THE HINDU

Published: September 6, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 6, 2011 10:33 IST Dharwad, September 6, 2011

‘Popularise millet consumption'

Cultivation of millets can be a profitable venture for farmers in terms of gaining economical stability and if people make millets part of their regular diet, it is very good for health, according to dietician K.C. Raghu.

He was speaking at the valedictory ceremony of the farmers' consultative workshop on millet cultivation organised by Siri Dhanya Kriya Samiti here on Monday.

Mr. Raghu spoke at length on why millets should be made a part of regular diet and how it will be beneficial to the people who do so.

He explained that millets can be cultivated without using fertilizers and insecticides. Mr. Raghu stressed on the need to follow traditional food habits as consuming several food items that have come into the market now are harmful to health. He said advertisements are misleading as they only focus on the benefits of consuming a particular food item but does not mention the demerits of the same. He said biscuits with glucose contents were being marketed focussing on the benefits of glucose. But the same glucose could cause diabetes if consumed in excessive quantity. In such a situation it is always better to follow traditional food habits, he added.

Samiti convenor Prakash Bhat said besides creating awareness among the people on use of millets, the Government should initiate steps to include millet in the midday meal schemes and distribute them through the PDS.

Farmers from Dharwad, Hubli, Kalghatagi, Kundagola and Navalgund taluks took part in the workshop.

Millet Network of India convenor P.V. Satish made a pesentation on millet cultivation. He advised people to follow traditional food habits and not be carried away by advertisements promoting new food items. Re-introduction of traditional food habits will solve many health problems, he added.

- *'Millets can be cultivated without using fertilizers'*
- *People advised to follow traditional food habits*

Published: September 6, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 6, 2011 10:33 IST Haveri, September 6, 2011

Haveri district gets agriculture college

Symbolic start: Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda inaugurating the agriculture college at Hanumanamatti in Ranebennur taluk of Haveri district on Monday.

Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda on Monday inaugurated an agriculture college at Hanumanamatti in Ranebennur taluk of Haveri district. This will be the third college to be affiliated to the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, he said that the Government will extend all assistance to develop the college on the lines of a university.

The Chief Minister told district in-charge Minister C.M. Udasi that Haveri district would be given priority when the Government considers increasing the number of government medical colleges in the State.

Mr. Sadananda Gowda said that he would strive to give good administration, however, his priority would be to make the schemes and programmes launched by his predecessor B.S. Yeddyurappa successful, and to improve farmers' lives.

Mr. Sadananda Gowda listed out various programmes and schemes launched by the BJP government under the leadership of Mr. Yeddyurappa and said that because of lack of political will, the previous Governments in the State had not been able to improve the lives of the farmers.

The Chief Minister said that already adequate measures had been taken to ensure that there was no shortage of fertilizers and seeds in the State. While the State requires 23 lakh tonnes of fertilizers, 18 lakh tonnes have already been distributed. “We have two lakh tonnes of fertilizer with us now and in another two weeks another 3 lakh tonnes of fertilizers will arrive. We have got adequate stock of seeds for the rabi season also”, he said.

Byadagi MLA Sureshgouda Patil presided over the function.

Ministers C.M. Udasi, Basavaraj Bommai, Umesh Katti and several elected representatives and officials participated in the programme.

Vegetable missions

Thanks to the success achieved in production and productivity of vegetables at the Centre of Excellence for Vegetables at Gharaunda in Karnal district set up under the Indo-Israel Project, the Haryana Government has decided to replicate the experiment in all districts.

An official spokesman said here on Monday that 12 Frontline Demonstration Centres (FLDCs) would be set up under the National Horticulture Mission on the Gharaunda model to “transmit and demonstrate modern vegetable cultivation techniques to farmers at the grassroots level in the public-private-farmer partnership mode”.

Published: September 6, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 6, 2011 10:37 IST Raichur, September 6, 2011

Farmers in tail-end areas seek proper water supply

They picket office at Yermarus Camp, take officials to task

Tension: Farmers from the tail-end command area of the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal protesting at the office of the irrigation division at Yermarus Camp near Raichur on Monday.

Tension prevailed for some time at the office of the irrigation division at Yermarus Camp, near here, on Monday, when a group of ayacutdars from the tail-end command areas of Manvi and Raichur taluks picketed the office and later gheraoed the Executive Engineer of the division at his residence. The ayacutdars were protesting against the failure of the division to maintain water supply to the tail-end areas of the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal (TLBC).

A large number of farmers, including raitha sangha activists, from several villages in the tail-end regions of the TLBC reached Yermarus Camp and staged a dhrana there.

They criticised the officials for their failure to ensure proper distribution of water from the 104th mile stretch to the tail-end regions.

Official gheraoed

Later, they went to the house of the Executive Engineer where they gheraoed him.

Mahantesh Patil, president of the 104th Mile Farmers' Association, told the official that because of the good storage at the reservoir, there should be no shortage of water. However, water had not reached the tail-end regions, thus affecting standing crops in Raichur and Manvi taluks, he claimed.

It was announced that water would be supplied as per a weekly rotation system to ensure proper gauges at all distributaries falling after the 104th mile of the TLBC. However, this had not been implemented, he alleged.

As per the weekly rotation system, the department was supposed to maintain water supply in the 94th and 95th distribution channels by August 27. But, the ayacutdars had been facing a shortage in water since the past ten days. They were afraid that the standing paddy crop in the tail-end regions would be affected if no action was taken, he said.

Mr. Patil alleged that normal water supply to the tail-end command areas had been affected because of the lack of proper water management in the upper reach of TLBC. Officials at the Yermarus division had failed to assess the situation and the department would be held responsible for any failure of crops, he said.

The ayacutdars withdrew their dharna when the Executive Engineer assured them that he would dispatch a team to handle water management in the tail-end regions.

- *'Yermarus division has failed to ensure proper water supply from 104th mile to tail-end regions'*
- *There are fears that standing paddy crop in Manvi and Raichur taluks could be affected*

Published: September 6, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 6, 2011 10:34 IST Chandigarh, September 6, 2011

1.85 crore per acre reward recommended for Mohali land

Current market rate 2.25 crore per acre: Property experts

Amid growing concern over inadequate compensation offered to farmers in many States for land acquisition, a panel has recommended the highest-ever reward of Rs.1.85 crore per acre to farmers for procuring land in Mohali for the ambitious Medicity project.

"The District Land Fixation Committee has recommended payment of compensation amounting to Rs.1.85 crore to farmers for acquiring their land at Mullanpur in Mohali," a senior official of the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority said here on Monday.

Medicity project

About 150 acre has been proposed to be acquired from farmers at Mullanpur, near Chandigarh, for setting up the Medicity project. The project is proposed to house integrated medical care facilities. In the first phase, it will be developed over 150 acre.

The recommendation of the District Land Fixation Committee will be sent to the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Land Compensation, to be chaired by State Industries Minister Tikshan Sud, on September 8, the official informed.

The Punjab Government earlier had offered the highest land compensation of Rs.1.50 crore per acre for housing project Aerocity, followed by Rs.1.30 crore per acre for another upcoming housing project at Mullanpur in Mohali.

However, property experts pointed out that the rate of Rs.1.85 crore per acre, if approved, was less than the current market rate of Rs.2.25 crore to 2.50 crore per acre.

“Farmers in Mullanpur are not ready to sell their land below Rs.2.25 crore or Rs.2.50 crore per acre. However, if the compensation of Rs.1.85 crore per acre is fixed, the market rate will touch a new high of Rs.3 crore per acre,” said city-based real estate consultant Kamaljit Singh, ruling out any impact on property rates in Chandigarh as current prices in the city have already peaked.

Preferred destination

Mullanpur in Mohali has turned out to be the most preferred destination for property investment because of its proximity with Chandigarh.

Leading realtors DLF and Omaxe have already announced plans to build residential properties in Mullanpur, pushing up property rates.

The Authority had also announced plans for a residential project in Mullanpur.

hindustantimes

Zia Haq, Hindustan Times
Email Author

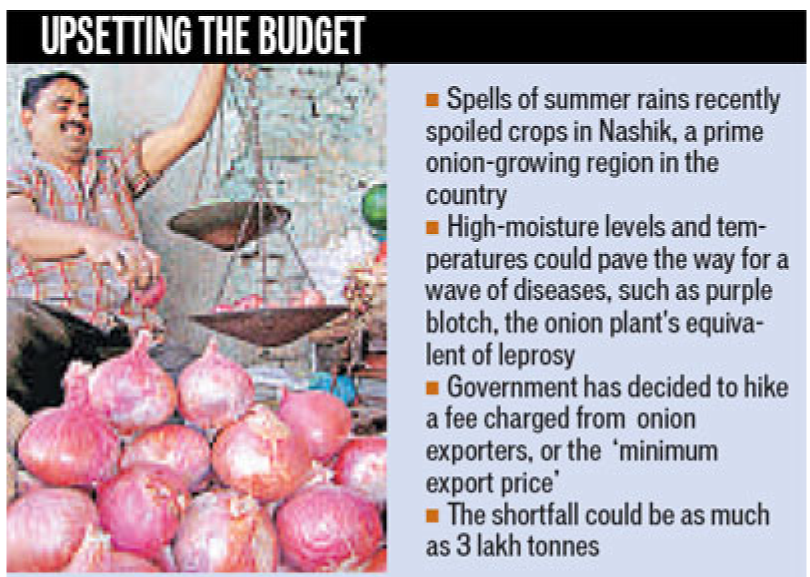
New Delhi, September 05, 2011
First Published: 23:08 IST(5/9/2011)
Last Updated: 01:17 IST(6/9/2011)

Govt set to curb onion exports

Markets could run low on onions again, prompting the government to consider taking a key monetary step to curb exports and check domestic prices from spiralling.

After discussions on Monday, agriculture minister Sharad Pawar and food minister KV Thomas decided to hike a fee charged from onion exporters, or the "minimum export price," amid signs of a major shortfall in output.

Export of onions, other than premium varieties, currently attracts a levy of $275 (Rs 12,375) a tonne. This is set to go up by at least 5%.



Spells of summer rains recently spoiled crops in Nashik, a prime onion-growing region in the country. The shortfall could be as much as 3 lakh tonnes, a government official said, requesting anonymity.

Since this is equivalent to India's total exports, the government hopes to keep prices affordable by paring exports of non-premium varieties, such as "Bangalore Rose" and "Krishnapuram".

"Onions are currently selling between Rs 12-15 (a kg) in the wholesale markets. By increasing the minimum export price, we will be able to keep retails prices around Rs 21-22 per kg," food minister Thomas told HT.

The seeds of the current crisis were sown when late August rains caught farmers unawares in western India.

High-moisture levels and temperatures, when the skies clear up, could pave the way for a wave of diseases, such as purple blotch, the onion plant's equivalent of leprosy. A similar attack followed by untimely rains had cut output last December.

"Summer harvest accounts for just 15% of the total annual production, but it is the most important because it comes at a time when onion stocks from previous harvests are fully exhausted," RP Gupta, director of the Nashik-based National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) said.

Such explanations don't make things easy for a government fighting persistently high food inflation.

An index measuring wholesale prices of farm products rose 10.05% in the week ended August 20 from a year earlier, scaling to a four-month high on the back high onion and dairy prices.

http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/742065.aspx

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather

Cloudy

Tuesday, Sep 6

Max Min

34.6° | 26°

Rain: Trace

Sunrise: 5:57

Tomorrow's Forecast

Rainy

Wednesday, Sep 7

Max Min

34° | 26°

Humidity: 84%	Sunset: 18:17
Wind: Normal	Barometer: 1005

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sep 8	**Sep 9**	**Sep 10**	**Sep 11**	**Sep 12**
32° | 27°	33° | 26°	31° | 26°	30° | 26°	30° | 26°
Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy

NVDA to hand over water distribution to farmers

The major irrigation projects had been experiencing problem of distribution of water amongst the farmers of command area. There had been disputes over the sharing of water between farmers leading to violent incidents.

Breaking and dismantling of canals had been the general trouble with field engineers. To overcome these problems NVDA has come forward to hand over the total distribution network to the farmers of command area as per course of action under Participatory Irrigation Management Act. The PIM Act 1998 came into force in 1999 in the State.

The NVDA with strategic approach implemented this act successfully for the first time in the State under Maan and Jobat project. Inspired by this success the same approach is now being extended in other projects, of the valley.

Under the programme water users committees have been constituted after the election process. As much as 208 such committees have already come into existence. A special cell in the NVDA for this purpose making all arrangements for the training of elected representative of the farmers has been introduced.

The training curriculum includes the system of water distribution, the process of maintaining distribution networks, exploiting financial resources, preparing and maintaining necessary records etc.

Till date, total 1,215 farmer representatives have been trained in first round of training pertaining to Indira Sagar, Omkareshwar, Bargi Diversion, Upper Beda, Rani Avanti Bai, Kathora, Maan, Jobat and Punasa Lift Irrigation command area.

Vice Chairman NVDA OP Rawat informed that, “We have decided to cover other progressive farmers of command area to give them exposure for taking care of canals in their own interest. The in-charge officer of the training programme Shyam Singh said that a film on Maan and Jobat project is being produced and it will be screened in the future training programmes so that farmers could no how much beneficial is taking care of canals for them.

Farmers under Maan and Jobat project have taken over the distribution network which resulted into hassle free irrigation since last four years.

Haryana to set up 12 centres for modern vegetable cultivation

In the backdrop of its success at its Centre of Excellence for Vegetables at Gharaunda, which was set up in collaboration with Israeli experts, the Haryana government has decided to replicate the experiment in all districts of the State in two phases.

As per the plan, 12 Front Line Demonstration Centres (FLDCs) are to be set up under the National Horticulture Mission on the same pattern as the Gharaunda centre to explain and demonstrate modern vegetable cultivation techniques to farmers at the grassroots level. Each centre will cost `25 lakh to set up and 75 per cent of the cost will be met by the National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

On the State's part, `3 crore has been earmarked for the project under the state's Annual Action Plan 2011-12, a spokesman of the Horticulture Department said on Monday. He said that the vegetable production systems and techniques adopted at Gharaunda would be taken to 12 districts in the first phase. The centres will be set up in the districts of Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hisar, Bhiwani, Jind, Jhajjar, Panchkula, Rohtak, Sonepat, Gurgaon, Narnaul and Mewat in the first phase. "The other districts will be covered in the second phase. Following the Gharaunda model and practices, each centre will help set up an intensive crop cultivation farm by demonstrating the latest know-how; help produce high-quality vegetables all the year round; achieve potential productivity per unit area; and enable the farmers to march in step with the latest know-how," he said.

These centres would help farmers adopt the latest technologies for poly-house cultivation and micro-irrigation, as well as grow off-season vegetables and make quality vegetables available to people all year round, the spokesman said. "Creation of such facility is vital in Haryana, where approximately 84 per cent of the total area is under horticultural crops," he said.

Floods affect Himachal's trout breeding

Trout breeding in Himachal Pradesh will take a Rs 1.5 crore hit, estimates say, as a large number of private farms, known for rearing high-quality fish, have been damaged by floods.

Trouts are various freshwater fish of Salmonidae family. Of the 15 species found globally, two trout - brown and rainbow - are found in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

This monsoon the damage to private fish farms in Kullu valley is abnormally high, say official estimates.

This would hit the total yield of the exotic trout species in Himachal Pradesh.

According to the State fisheries department, Himachal Pradesh annually in Government and private farms cultivates 18 tonnes and 90 tonnes of trout respectively.

Most of the farms in the State are located in this district.

More than 15 trout farms have been totally washed away in the past two months, said Trout Growers' Association president, Balbir Singh.

"So far we have estimated that the damage to the fish farms is more than `1.5 crore. This monsoon the damage is quite high. We have requested the Government to assess the damage and compensate the cultivators," he said.

A 600-km stretch of the cold waters of the Beas, Sutlej and Ravi rivers is the habitat of the trout, mainly the brown ones. The State has around 100 run-of-river trout farms, including six Government-run ones, mainly in the interiors of Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Kinnaur districts.

"A number of private trout farms have been damaged in the past few weeks due to floods. This would definitely affect the total trout production. But the exact loss would be assessed once the monsoon is over," director of State fisheries department BD Sharma told IANS.

Last week, four trout farms located 15 km from here were damaged, said Kullu deputy commissioner, BM Nanta.

"The entire trout farm has been turned into a desert due to flooding. The fish ponds and the pathways for diverting river water into the ponds have been totally damaged and it is not possible to restore it," fish farmer Jiwan Ram from Banjar said.

A large number of orders of trout procurement have already been received by the local farmers from Delhi and Mumbai for the upcoming festive season, he said.

"Now we are not in a position to supply the stocks," Ram added.

Trout farmers in the State are facing tough competition from neighbouring Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand, where a large number of private farms have come up.

The State fisheries department is encouraging farmers to adopt trout farming under a Central Government-assisted scheme to boost production.

The rainbow trout's wholesale rate in Chandigarh is between `300 and `350 a kg, while in Delhi it is sold at `400 a kg.

The British first introduced trout in Himachal Pradesh in 1909 in order to promote game fishing.

At that time, fingerling trouts, brought from Jammu and Kashmir, were released in streams of Chamba, Kangra and Kullu districts.

The introduction of the trout was successful as the stocked fish thrived and bred.

Business Standard

Tobacco Board to fix crop size on Sept 9

D Gopi / Chennai/ Guntur September 06, 2011, 0:41 IST

The Tobacco Board has decided to cut the crop size this year. However, this would not be as demanded by the the Indian Tobacco Association (ITA), but 'in tune with the global changes'.

The ITA had placed an indent of 120 million kg in Andhra Pradesh for the 2011-12 season, claiming that there was no demand for tobacco in the global market. While the permitted crop for 2010-11 was 170 million kg, farmers have grown around 210 million kg. The excess production had resulted in the traders bringing down the price to Rs 104 a kg, which led to protests by the growers, particularly in the southern light soils (SLS).

When the ITA had placed the indent for 120 million kg, the board held several rounds of talks with the former's representatives and the growers to fix it at 150-160 million kg. However, the meetings did not help and it is expected that the board will clear the cloud and declare the size at its meeting scheduled for September 9.

This year, the board is willing to permit around 160 million kg for Andhra Pradesh. However, the board is also thinking on encouraging farmers to shift to other crops so as to bring down the tobacco production in the country, following the decline in the international demand for tobacco products.

The board had so far succeeded in convincing the farmers of Krishna district under the Keesara auction platform to shift to other crops. “We are happy that the farmers from the Keesara platform have agreed to stop growing tobacco in the central black soils,” said board chairman, G Kamalavardhana Rao.

Chana futures rises on firm spot market demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 05, 2011, 14:21 IST

Chana prices rose by Rs 25 to Rs 3,337 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions, driven by strong demand in the spot market amid the ongoing festive season.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, September chana rose by Rs 25, or 0.75%, to Rs 3,337 per quintal, with an open interest for 2,52,270 lots.

The October contract gained Rs 24, or 0.70%, to Rs 3,432 per quintal, with an open interest for 1,97,700 lots, while November delivery chana climbed by Rs 21, or 0.60%, to Rs 3,508 per quintal in 70,540 lots.

Traders said speculators increasing their positions on hopes of a rise in demand in the spot market due to the ongoing festive season was responsible for the upward movement in chana futures prices.

Gur futures spurt on firm spot cues

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 05, 2011, 13:03 IST

Gur prices firmed up by Rs 36 to Rs 1,126 per quintal in futures trade today amid aggressive buying by traders in line with the firm spot market sentiment.

Marketmen said low inventories along with reduced arrivals from producing areas due to heavy rains encouraged traders to enlarge their holdings in futures trade.At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, September gur shot up by Rs 36, or 3.30%, to Rs 1,126 per quintal, with an open interest for 9,740 lots.
The January contract also followed suit and hardened by Rs 11, or 1.12%, to Rs 995 per quintal, with an open interest for 20 lots.

Maize futures fall on weak spot demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 05, 2011, 12:54 IST

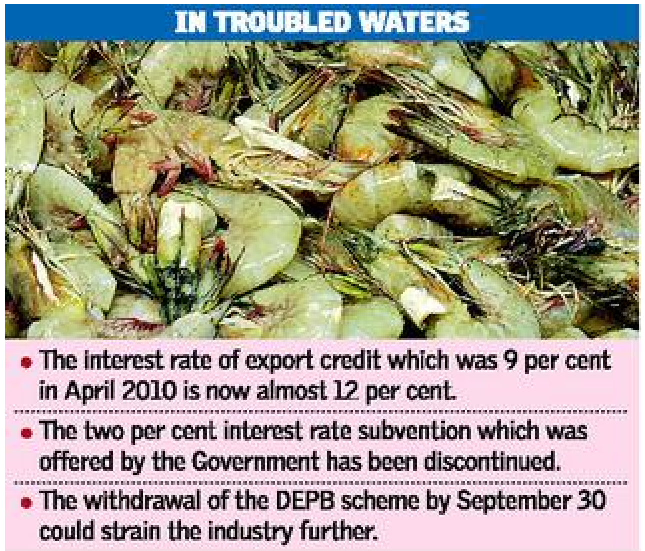
Maize prices fell by Rs 39 to Rs 1,064.50 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators offloaded their positions in tandem with weak domestic and global market cues.Marketmen said weak demand from bio-product making industries overseas and adequate stock availability in the physical markets here mainly put pressure on futures price of maize.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, September maize lost Rs 39, or 3.53%, to Rs 1,064.50 per quintal, with an open interest for 17,420 lots.
Likewise, mid-November contract declined by Rs.32, or 2.80%, to Rs 1,110 per quintal with an open interest for 14,750 lots.

THE HINDU Business Line

Seafood exports flounder as shipping costs mount

Costlier credit likely to dampen growth



Kochi, Sept. 5:

Seafood exports from the country are under strain as export costs continue to mount.

The hike in interest rate of export credit is costing the seafood industry dear, said Mr Anwar Hashim, President of the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).

While the sector had shown comfortable growth rate in both rupee and dollar realisations during last year, the hike in export credit is not only expected to dampen further growth but could also lead to dwindling of seafood exports, sources in the trade warned.

The interest rate of export credit which was nine per cent in April 2010 is now almost 12 per cent, an increase of 30 per cent.

Surge in interest rate

To compound the problems of the seafood industry, the two per cent interest rate subvention which was offered by the Government has been discontinued.

Effectively the interest rates have now surged from 7 per cent to 12 per cent, a growth of over 70 per cent in one year.

The withdrawal of the DEPB scheme by September 30 could strain the industry further.

Tougher to compete

The Indian seafood industry is competing with other Asian, South-East Asian and Latin American producers who enjoy interest rates which are often substantially lower than our own. The margins in the Indian seafood industry have never been very alluring and the increase in cost of export operations is expected to erode the profitability further.

A significant portion of Indian seafood exports still go in the raw and the block frozen form in which margins are low.

Higher port charges

Moreover, the terminal handling charges at Indian ports have also been going up.

The last one to revise handling charges was Kochi, where the rates were increased by over Rs 10,000 a container.

The fishermen and the mechanised fish boat owners have themselves been complaining about the high cost of fuel and lower catches affecting their returns.

The livelihood of two million fishermen and their dependants from the most marginalised sector of Indian society could be affected, Mr Hashim said.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 6, 2011)

Turmeric falls below Rs 6,000 a quintal

Erode, Sept. 5:

Spot turmeric prices decreased by Rs 200 a quintal on Monday as arrivals flooded Erode markets.

“Expecting good price and sales, many turmeric growers brought their produce to the market, but prices decreased. More than 10,000 bags of turmeric arrived and sales were around 50 per cent,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said that on Monday everyone expected to get fresh orders, but no fresh orders were received by traders. Prices quoted in the futures also increased to Rs 5,850 a quintal, but did not reflect on the spot market. Farmers who require money are selling turmeric at lower price. Still, they are hopeful of getting at least Rs 7,500 a quintal, but traders said definitely it will not touch Rs 7,000 a quintal again, as they said they are not getting expected orders and also they are expecting another bumper crop next year.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,766-5,609 a quintal, the root variety Rs 3,466-5,057.

Salem Crop

The finger variety was sold at Rs 5,169-6,309, the root variety Rs 4,316-5,211 a quintal. Out of total arrival of 2,637 bags, 400 were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,709-5,772, the root variety Rs 3,331 -4,838. All the 286 bags arrived for sales were sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,351-5,751, the root variety Rs 4,038-5,199. Out of arrival of 1,346 bags, 1,251 were sold.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,389-5,714, the root variety Rs 4,869-5,129. Out of 1,238 bags kept for sales, 1,080 were sold.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 6, 2011)

Festival buying sweetens sugar

Mumbai, Sept. 5:

Sugar prices increased by Rs 15–20 a quintal at the upper level on Monday on renewed demand from Kolkata-side buyers and increased local demand for *Ganeshotsav* festival.

On the Vashi wholesale market, spot rate rose by Rs 10-15 tracking firm Naka and mill tender rates. Maharashtra's mills have sold more than two lakh bags (each 100 kg) weighing on firm sentiment in the physical market. Sugar futures were range-bound, said traders.

Mr Mukesh Kuwadia, the Secretary of Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, told *Business Line*: “Taking cues from higher volumes at mill level, especially increased buying by Kolkata-side traders at higher rates, supported the bullish sentiment.”

A leading broker said that “in Vashi market, arrivals and dispatches increased on Monday showing higher demand which will continue till this week-end. Increased interest in rail rake buying at mill level by neighbouring States is the main factor for the price rise in physical market as prices are ruling higher in other producing States. Mill tender rates were expected higher by Rs 5-10 after increasing Rs 15-20 on Saturday. On Saturday evening, nearly 28–30 mills sold about 2.25–2.50 lakh bags of sugar, including 7 -8 rail rake by Bengal-side buyers and 40,000-50,000 bags to local stockiest in the range of Rs 2645–2685 (Rs 2630 – 2660) for S-grade and Rs 2725 –2815 (Rs 2700 –2800) for M-Grade. Good quality S-grade fetched the higher price of Rs 2700 –2705, said sources.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates: S-grade Rs 2776 -2871 (Rs 2768 -2861) and M-grade Rs 2826-2976 (Rs 2821-2971).

***Naka* delivery rates**: S-grade Rs 2730-2760 (Rs 2730-2770) and M grade was Rs 2800-2900 (Rs 2820-2900).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 6, 2011)

Supply squeeze may keep cotton stable

Rajkot, Sept. 5:

Stable demand from exporters and mills have ensured that cotton prices do not fall below the current level. Moreover, traders and brokers are hopeful prices will not drop in the near future as supplies remain squeezed.

Best-quality Sankar-6 variety was traded at Rs 38,000-39,000 a candy of 356 kg, while lower quality was traded at Rs 33,000-34,000 a candy. The Kalyan variety was traded at Rs 23,000-27,000 a candy. *Kapas* was traded at Rs 700-925 for a *maund* of 20 kg. While 1,800-2,000 bales of 170 kg each arrived in Gujarat, 4,400-4,500 bales arrived in the rest of the country. Area under cultivation is up by almost 9 per cent in the current kharif season as higher returns earned last year attracted farmers to this cash crop. As on September 2, area under cotton stood at 118.37 lakh hectares against 108.47 lakh hectares during the same period last year.

Meanwhile, 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 policy, a US Department of Agriculture report has said.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 6, 2011)

Edible oils drop, tracking global markets

Mumbai, Sept. 5:

Most edible oils prices declined on Monday in the absence of demand tracking weak global markets. In Mumbai market, soya refined oil, palmolein and cotton oil declined by Rs 3 each, rapeseed oil eased by Re 1 while groundnut oil and sunflower oil ruled steady.

Groundnut oil in Saurashtra market declined on expectation of arrivals of new kharif crops and eased demand at higher price level. Domestic futures witnessed a bearish mood in line with lower closing of Malaysian palm oil market. The volume was thin and need-based in the physical market.

According to wholesale dealers, in the absence of demand despite *Ganeshotsav* and under higher resales, selling pressure was limited.

Only about 150-200 tonnes of palmolein was traded in resale in the range of Rs 549550.

Towards the day's close, resellers quoted palmolein at Rs 550. Liberty's rates for palmolein was Rs 555 and Rs 552 for October, soya oil Rs 647, sunflower oil Rs 700. Palmolein was quoting Rs 553 and Rs 550 for October, soya refined oil Rs 645 and sunflower oil Rs 705.

Malaysia's crude palm oil September contracts closed at MYR3,144 (MYR3,185), October at MYR3,079 (YR3,109) and November at MYR3,018 (MYR3,050) a tonne.

Mumbai Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) : groundnut oil 1,020 (1,020), soya refined oil 643 (646), sunflower expeller refined 660 (660), sunflower refined 705 (705), rapeseed refined oil 693 (694), rapeseed expeller refined 663 (664), cotton refined oil 653 (656) and palmolein 553 (556).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 6, 2011)

Aromatic rice loses flavour

Karnal, Sept. 5:

Rice market witnessed a mixed trend on Monday. Prices of Pusa-1121, PR-11 and Permal varieties improved a little, while all other aromatic and non-basmati varieties ruled flat.

“Despite the fact that new rice will be in the market within next one month, PR-11 and Permal varieties are doing well at present,” said Mr Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company.

“There was some good buying in the market and market may rule firm around current levels in this week,” he said.

After witnessing a steady trend last weekend, Pusa-1121 varieties were quoted with marginal uptrend. Pusa-1121 steam increased by Rs 25 and quoted at Rs 4,900-5,025 a quintal. Pusa-

1121(sela) rose by Rs 20 and was around Rs 3,920, while Pusa-1121(raw) ruled at Rs 4,275-4,300 a quintal.

Pure basmati varieties remained unchanged on account of sluggish demand. Basmati (raw) was ruling at Rs 5,750 a quintal while Basmati Sela quoted around Rs 3,950-4,000 a quintal.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar ruled at Rs 3,300-3,500, Dubar was at Rs 2,600-2,780 while Mongra was trading at Rs 1,900-2,200 a quintal.

PR-11 (sela) went up by Rs 30 and sold at Rs 2,100-2,330 a quintal.

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Subdued offtake drags soya oil

Indore, Sept. 5:

Soya oil and soyabean remained sluggish on subdued buying in the domestic market. Besides, weak foreign markets also added to bearish sentiment in soya oil and seeds.

Taking cues from weak foreign markets, soya refined was quoted at Rs 626-628 for 10 kg against Rs 632-635 on Saturday in the local mandis. Similarly, soya solvent also traded lower at Rs 590-594 for 10 kg as demand remained sluggish in the domestic market. Resellers, however, offered soya refined at Rs 625 for 10 kg.

Slump in foreign markets and sluggish demand also dragged down soya oil futures, with September contract of soya oil on National Board of Trade closing marginally lower at Rs 654-605 after opening at Rs 656.80 for 10 kg in the morning. September contract for soya oil on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange closed marginally lower at Rs 654.45 after opening at Rs 654.50. October contract for soya oil, however, fetched higher prices on the NCDEX, where it closed Rs 6.50 higher at Rs 649.50.

Subdued demand also dragged soyabean in State ex-Indore mandis by Rs 10-15 at Rs 2,270-2,320 a quintal against Rs 2,280-2,340 in Indore mandis. While 25,000 bags arrived in State ex-Indore and Ujjain mandis, 2,500 arrived in Indore mandis and 1,800 in Ujjain mandis. Soyabean, however, traded higher on the NCDEX on strong demand for its September and October contracts. September contract closed Rs 7 higher at Rs 2,382, while October contract was up Rs 28 at Rs 2,311. Plant deliveries of soyabean ruled at Rs 2,380-2,400 a quintal. There was no demand at the higher price.

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Cardamom steady on balanced demand-supply

Kochi, Sept. 5:

Cardamom prices ruled steady last week on nearly matching demand-supply situation, due to the auction holiday on account of Id-ul-Fitr last week, at the auctions.

However, there was a marginal improvement in the prices in the open market at Bodinayakannur on Monday, trade sources there said.

The individual auction average price hovered at around Rs 540 a kg.

Domestic demand

Exporters, after the Ramzan, started covering and bought around an estimated 30 tonnes last week. Upcountry buyers were active but were buying small quantities. However, the domestic demand is expected to pick up by mid-September when the Diwali purchases would commence. Thus, the festival and wedding season could create a positive impact on the market provided the growers could regulate the supply by holding back some quantity of their produce as a self-imposed market intervention exercise, market sources told *Business Line*.

As the second and third round of picking is under way of the nearly bumper crop arrivals at the individual auctions continued to be huge. Last week, total arrivals stood at 355 tonnes, and of which, about 351 tonnes of cardamom were sold.

Good quality cardamom arrivals were at around 30-40 per cent and much of the material arrived were of average quality and inferior variety, market sources in Bodinayakannur told *Business Line*. Arrival of 8mm bold colour capsule was of negligible quantity. “Non-arrival of good quality material coupled with heavy arrivals led to the price fall,” they claimed.

Non-availability of sufficient workers to handle the huge quantity every week is also negatively affecting the trade, they said. Torrential rain in the high ranges is also creating problems, they pointed out.

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Pepper futures end mixed amidst volatile trade

Kochi, Sept. 5:

Pepper futures witnessed high volatility on Monday with September contracts closing higher, while others ending marginally lower. The market opened firm and traded lower in the forenoon. It was volatile in the afternoon and in the closing session it hit the highest and lowest prices of the day, as the bull operators were trying to push up while bears were trying to pull down.

“Consequently, turnover was higher during the closing session and this kind of trading in this session for making gains from higher volume is not a good sign”, market sources told *Business Line.*

Actual trading was limited. On the spot, transactions were also negligible. Buyers from Erode, who were engaged in turmeric trade, are said to have entered the pepper market following the decline in turmeric prices. They were covering good quantity of pepper from Kodagu, Karnataka for catering to upcountry markets such as Jharkhand, Bihar etc, trade sources claimed.

Despite additional purchases, October contract dropped. There was good liquidation in September, they said.

September contract moved up by Rs 72 to close at Rs 33,406 a quintal while October and November declined by Rs 219 and Rs 68 respectively to close at Rs 33,815 and Rs 34,216 a quintal. Total turnover dropped by 66 tonnes to 6,849 tonnes. Total open interest dropped by 187 tonnes to close at 11,643 tonnes. September open interest fell by 333 tonnes to 5,915 tonnes while October increased by 159 tonnes to 5,147 tonnes and November declined by 14 tonnes to 390 tonnes. Spot prices remained unchanged on limited activities at Rs 30,400 (ungarbled) and Rs 31,400 (MG 1) a quintal.

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Karnataka tobacco auctions from Sept 15

Mysore, Sept. 5:

Karnataka tobacco auctions are set to commence from September 15.

This crop year (2011-12), the area under tobacco cultivation at 1.04 lakh ha is lower by 12.60 per cent compared with last year.

“This crop year area under tobacco has seen reduction due to our intensive campaign in growing taluks of Mysore and Hassan districts,” Mr G. Kamalavardhana Rao, Chairman, Tobacco Board, said on the sidelines of the farmers' award function of Tobacco Institute of India.

“As part of our campaign, we are using local media educated large and marginal farmers regarding the adverse effects of going in for a large crop,” he said.

The Tobacco Institute of India (TII) Director, Mr Udayan Lall, said that Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka should formulate a pragmatic policy for tobacco sector which suits the local condition.

Advising tobacco farmers to stick to the crop size fixed by the Tobacco Board, Mr Lall said that by following this the quality and quantity could be managed locally for good returns.

With the reduction in crop area, the output is expected to be down by 15.62 per cent at 1.08 million kg against a record production of 1.28 million kg last year (2010-11).

The quality of the crop this year is looking good and interesting.

Rain at regular interval since April has facilitated good growth.

According to Mr K N Vishakantaiah, Tobacco Board regional manager, along with good crop, quality and quantity is also expected to be much better.

In 2010-2011, a total of 97.95 million kg was fixed for Karnataka and about 1.27 million kg was marketed at an average price of around Rs 92.49. Bright grades fetched Rs 120.39 a kg and quantity marketed was 24 million kg.

Medium Grade Rs 101.91 a kg, marketed 60 million kg and Low grades Rs 63.87 a kg and marketed 44 million kg.

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