

Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 04:04 IST September 8, 2011

## **Farmers' choice: Vamban 6 blackgram variety**

A new variety blackgram called Vamban 6 has been developed at the National Pulses Research Centre, Vambam, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

According to Dr. P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice Chancellor, the new blackgram variety comes to harvest in 65 to 70 days and is suitable for growing in all seasons.

## **Better yield**

"It is heartening to note that Vamban 6 gives high yield, about 890 kg/ha in irrigated condition and as high as 850 kg/ha in rainfed. The variety is preferred by farmers because it yields higher and is resistant to yellow mosaic virus disease and the possible damage due to pod borer is less," he said.

Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research urged farmers who preferred to take up this new variety for cultivation, to treat the seeds with two grams Carbendazim or Thiram per kg of seed.

## **Recommendation**

"Rhizobium should be mixed with seeds after 24 hours of Carbendazim treatment. For an hectare 20 kg seeds are sufficient. Three packets of Rhizobium mixture with rice gruel shade dried for 15 minutes is recommended.

Reiterating the urgent need for increasing the pulses production, Dr. Murugesu Boopathi suggested two critical technologies to double the pulses yield, namely the seed drill to maintain proper plant population and using mobile sprinkler for irrigation during 35 to 45 days after sowing.

## **Pulse wonder**

He also said that the University has developed “TNAU pulse wonder”, a micro nutrient mixture to boost pulse yield.”

This, if popularized widely, will have great impact on increasing the yield up to 20 per cent, he added.

Apart from these benefits, the pulse wonder also decreases flower shedding and increases drought tolerance.

Mechanisation of pulse cultivation is a priority area according to Dr. Boopathi who stressed that “it is planned to create a model farm at the National Pulses Research Centre which would be under 100 per cent mechanization as a demonstration plot to educate farmers.”

For further details, readers can contact : Dr. M. Paramathma, Director of Research , Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore 641 003, Phone : 0422- 6611547 or Mobile : 094435 05843

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Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 04:04 IST September 8, 2011

### **Farm query Papaya cultivator**

Is there any farmer doing well in papaya cultivation in Washim district, Maharashtra?

Ratna Borkar,*Maharashtra*

You can contact Mr. Shivaji Kunlikrao Khadse, who owns three fourth of an acre and grows papaya in one area and maize in the other. Last year the farmer earned 1.2 lakhs from the crops. The products are sold directly in the market.

Seeing him nearly 40 farmers in the region followed his method of papaya cultivation. For more details contact Mr. Shivaji at Pachamba, Shelukhadse post,Risod taluk, Washim district, Maharashtra- 444506, mobile: 09763604729.

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Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 04:04 IST September 8, 2011

**All-season crops may now be a step closer**



M.A. SRIRAM

A key genetic gear that keeps the circadian clock of plants ticking has been identified, that controls basic functions, possibly paving way for engineering plants that can grow in different seasons and places than is currently possible.

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Published: September 7, 2011 23:38 IST | Updated: September 7, 2011 23:38 IST September 7, 2011

**Power from waste: Vivekananda Kendra shows the way**



The Hindu The bio gas unit installed by VK-Nardep. Photo: Special Arrangement

The town Panchayat is today powered by the biogas-generated electricity

Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu is an internationally renowned tourist destination.

Though the town itself houses a modest population of just 12,345 in about 400 households, it generates a huge volume of waste – mainly kitchen waste from various hotels and restaurants.

An NGO from Kanyakumari called Vivekananda Kendra (Vk- nardep) built a solid waste management shed at the town panchayat for collecting and processing the entire waste for feeding into a bio-gas plant.

“The Kendra constructed the biogas plant (of 100 cubic metre volume) — a floating drum like device attached to a designed biogas engines that are in turn connected to specially designed control panels.

### **Effective disposing**

“The solid waste management shed of the Panchayat is today powered by the biogas-generated-electricity.

“Once the plant started functioning, the panchayat disposed a lot of waste in a constructive way using this plant. The hygiene of the surroundings also improved,” says the Kendra secretary G.Vasudeo.

Scientists from the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore and officials from Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) visited the project and recommended it for subsidy from the Government.

“Every kilowatt of energy produced through such renewable energy sources is eligible for subsidy. This village panchayat generates about 10 Kilowatts of electricity from its organic kitchen waste thereby becoming eligible for subsidy worth Rs 4 lakh,” says Mr. Vasudeo.

Once a small town or village becomes a popular tourist place, almost the entire livelihood of that place starts depending on its tourism industry.

“Increased waste generation and absence of effective solutions to tackle it affect the health of the people and also hits tourist flow. Sadly, today urban tourist centers as well as cities are becoming a hub of food waste being dumped in the kitchen backyards,” he adds.

### **Waste generation**

A typical major tourist or pilgrimage centre generates 10-35 tonnes of waste per day, higher than the per capita in urban areas.

Such a problem needs to be tackled innovatively both technologically and socially, that too on a war footing.

“Disposing of waste, particularly kitchen waste, poses a big problem everywhere. Often the sight of accumulated garbage heaps at road corners and in open grounds and fields becomes a nuisance for the residents.

“These rubbish heaps become a breeding ground for many infections and are frequented by stray dogs,” he says.

### **Vicious cycle**

Effectively tackling this problem becomes imperative as it remains a vicious cycle. The challenge of converting the waste into wealth at Mamallapuram is a joint effort of a Chennai based NGO, 'Hand in Hand', which, along with Vivekananda Kendra set up a large Bio-methanation plant from their Natural resources development project.

The Kendra has been doing research and field work in this area for the last 10 years and is credited for developing low volume bio-methanation plants that are suitable for both urban and rural households.

In addition to this the Kendra also developed a bio-gas slurry based agro-inputs package and made the dissemination of this technology more efficient.

### **Collection**

“We started collecting kitchen and vegetable wastes from the town Panchayat and collected more than 550 kg to 600 kg of kitchen wastes for feeding the plant,” adds Mr. Vasudeo.

Thus a unique combination of governmental agencies, voluntary organisations, and sustainable energy technologists made a tourist centre in the present globalised environment more ecologically healthy and economically vibrant.

For more details and visit readers can contact Mr. G.Vasudeo, Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra - NARDEP, Kanyakumari - 629 702, Tamil Nadu, e.mail : vknardep@gmail.com, website: vknardep.org, phone 04652- 246296 (office).

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Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 04:04 IST NEW DELHI, September 8, 2011

### **Onion export price raised by \$175**

The Centre on Wednesday increased the minimum export price of onion by \$175 a tonne to \$475. The decision is aimed at discouraging shipments and controlling the surging domestic retail prices.

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Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 04:03 IST TIRUNELVELI, September 8, 2011

### **Farmers get farm inputs, advice and more**

Horticulture awareness campaigns being conducted in villages; these programmes evoke good response



In aid for the field: Horticulture awareness campaign being held at Kurukkalpatti in Melaneelithanallur block on Wednesday.

: Horticulture awareness campaigns being conducted in villages where farming is the predominant profession, have started evoking good response since the participant village panchayat presidents and progressive farmers can interact with the officials directly to convey their actual requirements such as vegetable seeds, fruit plants, technologies, appropriate solutions for the problems being faced by them on the field.

According to R. Rajan Ravichandran, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Tirunelveli, block-level village awareness campaigns are being organised by the Department of Horticulture to popularise the development schemes such as Integrated Horticulture Development Scheme (IHDS) wherein farmers can get high yielding hybrid vegetable seeds at 50 per cent subsidised cost to the maximum of half a hectare per farmer and high yielding fruit plants like sapota graft, guava layers, mgrafts, pomegranate layers etc. at 50 per cent subsidised cost to the maximum of one hectare per farmer under Precision Farming project.

Hence the farmers are able to get subsidy for inputs like water soluble fertilizers and hybrid vegetable seeds, worth Rs. 20,000 per hectare with fertigation system dovetailed with micro irrigation system with a maximum of one hectare per farmer.

Area expansion programme under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) scheme has the subsidy pattern of Rs. 17,500 per hectare for amla, Rs. 16,500 per hectare for mango, Rs. 15,000 per hectare for acidlime, Rs. 12,000 per hectare for small and marginal farmers for flowers, Rs. 12,500 per hectare for chillies.

Under the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies Restoration and Management (IAMWARM) project, Rs. 15,000 per hectare is given for vegetables, he also added.

Since indents for inputs required under various development schemes for the ensuing season have been prepared at grassroots-level, based on the response from the agriculturists, these campaigns have turned out to be successful.

About 150 farmers have so far submitted their list of requirements for fruit plants, vegetable seeds etc. under various horticulture development schemes in Melaneelithanallur block alone.

P. Theivasundari, Revenue Inspector, Kurukkalpatti, who also participated in the campaign held at Kurukkalpatti on Wednesday said the revenue department would do the needful for giving all necessary documents needed for carrying out the development schemes especially drip irrigation, in time.

Responding to the farmers' queries, S. Raja Mohamed, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Melaneelithanallur block, explained the benefits being extended to farmers under various schemes by the Department of Horticulture including IHDS, Drip irrigation, Precision Farming, NHM etc.

He stressed the need for testing soil and water quality for growing perennial crops as they are not only mandatory but also necessary to claim subsidy under Micro Irrigation System and Precision Farming project.

“Existing dry spell is the apt time for taking soil samples”, he added.

### **Enrol names**

He also urged the farmers to enrol their names in National Agriculture Insurance Scheme for banana crops.

Based on the request made by the farmers who participated in today's campaign, arrangements were immediately made to bring Mobile Soil Testing Unit to Panaivadalichatram in the block on September 13 from Kovilpatti, so that farmers can test the soil quality before the onset of northeast monsoon.



Assistant Agricultural Officers K. Thangaraj and B. Premkumar spoke on the occasion.

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Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 03:58 IST September 8, 2011

### **Camp at TNAU**

The Business Planning and Development Unit of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University will conduct an agri innovation camp at the university on September 15.

According to Director of the Unit P. Sivasubramanian, the camp, being organised in association with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises, is to identify grass root level innovators in the field of agriculture, farm machinery, food processing, and bio inputs and allied sectors.

The unit is implementing a scheme "Support of Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises through Incubators", funded by the Ministry.

Innovators can present their innovations at the camp. A panel will identify and select innovations suitable to facilitate funding under the scheme. Participation is free. Those interested can register their names in advance.

The camp will also provide opportunities to innovators to learn about services offered by the Business Planning and Development Unit. It will begin at 9.30 a.m.

For details, contact Directorate of Agri-Business Development, TNAU, Coimbatore – 641003; or call 0422-6611377 / 6611310; or e-mail to [business@tnau.ac.in](mailto:business@tnau.ac.in).

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Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 04:03 IST TIRUCHI, September 8, 2011

### **Mettur level**

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 95.33 feet on Wednesday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 39,420 cusecs and the discharge, 18,011 cusecs.

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Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 04:03 IST TIRUCHI, September 8, 2011

### **WEAT to offer training on agro-based products**

Women Entrepreneurs Association of Tamil Nadu (WEAT) has announced conduct of training programmes in jute bag manufacture, making fancy articles, mushroom cultivation, manufacturing banana fibre and value added products.

The Association has taken the support of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Thogamalai, Karur, to conduct the training programmes sponsored by Canara Bank and State Bank of India. The WEAT focussed on agro-based industrial opportunities at a seminar it organised earlier this week to promote entrepreneurship. The Association seeks to synergise its initiatives with Micro Small and Medium Enterprises – Development Institute, which also has announced its focus on agro-based industries during this year.

The seminar created awareness on self-employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for women in mushroom cultivation and marketing, and making value added products from banana and banana-fibre.

Saravanan from Tiruchi Mushroom explained that mushrooms could be marketed directly or through dealers. There was a high demand for mushrooms in Kerala. Value could be added by producing mushroom soup powder for export purpose, he said.

Anitha, an expert from KVK, Karur, said as many as 35 value-added products could be made from banana and banana fibre. Organisations like WEAT could provide marketing support, she said, adding that even the banana fibre found unfit for value addition could be supplied to a Jaipur-based unit for bio paper production.

Scope for initiating women into entrepreneurship in imitation jewellery making with copper and silver-based metals was also explored during the seminar. N.Manimekalai, Director, Department of Women's Studies, explained the corollary between women entrepreneurship and enhancement of living standards. Those interested in the training programmes can dial 0431-4200040/ 9600779081/ 9442190903.

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Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 04:03 IST  
Mahabubnagar, September 8, 2011

### **Bankers urged to extend crop loans**

Collector M. Purushotham Reddy expressed concern over the negligence attitude adopted by the bankers in extending crop loans to the farmers.

The Collector informed that it was decided in the annual credit plan to extend crop loans to the tune of Rs.1,095 crore but up to the end of August only. Around Rs.510 crore of crop loans were provided to the farmers. The Collector who was addressing bankers meeting here on Wednesday urged the bankers to extend crop loans and achieve targets before the completion of this crop season.

### **Awareness camps**

The Collector informed that as per the directions from government and State-level bankers committee, awareness camps were organised and the doubts of bank branch managers were cleared. In spite of this also bankers are not coming forward to extend loans.

Mr. Purushotham Reddy assured the bankers that the district administration would cooperate the bankers in recovering the pending loans of 2007-08.

Referring the payment of Indiramma Housing bills the Collector said that housing bills are being paid through online and requested the bankers to open zero-based accounts to the beneficiaries who were not opened their accounts.

Speaking on the occasion Joint Collector T. Chiranjeevulu requested the bankers to extent crop loans to the eligible tenant farmers also as per the guide lines and other instructions issued by the government and banks

Lead bank officer Satyanarayana, State Bank of Hyderabad General Manager Rajeshwar Rao, SBH Assistant General Manager Rajashekar, APGVB Regional Manager Rama Rao, Indian Bank coordinator Balakrishna Rao and other district officials also participated.

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Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 04:04 IST KHAMMAM, September 8, 2011

## **State 'apathy' blamed for 'crop holiday'**

Telugu Desam and CPI leaders visit villages in Bonakal mandal

Likening the 'Crop holiday' being observed by the distressed farmers at various parts of the State to a 'strike', Telugu Desam Party senior leader Kodela Siva Prasada Rao on Wednesday alleged that the aggrieved farmers were compelled to abstain from paddy cultivation due to the apathy of the government towards their pathetic condition.

A delegation comprising several senior TDP leaders including Siva Prasada Rao, Telugu Rythu president Karanam Balaram and party district convener Tummala Nageswara Rao besides Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham State president and CPI State secretariat member K Ramakrishna on Wednesday visited Rayannapeta and Motamarri villages in Bonakal mandal.

### **Irrigation woes**

They interacted with the farmers who have already opted "crop holiday" in the current kharif season.

The farmers at Rayannapeta apprised the leaders of their irrigation woes and other factors that prompted them to observe 'crop holiday'.

The members of the delegation also examined the paddy stocks still remaining with some of the farmers during their visit to the homes of the latter.

Later, addressing a meeting at Rayannapeta Dr Prasada Rao deplored that the distressed farmers had declared 'crop holiday' in over 3 lakh acres spread in 11 districts across the State in the present kharif season.

"Over 37,000 acres in around 29 villages under nine mandals in Khammam district remained unsown due to the 'crop holiday' announced by the misery-stricken paddy cultivators," he said.

### **Crisis**

"When the farmers are reeling under a severe agrarian crisis, the State government confined to issuing rhetoric statements without initiating concrete steps to mitigate the sufferings of the farmers," he charged.

"Like any other aggrieved workforce be it government employees or teachers, the farmers are also agitating in the form of 'crop holiday' which is nothing but a strike," he said.

He demanded that the government should concede the demands of the farmers such as provision of remunerative prices to their agriculture produce, improved irrigation facilities, subsidies in tune with the escalated cost of agriculture production and adequate compensation for the crop losses.

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Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 04:02 IST  
SRIKAKULAM, September 8, 2011

### **Ryots urged to insure crop**

District Collector G. Venkatram Reddy said farmers who rescheduled their loans can insure their crop under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. While reviewing the agricultural activities in the district, he expressed concern over the poor response for reschedule of loans and crop insurance in the scheme.

Reschedule of loans was confined to Rs.165 crore as against Rs.311 crore. Field staff has been advised to explain the importance of insurance scheme to farmers during 'Pallaku Podam' programme.

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Published: September 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: September 8, 2011 04:01 IST SHIMLA,  
September 8, 2011

### **Farmers strike gold with decreased apple harvest**

3.5 lakh tonnes against last year's 9 lakh tonnes

A sharply decreased apple production of 3.5 lakh tonnes in Himachal Pradesh this year as compared to last year's 9 lakh tonnes has led to a record fiscal return for the farmers. A 20 kg

box containing good quality apples that fetched around Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,100 last year is being sold for over Rs. 2,000 this time.

With reduced dependability on the Asia's largest Azadpur fruit mandi in Delhi, growers have sold most of their produce in the smaller North Indian markets of Shimla, Solan, Kullu and Chandigarh. They have not paid any commission to middlemen in these markets as compared to the at least eight per cent commission they pay in the Delhi market, said J.K. Chauhan, a grower from Kotgarh.

The hill State had produced a record number of 4.5 crore boxes last year, but production dipped to one fourth — just 1.6 crore boxes expected this year — and the fear of the market getting flooded with American and Chinese apples had doubled the anxiety of farmers here.

Interestingly, the State Assembly had in the recent monsoon session unanimously passed a resolution urging the Union Government to impose anti-dumping duties on imported apples and to declare them as special category product. The members said the import had led to livelihood insecurity among farmers. The fruit is grown in almost nine out of 12 districts in the State.

In their pre-harvest assessment of a downtrend in local production, some Indian importers tried to import large quantities of apples from China and America and stacked them in their cold stores. About 1,500 containers of Washington apples and 1,000 containers of Fuji apples were imported into Mumbai and Chennai, said sources.

With high import duties, a normal box was priced at around Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,500 in the market. But buyers are preferring the Himachal apple, which is more juicy and fresh from the farm, that fetches around Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 2,200 per box.

The initial panic over imported apples has subsided now, and the farmers as well as the government here are happy. But its bigger impact would be seen in the years to come if production increases to normal, said some farmers. The sudden jump in the prices of the local produce has also made the Himachal apple go out of reach of the common consumer, feel majority of the buyers. The fine quality Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per kg of apple in Shimla is being sold for Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 these days in the local markets, much to the dismay of the common man.

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- A 20 kg box of good quality apples is being sold for over Rs. 2,000 against last year's Rs. 1,100
- Imported apples were stacked in cold stores, but buyers prefer fresh, juicy Himachal apple

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**hindustantimes**

Thu,08 Sep 2011

## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 10.0 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 53%

Wind: Normal

### Thursday, Sep 8

Max Min

36.3° | 25.2°

Sunrise: 5:57

Sunset: 18:16

Barometer: 1002

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

### Friday, Sep 9

Max Min

35° | 26°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday

Sep 10



32° | 26°

Rainy

Sunday

Sep 11



33° | 26°

Rainy

Monday

Sep 12



34° | 26°

Rainy

Tuesday

Sep 13



34° | 26°

Rainy

Wednesday

Sep 14



34° | 26°

Rainy

## **EU court puts limits on modified honey**



BRUSSELS: Honey that contains traces of pollen from genetically modified crops needs special authorization before it can be sold in Europe, the European Union's top court said Tuesday, in a judgment that could have widespread consequences on the bloc's policy on genetically modified organisms, or GMOs.

The ruling from the European Court of Justice came after several Bavarian beekeepers demanded compensation from their government for honey and food supplements that contained traces of pollen from genetically modified maize.

The beekeepers had their hives close to fields where the Bavarian government was growing Monsanto's MON 810 maize for research purposes.

The EU has strict guidelines on authorizing and informing consumers about foods containing GMOs — a policy that has caused problems for producers of genetically modified seeds such as U.S.-based Monsanto Co. that are used to much laxer rules in other parts of the world.

Kelli Powers, a spokeswoman for Monsanto, said the company could not provide detailed comment on the ruling until the firm had a chance to read the entire judgment.

But Powers emphasized that the company's engineered corn seed has been approved as safe for human consumption.

"...the safety of MON 810 is confirmed by multiple regulatory approvals, including those in the EU, and by up to 15 years of successful commercial use and consumption of MON810 corn products in the EU and around the world," Powers said in an e-mail.

Environmental activists said Tuesday's ruling will force the 17-country European Union to



strengthen the rules even further at a time they worried the bloc was dropping its zero-tolerance policy toward GMOs.

"This is a victory for beekeepers, consumers and the movement for GMO-free agriculture in Europe," Mute Schimpf, a food campaigner for Friends of the Earth Europe, said in a statement.

"This ruling rewrites the rule book and gives legal backing to stronger measures to prevent contamination from the likes of Monsanto."

Earlier this year, the EU approved rules to allow the import of animal feed contaminated with small traces of genetically modified crops — a move that was heavily criticized by environmental groups.

The EU and feed suppliers argued that a loosening of the ban was necessary because it was difficult to prevent minute traces of GMOs from finding their way into large shipments from overseas.

In its judgment on the honey, the Luxembourg-based court however seemed to take a stricter view.

The EU's "authorization scheme for foodstuffs containing ingredients produced from GMOs applies irrespective of whether the pollen is introduced intentionally or adventitiously into the honey," it said in its ruling.

The obligation to get special permission to sell the honey exists "irrespective of the proportion of genetically modified material contained in the product in question," the court added.

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### **`Rs 30-cr dairy scheme to help jobless**

In order to promote modern dairy farms for production of clean milk, the State Government has decided in principle to launch a Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS). The Government has projected to provide subsidy to the eligible entrepreneurs to the tune of Rs 30 crore under the scheme.

Animal Resources Development and Fisheries Minister Ramesh Chandra Majhi on Wednesday said the proposed scheme is aimed at generating self-employment and also to provide infrastructure mainly for the unorganised dairy sector.

It has been decided to implement the DEDS especially in dairy-intensive zones covering approximately 1,700 Gram Panchayats in the first phase with financial assistance of the State Government, he said.

Besides, he said, there is a target to establish an estimated 10,000 units during the 2011-12 financial year with induction of 40,000 dairy animals to achieve additional yield of 2 lakh liters of milk per day, he said.

The scheme, to be launched soon, is aimed at roping in unemployed youth. It envisages back-ended capital subsidy of 25 per cent of the project cost for entrepreneurs belonging to general category and 33.33 per cent for the SC and ST beneficiaries.

Those who would evince interest for setting up of the dairy project under the scheme would be eligible for effective bank loan of a minimum 40 per cent of the project cost.

The scheme provides establishment of small dairy farms with cross-bred indigenous cows and a unit's size would be from two to 10 animals.

The project outlay would be from `1 lakh to `5 lakh and the entrepreneur's contribution would be a minimum 10 per cent of the total cost.

The Minister said anyone, including individuals, Shelf Help Groups, cooperative bodies or NGOs, can avail the benefit of the innovative scheme.

### **Milk, milk product prices may go up**

The prices of milk and milk products in the State are likely to be increased soon. According to official sources, State dairy major Omfed has proposed to the State Government to take necessary steps to hike the prices of milk and milk products in view of demands made by dairy farmers. A hike in the price of milk has become inevitable following rise in prices of commodities including cattle feed.

Meanwhile, the State Government has reportedly constituted a committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Animal Resources Development Department to submit a report on the proposal.

### **Acute shortage of urea hits farmers in Palamu**

People are shouting slogans and demonstrating and jamming national highway because of acute shortage of urea in Palamu. With good rains and happy paddy cultivation, the fertiliser is much in demand.

Speaking to The Pioneer DC Palamu Pooja Singhal said, "Our requirement is 3,000 MT of urea. We have got 600 MT of urea. Our effort is to streamline its sale and distribution."

Singhal said a flying squad has been formed at SDO level at three places in Palamu Daltonganj, Chhaterpur and Hussainabad .These squads will curb any black marketing of urea fertilizer. All kinds of fertilizers are to be sold/distributed among the farmers in presence of the Mukhiyas.

She informed 59 bags of urea were seized by the police at Parwa. These bags were being taken into black market when the police seized them. A case has been registered with the police there.

She said the administration would pray to the Court to release these bags of urea in the larger interests of the farmers as prolonged judicial custody of these bags of fertilizers will serve no purpose except harm to the farmers. 59 bags are now exhibits to be produced in Court on framing and submission of chargesheet by the police. The administration wants its release under Court order.

Police in Mohammadganj block are looking for those elements there who tried to push in spurious fertilizer in the name of urea fertilizer. These elements fearing police crack down threw their bags of spurious fertilizers into the canal with bags torn so as to mix the spurious fertilizer with the water in the canal wiping out evidence but the printed things on the bags remained unwashed which the police would use against these elements indulged in this fake trading of urea.

Singhal said “I have spoken to principal secretary agricultural and requested for a rescue allotment of fertilizer as it is happy times here in Palamu when there is so much of kheti baree all around in the wake of timely rains which were sufficient for this agro activity”.

### **One lakh acre agriculture land flooded in Punjab**

Around one lakh acre of agricultural land got flooded during the ongoing monsoon season in Punjab. The situation could worsen in the coming days as more rains are expected this month.

So far the cumulative loss of crops is worth over `61 crore. However, the exact figure would be known once water recedes from the fields. The most affected district is Fazilka in Ferozepur district.

According to the figures, 11,073 acre area in Sangrur, 900 acre in Faridkot, 1,400 acre in Muktsar, 11,735 acre in Patiala, 5,540 acre in Moga, over 10,000 acre in Ferozepur, 490 acre in Amritsar, 19,000 acre in Taran, 10,182 acre in Jalandhar, 3,100 acre in SBS Nagar, 11,249 acre in Fazilka and 2,742 acre in Hoshiarpur are submerged in flood water.

Last year around 2.6 lakh acre of land came under the water between July and September. According to the Disaster Management officials, if there's more downpour, the damages could be more than that of last year.

An incessant release of water from the dams is also a reason for floods in Punjab.

At least 17,565 cusecs water was discharged from the Pong Dam against the inflow of 20,243 cusecs on Wednesday. There was discharge of 7,060 cusec in Beas at Naushera Mirthal and 22,600 cusecs in Dhilwan.

River Sutlaj also witnessed the discharge of 17,262 cusecs from Harike and discharge of 20,112 cusecs from Hussainiwala. The water level in Pong Dam was 13,85.85 feet against its maximum capacity of 1,390 feet. While last year it was 1387.20 feet.

The water level at Bhakra Dam touched 1677.23 feet water mark whereas its capacity was 1,680 feet. While last year it was recorded at 1680.34 feet. The water level at Ranjit Sagar Dam has touched 524.04 metre against last year level of 523.41 metre.

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# Business Standard

Thursday, Sep 08, 2011

## **Soyabean up on increased buying**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 7, 2011, 14:32 IST**

Soyabean prices improved by Rs 13.50 to Rs 2,381 per quintal in the futures trade today due to increased buying on the back of firm global cues.

A firm global trend also encouraged traders to enlarge their positions.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, September soyabean moved up by Rs 13.50, or 0.57% to Rs 2,381 per quintal, with an open interest of 96,320 lots.

The October contract also followed suit and gained by Rs 14.50, or 0.64 per cent to Rs 2,279 per quintal, having an open interest of 88,760 lots.

## **Chana down on sluggish demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 07, 2011, 14:45 IST**



Chana futures prices fell by Rs 31 to Rs 3,467 per quintal today, as speculators booked profits at existing high prices, due to a sluggish demand in the physical market.

Increased supply from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan also put pressure on chana prices at futures trade. Prices of the commodity have been rising for the last five months and touched record high levels in the previous session.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, November chana fell by Rs 31, or 0.89%, to Rs 3,467 per quintal, with an open interest of 73,840 lots.

The October contract declined by Rs 29, or 0.85%, to Rs 3,390 per quintal, with a trade volume of 2,43,090 lots, while September contract also drifted by Rs 23, to Rs 3,298 per quintal, with

business turnover of 2,33,420 lots.

Traders said sluggish demand in the domestic market at existing high prices against increased arrivals from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, mainly led to the fall in chana futures prices.

### **Coriander down on subdued demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 07, 2011, 13:15 IST**

Coriander futures prices fell further by Rs 105 to Rs 5,000 per quintal today, as traders and speculators remained net sellers due to weak spot demand.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, September coriander fell by Rs 105, or 2.06%, to Rs 5,000 per quintal, with a trading volume of just one lot.

Analysts attributed the fall in coriander futures prices mainly to traders and speculators remaining net sellers, due to a weak spot demand.

They said increased arrivals in the physical market also put pressure on the coriander futures prices.

### **Cardamom futures rise on pick-up in demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 07, 2011, 13:06 IST**



Cardamom futures prices maintained an upward march, gaining Rs 10.40 to Rs 767.70 per kg today on rising in spot demand against thin arrivals.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, October cardamom surged by Rs 10.40, or 1.37%, to Rs 767.70 per kg, with a business volume of 161 lots.

The November contract rose by Rs 10.30, or 1.27%, to Rs 821 per kg, with a trading volume of 24 lots, while September contract also inched up by Rs 4.70, or 0.68%, to Rs 694.80 per kg, with a business turnover of 395 lots.

Traders said rising demand in spot market against restricted supply from producing regions, mainly led to the upsurge in cardamom futures prices.

They said reports of tight stocks position due to restricted arrivals from producing centres such as Gangtok and Siliguri, against rise in export demand, pushed up cardamom prices in futures trade.

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# THE HINDU Business Line

## Double boost



Higher output, price: Maize kept for sale by a vendor in Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu. Maize is available in plenty, thanks to a record of 21 million tonne-plus crop. Farmers have got an additional boost through higher prices. Maize prices are currently ruling over Rs 10,500 a tonne, seven per cent higher compared with the same period a year ago. – B. Jothi Ramalingam  
(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 8, 2011)

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## Farmers await silver lining amid clouds over soya crop

Despite record sowing, output may be hit if rains continue, Chennai, Sept. 7: “If you want to step on to my farm, you cannot think of it for at least a week. It is totally under water,” says Mr Daud Patel, a farmer in Dhonk Khurd village, about 30 km from Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

“We have had heavy downpour this year and due to that the pods have started dropping. More than half the area under soyabean could be affected,” he said over phone.

“The downpour has, fortunately, turned into drizzles. The early sown variety should be ready for harvest in eight days but we need sunshine,” said Mr Sunil Mukhati, another farmer from a village near Indore.

“The situation is serious but not alarming. There can be loss but not heavy,” he said.

### **'No cause for panic'**

Soyabean coverage may have been a record 103.1 lakh hectares (lh) this year compared with last year's 92.85 lh. But heavy downpour in the last few days is threatening to play spoilsport.

According to the India Meteorological Department, eastern Madhya Pradesh has received a 14 per cent excess rainfall, while in western Madhya Pradesh the rainfall is 31 per cent excess. Rajasthan, another soyabean-growing State, has also received bountiful rain with the eastern region getting 28 per cent excess and western 29 per cent excess rainfall.

“At least 15-20 per cent of the low-lying areas under soyabean have been affected by the downpour. It could affect production to some extent. But as of now, it is difficult to ascertain the extent of damage,” said Mr Rajesh Agrawal, spokesman of the Soyabean Processors Association of India.

“We were expecting a very good crop, especially because of the higher acreage. But looks like the rain will have some effect on the output. However, reports from other areas are encouraging and there is no cause for panic,” said Mr Agrawal.

Mr Patel said the heavy downpour in the last few days has affected the roots of the plants. “The crop has become yellow and is drooping,” he said.

Farmers in regions around Indore are facing a double whammy. Last year, their wheat or chana (gram) crop was hit by unseasonal rain in November.

“I have sown four varieties of soyabean on my farm. All the four have been affected by the rain,” said Mr Patel.



“If we can get good sunshine from hereon, we can get a good crop,” said Mr Agrawal. The Soyabean Processors Association is expected to undertake the annual survey of the crop sometime after the third week of this month when the crop is ready for harvest.

### **Stray case**

Of the 103.1 lh under soyabean, Madhya Pradesh accounts for 57.3 lh. Last year, the acreage was 53.9 lh. This year, the area under the oilseed is up in Rajasthan at 8.82 lh (7.65 lh).

Meanwhile, reports of non-germination of seeds in some parts of Maharashtra have been termed a stray case. “The situation is normal in Maharashtra with regard to soyabean. The case of seeds not sprouting occurs every year and it is not new,” said Mr Agrawal.

The problem is reported to occur when traders or small seed manufacturers do not follow proper procedure in producing seeds.

Sometimes, they tend to sell old seeds as certified and this could lead to problem, according to sources in the industry.

In Maharashtra, 30.54 lh have been brought under soyabean against 26 lh last year. It is the second-largest producer of the oilseed in the country.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 8, 2011)

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### **Meet to discuss small tea growers' future**

Kolkata, Sept. 7:

The Confederation of Indian Small Tea Growers Association (CISTA), in partnership with United Forum of Small Tea Growers Association, North Bengal, and Darjeeling Organic Ekta Society, a tea farmers' society, will hold a day-long workshop in Darjeeling on September 11, according to Mr Bijoy Gopal Chakraborty, President, CISTA.

The focus of discussion will be the future of small tea growers in the country in context of the Government's policy initiatives, particularly in the 12th Plan period, sustainable production, export-orientation in mini-processing units, branding and quality management and the

functioning of the proposed small tea growers' directorate. The speakers include experts from Tea Research Association, Assam Agriculture University, North Bengal University, Darjeeling Tea Association, Indian Institute of Plantation & Management and Tea Board.

Many small growers from Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh will be present.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 8, 2011)

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### **White areca production seen hit by fruit rot**

Mangalore, Sept. 7:

Constant rainfall in arecanut growing areas since June this year has left growers worried. They fear a 40 per cent drop in white arecanut production as the crop has been affected by fruit rot disease.

Mr M. Srinivasa Achar, President of the All-India Areca Growers' Association, told *Business Line* that the continuous rainfall has affected spraying of fungicide (copper sulphate solution) on the plants. As a result of this, the incidence of fruit rot disease in arecanut plantation is increasing.

The loss in production will be around 40-60 per cent in major growing areas such as Sullia, Vittal and Belthangady, he said.

To prevent fruit rot, growers generally spray copper sulphate on the tender nut during the flowering season; the tree sheds tender arecanut during monsoon.

Mr Ramesh Kaintaje, an arecanut grower from Bantwal taluk, said that many growers with small land holdings did not take up spraying in time due to various factors. This led to fruit rot disease in many such plantations.

Stating that small growers contribute a major chunk to total production, he said, nearly 40 per cent production loss is likely in the next season.

Arrivals of white arecanut to the market would be highest during November-January.

Mr Achar said that the Karnataka Government should direct the Horticulture Department to conduct a survey on the extent of production loss in the State. After factoring in the survey, the Government should extend compensation to the growers, he said.

Mr Kaintaje said that though the growers are getting a good price for the commodity after a gap of nearly a decade, they are not able to reap this benefit because of increase in the cases of fruit rot disease in arecanut plantations.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 8, 2011)

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### **Rice trade muted on fear of prices falling**



Karnal, Sept. 7:

The rice market witnessed a steady trend on Wednesday, with the prices of aromatic and non-basmati rice ruling firm at their previous levels.

Mr Jatin Takkar, proprietor of Krishna Rice Mills, told *Business Line* that following fear of drop in prices in the near future, demand at present in the local market is quite low. Only the Govinda paddy variety is arriving at present and arrivals of PR varieties may start within the next 10 days, while arrivals of the paddy of aromatic varieties may start around the mid-October, Mr Takkar said.

After witnessing an uptrend earlier this week, Pusa-1121 varieties remained unchanged. Pusa-1121 (steam) ruled at Rs 4,900-5,025 a quintal. Pusa-1121(sela) was around Rs 3,920, while Pusa-1121(raw) ruled at Rs 4,275-4,300 a quintal.

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 Pusa1121, Tibar ruled at Rs 3,300-3,500, Dubar was at Rs 2,600-2,800 while Mongra was trading at Rs 1,900-2,200 a quintal.

Sharbati (steam) ruled at Rs 2,800-2,900 while the Sharbati (Sela) was at Rs 2,750 a quintal.

Govinda variety was ruling between Rs 1,600 and 1,700 a quintal. Among the brokens of Sharbati variety, Tibar quoted at Rs 2,350-2,550, Dubar sold at Rs 2,100-2,270 while Mongra was trading around Rs 1,700-1,735 a quintal. PR11 (Sela) sold at Rs 2,100-2,320 a quintal, while PR-11(Raw) quoted at Rs 1,925-2,150 a quintal. Permal (sela) and sold at Rs 1,800-1,950 a quintal while Permal (Raw) was at Rs 1,900-2,040 a quintal.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 8, 2011)

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### **Export demand lifts castor futures**



Rajkot, Sept. 7:

Strong export demand lifted castor futures on Wednesday even as the spot price declined on higher sowing and increased arrivals.

October contracts of castor seed on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange increased by Rs 30.50 to Rs 4,735 a quintal, with an open interest of 13,390 lots. November contracts gained Rs 26.50 to Rs 4,690 a quintal, with an open interest of 14,190 lots.

September contract declined slightly by Rs 4 to Rs 4,752 a quintal on the Rajkot Commodity Exchange, while December contract increased by Rs 28 to Rs 4,630. Spot castor declined by Rs 70 to Rs 4,522.50 a quintal.

Ten thousand bags that arrived in Gujarat sold at Rs 895-915 for 20 kg, while 1,200-1,300 bags arrived in Saurashtra and sold at Rs 870-905.

According to the Solvent Extractors Association of India latest data, castor exports rose by almost 24 per cent to 2.42 lakh tonnes during November-August 2010-11 mainly because of strong demand from countries such as South Korea and Taiwan.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, area sown under castor seed increased by almost 1.87 lakh hectares to 8.54 lakh hectares as on August 19 as area sown rose in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. Castor seed acreage in Rajasthan increased by 10 per cent to 1.48 lakh hectares while in Gujarat it was up 50 per cent to 4.73 lakh hectares.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 8, 2011)

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### **Edible oils steady as futures rebound**



Mumbai, Sept. 7:

After falling for the last four days, edible oils steadied on Wednesday as Malaysian crude palm oil (CPO) and domestic soya oil futures rebounded. Prices remained unchanged in the spot market despite lack of demand.

In Mumbai, groundnut oil, sunflower oil, rapeseed oil and palmolein remained unchanged. Cotton oil rose by Re 1, while soya oil declined by Re 1 for 10 kg. CPO futures on Bursa

Malaysia Derivatives (BMD) gained on worries about US soya crop. Buyers in western India are likely to increase demand for palmolein as it is cheaper by over Rs 450 compared with groundnut oil and cotton oil, said a wholesaler. Resellers sold 50-60 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 548-550. Liberty offered palmolein at Rs 551-549 for October delivery, soya oil at Rs 641 and sunflower oil at Rs 700. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 551-548 for October delivery, soya refined oil at Rs 638 and sunflower oil at Rs 705.

Malaysia's BMD CPO September contracts closed higher at MYR 3,136 (MYR 3,100), October MYR 3,089 (MYR 3,038) and November MYR 3,042 (MYR 2,985) a tonne. September contracts of soya oil on National Board of Trade in Indore closed at Rs 655 (Rs 652) and October at Rs 643.50 (Rs 641.50).

Mumbai Commodity Exchange spot prices (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil 1015 (1015), soya refined oil 640 (641), sunflower exp. ref. 655 (655), sunflower ref. 705 (705), rapeseed ref. oil 690 (690), rapeseed expeller ref. 660 (660), cotton ref. oil 652 (651) and palmolein 550 (550).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 8, 2011)

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### **Tur, its dal extend gains on poor inflows**



Indore, Sept. 7:

Moong and tur rose for the second consecutive day on improved demand and weak arrivals.

Aided by weak arrival and enthusiastic demand, new moong gained in the physical market at Rs 4,500-4,800 a quintal, about Rs 200 up. Arrivals in mandis remain poor with only about 300 bags offloaded on Wednesday. Moong (old) ruled firm at Rs 3,600-4,200 a quintal. Moong dal

remained stable despite subdued demand, with moong (mongar) declining at Rs 5,700-5,750. Moong dal was at Rs 5,400-5,500 and moong dal (average) at Rs 5,000-5,100 a quintal.

Tur perked up on improved buying, with tur (Maharashtra) quoted at Rs 3,350-3,375 (Rs 3,300-3,325). Tur (Nimari) also gained on improved demand at Rs 2,300-2,700 a quintal. Tur dal ruled firm, with tur (marka) unchanged at Rs 6,200, tur dal (full) at Rs 5,400-5,450 and tur dal ( *sawa* no.) at Rs 4,350-4,400 a quintal. Masoor, after gaining on Tuesday, declined by Rs 25 to Rs 2,975 a quintal on sluggish demand. Masoor (medium) declined to Rs 2,700 a quintal (Rs 2,750). Masoor dal, however, remained unchanged. Masoor dal quoted at Rs 3,350-3,375, masoor dal (medium) at Rs 3,450-3,375 and masoor dal (bold) at Rs 3,550-3,375 a quintal. Poor offtake, increased selling by stockists and a gradual increase in arrivals — 1,000-1,200 bags were offloaded in mandis in Wednesday — pulled chana (kanta) down to Rs 3,250-3,75 a quintal in the spot market (Rs 3,300-3,320 a quintal). Similarly, chana (desi) also declined to Rs 3,225 on weak demand.

Chana dal ruled flat, with chana dal (bold) remaining unchanged in the spot market at Rs 4,250-4,275 a quintal, chana dal (medium) at Rs 4,150-4,175 a quintal. Dollar chana ruled firm at Rs 8,300-8,500 a quintal as merely 400-500 bags were offloaded in local mandis, though demand was weak, too.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 8, 2011)

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### Sugar turns bullish on demand from bulk buyers



Mumbai, Sept. 7:

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market witnessed a steady trend in the spot market on Wednesday.

Naka rates extended slight gains tracking firm tender rates and sentiment at the mill level.

Higher arrivals and lifting continued in the local market on support of festival buying along with improved demand from bulk consumers. The undertone of the market was firm ahead of the festival season, said traders.

A leading broker in the Vashi market said, at mill level prices increased by Rs 5-15 a quintal on support of demand. Higher demand at mill level kept business active. Naka rates also increased by the same margin. Volume was at the usual level.

Lower allotment of the current month's free sale quota to Maharashtra, Gujarat and the southern States kept overall sentiment firm. Freight rates were steady.

Arrivals in the market were around 52-52 truckloads (each of 100 bags), while lifting was nearly 49-50 truckloads. Bengal side buyers kept away after active buying in the last two-three days.

On Tuesday evening nearly 25-26 mills offered tenders and sold about 85,000-90,000 bags to local stockists in the range of Rs 2,660-2,715 (Rs 2,660-2,700) for S-grade and Rs 2,740-2,835 (Rs 2,740-2,825) for M-Grade.

**Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates:** S-grade Rs 2,772-2,865 (Rs 2,776-2,865) and M-grade Rs 2,842-2,991 (Rs 2,842- 2,991).

**Naka delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 2,735-2,780 (Rs 2,730-2,760) and M grade Rs 2,800-2,915 (Rs 2,800-2,900).

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 8, 2011)

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## Lower N. Indian buying saps turmeric



Erode, Sept. 7:

Spot turmeric prices declined further on Wednesday by Rs 350 a quintal in the Regulated Marketing Committee as arrivals continued to swamp markets..

According to Erode Turmeric Merchants Association President, Mr R.V. Ravishankar, turmeric traders have not been receiving any fresh orders from North India as also Kerala. Spot turmeric prices, he said, have been declining fast over the past two days. Added to this, the market is experiencing heavy arrivals of the commodity. The traders are, therefore, expecting a further dip in the price.

In the Regulated Marketing Committee, Mr Ravishankar said that due to heavy arrivals and absence of quality crop, prices were lower by Rs 360 a quintal. And as the farmers had to make immediate payments, they sold the produce at a low price. In the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, prices were down by Rs 160 a quintal.

On Wednesday alone, turmeric growers brought 11,250 bags to the markets. Already, turmeric farmers have kept stocks of about one lakh bags in the markets and other places in Erode, he said.

Usually, during Vinayak Chaturthi and Onam traders receive good orders from the North as well as Kerala. But this time around, they have hardly received any orders. So the traders are not buying in bulk, fearing that the price may decline further.

**Salem crop:** The finger variety sold at Rs 4,611-6,269, and the root variety, Rs 4,411-4,966. Totally, 2,767 bags of turmeric arrived for sale, of which, 493 were sold.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 8, 2011)

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