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Farmers get inputs to boost food production

Staff Reporter

: Farmers festival will impart modern technologies to farmers. They should use them effectively and boost food production said Collector N. Venkatachalam.

He was inaugurating farmers' festival at Undarpatti village near here on Friday.

The main objective of the festival was to double food production, increase productivity and enhance irrigation usage by 30 per cent and bring more areas under cultivation.

This festival will be celebrated in all revenue villages in the district throughout the month. Awareness on latest technologies was essential to boost production. Moreover, agriculture development alone will ensure rural economic development, he added.

The officials will brief about all schemes meant for farmers and farm labourers and ways to avail them effectively, he added. It will be held in 359 revenue villages in the district.

While addressing similar festival at Vilpatti village in Kodaikanal, Deputy Director of Horticulture S. Raja Mohamed said sensitising farmers about good agriculture practices with an objective of bridging the knowledge gap, narrowing down yield gap, increasing the income of farmers, improving soil fertility with soil analysis, timely supply of quality inputs and to adopt extension with renewed vigour formed the prime agenda of the festival.

Theni

While inaugurating the festival at Ellapatti village in Chinnamanur block, Collector K.S. Palanisamy said that farmers' festival will be held in 113 revenue villages till first week of May. Officials will impart technologies and technical inputs useful to farmers.

The festival will also boost agro-based industries in the district. Bankers, technical experts from various departments and higher educational institutions will also explain recent developments in agriculture and horticulture particularly irrigation, fertilizer management, pest control measures

and dry land farming. Farmers should sharpen their skills with these technologies in order to boost food production, he advised.

A sum of Rs.20 lakh had been allotted for each primary agriculture cooperative banks for conducting the festival.

The festival will be held in Unjampatti, Cumbum, Gandamanur, U. Ambasamudram on April 14 and at Thamaraikulam, Karungattankulam, Kottakudi, Anuppampatti village on April 16, the Collector added.

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A festival that sows seeds of farming technology awareness

Special Correspondent



District Revenue Officer S. Rajendran giving away assistance to farmers in Cuddalore on Friday. Photo: C. Venkatachalapathy

District Revenue Officer S. Rajendran, who is acting as Collector in-charge, inaugurated the “Uzhavar peruvizha” at Kattiyankuppam near here on Friday.

He said the programme is being organised as part of the Statewide drive of the government to impart technical knowledge to farmers and introduce modern farm practices to them.

Experts from 15 departments, including agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, agricultural engineering, and cooperative, would enlighten farmers about aspects of cultivation to give a thrust to productivity.

The event is being organised at the rate of three revenue villages a day in 13 panchayat unions in the district. It would begin at 9.30 a.m. and go on till 7 p.m. Skits would be staged to provide insight to better farm practices.

The officials would also give demonstration on agricultural implements and how to handle them. As farm labourers are going scarce, they could profitably deploy the devices to carry on their avocation without interruption.

Mr. Rajendran hoped that if farmers scrupulously followed the tips, it would pave the way for a second Green Revolution.

He gave away farm inputs, including seeds, to farmers.

Joint Director of Agriculture Radhakrishnan, Panchayat Union Chairperson Manimekalai Palanisamy and District Panchayat Chairman Malliga Vaithiyalingam participated.

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Cattle growers get feed, reward for good upkeep

"All beneficiaries should have cattle during surprise inspection"



Motivation:Cattle farmers being honoured by Collector N. Venkatachalam in Dindigul on Friday.— PHOTO: G. KARTHIKEYAN

Sizable population of cattle and goats were essential for effective functioning of biological eco system, said Collector N. Venkatachalam.

He was honouring beneficiaries who have been maintaining priceless goats and cows in the district at a function held at the collectorate near here on Friday.

All beneficiaries should maintain the cattle and goats well and use them for their economic development. They should not sell them immediately. All beneficiaries should have cattle and goats during the surprise inspection, failing which action would be initiated against them, he warned.

Kittu of Boothakudi, Poomani and Indira and goat rearers Azhagammal, Lokathambal and Sankarayer were winners of best maintained cattle and goats contest.

While winner of cattle grower contest won first prize of Rs.5,000 worth of cattle feed and the second and the third prize winners got Rs.4,000 and Rs.3,000 worth of cattle feed.

Three goat beneficiaries got feed worth Rs.3,000, Rs.2,500 and Rs.2,000 respectively Besides, seven persons got Rs.1,000 worth of feed as consolation prize.

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A new crop of ideas at farmers' festival

K. Manikandan



Farmer-friendly: Officials demonstrate better farming methods and use of bio-fertilisers during a farmers' festival at Nanmangalam Village on Friday.— Photo: A. Muralitharan

Free micro irrigation (drip irrigation system) for small and micro farmers who own a few acres of land will not only help the farmers save a lot of money and water and also improve yield, but also help in sustaining the interest among the farmers in the city's southern suburbs to continue to grow crops and vegetables.

This was among the many other messages conveyed to them at a Farmers' Festival organised by the Department of Agriculture at Nanmangalam Village Panchayat near Tambaram on Friday.

Organised by the Agriculture Extension Centre of St. Thomas Mount Panchayat Union, the festival saw the coming together of officials from many government departments and farmers from all over the southern suburbs and its immediate vicinities.

Officials said Friday's event was the inaugural of a month-long programme that would cover each and every hamlet in the city's southern suburbs, where farming is carried out actively even now. The day-long programme would feature lecture demonstrations on improved methods of farming, presentation of farmers' friendly schemes of the State government and a street play touching upon various issues.

The event was inaugurated by R. Vasuki, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture. During similar programmes over the month, representatives from Horticulture, Agriculture Engineering, Marketing and also from Cooperative Societies, Primary Agriculture Cooperative Banks, Cooperative Societies, Nationalised Banks, Public Works Department and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development among many others would be present and farmers could interact with them.

A significant scheme launched by the present State government was provision of Micro Irrigation to small and medium farmers absolutely free of cost. Earlier, the State government extended a subsidy of 50 per cent in 2008-09 which was increased every year and last year, farmers received a subsidy of 75 per cent.

From this financial year, small and medium farmers would be getting micro irrigation free of cost for one acre and at concessional rates for additional acres of land.

Elaborating, officials said a sum of Rs. 43,800 was allocated for the beneficiaries, who had to apply for the same along with land ownership documents.

The amount would be handed over to the approved contractor, who would install the system in the farmer's land. More than 20 beneficiaries were identified in the southern suburbs.

By adopting to Micro Irrigation, farmers in water starved southern suburbs could save anywhere between 40 to 70 per cent of water, improve their yield by 50 per cent and the land would be free from weeds. Farmers in Gowl Bazaar and Pozhichalur cultivated vegetables, while those around Tambaram grew paddy, officials said.

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Millets Mela doesn't sugar-coat the message

Staff Reporter



Sheaves Of Health: Procured from over 100 farmers, the millets at the mela are completely organic, the organisers say.— Photo: Bhagya Prakash K.

They are known to have low glycemic index (GI), and so considered good for diabetics. Highlighting this in a country with a big chunk of the population having diabetes, the Millets Mela, which started on Friday, is promoting the sale of what is considered the poor man's staple for their low GI.

Varieties including haaraka, navane, ragi, sajje, jola, saame and others are available at the three-day mela which aims to encourage people to include millets in their diet for their medicinal value.

Delicacies made out of millets such as laddu, chakli, bisi bele bhath and so on can be sampled at the venue.

“Millets are the best food for people with diabetes. This (claim) has been published in many reputed journals,” said Usha Vastare, founder of the Yogakeshama Punarvasati Mattu Swastya Kendra here.

Procured from over 100 farmers, the grains at the mela are completely organic. The organisers, Grameena Natural and Earth 360, said millets outlets have opened in Rajarajeshwarinagar and Chandra Layout and there are plans to open 25 more across the city.

The mela is on at the Dr. Marigowda Memorial Auditorium in Lalbagh Botanical Gardens. More details can be had from Shridhar Murthy, secretary of Grameena Natural, on 9738449133.

- *The mela is on at Lalbagh Botanical Gardens*
- *25 millets outlets in Bangalore on the anvil*

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Cattle in goshalas to get more fodder

Staff Correspondent



TAKING STOCK: Minister for Fisheries Anand Asnotikar at a goshala at Sanikere village in Challakere taluk on Friday.

Minister in charge of the district Anand Asnotikar has said that the Chief Minister has instructed the officials concerned to supply 2 kg more fodder to each head of cattle following a complaint by farmers that the quantity being provided in goshalas was inadequate.

He, however, made it clear that the additional quantity would be provided only to cattle that were kept in goshalas overnight.

Interacting with farmers at Sanikere village in Challakere taluk on Friday after visiting a goshala, he said that there were several complaints that the 5 kg of fodder being provided by the district administration was inadequate.

On the demand of farmers that paddy hay be provided to cattle instead of maize hay, Mr. Asnotikar said that the authorities were finding it difficult to procure paddy hay as it was not easily available.

Deputy Commissioner Vipul Bansal said that paddy hay was generally procured from Andhra Pradesh, which was also facing drought.

To a question, Mr. Bansal said that about 750 tonnes of fodder had been accumulated by the district administration so far, which would last at least 15 days.

Mr. Asnotikar expressed satisfaction over the drought relief measures in the district, especially the setting up of goshalas.

When a few farmers, including Tippeswamy, MLA for Challakere, urged the Minister to provide more jobs under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the latter directed N. Jayaram, chief executive officer of the zilla panchayat, to take up more schemes in rural areas for the purpose.

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Special training in coconut farming

Special Correspondent

Special training sessions dealing with various aspects of coconut farming and processing are in progress in the State for members of coconut producers' societies formed under the aegis of the Coconut Development Board. The first phase of the programme is expected to be completed within two months.

The board took the initiative in forming the societies, each with a membership of a minimum of 40 members. Over 1,100 societies were formed in the State during the last financial year, exceeding the target of 1,000.

The training is intended to equip farmers with the necessary information and action-plan to develop coconut-farming as a profitable venture. It focuses on raising high-yielding varieties of coconut.

Value-addition

Harvesting operations and value-addition to products are among subjects dealt with at the training sessions, handled by experts.

With a view to extending support to the activities of the societies, the government has issued a notification pertaining to copra procurement.

Accordingly, the members of societies can collect coconuts and convert them to copra which could be given to the designated agencies for copra procurement, such as Marketfed and Kerafed.

Under the new dispensation, the certification from Agriculture Department on the annual produce in the farm-holding, a pre-requisite for getting the official support-price for the procured

copra, is not required for the members of the societies. This will be immensely helpful to the farmer, the Board says.

'Not a key role'

Interestingly, not all farmers subscribe to the view. P.K. Thampan, an expert farmer and president of Peekay Tree Corps Development Foundation, a Kochi-based NGO, expressed doubts as to whether all the societies have the wherewithal to be key partners in the procurement process. The focus should be more on dedicated work than on formation of societies, he told *The Hindu*.

Deriving financial benefits offered by the official machinery should never be the guiding force behind the formation of societies. The NGO headed by him was engaged in farming practices intended at making optimum production of different crops which could be raised within the coconut farm, he said.

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Farmers sell mangoes without the 'meddling' middlemen

Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy inaugurates month-long mango mela



Long wait ends: People buying mangoes at the mango mela in Exhibition Grounds on Friday.-

PHOTO: NAGARA GOPAL

A month-long mela of mangoes being directly sold by farmers from different parts of the State was inaugurated by Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy at the Exhibition Grounds here on Friday.

The mela organised by the State Government Department of Horticulture and Economic Committee of the Exhibition Society has on sale and display a number of varieties of mangoes that have been ripened without use of carbide. The event has been divided into three phases,

each phase having farmers from different districts selling their produce directly, without any involvement of middlemen.

In the first phase, from April 13 to 23, farmers from Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari, Krishna and Khammam districts have put on sale a number of varieties of mangoes that are exclusive to their region. The varieties include Swagatham, Pandurivari Mamidi, Chinna Rasalu, Pedda Rasalu, Cheruku Rasalu, Suvarnarekha, Panukulu, Panchadarakalasa, Himayath and pickle varieties, among others.

In the second phase, from April 24 to May 3, farmers from Guntur, Nellore, Warangal, Karimnagar, Medak, Nizamabad, Adilabad and Ranga Reddy districts will sell mango varieties that are specially found in their districts. The varieties include Banganapalli, Chinna Rasalu, Pedda Rasalu, Cheruku Rasalu, Bangalore, Kesari, Dasherri and Himayath, among others.

In the third phase, from May 4 to May 14, it would be the turn of mango farmers from Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Kurnool, Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa and Prakasam districts to sell varieties from their region. They are expected to sell varieties including Banganapalli, Bangalore, Alphonso, Khader, Neelam, Neelesan and Rumani among others.

The Horticulture Department has assisted farmers by providing them ripening in ethylene chambers at identified locations in Vijayawada and Hyderabad and grading and standard packing of 2 kg and 5 kg in corrugated cartons and 50 micron carry bags. The farmers have been given material movement charges to help them bring their produce from the farms for direct sale to consumers through 45 stalls.

Minister for Horticulture R. Venkat Reddy, Secunderabad MP Anjan Kumar Yadav, MLC Prabhakar, former minister Chinna Reddy accompanied the Chief Minister for the inauguration.

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- *Mela has a number of varieties of mangoes that have been ripened without use of carbide*
 - *Event divided into three phases, with farmers from different districts selling their produce*

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'March inflation likely slowed marginally'

Reuters Posted online: Sat Apr 14 2012, 11:43 hrs



Bangalore : India's wholesale price inflation rate likely slowed marginally in March as easing price pressures from non-food items offset persistently high food and fuel costs, a poll showed.

The median consensus from a survey of 30 economists pinned expectations for headline inflation at 6.70 per cent for March from a year ago, under the higher-than-expected 6.95 per cent recorded in February.

After staying above the 9 per cent mark for a year, inflation started cooling last November and hit a 26-month low of 6.55 per cent in January, stoking market expectations of a rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

But with global oil prices soaring and Brent oil futures hovering stubbornly near the \$120 mark, the risk of climbing inflation has again appeared.

India is heavily dependent on crude oil imports to meet its fuel requirements and, as global oil prices rise, higher transportation costs push up the price of goods.

"It is still suppressed inflation in India (because) the complete global crude oil impact has not been passed to the end consumer," said Arun Singh, at Dun & Bradstreet, who expects inflation to remain elevated for at least another month or two.

An increase to the service tax by the government in its March federal budget may also add to inflationary pressures in the coming months by pushing up production and input costs.

Forecasts in the Reuters survey for March ranged from 6.30 to 7.02 per cent, suggesting that, while inflation is not about to go off the central bank's radar, it will remain well below the 9 per cent levels.

The RBI is likely to cut its key interest rate for the first time in three years when it meets on April 17, reducing it by 25 basis points to 8.25 per cent, a Reuters poll showed on Tuesday.

However, some economists don't see that happening.

"I don't think the RBI will think of cutting interest rates at this point in time. The RBI is purely targeting inflation as of now and inflation, unfortunately, has not shown any tendency of moderation," Singh said.

India to get \$352 mn for dairy development

Agencies Posted online: Sat Apr 14 2012, 10:42 hrs



New Delhi : The World Bank on Friday signed an agreement with India to provide USD 352 million for the National Dairy Support Project, a step that will benefit about 17 lakh rural milk producing households.

"Government of India and the World Bank on Friday signed an agreement for an IDA credit of USD 352 million (about Rs 1,805 crore) for the National Dairy Support Project to increase productivity of milk animals and improve market access of milk producers in project areas," World Bank said in a statement.

The project will be financed by credit from the International Development Association (IDA), World Bank's concessionary lending arm, which provides interest-free loans with 25 years to maturity and a grace period of five years.

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has prepared a National Dairy Plan (NDP) to improve animal productivity, strengthen infrastructure for milk procurement at the village level, and enhance milk processing capacity and marketing, backed by appropriate policy and regulatory measures, it said.

The World Bank supported National Dairy Support Project will support and operationalise the first phase of the NDP through investments.

"The project will cover some 40,000 villages across 14 major dairying states and is expected to directly benefit about 1.7 million rural milk producing households," Department of Economic Affairs Joint Secretary Venu Rajamony said.

The 14 states included in the Project account for more than 90 per cent of the national production and include states such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, he added.

"The Project will provide an opportunity for the World Bank to re-engage at a national scale in further development of the Indian dairy sector with potentially significant benefits for large numbers of dairy producers," World Bank Country Director for India Roberto Zagha said.

According to NDP Mission Director Dilip Rath, the primary focus of the project is on increasing milk yields by genetic improvement of the dairy herd (cows and buffalos) and optimal use of feed and fodder.

The Project will support long-term investments in animal breeding, extensive training of dairy farmers and doorstep delivery of artificial insemination and ration balancing advisory services, he added.

Select pulses up on retailers demand

Agencies Posted online: Fri Apr 13 2012, 17:16 hrs

New Delhi : Prices of select pulses traded higher on the wholesale pulses market today on increased demand from retailers.

Tight stocks positions following restricted arrivals from producing belts and increased demand from retailers mainly pushed up select wholesale pulses prices, traders said.

In the national capital, gram edged up to Rs 3,500-4,200 from previous level of Rs 3,500-4,050 per quintal. Gram dal local and best quality were up by Rs 100 each to Rs 4,200-4,300 and Rs 4,350-4,450 per quintal, respectively.

Rajmah chitra and moth also traded higher at Rs 6,300-7,800 and Rs 2,800-3,200 against last close of Rs 5,850-7,700 and Rs 2,500-3,000 per quintal, respectively.

The following are today's pulses rates per quintal:

Urad 3,000-3,600, Urad Chilka (local) 4,000-4,300, best 4,400-4,900, Dhoya 4,950-5,050, Moong 3,500-4,500, Dal Moong Chilka local 4,250-4,650, Moong Dhoya local 4,800-4,900 and best quality 5,500-5,600.

Masoor small 3,150-3,450, bold 3,300-3,550, Dal Masoor local 3,900-4,000, best quality 3,850-4,050, Malka local 3,800-3,850, best 4,050-4,150, Moth 2,800-3,200, Arhar 3,300-3,600, Dal Arhar Dara 4,700-4,900.

Gram 3,500-4,200, Gram Dal (local) 4,200-4,300, best quality 4,350-4,450, Besan (35 kg) Shakti bhog 1,700, Rajdhani 1,700, Rajmah Chitra 6,300-7,800, Kabli Gram small 4,500-8,000, dabra 2,700-2,800, imported 4,700-5,100; Lobia 3,800-4,300, Peas white 2,450-2,470 and green 2,600-2,650.

Business Standard

Saturday, Apr 14, 2012

Mentha acreage may increase 20% this year

Encouraged by higher realisation last year, farmers are likely to bring more area under the mentha crop this year. As a consequence, the acreage under mentha is estimated to rise 20 per cent this year. In Uttar Pradesh, India's largest producer of the commodity, the acreage is forecast to rise to 210,000 hectares (ha) this season, compared to 175,000 ha last year. Traders hope sowing area would rise further on farmers' enthusiasm on the basis of last year's realisation.

Around 20 per cent additional area under any crop may translate into nearly 20-25 per cent of more output. This would prove largely a relief for user industries including pharmaceutical, cosmetics and confectioneries, as last year's rocketing price squeezed their margins significantly.

The price of mentha oil, a derivative of mentha, shot up last year on rising consumer demand, especially from industries like confectionery and cosmetics. Since mentha oil has no substitutes, user industries continued to buy at the market price. As a consequence, the price of mentha oil for near-month delivery on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) surged 112 per cent to Rs 2,465 a kg from Rs 1,159 a kg last year.

"Supply has dried up in the spot market due to the ongoing lean season. But, demand has been robust from both domestic as well as international markets. Many global buyers are awaiting the new season arrivals to begin booking afresh to meet their next year consumption. Hence, the demand for mentha oil is expected to remain robust even in the next season," said Girish Kumar, a Chandausi, a Uttar Pradesh-based trader.

Total production of mentha oil was recorded at 35,000-36,000 tonnes last year, which is expected to surpass 42,000 tonnes this year on higher acreage. However, prices are unlikely to see any downward move from the current level on strong demand abroad. Also, the carryover stock this year is estimated to be negligible.

Ajay Kedia, managing director of Kedia Commodities, said, "The mentha oil price may hit Rs 3,000-a-kg level before the new season crop hits the market."

Turmeric recovers on spot demand, short-covering

Press Trust of India / New Delhi Apr 13, 2012, 13:02

After hitting a three-year low in yesterday's trade, turmeric prices recovered by 1.62% to Rs 3,514 per quintal in futures trading today mostly supported by fresh demand at spot markets. However, heavy arrivals from the producing regions of the new season crop following an estimated rise in output this year restricted the gains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the April delivery moved up by Rs 56, or 1.62%, to Rs 3,514 per quintal with an open interest of 13,640 lots.

The May delivery gained Rs 54, or 1.52%, to Rs 3,596 per quintal in 24,470 lots. It dipped to Rs 3,528 in yesterday's trade, the lowest level since January 2009.

Traders attributed the recovery in turmeric futures prices to pick up in demand at the spot markets and covering-up of short positions by speculators.

Demand for natural rubber to rise 3.1%

George Joseph / Kochi Apr 13, 2012, 00:37

Global natural rubber (NR) demand is likely to increase this year, according to the initial trend in consumption. A high crude oil price may also positively impact demand world over, according to experts. This is so because an alternative for natural rubber, synthetic rubber (SR), is produced from crude oil derivatives and its prices take a cue from crude oil prices. This may also lead to a shift in the ratio of NR-SR consumption in favour of NR. In India, the demand is anticipated to rise 3.1 per cent year-on-year during Q1. The consumption sector in India depends heavily on domestic demand, especially from the automobile industry, largely driven by the country's economic trends. An improved economic outlook announced by the government in March, through its Economic Survey, offers scope for a faster growth in consumption of NR during this year. The country's consumption is expected to rise 4.7 per cent this year, much faster than the 1.4 per cent rate attained in the previous year.

In January-March, consumption was up 2.1 per cent to 1.4 million tonnes (mt), according to the latest ANRPC data. According to preliminary estimates, the average monthly consumption,

which stood at 448,000 tonnes during January and February this year, is likely to rise to 516,000 tonnes in March and to 534,000 tonnes during April-May.

The anticipated growth in global demand would be mainly driven by countries which fall outside the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC), which include the US and Japan.

NR consumption by member countries of ANRPC rose 1.9 per cent in 2011 over the previous year. Eleven member countries, including China, India, Malaysia and Thailand, together consumed 6.16 mt, as against six mt in 2010.

Pepper up 0.6% on short-covering, bargain buying
Press Trust of India / New Delhi Apr 13, 2012, 12:54

Pepper prices recovered by 0.60% to Rs 38,495 per quintal in futures trade today after speculators covered up their short positions amid low level buying. At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the April contract shot up by Rs 250, or 0.60%, to Rs 38,495 per quintal with an open interest of 2,432 lots.

The May contract moved up by Rs 205, or 0.52%, to Rs 39,425 per quintal in 3,972 lots. The contract has fallen over 17% in the last three weeks on higher supplies and subdued demand in the spot markets.

Analysts said covering-up of pending short positions by speculators at prevailing lower levels and increased spot demand, helped pepper to cover part of lost grounds at futures trade here.

Barley extends gains on speculative buying
Press Trust of India / New Delhi Apr 13, 2012, 13:35



Barley prices remained in demand for the second consecutive day by adding Rs 67 to Rs 1,752 per quintal in future trading today following renewed buying in tandem with firm spot markets sentiment. Strong demand from brewery industries also helped to pushed up the trading sentiments.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the July contract shot up by Rs 67, or 3.98%, to Rs 1,752 per quintal, having an open interest of 170 lots.

The May contract jumped up by Rs 51.50, or 3.17%, to Rs 1,675 per quintal, with an open interest of 20,070 lots.

The April contract climbed by Rs 43.50, or 2.75%, to Rs 1,628 per quintal, clocking an open interest of 7,720 lots.

Cardamom rises 1.7% on spot demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi Apr 13, 2012, 13:18

Cardamom prices rose by Rs 19.70, to Rs 1,146.50 per kg in futures trade today after speculators increased positions amid demand pick up in the spot market amid low stocks. Restricted arrivals from producing regions also supported the rise in prices.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, the May delivery surged by Rs 19.70 or 1.74% to Rs 1,146.50 per kg in a business volume of 755 lots.

The April contract rose by Rs 15.10 or 1.57% to Rs 971 per kg in a business volume of 14 lots.

Traders said pick up of demand in the spot market against restricted arrivals from producing regions led to the rise in cardamom prices in the futures market.

Castorseed surges on brisk buying

Press Trust of India / New Delhi Apr 13, 2012, 13:51

Castorseed prices firmed up by Rs.61 to Rs.3,655 per quintal in future trading today following frantic buying by traders on the back of higher spot markets sentiment. Marketmen said restricted supply and rising demand in physical markets mainly attributed the rise here in future price of castorseed.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the June contract hardened by Rs.61, or 1.70% to Rs.3,655 per quintal, witnessing an open interest of 4,140 lots.

The May contract advanced by Rs.60, 1.68% to Rs.3,592 per quintal, persisting an open interest of 9,380 lots, while current April contract flared up by Rs.45, or 1.29% to Rs.3,530 per quintal, revealing an open interest of 12,080 lots.

Mustardseed rises on strong physical demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi Apr 13, 2012, 15:18



Mustardseed prices looked up by Rs 85 to Rs 4,165 per quintal in future trading today tracking firm spot markets cue. Marketmen said brisk demand from oil mills and vanaspati units against restricted supply mainly pushed up prices.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the July contract zoomed up by Rs.85, or 2.08%, to Rs 4.165 per quintal, with an open interest of 18,170 lots.

The May contract rose by Rs.79, or 1.98%, to Rs 4,059 per quintal, having an open interest of 1,48,360 lots.

The April contract moved up by Rs 73, or 1.87%, to Rs 3,986 per quintal, clocking an open interest of 52,360 lots.