

NAGAPATTINAM, August 21, 2012

Rs.51.21 lakh subsidy for shrimp culture

: The State government has allocated a subsidy of Rs.51.21 lakh for marginal shrimp culture for 2011-12 for the coastal districts here.

On Monday, part of the subsidy allocation was disbursed through the Brackish Water Fish Farmers Development Agency.

Brackish Water Fish Farmers Development Agency was conceived to promote coastal aquaculture with focus on shrimp culture. Under this, over 39 BFDAs were functional in coastal areas of the country.

For the Delta here, BFDA, Thanjavur serves the institutional platform for promoting shrimp farming in marginal areas for Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Pudukottai and Thanjavur. BFDA, established in 1983, seeks to promote marginal shrimp farms with an expanse of less than two hectares, with a subsidy of Rs.60,000 per ha. BFDAs function with a 50 per cent financial assistance from the Centre. Under the Agency, the State government's allocation for 2011-12, was disbursed to beneficiaries, earlier by the Minister for Fisheries K.A. Jayapal, here at the collectorate. Subsidy for small prawn farms was disbursed here by the Minister on Monday. According to an administration release, subsidy disbursements were made to tune of Rs.46.44 lakhs beneficiaries from Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur and Thanjavur.

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Cyclone-hit farmers can hire job scheme beneficiaries

The Tamil Nadu government has allowed engagement of beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for agricultural purposes, according to K. Veera Raghava Rao, Additional Collector and Project Director, Thane Project Unit.

In a statement released here, Mr. Rao stated that in an order issued on July 23, the State government had stated that the cyclone-affected farmers could engage the labour force under the rural job scheme.

The workforce could be assigned the task of digging pits, planting jackfruit, coconut and cashew saplings and watering plants. Those who want to be engaged can obtain application forms from the respective panchayat presidents and submit them by August 31.

Mr. Rao also that for the purpose of cutting down trees uprooted in the cyclone, the government had procured 445 chain hacksaws and entrusted them to the Horticulture Department.

The hacksaws would be made available to the farmers free of cost for cutting and removing coconut, cashew and jackfruit trees.

They would be made available to farmers through the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies. However, the farmers would have to bear the cost of oil and petrol for operating the device.

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- *Workforce could be assigned task of digging pits, planting*
 - *445 chain hacksaws procured for cutting down trees*
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TIRUCHI, August 21, 2012

Mettur level

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 77.09 feet on Monday, against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 851 feet and the discharge, 2,008 cusecs.

TIRUPUR, August 21, 2012

Dharapuram identified as peripheral-urban horticulture hub

R. VIMAL KUMAR

Area coverage and productivity of vegetables in Dharapuram block is set to witness an exponential increase during the current fiscal with the block being identified as a peripheral-urban horticulture hub under a government-sponsored initiative to supply vegetables to urban population in metros.

In the case of Dharapuram, the urban population to be catered to will be those in Coimbatore since it is the nearest city from the region.

The scheme, conceptualised under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, will be implemented through a multi-prong strategy addressing all concerns related to both the demand and supply sides of the vegetable sector in the selected city.

“We will be first taking a baseline survey to assess the vegetable supply chains still extant, identify the bottlenecks in it and evaluate the potential untapped so that the production and supply can be raised to the desired levels effortlessly,” S. Krishnakumar, assistant director of horticulture, told *The Hindu* .

To increase the production levels, the Horticulture Department officials will be organising the vegetable growers in the block into farmers’ associations/groups and then, they will be provided with improved varieties of seeds and latest cultivation technologies in coordination with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and other research bodies.

“We are envisaging an overall increase in area coverage of around 340 ha for onion, tomato and chilly crops during the process,” Mr. Krishnakumar said.

The issues in the credit supply chain will be addressed with the help of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

“The scheme is going to provide a win-win situation for urban consumers and farmers as the end-users are going to get a constant supply of good quality vegetables at affordable prices and nutritional security whereas the farmers will get good returns through an assured supply chain to the city catered to,” the Horticulture Department officials said.

MYSORE, August 21, 2012

Fear of impending fodder crisis grips farmers

R. KRISHNA KUMAR

‘Encourage cultivation of fodder on government land’

Notwithstanding assurances by officials on adequate fodder stock , there is growing concern about an impending scarcity in the months ahead not only because of scanty rains but also due to the cropping pattern adopted by farmers.

This is particularly true in Mysore-Chamarajanagar region, where farmers have taken up cultivation of water-intensive crops such as cotton and tobacco to the near-exclusion of other crops in H.D. Kote, Periyapatna, Hunsur, Chamarajanagar, and Gundlupet taluks.

As tobacco and cotton are favoured by farmers in these taluks, the residue of other edible crops used as fodder will be in short supply. The drought-prone Nanjangud taluk also has large tracts of land under cotton.

While a large portion of the dietary requirements of the cattle are met through local grazing and feeds from crop residues, it is also supplemented by commercial feeds for animals. But with scanty rains in the district and the given cropping pattern with focus on cotton and tobacco, marginal farmers will have difficulty to meet the fodder requirement for their livestock.

Vivek Cariappa, an organic farmer from H.D. Kote, told *The Hindu* that farmers with small and medium-sized landholdings were finding it difficult to procure fodder. Agriculture in the taluk is mostly under rain-fed conditions. Of the nearly 15,000 acres of land under cotton, almost 98 per cent is Bt cotton. The experience of Andhra Pradesh farmers who claimed cattle death as a consequence of their animals consuming the residue of Bt cotton is still fresh in the minds of people, he added.

The situation is similar in Chamarajanagar and Gundlupet, where cotton and tobacco crops have failed and farmers did not take up ragi cultivation as a result of which there are no fodder crops.

Mr. Cariappa said the government had a policy for supplying fodder at subsidised rates to goshalas, which run on charity, and hence its expenditure is subsidised by the public. But the government was ignoring the requirements of small farmers in providing fodder, he added.

This year's scanty rainfall has affected even the coarse cereal crops, which were fed to cattle. As per the available rainfall data, the district registered a deficit of nearly 46 per cent till the second week of August.

While the normal or average rainfall for Mysore from January to August is 402.8 mm, it received only 218.7 mm.

H.D. Kote, Hunsur, and Periyapatna — where cropping pattern is skewed in favour of cotton and tobacco — have registered a deficit of almost 50 per cent rains during the period, which bodes ill for the fodder scenario.

Hence Mr. Cariappa suggested that authorities should encourage cultivation of fodder on all government land and the State should come out with a policy to procure fodder from farmers in the irrigated areas so that it could be distributed during summer when the impact of fodder scarcity would be felt the most.

A section of farmers have drawn attention to sugarcane crops cultivated in rain-fed areas, which are withering because of lack of rain or as a consequence of poor water in the bores. Even if the crops survive, the growth will be stunted and hence there is a plea to the government to purchase unripe sugarcane and distribute it as fodder and thus overcome the impending scarcity.

This will also help contain the rising price of fodder in the market which has shot up to Rs. 6,500 per tonne because of increase in demand and a majority of the farmers cannot afford to procure fodder at such steep cost.

With the district having suffered more than 80 per cent crop-loss, the severity of fodder shortage is expected to be felt once the existing fodder stock, which is expected to last for another two months, gets exhausted.

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- *'Marginal farmers will face difficulty in meeting fodder requirement for their livestock'*
 - *'State should come out with a policy to procure fodder from farmers in irrigated areas'*
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GUNTUR, August 21, 2012

Drought-hit farmers plan major protest on Aug. 25

As the prospect of a revival of the South West monsoon looks bleak and yield from the river Krishna falls with each passing day, farmers in Krishna Western Delta (KWD) are gearing up for a major demonstration at the Prakasam barrage on August 25 to exert pressure on the government to take urgent action for saving the water-starved kharif crops. They are angry with the prevailing uncertainty on release of water to the delta where the crops are withering due to failure of monsoon and their woes are compounded by frequent power cuts.

The High Court strictures on release of water from Nagarjuna Sagar have become a bane for the farmers. Accusing the government of not taking the issue seriously, they are preparing to fight for their share of water by holding the threat of declaring a 'crop holiday', which is bound to have far reaching implications.

Canals through which water is drawn from the river Krishna have gone dry three days ago and only a heavy downpour in the next few days is likely to salvage the situation. A steep fall in quantity of water reaching Prakasam barrage is the crux of the problem. This is blamed on the poor rainfall in the river's catchment areas. As a consequence, the KWD is not getting more than 200 cusecs. With the situation hurtling from bad to worse, the Rythanga Samakhya is gearing up for a fresh protest at Prakasam barrage with the support of Telugu Desam Party which has already thrown its weight behind the crisis-hit farmers.

TIRUCHI, August 20, 2012

Farmers urge Centre to write off crop loans

The State unit of Bharathiya Kisan Sangam (BKS) has appealed to the Central government to write off all crop loans.

In a statement here, P. Ayyakkannu, former general secretary of the association, said the condition of the farming community is getting worse day by day and they are being treated worse than slaves by the bureaucracy as well.

If at all the farmers have to live with self-respect, all the crop loans given to them should be written off, he demanded.

He said that the Central government was spending as much as Rs.52,000 crore on the 4.5 lakh Indian students studying abroad every year. Even on those travelling abroad for religious purposes it was spending a huge amount.

Similarly, it spends thousands of crores of rupees for the major sports events like the Commonwealth Games.

Hence, he urged the Centre to recover the black money stashed by Indians in foreign banks and use it for writing off farm loans to the tune of Rs.2,00,000 crore.

Prices skyrocketed

Lamenting that the price of chemical fertilizers has skyrocketed, he said a 50 kg of potash which was quoted at Rs.231 last year has now shot up to Rs.900.

Similarly, the price of DAP which was Rs.486 per bag last year was now quoted around Rs.1,400.

Promised subsidy

As the Central government had promised to give fertilizer subsidy to farmers directly after stopping the same to the manufacturers, it should immediately disburse that subsidy to the farmers. "Otherwise fertilizer should be given to farmers free of cost." In order to press this demand, the association would organise a demonstration in front of the State Bank of India here on August 27, Mr.Ayyakkannu added.

VILLUPURAM, August 20, 2012

Farmers oppose fish breeding in lakes

The farmers' representatives have appealed to the district administration not to allow contractors to breed fish in lakes meant for irrigation purposes.

During the Farmers' Grievance Day meeting held here recently, they voiced their opposition to such a practice because the contractors were altering the structure of the waterbodies according to their convenience.

District Revenue Officer R. Brindadevi, who chaired the meeting, instructed the officials to inspect the waterbodies where such things were happening and submit a report, suggesting suitable remedial measures.

The farmers also stated that despite the existence of the speedy patta issuance scheme, there was undue delay in issuing the pattas. They noted that the farmers living on the periphery of forests were suffering frequent losses owing to destruction of the standing crops by wild animals.

They called upon the district administration to make proper arrangements to protect their crops and also to disburse adequate compensation for the destroyed crops without delay.

They requested the administration to keep adequate stock of paddy seeds in the agricultural extension centres. The DRO gave an assurance that all their grievances would be looked into and suitable action taken to improve the situation.

“Despite speedy patta issuance scheme, there is undue delay in issuing pattas”

August 20, 2012

‘Concentrate on technology applications in agriculture’

AMUTHA KANNAN IN COIMBATORE

R. VIMAL KUMAR IN TIRUPUR



Students taking part in an event organised to commemorate World HR Day at PSG Institute of Management in the city.



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A resource person speaking at a conference at SNS College of Engineering in the city.



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Registrar and acting Vice-Chancellor P. Subbian reviewing a guard of honour during the Independence Day celebrations at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.



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R. Venkatapathy, Director, BSMED, and S. Malarvizhi, chairperson of Sri Krishna and VLB Trust, presenting prize to a student at Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Coimbatore.

SNS College of Engineering organised an international conference on “Computing, Communication and Networking Technologies”. Bill Milne, faculty from the University of Cambridge, the U.K., was the chief guest. He urged students to concentrate on technology applications in agriculture, which would lead to economising inputs and maximising agricultural production. Murali Varanasi, chairperson, Electrical Engineering, University of North Texas, the U.S., was the chief guest for the valediction. Masahiro Fujita, professor, University of Tokyo, gave a special address.

The Free and Open Source Club of Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College organised a workshop on “Python and Version Control Systems”. Kenneth Gonsalves, founder president of Indian Python Software Society, was the chief guest. He explained how open source software differed from other software and the advantages of using it. A hands-on session was also conducted.

The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering of RVS College of Engineering and Technology organised a seminar on “Emerging Tools for Electronic Engineers”. S. Sakthivel Manikandan, managing director of Adve Tech, Coimbatore, spoke on science and technology and with specific reference to the theme. He also spoke on the emerging embedded systems in automation.

The graduation day of Sri Krishna Arts and Science College was held recently. R. Venkatapathy, Director of Bharathiar School of Management and Entrepreneur Development, Bharathiar University, was the chief guest. He pointed out that various new initiatives were being taken to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio. Though the country has made improvements in higher education, it was essential for graduates to be sufficiently exposed to inter-disciplinary experiences, which could sustain them when the demands of a particular job market changed. Education helped bring about a smooth and orderly social change and integrate individuals to the main stream of society. S. Malarvizhi, chairperson of Sri Krishna and VLB Trust, presided over the function.

NSS volunteers of Dr. R.V. Arts and Science College organised a motivation programme for freshers. K. Kandappan, principal of SRMV College, was the chief guest. He stressed the importance of NSS and developing life skills and explained the need for students to involve themselves in NSS activities.

Kongunadu Arts and Science College organised an orientation programme for first-year students of the undergraduate and postgraduate courses on examining the autonomous system. S. Logaswamy, Controller of Examinations, spoke to the students on the components of Choice-based Credit System and explained the importance of internal and external evaluation methods followed in autonomous colleges. The calculation of Cumulative Credit Point Average was explained and its importance was stressed.

A Women Development Cell was inaugurated at Ranganathan Engineering College. Munira Begam, Inspector of Police, East Zone, Coimbatore, was the chief guest. She spoke on the role of women, which now had risen to be on a par with men, in various areas. She urged them to be aware of their rights and use them in a responsible manner.

The KTVR Knowledge Park for Engineering and Technology of JCI Coimbatore conducted an individual development programme on "Attitude Development" for its members. JCI University's national trainer Vitesh Assotikar was the resource person. He presented case studies to explain how positive attitude helped the growth and development of famous corporates. He outlined a few tests to assess attitude and also presented some strategies to develop positive attitude. There were also games and other activities.

The Department of Mathematics of Dr. N.G.P. Arts and Science College organised a workshop on "Placement Readiness", in association with the Department of Extension, Career Guidance and Student Welfare, Bharathiar University. Sessions on self awareness and skill identification, resume and e-resume preparation, personality development and group discussion, and mathematical aptitude were held.

GRD School of Social Work of Dr. G.R. Damodaran College of Science conducted extension activity at the Universal Peace Foundation. Faculty and students of the Department spent time with 120 children, 80 elderly, and 10 mentally challenged individuals. They organised various programmes, games and competitions, and distributed prizes based on their performance. Donations from sponsors were also distributed.

The Department of Mathematics of Nirmala College for Women organised a science academics lecture workshop on "New Vistas on Mathematical Modelling". E. Balagurusamy, Member (Education), State Planning Commission, inaugurated the workshop. Sr. Savariammal, principal of the college, presided over the event. The sessions were handled by various resource

persons. P. Kandasamy spoke on mathematical modelling in human immunology. B.R. Nagaraj spoke on near boundary flow method for Calderon Problem in Electrical Conductivity. P. Sundaram, former Principal of NGM College, Pollachi, was the chief guest for the valediction.

The Human Resources Department of PSG Institute of Management organised the World HR Day. Various events were held to commemorate the day. The day began with students visiting HR professionals in the city and presenting them with hand-made cards and bouquets with a certificate. Later, the students competed in events held to choose the best HR team.

Y.E. Sridhar, HR manager, Cognizant, was the chief guest. He said that HR management as a profession had evolved as a strategic function in managing business effectively. HR professionals could bring a huge change to the way work was being done to make organisations a better place to work.

Baldev Raj, president, Research, PSG Institutions, delivered the presidential address. He urged the students to work towards being HR managers who could retain talent by instilling pride in the employees. Also, as young professionals, it was important for them to stick to an organisation and fight their way to the top, which was more satisfying than simply jumping jobs. The team from XIME emerged winners in the HR team competition.

Independence Day celebrations were held in various institutions across the city. P. Subbian, Registrar and acting Vice-Chancellor, hoisted the flag at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

Celebrations were also held in the following colleges: Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Dr. R.V. Arts and Science College, Park Group of Institutions, Nirmala College for Women, Rathinam College of Arts and Science, Avinashilingam University for Women, Hindusthan College of Arts and Science, SNMV College of Arts and Science, and Guruvayurappan Institute of Management.

The Jay Shriram Group of Institutions, Tirupur, conducted a lecture on 'Signal and image processing' for engineering students recently. Gowrishankar, professor from K.S.R.College of Engineering, Tiruchengode, explained the concepts of analog and digital signal processing with block diagrams.

The real time applications of digital signal processing were also elucidated.

The Civil Engineering Association at the Professional Group of Institutions, Palladam, was inaugurated recently. The chief guest, S. Neelamani, a senior research scientist of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, spoke on job opportunities for civil engineers and scope for research in the fields of ocean and marine engineering.

Sri G.V.G.Visalakshi College for Women, Udumalpet, conducted a lecture on 'Contemporary Management and Managers in the Digital Age'. R.K.Vaithyanathan, principal of Wisdom School of Management, delivered the keynote address. Students pursuing undergraduate courses in business management attended.

Amutha Kannan in Coimbatore and R. Vimal Kumar in Tirupur

hindustantimes



■ ■ Tue, 21 Aug 2012



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Chennai

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather  Cloudy Rain: 0 Humidity: 74 Wind: normal		Tuesday, Aug 21 Max Min 35.3° 27.4° Sunrise: 05:57 Sunset: 06:26 Barometer: 1006		Tomorrow's Forecast  Rainy Max Min 34° 27°		Wednesday, Aug 22 Max Min 34° 27°	
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Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday Aug 23	Friday Aug 24	Saturday Aug 25	Sunday Aug 26	Monday Aug 27
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32° 28°	32° 27°	32° 27°	33° 26°	32° 27°
Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

20 AUG, 2012, 08.47PM IST, PTI

Pulses prices likely to go up around Diwali: Study

BHOPAL: Poor rainfall and weak distribution system may lead to further rise in prices of pulses around Diwali (early November) this year, a study by industry body Assocham has said.

Releasing the study here today, Assocham Secretary General DS Rawat said Gram (desi chana) in particular could shoot up benefiting the middlemen the most.

"It has been noticed that while farmers benefit marginally to the extent of 10-15 per cent on account of rising prices of pulses, middlemen are the biggest beneficiaries to the extent of 85 per cent," he said.

Assocham has worked out the demand for pulses this year at 21 million tonnes which would go up to 21.42 million tonnes (MT) in 2013-14 and 21.91 MT in 2014-15.

According to the study, there is a marginal surplus in availability which is due to demand compression and floating stocks. As the prices soften, demand will catch up and the surplus will be offset, it added.

The existing MSP (minimum support price) for pulses is not backed by assured procurement as

in the case of rice and wheat and a government agency should be entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring prices and undertake timely intervention, it added.

THE  NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

Poor rainfall: Farmers not to take up paddy cultivation this season

By Express News Service - MANANTHAVADI

20th August 2012 12:32 PM

In the wake of deficit rainfall this monsoon, paddy farmers in Wayanad are a worried lot as the water level in the district has gone down considerably.

The figures by the Indian Meteorological Department for the week ended on August 10 put the deficiency in rainfall at 59 per cent, making the district the worst-hit in the state.

More than two and a half months into monsoon, the rainfall continues to be significantly deficient in the district which normally records an average rainfall of 2,322 mm. Many of the farmers have decided not to take up paddy cultivation this season. Though many have purchased seeds, they chose not to prepare seedlings mainly due to the failed monsoons. "The cost of paddy cultivation is increasing and it is very difficult to get workers as well," said Baby Thomas, a paddy farmer from Arattuthara in the Mananthavadi panchayat.

"Normally, we complete the preparation of ground to plant paddy seedlings in the month of Karkidakam. But this year, owing to the suspended rainfall and non-availability of workers, the entire process has been delayed. This would affect the production," he added.

"Owing to the lack of rainfall, crops will face an increased risk of pest attack which also will have an adverse affect on the paddy production," said an official in the District Agriculture Department, adding that farmers would have to spend more on insecticides which would further reduce their profit margins.

Business Standard

Tuesday, Aug 21, 2012

Action up, volatility down

Business Standard / August 21, 2012, 0:18 IST

The volatility in agri commodities was rampant in the beginning of this monsoon season amid anticipation of deficient rainfall by the India Meteorological Department.

But the revival in monsoon which reduced the rainfall deficit to 22 per cent on August 15 from 32 per cent on June 30, and strong action by the Forward Markets Commission, brought down the volatility substantially.

Concerned over excessive volatility in certain agri commodities, FMC sent a strong message to traders by suspending futures contracts in soybean, potato and guar until September. Also, the regulator disallowed fresh positions in turmeric during the staggered delivery period of 15 days.

	Spot price % chg Over 1 week	Future price % chg		Over 2 month
		Over 2 month	Over 1 week	
Castorseed	-5.90	45.25	-9.31	35.23
Chana	-1.72	16.39	0.78	14.31
Chilli	-1.55	5.50	-12.89	1.00
Cotton cake	0.87	34.11	3.39	38.40
Coriander	-6.44	26.24	-9.45	26.63
Jeera	-1.72	21.23	-5.53	15.92

Maize	0.14	30.32	-4.09	21.08
Potato (MCX)	-0.29	20.59	-5.00	1.42
Pepper	0.14	9.00	3.59	11.88
RM seed	-1.68	16.69	-2.21	14.90
Sugar	-3.06	25.65	-2.51	23.02
Soybean	2.77	33.59	2.43	36.88
Turmeric	3.43	55.41	-7.98	45.74
Wheat	-0.07	13.98	-1.86	15.55
Cardamom (MCX)	-6.96	18.21	-19.31	-13.54
<i>For the period ended August</i>				
<i>11</i>		<i>Source: NCDEX</i>		

FMC to allow relaunch of guar contract only after assessing kharif crop

Exchanges seek approval relaunch may be possible with the onset of harvesting season

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai August 19, 2012, 0:36 IST

The commodity derivatives markets regulator the Forward Markets Commission (FMC) is unlikely to grant permission to commodity exchanges for the re-launch of guar contracts without assessing the crop situation during the ongoing kharif season.

India's two agri-centric commodity exchanges, National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) and Ace Derivatives and Commodity Exchange (Ace), have already submitted their applications for approval of re-launch with the FMC. Both guar seed and its derivative, guar gum, contracts were very active on these two platforms before the FMC discontinued these, effective April 2.

The delay in re-launch assumes significance as these commodities were generating significant volume and turnover on both exchanges. The re-launch may bring additional business to these exchanges and boost their turnover.

"We have received applications from exchanges for granting permission for the re-launch of guar seed and guar gum contracts. But, we would not allow the re-launch without assessing the current season's crop," said Ramesh Abhishek, chairman, FMC.

The regulator cited "excessive speculation" as the major reason for suspending these commodities temporarily from futures trade, which lifted the price to a historic level of Rs 33,000 a quintal and Rs 1,00,000 a quintal for guar seed and guar gum, respectively. According to an Assocham report, the ideal price of the guar bean should be Rs 10 per kg, while guar seed and gum should be traded at Rs 25 per kg and Rs 50 per kg, respectively.

Meanwhile, K V Thomas, minister for consumer affairs, food and public distribution (MCA), had asked the FMC to reinvestigate the issues involved in the price hike in guar seed. The FMC had found 4,490 entities involved in the guar gum price manipulation, in a report submitted to the ministry. The report also said these entities made a profit of Rs 1,291 crore with traders holding stocks to sell at higher prices. The ministry, however, is unlikely to take any action against these entities.

"Making profits do not amount to a criminal offense and hence, we do not see that these units have done any offense by generating profits," said Rajeev Agarwal, secretary, MCA.

The FMC, however, is understandably working out to collect data from its own sources on the crop sown.

Sanjay Periwal, a Jodhpur-based guar trader said monsoon has revived in the last fortnight, encouraging Rajasthan farmers to sow more guar seed. Consequently, the acreage under guar seed shot up across all regions in western Rajasthan. "Whoever has soil, wants to sow guar this season due to last year's historic price," said Periwal.

An FMC official said, "The re-launch of guar contracts may be delayed as the FMC is yet to assess the crop, the sowing being underway. Once, the sowing is complete, the FMC would begin assessment and then the permission to re-launch may be granted. Permission would be possible for delivery post-December."

Secondly, the opportunity for sowing bajra is lost due to delayed monsoon. Hence, farmers are sowing guar in the uncovered area of bajra. As a consequence, the acreage under guar is likely to double this year, said Periwai.

Traders forecast at least 50 per cent increase in guar seed production even in case of scanty rainfall, going forward. Hence, guar seed output may go up to at least 19 lakh tonnes this year as against 12.5 lakh tonnes last year.

Meanwhile, the price of guar seed has plunged to Rs 14,000 a tonne now, a decline of Rs 5,000 a tonne so far this month. In the last one month, however, the price has declined by 33 per cent or Rs 7,000 a tonne.

THE HINDU Business Line

Jeera futures open higher on export demand

Suresh P. Iyengar



Supply in the domestic markets was lower as farmers were reluctant to sell their stocks at lower prices.

Mumbai, Aug 21:

Jeera futures opened higher by 0.34 per cent at Rs 16,265 per quintal on Tuesday on higher export demand.

Supply in the domestic markets was lower as farmers were reluctant to sell their stocks at lower prices.

Arrivals at the Unjha spot market were almost equivalent to the demand at 6,000 bags (of 55 kgs each) on Saturday.

Production in 2011-12 is expected to be much higher at about 40 lakh bags against 29 lakh bags in 2010-11.

Expectations are that large export orders may be diverted to India from the international markets due to the ongoing civil war in Syria which is hampering supplies.

According to market sources, demand from Bangladesh has improved in the last few weeks.

Jeera prices in the international market of Indian origin are being offered at \$3,000-3,025 a tonne (c&f). Syria and Turkey have stopped their shipments.

Cardamom eases on poor buying interest

G K Nair



Buoyant: Cardamom kept for sale at a retail outlet in Kochi. — K.K. Mustafah (file photo)
Kochi, Aug. 20:

The cardamom market continued to witness a declining trend last week on slack demand at auctions held in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Buyers were seen unenthusiastic giving the impression that the upcountry markets are holding good stocks and fresh buying could be expected only after their liquidation. At the same time,

export buying has also been negligible with around 10 tonnes last week, market sources told *Business Line*. Banning of “pan masala” is pointed out as a reason for the fall in offtake of inferior grade cardamom estimated at around 2,000 tonnes every year, the trade said. “The trade pointed out that because of the super bumper crop last season about 50 per cent of the material coming to the market is of the previous crop. The capsules coming from the current picking are of small size. Arrival of 8mm bold is negligible,” P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, said. The individual auction average has dropped to around Rs 740 a kg yesterday from Rs 757 a kg the previous Sunday.

Officially, the new cardamom season has begun from Aug 1, 2012. Thus, total arrivals during the current season from Aug 1-19, was at 963 tonnes and that in the corresponding period previous season stood at 985 tonnes. Sales were at 897 tonnes and 937 tonnes respectively in Aug 1-19 and the same period last year. Arrivals at the Sunday auction stood at around 65 tonnes as against 56 tonnes arrived on the previous Sunday and the entire quantity was sold out, Punnoose said. Maximum price yesterday was at Rs 1,111 a kg and the minimum was Rs 347 a kg. The individual auction average declined to Rs 743.41 from Rs 757 a kg the previous Sunday, he said. Weighted average price as on Aug 19 was at Rs 812 a kg (Rs 619).

Official prices of graded varieties (Rs/kg): AGEB 1,050- 1,100 ; AGB 800-820; AGS 790- 810 and AGS 1: 750-780.

Stockists' offtake sweetens sugar



Mumbai, Aug. 20:

Sugar prices moved upward further by Rs 20-25 a quintal on Vashi market on improved demand from stockists at lower level. Naka and mill tender rates edged up by Rs 20. Sentiment in physical market was slightly firm tracking a bounce- back in futures prices. A wholesaler said in Vashi market new business remained subdued – thin in spot due to Ramzan festival. Prices extended gains on increased fresh buying at lower level. Sugar prices, after registering a rise of Rs 250 in first week this month, suddenly dropped by Rs 300 in next two weeks on increased selling pressure of producers.

In Vashi market, arrivals were 55-56 truck loads (each of 100 bags of quintal each) and local dispatches were about 52-53 truck loads.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates: S-grade Rs 3,526-3,612 (Rs 3,516-3,632) and M-grade Rs 3,622- 3,731 (Rs 3,595- 3,721). **Naka delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 3,480 -3,520 (Rs 3,480-3,500) and M-grade Rs 3,580-3,630 (Rs 3,520-3,630).

Slack trading pounds rice

Nitish Sharma



Karnal, Aug. 20:

Another downtrend was seen in the rice market on Monday as prices of aromatic and non basmati varieties dropped further by Rs 50-300 a quintal on lacklustre trading.

Amit Chandna, Proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told *Business Line* that market sentiments are low with a fear of drop in price in near future. Bulk buyers are out of the market and they are waiting for prices to stabilise . In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) eased

further by Rs 300 a quintal and quoted at Rs 6,200-6,300 while Pusa-1121 (sela) sold at Rs 5,500 – Rs 200 down from previous level.

Pure basmati (raw) went down by Rs 120 to Rs 6,700 while pure basmati (sela) sold at Rs 5,300 – Rs 100 down from previous level. Tibar was sold at Rs 3,600; Dubar at Rs 2,800 and Mongra at Rs 2,100-2,200 a quintal.

Sharbati (steam) eased by Rs 150 to Rs 3,850 and Sharbati (sela) went down by Rs 100 to Rs 3,800.

Lack of buying saps rubber

Our Correspondent



Kottayam, Aug. 20:

Spot rubber declined on Monday.

The market lost ground against expectations lacking follow-up buying and it appeared to be in a holiday mood owing to Ramzan.

Sheet rubber weakened to Rs 171 from Rs 174 and Rs 172 a kg respectively, according to traders and the Rubber Board.

The National Multi Commodity Exchange remained closed on account of Ramzan Id .

RSS 3 (spot) slipped to Rs 155.05 (155.75) a kg at Bangkok.

The August futures for the grade improved to ₹213 (Rs 149.30) from ₹208 a kg during the day session and then to ₹215 (Rs 150.69) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 171 (174); RSS-5: 163 (165); ungraded: 155 (156); ISNR 20: 150 (152) and latex 60 per cent: 113 (115).

Panel for more experts on Coffee Board

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Aug. 20:

A Parliamentary Panel on Commerce wants the Coffee Board to revamp its organisational structure and induct more industry professionals.

“Coffee Board should play a more purposeful role in the years ahead, for which its organisational structure will have to undergo a transformation from a bureaucratic structure to a knowledge based centre,” the panel said in a report tabled in Parliament recently. The conventional organisation structure will have to undergo complete modification with more and more professionals joining the organisation.

The state-run Coffee Board is a statutory body under the administrative control of the Commerce Ministry. The board is headed by an IAS officer and comprises 32 other members from the industry, trade and representatives of State Governments. It is focussed on enhancing production and quality, promotion of exports and supporting development of domestic market.

The hierarchical structure may have to be replaced with professionals, experts and cultivators with specialisations in their respective fields and capable of responding to the requirement and expectations of different sections of the industry.

“The organisation needs to engage specialists in areas such as research, post harvest management and processing, quality assurance including standards, export and domestic marketing, facilitation, market research and information systems,” it said.

India exported 3.45 lakh tonnes of coffee valued at Rs 4,849 crore for the financial year ended March 2012.

FMC bans lean season agri commodities contracts for 2013

Kripa Raman

UNDER THE SCANNER		
Commodity	Lean month contracts already banned	Additional contracts to be banned in 2013
Castor seed		December
Chana		February, March
Soyabean	September	August (under consideration)
Rapeseed	February, March	
Potato	January, February, November, December	October
Kapas		February, March, April
Pepper		December, January
Soyameal	September	August (under consideration.)
Jeera		January, February

Source: FMC

We will continue this exercise to curb speculation and volatility: FMC chief

Mumbai, Aug. 20:

The Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has done away with several agri-commodities contracts for 2013, extending the list of contracts already banned.

This is in keeping with its decision that contracts will not be allowed during the lean season when there are insufficient supplies to make for any meaningful price discovery.

“This year we did away with the September soyabean contract,” said Ramesh Abhishek, Chairman of FMC – the commodities market regulator.

“Next year we are likely to do away with the August expiry contracts in soyabean and soyameal. We will not have any contracts from November to February for potato. We will add October too for potato,” (see box) he said.

Markets under Pressure

The Commission had asked MCX not to launch their November potato contract this year for the first time. The list needs to be further refined, said Abhishek. "In the first round, we allowed the August contract for soyabean but now we have taken the view that even August is not a good idea. So we will continue this exercise to strengthen our measures to curb speculation and volatility. The market is always under pressure during the lean months because there is no threat of delivery. I think the market will be much better off with these bans."

'logical move'

This is a logical move on the part of the exchange, said Aurobinda Prasad, Head of Research, Commodities Trading, at Karvy Comtrade. "Speculation would come down a little although traded volumes too could see a drop; this ban is not going to hurt the farmer, investor or hedger," he said. Commodity prices usually turn volatile during the lean season which is the period furthest from the harvest, said another commodity analyst. "External factors such as variations in the monsoon and government policy also impact prices. All this distorts price discovery. This is also the period when speculators get active in the market. Overall the ban is a welcome step to curb price volatility," he added.

Paddy transplantation picks up in Bengal

Shobha Roy



Delayed monsoon and the resultant dry spell in key paddy producing districts of south Bengal, had led to a dip in transplantation activity in the State.

Kolkata, Aug. 20:

Aided by good monsoon, paddy transplantation in West Bengal has picked up over the last fortnight.

Delayed monsoon and the resultant dry spell in key paddy producing districts of south Bengal, had led to a dip in transplantation activity in the State. Transplantation is the process of transferring seedlings that are grown in seed-beds into the field soaked with plenty of water.

The West Bengal Government is now hopeful of achieving its cultivation target this year.

The State Government has set a target of sowing paddy on an area of close to 42.9 lakh hectares in 2012-13, up from 41.3 lakh hectares in 2011-12. Bengal produces about 14.5 million tonnes of paddy each year in three seasons — *aus*, *aman* and *boro*.

Typically, the process of transplantation begins within 20-25 days of sowing. Sowing begins in June.

progress

According to a senior official in the State Agriculture Department, as on August 14, the State was able to achieve 100 per cent of its transplantation target in north Bengal.

In south Bengal, the transplantation is close to 70 per cent of the targeted area. This is a significant progress when compared with the scenario till July 27 when transplantation took place in 25 per cent of the targeted area (59 per cent in north Bengal and 17 per cent in south Bengal).

The targeted area of coverage in north Bengal is about nine lakh hectare, while that in south Bengal is close to 34 lakh hectare this year.

“We had set August 15 as our deadline to review the situation. Now with improved sowing, we are hopeful of meeting our target by the end of this month,” the official said.

Normal rains

Close to 603 mm of rainfall between June 1 and August 15 in West Bengal saw the State being categorised as receiving normal monsoon, according to information available on the IMD Web

site. The release of water from dams such as DVC, Kangsabati and Mayurakshi, also aided transplantation, the official said.

productivity

Delayed transplantation is likely to lead to aging of seedlings which impact crop yield. The State Government is planning to educate farmers to tackle such a situation.

“We have issued instructions to the deputy directors of all districts to provide technical know-how to farmers to counter the problem,” he said.

Demand spurs prices at Kochi tea auction

V. Sajeev Kumar



Kochi, Aug. 20:

Demand lifted prices of almost all varieties at the tea auction here. The quantity on offer in the CTC dust varieties was 12,85,500 kg.

The select best barely remained steady. Others were irregular and lower by Rs 2 to Rs 3 and more towards close of the sale. Of the 14,500 kg on offer in the orthodox dust varieties, primary grades were firm to dearer, while secondaries were steady to dearer. Bulk of the offerings was absorbed by exporters.

In the best CTC dusts, PD varieties quoted Rs 89-101, RD grades stood at Rs 94-105, SRD varieties ruled at Rs 97-105 and SFD grades at Rs 100-110.

Demand at the leaf sale was also string and the quantity on offer in the orthodox leaf grades was 1.55 lakh kg.

Select best highgrowns were fully firm to dearer. Others were irregular and lower. The quantity on offer in the CTC leaf category was 1,15,500 kg. Good liquoring varieties were fully firm to dearer by Rs 3 to Rs 5, while others were steady to irregularly dearer. Plainer varieties were lower with many withdrawals.

In the dust category, both Injipara (Prm) SFD and SRD quoted the best price of Rs 155 followed by Injipara (Prm) RD at Rs 148. In the leaf grades, Pascos Hyson Green Tea quoted the best price of Rs 300 .

Sugar output may slip below 24.5 m tonnes 2012-13

PTI



Sugar production is expected between 23.5 million tonnes and 24.5 million tonnes in 2012-13 marketing year.

New Delhi, Aug 20:

Sugar production is likely to be lower at 23.5-24.5 million tonnes than the industry's estimate of 25 million tonnes in 2012-13 marketing year starting October, sugar refiner Shree Renuka Sugars has said.

Taking into account the likely impact of poor rains on sugarcane yield, especially in Maharashtra and Karnataka, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) had recently made an initial production estimate of 25 million tonnes for 2012-13, lower than 26 million tonnes for 2011-12.

“Sugar production is expected between 23.5 million tonnes and 24.5 million tonnes in 2012-13 marketing year,” Shree Renuka Sugars said in its quarterly earning presentation.

Although area covered under sugarcane so far is slightly higher at 5.28 million hectare, against 5.05 million hectare in the same period last year, drought-like situation in Karnataka and Maharashtra is expected to hit sugarcane crop.

As per the Indian Meteorological Department, monsoon rain is deficient by 15 per cent so far in the country.

Renuka Sugars said that sugar production in the ongoing 2011-12 marketing year is estimated to be 26 million tonnes, as against 24.2 million tonnes in the previous year.

India has been a net exporter for the last two marketing years backed by robust sugarcane cultivation and favourable weather.

Stating that domestic sugar prices are higher than world white sugar prices, Renuka Sugars said, "The company will benefit from the increased prices in the coming quarters."

The company reported a standalone net profit of Rs 13.3 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2012. Net sales grew by 23 per cent at Rs 1,483.9 crore in the same period.

Renuka Sugars operates 11 mills globally with a total crushing capacity of 20.7 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of which, seven sugar mills are in India with a total crushing capacity of 7.1 MTPA.

Panel concerned over re-export of cheap tea

PTI



India exports CTC (crush, tear and curl) tea variety to Egypt, Pakistan and the UK. It ships the premium orthodox variety to Iraq, Iran and Russia.

New Delhi, Aug 20:

A Parliamentary panel has said it is “gravely concerned” over the issue of re-export of cheap quality of tea by some exporters under the brand of tea of Indian origin, affecting the image and value of the country’s beverage in export markets.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce chaired by Shanta Kumar in its report on performance of the “plantation sector-tea and coffee industry” was tabled in Parliament.

“The committee is gravely concerned on the unpreparedness of the Department (of Commerce) to deal with the unscrupulous exporters importing cheap tea from other countries and re-exporting it without any significant value addition under false certificate as quoting the genuine exporters of Indian tea,” it said.

The committee report opined that the “apathy of the department” towards such practices has seriously undermined the image as well as value of Indian tea in the export market.

It asked the Department to take urgent steps to redress the situation through a strict monitoring of the quality of tea being exported.

“The Committee would therefore like the Department to evolve an appropriate monitoring mechanism in respect of import of tea for exports and ensure that the licenses are issued only to individuals/organisations with proven credentials,” it added.

India exports CTC (crush, tear and curl) tea variety to Egypt, Pakistan and the UK. It ships the premium orthodox variety to Iraq, Iran and Russia.

In the last fiscal, India’s tea exports fell by 11 per cent to 190.95 million kg from 213.79 million kg in 2010-11 fiscal.

The country had imported 18.60 million kg of tea in the 2011 calendar year as compared to 20.04 million kg in 2010.

India is the fourth largest exporter of the brew globally after Kenya, China and Sri Lanka.

Tea is grown in 15 states in the country in 5.79 lakh hectares, which accounts for 16 per cent of the total area under the brew in the world.

Basmati exporters' profits surge on strong demand

Vishwanath Kulkarni

(in Rs cr)

SCORECARD			
		June 2012-13	June 2011-12
KRBL Ltd	Revenue	516.54	313.31
	Net Profits	56.60	23.41
LT Foods Ltd	Revenue	585.39	255.93
	Net Profits	7.72	3.84
Kohinoor Foods Ltd	Revenue	247.26	196.34
	Net Profits	3.11	4.22
Chaman Lal Setia Exports Ltd	Revenue	63.76	45.20
	Net Profits	1.19	0.81

New Delhi, Aug. 20:

Basmati exporters' profits have surged for the June quarter over the corresponding period last year on higher shipments and prices. Almost all large players saw a significant growth in their topline mainly due to robust demand from traditional markets in West Asia and also aided by a weaker rupee.

The profits of KRBL Ltd, the country's largest basmati exporter, more than doubled to Rs 56.60 crore for the June quarter on higher overseas demand. Another large exporter, LT Foods Ltd, also saw profits double to Rs 7.72 crore. But, Kohinoor Foods' profits dipped by a fourth on account of higher finance costs and other expenses. "Our profits could have been higher, but for the forex losses of Rs 16.95 crore," said Anil Mittal, Chairman and Managing Director of KRBL, which owns the India Gate brand. Mittal expects the export demand led by key buyer Iran, to remain strong in the year-ahead.

"The price of basmati is \$1,000-1,500 a tonne for different varieties this year, while last year it was close to \$800-900 a tonne," said Vijay Arora, Chairman and Managing Director, LT Foods Ltd.

“Iran is coming up as a big importer and we are now scouting for new markets in the world. We have also signed up few distribution partnerships in Africa, which will further increase our sales in international markets,” Arora said in a statement.

The country’s basmati shipments in 2011-12 surged 45 per cent to touch a record 3.21 million tonnes against 2.18 mt in the previous year. In value terms, the exports for fiscal 2012 were up 46 per cent at Rs 15,450 crore against Rs 9,600 crore.

The Government’s recent move to scrap minimum export price, resumption of direct shipments to Iran — the largest market — and China’s decision to import Indian basmati could further accelerate the export of the aromatic rice.

Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were the large three markets for the Indian basmati during 2011-12.