In all, 67 marks got Rs 100 and more.

Among orthodox teas from corporate sector, Chamraj got Rs 200.

Among Green tea, Wood Bridge Estate, auctioned by Paramount Tea Marketing, got Rs 210.

On the export front, Pakistan bought strongly in wide range – Rs 45-74 a kg, the CIS Rs 41-65 and some European countries Rs 42-64.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 35-41 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 80-125 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 40-45 for plain dusts and Rs 85-138 for brighter liquoring dusts.

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### **Offerings at N.India tea auctions show marginal rise**

Kolkata, Sept. 4:

Last week at sale no 35, the total offerings (packages) at three North Indian auction centres, Kolkata, Guwahati and Siliguri, were 3,96,189 as compared to 3,81,216 in the corresponding sale of last year, according to tea auctioneers, J Thomas & Company Pvt Ltd.

However, the offerings at Kolkata were lower at 1,79,687 kg (1, 89,168 kg) largely due to lower offerings of Orthodox at 27,414 kg (50,616 kg). The offerings of CTC/Dust at 1,46,176 kg (1,33,656 kg) and Darjeeling at 6,097 kg (4,896 kg) were higher.

The offerings at Guwahati were higher at 1,34,811 kg (1,01,947 kg) but those at Siliguri were lower at 81,691 kg (90,101 kg).

### **Assam teas**

Assam CTC teas maintaining quality were around last while the remainder were irregularly lower. There was good demand for the plainer sorts which sold readily. Dooars were irregular around last levels. Tata Global was the mainstay, while there was fair enquiry from Hindustan Unilever on the leaf grades and good support on the dust grades.

Western India dealers were active for the liquoring sorts. There was fair enquiry from North India and from local sections. Exporters operated primarily on bolder broken.

### **exports**

Well-made Orthodox whole leaf and broken grades were firm while the remainder were irregularly lower. Continental buyers were selective.

Darjeeling whole leaf varieties sold at irregular rates. Brokens and fannings sold at around last levels. There was useful enquiry from traditional exporters as well as the major blenders. Local dealers operated for the brokens and fannings.

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

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### **Prices firm up at Kochi tea auction**

Kochi, Sept. 4:

Prices remained firm at the Kochi tea auction even as arrivals have begun to ease on account of heavy rains in the tea growing regions of South India. There was 9,87,000 kg of dust and 3,41,000 kg of leaf tea on offer at the auction. Prices remained firm to dearer at the CTC dust auction, particularly the good liquoring and medium grades. Plain grades quoted around last week's levels. AVT, Tata Global, Hindustan Unilever and Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation were active on good liquoring grades. Upcountry buyers and exporters remained subdued. Primary grades were steady at the orthodox dust auction while secondaries inched lower. High grown grades remained firm to dearer at the orthodox leaf auction following quality. Other Nilgiri teas tended to ease. Medium bolder broken and whole leaf grades were firm to occasionally dearer. Traditional exporters, including those to CIS countries were active. Fannings were absorbed by tea bag manufacturers and exporters. Upcountry buyers lent useful support on whole leaf grades. HUL was not active. There was good demand at the CTC leaf auction where good liquoring grades were firm to dearer. Others grades were irregular to easier. Exporters were active on medium/plainer grades. Superior grades were absorbed by upcountry buyers. HUL lent fair amount of support. Pasuparai FD fetched the top price at the dust auction at Rs 142 followed by Pasuparai SFD at Rs 133, Injipara SFD and Injipara SRD at Rs 129. At the leaf auction, Pascoe's green tea fetched the top price at Rs 289 followed by Chamraj OP and Chamraj FOP at Rs 206 even as Havukal OP fetched Rs 205.

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