

Published: April 27, 2012 14:00 IST | Updated: April 27, 2012 14:00 IST

Three banana researchers bag AIPUB fellow awards



The Hindu R.Thangavelu, Senior Scientist, Pathology, NRCB, receiving the AIPUB fellow award from Gulabrao Deokar, Minister of State for Agriculture and Transport, Maharashtra, recently. M.M.Mustafa, Director, NRCB, and H.P.Singh, Deputy Director General, ICAR, are also in the picture.

Presented at national conference on banana in Maharashtra

Three scientists of the National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), Tiruchi, have bagged the Association for Improvement in Production and Utilisation of Banana (AIPUB) fellow awards in recognition of their contributions to banana research.

The awards were announced and presented at the national conference on banana organised jointly by the AIPUB, Confederation of Horticultural Association of India (CHAI), and Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd, at Jain Hills, Jalgaon, in Maharashtra recently.

The AIPUB Fellow Awards were presented to B.Padmanaban, Principal Scientist, Entomology, R.Thangavelu, Senior Scientist, Pathology, and V.Kumar, Senior Scientist, Horticulture, at the conference by Gulabrao Deokar, Minister of State for Agriculture and Transport, Maharashtra, in

the presence of H.P.Singh, Deputy Director General, Horticulture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and M.M.Mustafa, Director, NRCB, according to a NRCB press release.

Dr.Padmanaban has been working on developing eco-friendly management technologies for major pests of banana such as weevils and aphid.

He has developed eco-friendly semiochemical traps for monitoring of banana corm and stem weevils and identified effective entomopathogenic fungi for effective control of banana weevils and aphid respectively. The technologies developed by him are popular with banana growers. He has also identified many new insect pests infesting bananas in the country.

Dr.Thangavelu has been working on various aspects of disease management of banana such as screening of germplasm for their resistance to diseases, molecular characterisation of various pathogens of banana, non-chemical method of management of diseases and induction of systemic resistance against diseases. He has also received the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru Award for the “Best Ph.D. research in crop protection” in 2003.

He was awarded the “Best writer award for his Tamil Book on banana by the State government in 2010. He was instrumental in developing a spray schedule for the effective management of eumusae leaf spot disease of banana.

Dr.Kumar has been involved in various research programmes and standardised various agro techniques for banana including technology for organic banana production, optimum time of planting, high density planting, integrated nutrient management, drip and fertigation techniques, integrated weed management and other production technologies for enhancing the production and productivity of different commercial cultivars of banana. He has been actively involved in transfer of technology to farmers.

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

28 APR, 2012, 04.25PM IST, PTI

Turmeric, jeera up on fresh buying

NEW DELHI: Turmeric and jeera prices rose by up to Rs 200 per quintal in the national capital today largely supported by rising local and stockists demand.

Restricted supplies from producing belts also supported the upside in prices.

Turmeric prices rose by Rs 200 to conclude at Rs 4,400-7,700 per quintal.

Jeera common and jeera best quality also increased up to Rs 200 at Rs 12,800-13,000 and Rs 15,800-16,500 per quintal, respectively.

Traders said sentiments turned better in turmeric and jeera following pick up in local and stockists demand amid restricted supplies from producing belts. The following are today's quotations: Ajwain 10,500-15,500, black pepper (per kg) 400-450, betelnut (kg) 190-220, cardamom brown-Jhundiwali (kg) 700-800, and cardamom brown-Kanchicut (kg) 870-1,000.

Cardamom small (kg): Chitridar 720-830, cardamom (colour robin) 720-820, cardamom bold 725-840, cardamom extra (bold) 920-950 and cloves (kg) 625-750.

Business Standard

Monday, Apr 30, 2012

Edible oils recover on fresh buying, global cues

Restricted arrivals from key producing areas also supported prices

Press Trust of India / New Delhi April 28, 2012, 16:56 IST

Edible oils recovered on the oils and oilseeds market, during the past week, on emergence of buying by vanaspati mills and retailers, driven by ongoing wedding season amid a firming global trend.

Restricted arrivals from producing belts also supported the recovery in edible oil prices.

However, a few oils in the non-edible section remained under pressure and shed further grounds due to sluggish demand from consuming industries.

Traders said fresh buying by vanaspati millers and retailers to meet the ongoing marriage season demand and reports of a firming trend in global markets led to the recovery in the wholesale edible oil prices.

Meanwhile, palm oil gained 2.1% this month on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange.

In the national capital, groundnut mill delivery oil (Gujarat) and mustard expeller (Dadri) oils recovered by Rs 50 each to Rs 11,600 and Rs 8,400 per quintal, respectively, on pick up in demand from retailers.

Cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) oil also traded higher by the same margin to Rs 6,850, while sesame oil after moving in a narrow range in scattered deals and settled at Rs 8,250 per quintal.

Taking positive cues from overseas markets, soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) (rpt) soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) and soyabean degum (Kandla) (rpt) soyabean degum (Kandla) oils rose by Rs 50 each to Rs 8,100 and Rs 7,650, respectively, while crude palm oil (ex-kandla) oil traded up by the same margin to Rs 7,350 per quintal.

Palmolein (RBD) and palmolein (Kandla) oils advanced by Rs 50 each to Rs 8,200 and Rs 7,850 per quintal, respectively.

On the other hand, in the non-edible section, castor oil and neem oils lacked necessary buying support and declined by Rs 50 each to Rs 8,400-8,500 and Rs 4,400-4,500 per quintal, respectively. (MORE) PTI SUN RS KPSYB04281356

Paying a ransom for the king of mangoes



ALPHONSO GETS SCARCE AND PRICEY, Mumbai, April 28:

This mango season, 'Alphonso' has become scarce and pricey. A prolonged winter and insect attacks have led to a sharp drop in the yield of the King of Mangoes for the second year running. The drop in crop yield is estimated at 70 per cent this year, say traders. Alphonso mangoes, which are primarily grown in the Konkan region of Maharashtra, command the highest price in the market because of their taste, colour and texture. At the Navi Mumbai wholesale market, Alphonso prices have touched Rs 2,500 for five dozen mangoes or Rs 500 a dozen. With the retail prices in the Rs 1,000-1,200 a dozen range the fruit is beyond the reach of most consumers. Last year, the prices were in the Rs 600-800 range. The reduced supply of the fruit is borne out by the fact that since the beginning of April only 35,000 boxes (of five dozens each) have reached the market. In the normal crop season, over one lakh boxes would have hit the market in the same period. According to fruit trader Arvind Patil, prices have also shot up because of the chase for spotless mangoes. This season, a lot of mangoes have black spots on the skin. "Though these mangoes are of good quality, customers don't want to buy them. They want bright, shiny mangoes. As a result, the prices have been pushed up even higher."

Farmers' woes

Agriculture expert and CEO of Sankalp Farms, Mr Milind Manerikar, said "The mango farmers in Maharashtra are dependent on Alphonso variety, which is very sensitive to changes in weather. It is time they shifted to other sturdy varieties like Amrapali, Mallika and Vanraj," he said.