

## **Procurement of kharif paddy from October**

Expecting a bumper paddy production of 130 lakh tonnes for this kharif, the government has decided to commence procurement operations in a big way from October second week, offering to pay the minimum support price (MSP) to farmers.

This time, Markfed and Nafed will also be involved in the exercise besides the Civil Supplies Corporation, Food Corporation of India and Indira Kranti Patham (IKP) self-help groups of women.

A plan of action for the operations, which was finalised at a meeting here on Tuesday chaired by Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, aims at purchasing a record 15 to 25 per cent of the total paddy produced.

### **Crop holiday**

Speaking to the media later, Civil Supplies Minister D. Sridhar Babu said the number of purchase centres this time would be increased from 1,600 to over 2,000 and additional manpower deployed. He said the crop holiday being observed by some farmers was confined to a few mandals in East Godavari district and would not have any impact on overall paddy production. The area sown during this kharif had, in fact, gone up. The Minister dismissed the apprehensions that kharif procurement would not be effective since the government failed to clear the commission due to IKP groups for rabi. He said while the sum due to them amounted to Rs. 45 crore, the government had paid most of this amount.

Temporary godown space would be created to make the heavy procurement planned. The cap model under which the paddy procured would be fully covered by tarpaulins, would be adopted for the purpose. Collectors and Joint Collectors had been instructed to ensure MSP to farmers even if paddy was purchased by rice-millers and sub-agencies.

---

Published: September 7, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 7, 2011 04:03 IST NEW DELHI,  
September 7, 2011

### **Centre's steps to rein in onion prices**

To prevent onion prices from soaring, the Centre on Tuesday asked the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) to open retail outlets for selling it at Rs. 20 a kg. States have also been asked to initiate similar steps for market intervention.

Minister of State (Independent) for Food and Consumer Affairs K.V. Thomas issued the orders after a review meeting with officials on Monday. While the NAFED has six outlets in Delhi, the NCCF has 15 such centres.

It is estimated that the total onion production for 2011-12 will be 151.36 lakh tonnes, which will be higher than the last year's 145.62 lakh tonnes. However, the prices have shown a rising trend with the average retail rate touching Rs. 25 a kg due to delayed sowing in some States. In some other parts, floods have threatened the crop, affecting the quality. The prices have contributed to inflation moving to the double-digit number for the week ended August 20.

The situation is being watched in case further steps such as raising the minimum export price are required to augment internal supplies.

---

Published: September 7, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 7, 2011 04:01 IST  
BANGALORE, September 7, 2011

### **'Lift moratorium on Bt brinjal cultivation'**

Claiming that Bt brinjal was safe for human consumption, the Foundation of Biotechnology Awareness and Education (FBAE) has urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to lift the moratorium on commercial production of the vegetable.

C. Kameshwara Rao of FBAE told presspersons here on Tuesday that action had not been taken on the memorandum submitted by the country's leading scientists to the Prime Minister and Ministers concerned on July 30, 2010.

“Allowing Bt brinjal [cultivation] will enable millions of brinjal farmers to earn more and lead better lives,” Mr. Rao said, and added, “after the white revolution of Bt cotton, the country was all set to usher in an era of gene revolution.”

On the claim about the use of brinjal in alternative systems of medicines in India, he said there was no appropriate and substantial documentation to justify the claim. “Brinjal — raw or processed — is not in use in any of the Indian systems of medicine. The stray mention of some insignificant use of brinjal as medicine was probably based on the properties of brinjal that was available centuries ago. Brinjal has undergone extensive genetic modification in conventional breeding.”

Mr. Rao said that the Government's decision of imposing a moratorium on Bt brinjal had affected research and development activities in the country's agricultural biotechnology sector.

- 
- *FBAE claims it is safe for human consumption*
  - *'Moratorium has affected R&D activities'*
- 

Published: September 7, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 7, 2011 03:58 IST

THANJAVUR, September 7, 2011

### **Plan to root out parthenium in 47 hectares in Thanjavur**

Collector inaugurates the drive by spraying salt mixture solution on weed

mission begins: Collector K.Baskaran spraying salt mixture solution on parthenium weed at S.N.M.Nagar near Keelavasal in Thanjavur on Tuesday. Photo:M.Srinath

The parthenium weed on 47 hectares of land in the district will be removed by spraying salt mixture solution, said Collector K.Baskaran here on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the eradication programme by spraying the solution on the weed at S.N.M.Nagar near Keelavasal in the town, the Collector said parthenium is a poisonous weed as people living in the locality are seen suffering from fever and other health problems.

Complete destruction

Reiterating that the agriculture department will take steps to completely weed out parthenium in the district, he said that the growth is spotted usually in residential areas and not in fields.

V.Balasubramanian, joint director of agriculture, Rajkumar, deputy director (state schemes) and Ramadoss, deputy director (Central schemes), participated in the programme.

---

Published: September 7, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 7, 2011 04:00 IST PANAJI, September 7, 2011

### **Fisheries course from September 14**

A six-month fisheries training course will be held from September 14 at Fishermen Training Centre, Ela Dhauji, Old Goa, in north Goa.

The course offers training in fishing craft and gear, fundamentals of navigation and seamanship, maintenance and operation of marine diesel engine, weaving and mending of modern nets, and aquaculture will be attended by 25 persons.

Those who have passed Std. VIII and are aged between 18 and 25 are eligible for admission.

### **Stipend**

Preference will be given to the Scheduled Castes and Schedules Tribes and those from fishermen's community. Selected candidates will be paid a stipend of Rs. 500 p.m. Hostel accommodation will be provided to those from distant places at reasonable rent.

Those interested may contact the Fisheries Training Centre or the Directorate of Fisheries, Panaji, for applications and other details.

The last date for submitting applications is September 14.

### **Interview**

Interview will be held on September 15 at 10 a.m. at the centre.

---

Published: September 7, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 7, 2011 04:01 IST Shimoga,  
September 7, 2011

### **'Guarantee easy access to credit for farmers'**

K.S. Puttannaiah blames government for farmers' suicides



TRIBUTE: Working president of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha K.S. Puttannaiah addressing a programme organised to commemorate farmer leader late N.D. Sundaresh in Shimoga on Tuesday.

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) working president K.S. Puttannaiah has demanded the government to review the agriculture policies.

Inaugurating a commemoration programme in honour of farmer leader late N.D. Sundaresh in the city on Tuesday, he demanded the government to evolve a scientific price determination mechanism for agriculture crops and guarantee easy access to credit for farmers.

He underscored the need to enlighten the farmers on social evils such as literacy, superstition, and casteism. A holistic view towards agriculture needs to be developed among farmers. The flawed policies of the government had forced the farmers to commit suicide, he said.

Referring to the incidence of arrest of mining baron G. Janardhan Reddy, he said stern action should be taken against people involved in illegal mining.

Pontiff Basava Marulasidda Swamiji, the former MLA Kariyanna, leaders of KRRS K.T. Gangadhar, and H.R. Basavarajappa were present at the function organised by N.D. Sundaresh Memorial Foundation.

## Protest

Later, during a chat with presspersons, Mr. Puttannaiah said that farmers from Karnataka would take part in the demonstration organised by various progressive organisations against the National Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement (NLARR) Bill-2011 in New Delhi on October 18.

He criticised the Union Government for bringing out the draft copy of the Bill in English. A majority of the farmers were not familiar with English. The Centre had failed to take farmers into confidence on the Bill. The KRRS would mobilise public opinion seeking changes in the proposed Bill, he said.

---

Published: September 7, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 7, 2011 04:01 IST Shimoga, September 7, 2011

### **Shimoga district to get 3,200 tonnes of urea, 1,250 tonnes of potash**

The district will receive 3,200 tonnes of urea and 1,250 tonnes of potash by September 8, said Deputy Director of Agriculture Shivamurthappa.

Mr. Shivamurthappa told *The Hindu* that the department had taken steps to provide urea and potash to be used as fertilizer to paddy growers in the district in time.

He said that the stock of urea fertilizer in the district stood at 40 tonnes at present. As the rain had receded, the time was conducive for administering urea fertilizer to the paddy crop. The district would receive 2,600 tonnes of urea from Andhra Pradesh while the remaining 600 tonnes would come from Chikmagalur district, where the fertilizer had been stored in large quantity.

The consignment of potash would arrive by September 7, he said. He said a stock of 2,740 tonnes of complex fertilizer had been maintained in the district. The complex fertilizer was required for horticulture crops after October, he said.

The licence of a trader in Gajanur, who was selling the fertilizer above the stipulated price, had been suspended. The department had received several complaints from farmers against the

trader, he said. There had been no damage to the agriculture crops in the district because of the recent rain havoc, he clarified.

---

Published: September 7, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 7, 2011 04:01 IST KANNUR,  
September 7, 2011

## **KVK opens agro-biopharmacy**

Offers organic substitutes to chemicals



The Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Kannur (KVK) of Kerala Agricultural University at Panniyur here has set up an agro-biopharmacy to promote organics in agriculture.

KVK officials here said that the major problem faced while adopting organic farming being the non-availability of trustworthy organic products and the cumbersome preparation of organic products, the agro-biopharmacy enables farmers to reduce harmful agro-chemical load in the environment while providing good quality organic inputs. An array of products ranging from tobacco decoction to pheromone traps are produced and sold at the biopharmacy, they said adding that the labour for the production of these items is provided by a self-help group of KVK trainees.

Organic manures like vermi-compost and coir pith compost, bio-control agents such as beneficial bacteria are produced and sold here. These are being used extensively by the

farmers against plant diseases. Kits of common botanical pesticide formulations such as tobacco decoction and neem oil garlic emulsion are also sold at the biopharmacy.

“The agro-biopharmacy is a concept conceived by the KVK and it is aimed at providing inputs required for organic agriculture,” said KVK head K. Abdul Kareem. The concept assumes significance in the context of the endosulfan issue and the declaration of the areas in Kasaragod as organic, he said.

Dr. Kareem said safe use of insecticides is just one of the numerous tools of the Integrated Pest Management recommended by agricultural scientists to safeguard soil and human health. Farmers, however, usually depend solely on chemical insecticides as they think that this is the only practical control measure to obtain quick results. The biopharmacy offers organic substitutes to chemicals.

Dr. Kareem said the feedback from the farmers is encouraging. Two types of pheromone traps against fruit flies are very popular now. Farmers recorded 120 flies per trap in a week's time. Good control can be made through the use of these traps in vegetables and mangoes, he said adding that the KVK is planning two frontline demonstrations to popularise the technology this year.

Among other items produced and sold at the biopharmacy are organic growth promoters like 'panchagavya,' 'egg amino acid,' and 'fish amino acid.'

Earthworms for vermi-composting and azolla are also available here. Along with these products, farm advisory service and training in biopharmacy are also given to farmers.

The KVK officials said that the biopharmacy concept can be promoted throughout the State as the organic farming policy of the government envisages the phasing out of chemical pesticides and fertilizers from the farming sector to convert Kerala into an entirely organic State in five or 10 years.

---

Published: September 7, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 7, 2011 04:01 IST  
Mahabubnagar, September 7, 2011

**Farmers stage protests for urea**



Demanding supply of urea, farmers undertook protest demonstrations at several towns in the district on Tuesday.

According to reports, at Maganoor mandal headquarters town, farmers who assembled in large numbers organised dharna demanding the government to supply urea in time. While, farmers at Bijnapally staged a rasta roko programme and urged the administration to provide required urea immediately.

Farmers at Marikal town alleged that the authorities have colluded with big farmers and supplying urea to such farmers only and denying supply to small farmers. The farmers even entered into heated arguments with a sub-inspector at Kadthal town alleging illegal transportation of urea bags. Farmers seized 28 such bags, which were being transported from Kadthal to other places.

It is also learnt that farmers organised protest demonstrations at Timmajipet and Amarchinta towns.

© The Hindu



## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Cloudy

### Wednesday, Sep 7

Max Min

36.3° | 23.5°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 84%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:57

Sunset: 18:16

Barometer: 1006

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

### Thursday, Sep 8

Max Min

33° | 24°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Friday Sep 9	Saturday Sep 10	Sunday Sep 11	Monday Sep 12	Tuesday Sep 13
				
32°   26° Rainy	32°   26° Rainy	31°   26° Rainy	32°   25° Rainy	34°   26° Rainy



### Exhibition on disaster management

Shaheed Rajpal DAV Public School, Dayanand Vihar recently organised an exhibition on 'Natural Disaster and Mitigation Practices' to sensitise parents and community about methods that can be adopted during a disaster to avert damage to life and property.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Prof Rajni Abbi, Mayor, Delhi who applauded the efforts made by the Principal Renu Laroia, teachers and students. She was pleased to know that 90 students have already been trained by DDMA as task force to provide first aid to the victims in exigencies.

As part of the awareness drive for students and teachers DDMA put up a puppet show and a street play was performed by students about the need for family preparedness plan and developing a family safety kit. Delhi Fire Service Board put up a demonstration on controlling fire through various rescue equipments. The Hazmat and emergency appliance van used by the Delhi Fire Service aroused the curiosity of spectators.

## **Cuttack flood situation under control**

While the flood situation in Cuttack district was stated to be under control by Tuesday evening, the district administration remained alert as heavy to very heavy rains were predicted in next 24 hours in some interior parts of the State.

According to official sources, at least 6.20 lakh cusec flood water passed to rivers Mahanadi and Kathjodi through the 0Naraj barrage for over six hours on Tuesday. "Since both the rivers are flowing below their danger levels at Jobra and Belleview, respectively, there is no cause of any panic to the residents of the city," informed District Emergency Officer Sukanta Kumar Mohanty.

Mohanty said that for next 24 hours the flood waters would flow below the danger levels since only 10 sluice gates are open at the Hirakud reservoir. He, however, cautioned that nothing could be said after that as heavy rains were predicted. The Tigiria and Athagarh areas of the district received more than 70 mm of rainfall on Tuesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, people of Cuttack city appeared a little worried as both the rivers surrounding the city from three sides did not show any signs of receding flood waters and the water level remained constant throughout the day.

The city civic body too came into alert mode on the day keeping watch on the three sluice gates of the city which releases rain waters from city to the rivers. The Mahanadi river on the day received 3.15 lakh cusec while the Kathajodi received 3.05 lakh cusec of flood waters from Naraj.

On the other hand, the district administration asked its entire staff to remain alert as long as the situation does not improve in next 48 hours. The officers in the Banki and Tigiria blocks were asked to remain alert with adequate amount of dry food and boats to rescue and provide relief in case the situation demands.

Sources also disclosed that vast stretches of agricultural fields are now under rainwater in many parts of the district. "Since these waters are now receding, the situation would improve in case there is rainfall on Wednesday," the sources said.

## **Haryana launches milk parlour scheme**

Aiming to generate more opportunities for self employment in the State, Haryana Government has introduced a milk parlour scheme through its animal husbandry and dairy department. The scheme is intended to encourage aspiring entrepreneurs to set up their own milk parlours.

An official spokesman said that any person could set up such a parlour anywhere in the State under this scheme. For this purpose, the State Government was providing a grant of 50 per cent for the purchase of refrigerators for proper milk storage, furniture and other items required for the functioning of the parlours. Any person wishing to set up a parlour could spend up to Rs 56,000 and seek 50 per cent grant on that basis.

“The purpose of this scheme was to create job avenues for more people and make quality milk available to consumers,” The spokesman said, adding, “In the first phase of this scheme, 20 milk parlours would be set up. Veterinary doctors of the district veterinary hospitals had also been directed to make information in this regard available to people on larger basis.”

He said that the milk recording process had also been started for Murrah Buffaloes under the ICDP scheme, as per which the owners of milking cattle could get the recording done for the amount of milk produced by their cattle. He said that the owners of buffaloes producing over 13 litres of milk would be given a sum of Rs 5,000, those producing over 16 litres would be given Rs 10,000, over 19 litres would be entitled to get Rs 15,000 and the owners of buffaloes producing over 25 litres would be provided with a sum of Rs 25,000 as incentive. He added that the milk recording process had been started in all the veterinary hospitals and would continue till March. Under this scheme owners of 2,000 Murrah Buffaloes would be provided incentives.

The spokesman said that for the purpose of insurance of livestock, the owners had to pay 25 per cent amount only and the rest 75 per cent would be borne by the State Government.

---

# Business Standard

Wednesday, Sep 07, 2011

## **Inclement weather to impact cotton in Punjab, Haryana**

**Vikas Sharma / New Delhi/ Chandigarh September 07, 2011, 0:41 IST**

It could be a sad climax to a good start. Prolonged spells of unfavourably wet weather prevailing in the North Indian states of Haryana and Punjab look set to impact the cotton-picking operation, delaying it by 10 to 15 days.

The North India Cotton Association maintains that the untimely rains in the two neighbouring states may even damage some of the crop.

“The extended monsoon showers is set to damage a part of the crop. We have yet to ascertain its extent,” says association president Rakesh Rathi.

Cotton has already started arriving in small quantities in the markets of Punjab; and it is towards the middle of this month that the activity generally gain pace. However, continued rains in both states has led agriculture experts as well to believe that this time the picking season would get delayed by at least 10-15 days.

Haryana has received a total of 1,640 mm rainfall this season as on yesterday. Punjab has reported floods in some districts which have cotton crop.

Ravi Punia, Haryana’s Joint Director (Cotton) , says rains in last couple of days are not encouraging signs for the crop.

Officials in North regional Station of Central Institute for Cotton research say the September rains could create multiple problems for the crop. They note that the rains are damaging as balls on the lower side have begun rotting. In the case of the varieties sown earlier, the balls have started opening — it can affect the quality of the crop.

Agriculture officials say that the yield for the crop could come under stress if the skies fail to clear up in next few days.

Punjab and Haryana were till recently eyeing a bumper harvest for cotton this year as the area under cotton had this time surged in both the states, courtesy better remunerations. The two states were eyeing a production of around 50 lakh bales of cotton this season as against 39 lakh bales cotton — a 30 per cent increase.

Punjab this time has cotton sowing over an area of 5.60 lakh hectares, as against 4.83 lakh hectares last year. As for Haryana, it is around 6.05 lakh hectares as against 4.92 lakh hectares last year.

#### **Potato ends weak on subdued demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 06, 2011, 14:58 IST**

Potato prices declined by Rs 9.60 to Rs 534.20 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators offloaded their positions, driven by a subdued demand in the spot market.

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

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, October potato contract fell by Rs 9.60 or 1.76% to Rs 534.20 per quintal in 396 lots.

The September contract declined by Rs 5.70 or 1.12% to Rs 501.10 per quintal with a business volume of 213 lots.

Traders said fall in potato futures prices is due to off-loading of positions by speculators amid increased arrivals from producing regions.

## **Guar gum dips 7% in a week on low global demand**

**Sharleen D`Souza / Mumbai September 07, 2011, 0:11 IST**

The price of guar gum, mainly used in crude oil exploration, slumped seven per cent in the last one week, due to lower demand from abroad and high carryover stock. Guar gum is also used for food additives and textile supplements.

Biren Vakil, head of Paradigm Commodities, said: "The global slowdown in manufacturing activity, especially in China, has pulled down the overall demand for guar gum. Even, the US, the largest importer, is not faring well on the economic front, leading to concerns that demand might be lower. The commodity for delivery in September on the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) fell to Rs 13,599 a quintal on Tuesday from Rs 14,605 a quintal a week ago. Similarly, for the far-month contract for delivery in October, the commodity recorded a seven per cent decline to Rs 13,775 a quintal from Rs 14,806 a quintal.

Besides the global slowdown, other reasons for the fall in prices are carryover stock this year, which is at two million bags (100 kg each). The primary estimates of the total output are more than double of last year at 12 million bags. Though there has been a decline in the acreage to 2.75 million hectares (ha) from 3 million ha, it is still higher than the government estimates of 2.7 ha.

"Prices of guar seed and guar gum will see a further fall in prices owing to a good monsoon. Production is also estimated to be higher," said Omji Mundra, a guar seed and guar gum trader in Rajasthan. The overall rainfall in Rajasthan, the largest producer of guar seed, was recorded higher than the long-term weighted average so far this season, which proved favourable for the crop.

## **Cardamom gains 1.2% on strong demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 06, 2011, 15:04 IST**

Aided by a strong spot demand, cardamom prices surge by Rs 9.70 to Rs 782.50 per kg in futures trade today on increased buying by speculators.

Tight stocks position in the physical market followed by a fall in supply from the producing

belts also influenced the cardamom prices in the futures market here.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, October cardamom surged by Rs 9.70, or 1.25% to Rs 782.50 per kg, with a turnover of 142 lots.

The November contract gained by Rs 7.80, or 0.95% to Rs 827 per kg with a trading volume of 13 lots.

September month contract went up by Rs 7, or 0.98% to Rs 716.30 per kg with a business volume of 221 lots.

Market analysts said continued rise in cardamom futures prices is due to strong domestic and export demand amid low stocks on the back of restricted supply.

### **Mentha oil declines on profit-booking**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 06, 2011, 15:02 IST**

Mentha oil prices fell by Rs 8.60 to Rs 1,244.50 per kg in futures trade today as traders indulged in profit-booking amid fall in demand in the spot market.

Increased arrivals in the spot market from the producing belts in Uttar Pradesh also weighed on the prices.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, October mentha oil drifted by Rs 8.60, or 0.68% to Rs 1,244.50 per kg, clocking a business volume of 234 lots.

The November contract eased by Rs 7.80, or 0.62% to Rs 1,245.90 per kg, with a business turnover of 136 lots, while September contract fell by Rs 5.20, or 0.41% to Rs 1,240.10 per kg in 735 lots.

Market analysts said fall in mentha oil prices was mostly due to profit-taking by speculators and a weak trend at the spot market due to poor demand.

---



## Continuous rain leads to berry drop in coffee

Shortage of potash-based fertilisers adds to growers' woes



Bangalore, Sept. 6:

It is a double trouble for coffee growing regions – continuous rain in the last 10 days of August has caused Black rot disease to set in arabica and the region is facing acute shortage of potash-based fertilisers leading to berry dropping.

“The coffee growing districts of Chikmagalur, Hassan and Kodagu have had considerable amount of rain without a break in the last week of August. This has caused black rot to set in arabica which has caused berry drop,” said Mr Sahadev Balakrishna, Chairman, Karnataka Planters Association (KPA).

“In addition to black rot, due to non-availability of potash-based fertilisers in the region, many growers were unable to do mid-monsoon manuring. This has also contributed to berry drop,” Mr Balakrishna said.

Black rot ( *Koleroga noxia Donk*) usually occurs during monsoon months in endemic areas with high humidity and hanging mist. Blackening and subsequent rotting of young leaves, berries and shoots. Diseased leaves get detached from branches and hang out by means of slimy fungal strands.

“Alarmed at Black rot, the Coffee Board has initiated a move, advising coffee growers to facilitate aeration of plants by clearing the base of plants of weeds, dry leaves and mulch and piling them in the space between four plants to prevent berry dropping to some extent,” said a senior Coffee Board official.

Talking about the impact on coffee crop for 2011-12, Mr Balakrishna said it is too early to assess for as the monsoon is still on.

### **KPA crop estimate**

KPA said 2011-12 is an ‘on’ year for arabica. Since arabica is biennial in bearing, India would be picking a higher 2011-12 crop. There would be around 10 per cent increase in the crop over 2010-11. “We estimate the 2010-11 crop to be around 80,000 tonnes, therefore the 2011-12 crop would be slightly over 90,000 tonnes,” said Mr Balakrishna.

On the robusta front, 2011-12 is an ‘off’ year as there was inadequate distribution of crucial blossom rain and severe constraints on water and power resources for irrigation.

“KPA has estimated India's 2010-11 robusta crop to be around 2 lakh tonnes which is a high crop. Established plantations will not be able to achieve a higher production with the existing area as there would be an automatic decrease in production after a very high crop year,” Mr Balakrishna explained.

---

### *Losing steam*

- *Coffee growing districts of Chikmagalur, Hassan and Kodagu have had considerable amount of rain without a break in the last week of August.*
- *In addition to black rot, due to non-availability of potash-based fertilisers in the region, many growers have been unable to carry out mid-monsoon manuring.*

· *Still, it is too early to assess the impact of the continuous rain and black rot.*

---

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 7, 2011)

### **Mechanisation, lower price may hit Maharashtra sugarcane crushing**



Pune, Sept. 6:

The Government's move to deploy mechanical harvesters instead of manual labour, and offer a price that is lower than last year are two issues which are threatening to hit the onset of the sugarcane crushing season due to begin in Maharashtra by the middle of October.

The Raghunath Patil-led Shetkari Sanghatana (SS) has proclaimed that sugar factories will not be allowed to operate till the issues are settled, and has announced a series of farmer rallies and conferences across Maharashtra over the next two months to increase awareness.

“The Government want to use harvesters for which it has agreed to pay Rs 300 a tonne, while the labourer is paid Rs 137 a tonne,” Mr Patil said, adding that the Shetkari Sanghatana was demanding that the latter too be paid Rs 300 a tonne.

### **Pay parity**

According to Mr Patil, the sugarcane cutting workforce in the State is 10-lakh strong, and last year, many were forced to go to Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, where the wages were between Rs 170 and Rs 230 a tonne.

“This year, there is 810 lakh tonnes sugarcane. We have taken up the issue of labourers' wages and they are with us. No sugarcane will be cut till there is parity,” he said. The SS is holding a rally for labourers in Osmanabad on September 12 and for farmers, a week later in addition to conferences in Satara and Kolhapur subsequently.

The second issue is that of the minimum price which is lesser than last year's price of Rs 1,700-2,000 a tonne, Mr Raju Shetty, MP from Kolhapur and leader of Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana, said.

“How can farmers be paid a price that is lesser than that last year, especially when costs of electricity, water as well as fertilisers and insecticides are rising?” he asked.

Both Swabhimani and the Shetkari Sanghatana are demanding that the rate be fixed between Rs 2,200 and Rs 2,500 a tonne.

To press its demands, Swabhimani is holding an agitation in Pune on September 19.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 7, 2011)

### **Cashew steady amidst muted trade**

Kochi, Sept. 6:

The cashew market remained quiet last week with price levels more or less unchanged.

W240 was quoted at \$4.85 to \$4.90, W320 at \$4.55 to \$4.60, W450 at \$4.50 an lb (fob). At these rates very little business was done.

According to trade sources in Mumbai, some Vietnam processors offered few cents lower — W320 from \$4.40 to \$4.45, W450 at \$4.35, Splits at \$3.90, Pieces at around \$3.75 a lb (fob). The stocks on offer were picked up quickly.

The domestic market was also quiet. Some processors who had not sold earlier or needed cash for *Onam* sold limited quantities at slightly lower levels. “But most processors are waiting to see

how things develop during the first half of September before making additional sales for September-October deliveries,” Mr Pankaj Sampat, a Mumbai-based dealer told, *Business Line*.

On the supply side, the Southern crops are expected to be normal. “The next eight weeks will give us a better idea, especially about the Brazil crop,” he said.

Very high prices are being quoted for early shipments from Indonesia. Prices for Tanzania will be known in late October-early November. Mozambique prices will not be known till mid-end December.

Tanzania policy and Mozambique currency are two important factors needed that to be watched, the Mumbai-based dealer said. Unless there is a dramatic fall in kernel demand-prices, there is little chance of lower RCN prices from Indonesia-East Africa as the quantity available is small.

Except for the recent activity in Vietnam at lower levels, the US and Europe markets have been very quiet for the last five-six weeks. There is a feeling that they need to cover some product for the last quarter based on some reports that the need may not be very large due to reduced off-take by retailers.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 7, 2011)

### **Groundnut oil dips on higher arrival of raw materials**

Rajkot, Sept 6:

With arrivals of groundnut increasing in the last two days and demand dropping, groundnut oil prices declined by Rs 20 for a tin of 15-kg.

Cotton oil also dropped by Rs 5 a tin.

At Rajkot, groundnut oil was traded at Rs 1,715-1,720 for 15 kg new tin.

Groundnut loose ruled at Rs 915-920 for 10 kg.

About 10,000-12,000 bags of groundnuts arrived in various APMCs at Saurashtra region as against 5,000-7,000 bags.

Groundnut price for bold was Rs 650-770 and small groundnut was traded at Rs 600-730 for a maund of 20 kg.

Cotton oil was traded at Rs 1,010-1,015 for 15-kg tin and cotton oil wash was traded at Rs 635-638 for 10 kg.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 7, 2011)

### **Holiday mood grips rubber market**

Kottayam, Sept. 6:

Spot rubber ruled steady on Tuesday. According to observers, the market was totally in a holiday mood prior to 'Onam'. Almost a similar trend in the domestic futures market and the absence of quantity buyers on either side kept the sentiments neutral. Sheet rubber finished unchanged at Rs 214 a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to traders and the Rubber Board. The transactions were low.

The September series closed at Rs 217.80 (217.29), October at Rs 213.20 (212.86), November at Rs 213.11 (213.40), December at Rs 213.25 (212.75), January at Rs 215.88 (217) and February at Rs 218.10 (217.40) a kg for RSS 4 on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) declined to Rs 215.25 (217.20) a kg at Bangkok. The September futures weakened further to ₹347.2 (Rs 206.99) from ₹352 a kg during the day session but then bounced back to ₹354 (Rs 211.05) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 214 (214); RSS-5: 205 (205); ungraded: 199 (199); ISNR 20: 208.50 (208.50) and latex 60 per cent: 133 (133).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 7, 2011)

## Pepper cools on heavy selling in Karnataka



Kochi, Sept 6:

Pepper futures dropped on Tuesday as bear operators gained an upper hand in their tug of war with bull operators amidst high volatility.

The market fell on the propaganda that there was heavy selling in Karnataka and after the Id-ul-Fitr holidays Indonesia could be coming out with large quantity of pepper in the world market. "There was selling pressure but it matched the demand," market sources claimed.

All the contracts dropped even though there was not much liquidation in September, trade sources said.

There was heavy selling in Karnataka and high ranges of Idukki following emergence of good demand from upcountry. Karnataka pepper was reportedly being dispatched on an average of 4-5 loads daily on cash and carry basis at Rs 305 a kg and delivered anywhere in India.

High range pepper from Idukki was being sold at Rs 307, Rs 308 and high bulk density moisture less pepper at Rs 309 by investors, local arm of multinational companies and exporters. There

was a buying spree in the primary markets and consequently the selling pressure was not at all felt, market sources told *Business Line*.

Activities were limited in general on the exchange, as a result the turnover fell sharply, while the total net open position increased indicating additional buying, they said, adding that yet the market dropped

September last traded price (LTP) was down Rs 100 to Rs 33,050 a quintal, while that of Oct and Nov slipped by Rs 195 and Rs 270 respectively to Rs 33,619 and Rs 34,050 a quintal.

Total turnover fell by 2,455 tonnes to 4,389 tonnes. The total open interest increased by 123 tonnes to 11,766 tonnes.

Sep open interest declined by 15 tonnes to 5,900 tonnes while that of Oct and Nov moved up by 136 tonnes and 2 tonnes respectively to 5,283 tonnes and 392 tonnes.

Spot prices ruled steady on matching demand and supply at the previous levels of Rs30,400 (ungarbled) and Rs31,400 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at around \$7,550 a tonne (c&f) and stayed in line with other origins, they claimed.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 7, 2011)