

COIMBATORE, February 7, 2012

Pest and disease combating measures by TNAU

Based on the pest and disease surveillance reports received from various districts of the State, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has suggested certain measures to combat them.

Rice

Leaf folder and stem borer incidence have been noticed in Kanyakumari, Ramanathapuram, Theni, Pudukottai, Tirunelveli and Salem. Farmers are asked to set up light traps. They can also spray neem seed kernel extract 5 per cent of Chlorpyrifos 100 ml / hectare or Profenophos 50 EC 1,000 ml / ha.

Brown spot incidence was found in rice at Theni and Ramanathapuram districts. Farmers can spray Mancozeb or Edifenphos two to three times a day at 10 to 15 day intervals.

Bacterial leaf blight in Ramanathapuram and Theni can be controlled by spraying Kocide 101 @ 2.5 g / litre.

Cotton

In Tirunelveli and Theni, sucking pests like jassids and thrips were noticed. Farmers are advised to monitor the pest population and spray either Imidacloprid 200 SL or Methyl Demeton.

Infestation of bollworm were found below the Economic Threshold Level. Farmers were asked to set up pheromone traps to monitor adult activity.

Sugarcane

In Theni, borer pest complex was observed to be below the Economic Threshold Level.

Hence, farmers are asked to release the egg parasitoid *Tirchogramma* from fourth month onwards at 15 days interval up to the six month.

Groundnut

In Pudukottai leaf miner incidence was found to damage crop.

Farmers are asked to monitor leaf miner adults using leaf miner adults using light traps.

Farmers can spray NSKE 5 per cent.

Papaya mealy bug

Tapioca, papaya and mulberry farmers are asked to watch for incidence of papaya mealy bug.

If any incidence is noticed, farmers can contact the nearby TNAU research station / Krishi Vigyan Kendra / college for obtaining free parasitoids, for release in their fields.

For details, contact Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology, on 0422-6611214 or Head, Department of Plant Pathology, on 0422-6611226.

Published: February 7, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: February 7, 2012 04:20 IST

Training programme on watersheds

25 officers from 19 States take part in the week-long training programme

A national-level week-long training programme on watershed development and management was held here from January 30 to February 3 by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with 25 officers from 19 States taking part in the programme.

According to its Assistant General Manager R. Shankar Narayan, the programme dealt with different aspects of participatory watershed development programme such as identification of micro watersheds, selection, capacity building and vesting responsibilities with reputed NGOs as Project Facilitating Agency (PFA) and the villagers themselves.

Apart from the theoretical training sessions, the officers were taken on a field visit to two watershed projects: Orivayal in Ramanathapuram District and Kombaipatti at Nilakottai in Dindigul district.

The Orivayal Watershed implemented by DHAN Foundation with full grant support from NABARD had successfully tackled salinity and drought related problems, which were common in the Kadaladi block.

The treatment measures for the project, which included 180 farm ponds (79 of which were formed in convergence with other program such as NABARD's Umbrella Program on Natural Resources Management, European Union Program) ensured that farmers got assured returns from rain fed paddy, cotton and Chilly crops even during a 'drought year'.

The participants observed the upsurge in the cropping intensity from 35 per cent to over 200 per cent at the Kombaipatti watershed project at Nilakottai in Dindigul district, which was jointly funded by NABARD and Tamil Nadu Government.

Due to planning and implementation of the project by the villagers, the locals get assured employment throughout the year, according to Mr. Shankar Narayan.

S. Natarajan, Deputy General Manager, Watershed Project Unit in Madurai, explained the tangible benefits which have accrued over a period of time due to the implementation of the participatory watershed projects.

They include in-site moisture conservation, adequate availability of surface and sub-surface water, rise in ground water table resulting in, among other things, substantial water availability even during summer in the hitherto defunct open wells.

He also added that the developed watersheds have brought substantial land under cultivation.

The treatment measures and agricultural production initiatives resulted in a minimum of twofold increase in cropping intensity and productivity in rain-fed areas.

Mr. Natarajan gave presentations and case studies along with A.K. Mohanty, Deputy General Manager and Faculty Member of National Bank Staff College (NBSC), Lucknow.

Amalorpavanathan, Chief General Manager and NBSC Principal, said that the watershed approach was a powerful tool to catalyse development through peoples' participation.

Experts from Centre for Improved Rural Health and Environmental Protection (CIRHEP) in Dindigul district and Dhan Foundation, Madurai were also part of the faculty team.

KOCHI, February 7, 2012

Ornamental fish exhibition from Friday

The sixth edition of the India International Aqua Show will begin at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium here on February 10.

Ornamental fish varieties from the US, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore and the Maldives will be there at the exhibition, Fisheries Minister K. Babu said.

Fish farmers from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Lakshadweep and West Bengal will also participate in the five-day event.

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy will inaugurate the exhibition on Friday 10 at 6 p.m. Fisheries Minister of the Maldives will be the chief guest at the inaugural session. Union Minister K.V. Thomas will inaugurate the pavilion; Mr. Babu will preside.

The admission fee for students will be Rs. 10 and Rs. 40 for adults. The exhibition will open from 9 a.m. Of the 120 stalls that would be set up at the stadium grounds, 72 will be reserved for the display of ornamental fishes.

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TTD tries to bring cows back into modern farming

As part of its mission to protect cows and bringing them back into contemporary farming practice, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) will conduct a five-day training programme at Mahati auditorium from February 18.

Theme

The theme of the TTD event will be 'Cow protection – cow-based farming', in which noted rural economist and an advocate of natural farming Subash Palekar will deliver an address on the hazards posed by reckless use of chemicals not only on soil and human lives, but also in breaking the spine of rural economy.

Known for cultivating 30 acres of land with just one indigenous cow, Mr. Palekar will demonstrate how a farmer can provide non-toxic food to the society in a profitable way.

The meet will take up topics such as nutritional feed for livestock, role of cows in farming, popularising cow-based agriculture to retain soil fertility, environmental protection, field-level implementation, farmers' experiences etc. for discussions.

A comprehensive plan too will be unveiled to implement the scheme across Andhra Pradesh.

For details

Interested participants can register at www.zerobudgetnaturalfarmingap.org or at Welfare Organisation for Rural Development (WORD), 18-1-283/2, Bhavani Nagar, Tirupati – 1.

Published: February 7, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: February 7, 2012 04:23 IST

Farmers advised to cultivate flood tolerant paddy variety

Can withstand submergence for 14 to 17 days; gives 3 tonne yield per acre

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Needamangalam in Tiruvarur district has suggested to farmers to raise 'Swarna Sub1', a flood tolerant variety in the flood prone areas of the district.

Performance of the variety was demonstrated at a field day held at Thiruvanchuzhi village of Thiruthuraipoondi block recently.

In Tiruvarur district, 20,000 to 30,000 hectares are flood prone during samba season due to North East Monsoon.

In order to address this problem, KVK, Needamangalam in collaboration with Department of Rice, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU), Coimbatore, has introduced a flood tolerant variety called "Swarna Sub1", in the last samba season.

An awareness programme was organised in last July 2011 in which 54 farmers from Thiruthuraipoondi, Muthupettai and Kottur blocks and 62 line department officials participated. Farmers were given eight kg of seeds each free of cost to popularise the variety.

Recently on February 1, 2012, with a view to make other farmers witness the performance of "Swarna Sub1" cultivated during samba 2011, the field day was organised. T.Satymurthy and Natesan, assistant directors of agriculture, Nannilam and Thiruthuraipoondi respectively, took part. They appreciated the KVK for popularising the variety among farmers.

T.Senguttuvan, programme coordinator, KVK, Needamangalam, said that the variety was developed by International Rice Research Institute, Philippines, in collaboration with institutions in India through normal, conventional breeding methods from a variety called "Swarna" released by N.G.Ranga, Andhra Pradesh Agriculture University, Hyderabad.

The variety carrying submergence tolerant gene can withstand continuous submergence for 14 to 17 days and give high yield up to three tonnes per acre.

The duration of the variety is 140 to 150 days and can be cultivated in the late samba and early thaladi seasons in flood prone areas . During the field day, a test harvest was made and an average of 2350 kg per acre was recorded. Fifty one farmers participated in the field day. S.Ananthakrishnaveni, assistant professor, Agronomy, KVK, Needamangalam, and others participated, said a KVK release issued here on Sunday.

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- *Variety developed by International Rice Research Institute in collaboration with institutions in India*
 - *20,000 to 30,000 ha in Tiruvarur flood prone during samba season due to North East Monsoon*
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Published: February 7, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: February 7, 2012 04:17 IST

Arrival of copra to regulated market picks up

S. Ramesh

The arrival of copra to the regulated market in Avalpoondurai in Erode district has picked up, with the farmers bringing in more than 6500 bags weighing over 250 tonnes last week. The market conducts auction on Monday and Friday of every week.

A large number of farmers in Kodumudi and various other blocks in Erode and neighbouring Tirupur district depend on the market for selling the copra.

“The arrival is expected to cross 8,000 bags a week by the end of February as the price of copra remains stable and the production is likely to increase in the coming weeks,” Market Superintendent P. Dhandapani says.

The market has received a little over 10,800 tonnes of copra till January 31 this fiscal. “We expect the figure to touch 15,000 tonnes by the end of March,” Mr. Dhandapani adds. In the previous financial year, a total of 16,321 tonnes of copra had been sold through the market for around Rs. 60 crore. In 2009-10, farmers brought over 22,000 tonnes of copra. “Many farmers are now selling it to the traders directly, which is the main reason for the decline in the total quantity of copra received at the market in the last two years,” market sources said.

Mr. Dhandapani, however, expressed the hope that more farmers would bring copra to the market this year as there were several advantages in selling it through the regulated market.

“Farmers can sell their produce at competitive rates as a large number of buyers participate in the auction process,” he points out.

The price of copra now hovers around Rs. 40-a-kg.

The first grade copra fetches around Rs. 43.25-a-kg while the second grade Rs. 35 to Rs. 40.

CHENNAI, February 7, 2012

Vaigai dam water release today

The release of water from the Vaigai dam will begin on Tuesday for irrigation in the traditionally-irrigated areas in Madurai, Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram districts.

This would benefit 1,36,109 acres, according to a press release issued by Chief Minister Jayalalithaa on Monday.

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hindustantimes

Tue, 07 Feb 2012

weather

Delhi - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Tuesday, Feb 7

Max Min

22° | 10.6°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Sunrise: 7:14

Humidity: 71%

Sunset: 17:48

Wind: Normal

Barometer: 1015

Tomorrow's Forecast








Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Feb 8

Max Min

23° | 11°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday Feb 9	Friday Feb 10	Saturday Feb 11	Sunday Feb 12	Monday Feb 13
				
22° 9°	20° 8°	20° 8°	21° 8°	22° 10°
Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Sunny	Cloudy



Jeera down on subdued demand

Agencies Posted online: Mon Feb 06 2012, 16:24 hrs

New Delhi : Jeera prices declined by Rs 100 quintal in the national capital today largely due to weak demand from retailers and stockists amid adequate stocks position following increased arrivals from producing regions.

Jeera common and jeera best quality fell by Rs 100 each to conclude at Rs 14,500-14,600 and Rs 17,600-18,100 per quintal, respectively.

Marketmen said subdued demand from retailers as well as stockists amid adequate stocks position mainly pulled down the jeera prices at the wholesale kirana market here.

The following are today's quotations:

Ajwain 9,000-16,000, black pepper common 31,500-32,000, betelnut (kg) 190-220, cardamom brown-Jhundiwali (kg) 740-750, and cardamom brown-Kanchicut (kg) 840-1,070.

Cardamom small (kg): Chitridar 450-500, cardamom (colour robin) 510-520, cardamom bold 525-535, cardamom extra (bold) 670-680 and cloves (kg) 760-925.

Maize weakens on sluggish demand

Agencies Posted online: Mon Feb 06 2012, 16:30 hrs

New Delhi : Maize prices fell by Rs 40 per quintal in an otherwise steady wholesale grains market today owing to sluggish demand from consuming industries.

Traders said subdued demand from consuming industries at prevailing higher levels mainly led to fall in maize prices.

In the national capital, maize fell by Rs 40 to Rs 1,300-1,310 per quintal.

The following are today's quotations per quintal:

Wheat MP (deshi) 1,675-1,875, Wheat dara (for mills) 1,235-1,245, Chakki atta (delivery) 1,245-1,250, Atta Rajdhani (10 kg) 190, Shakti bhog (10 kg) 190, Roller flour mill 640-660 (50 kg), Maida 720-740 (50 kg) and Sooji 740-760 (50kg).

Basmati rice (Lal Quila) 9,500, Shri Lal Mahal 9,300, Super Basmati Rice 9,000, Basmati common new 4,200-4,300; Rice Pusa-(1121) new 3,300-3,900, Permal raw 1,800-1,850, Permal wand 2,000-2,050, Sela 2,050-2,100 and Rice IR-8 1,350-1,400,

Bajra 980-985, Jowar yellow 1050-1,100, white 1,825-2,000,

Maize 1,300-1,310, Barley 1,120-1,130, Rajasthan 1,080-1,090.



Election in the air rots onions, potatoes

TUESDAY, 07 FEBRUARY 2012 00:40

PARITOSH KIMOTHI | DEHRADUN

The unusually long gap between the day of polling and day of counting in Uttarakhand has had a queer fallout - it has adversely affected potato and onion prices.

Stocks of the famous *pahari aloo* (mountain potato) are being sold at half the market price by wholesalers while unsold produce is rotting due to anomalies in temporary relocation of wholesale potato dealers in Dehradun. The potato and onion wholesalers are suffering financial losses amounting to lakhs in addition to which their inability to sell potato seeds to farmers is likely to affect the next harvest of this important vegetable.

The wholesale vegetable market in the State capital has been temporarily acquired by the authorities for establishing strongrooms to store the electronic voting machines from the 2012 Vidhan Sabha election. Wholesale potato dealers have been temporarily shifted to the new Mandi extension which lacks basic amenities like power, water supply and sanitation.

Lack of information about this development means none of the regular customers including farmers is visiting these dealers due to which they are forced to sell their stocks at about half the market price or let them rot in the godowns. There are 12 potato and onion dealers in the wholesale vegetable market here of whom two were removed from the Wholesale Potato Dealers Association.



By Express News Service

07 Feb 2012 02:27:20 AM IST

P C Thomas' march to Mullaperiyar flagged off

KOCHI: The Mullaperiyar Shanti Yatra of the Kerala Congress (Anti-merger group) led by chairman P C Thomas, highlighting the need for taking urgent steps to ensure safety for Kerala, was flagged off from here on Monday. The march on foot will conclude at Mullaperiyar on February 16.

During the flagging off ceremony, Thomas said that the issue has been given up by most of the political parties in the state. "Though some parties had taken up the issue, they have now retracted from their stand on the issue. Kerala Congress will keep the issue alive but in a peaceful manner," he said.

Thomas asked Prime Minister to immediately intervene in the issue.

He said that an immediate solution was needed on the Mullaperiyar issue as it concerned the

safety of about 40 lakh people in the state.

“If Mullaperiyar dam bursts, five districts in the state will be washed away. Moreover, a few districts in Tamil Nadu will face acute water shortage,” he said. Accusing the Union ministers from the state of failing to highlight the issue at the Centre, he said the MPs and the Union ministers from Tamil Nadu had always been fighting for the cause.

“Even the state Advocate-General’s statement in the High Court that Idukki dam would be able to hold the water of Mullaperiyar in case of a dam burst has boomeranged on the state’s interest,” he said.

Thomas said that there was a need for ensuring the security of Malayalis in Tamil Nadu and Tamils in Kerala. He also demanded compensation for those who had lost their valuables during the clashes in the name of Mullaperiyar. He said that Tamil Nadu was trying to make tall claims that the Mullaperiyar dam belongs to them. In a recent episode, the Tamil Nadu Assembly had reiterated its stand that it would never compromise on its rights over the Mullaperiyar dam, he noted.

Thomas also said that he had approached the Kerala High Court for removing Mullaperiyar, Parambikkulam, Thoonakadav and Peruvairipallam from the list of 108 dams of Tamil Nadu in the National Registry of Large Dams, 2009. Gurumitra Jhanathapasi of Santigiri Ashram handed over the flag to Thomas. Kerala Congress (S) leader Kadannappally Ramachandran, former ministers Surendran Pillai and Jose Thettayil were among those present.

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Business Standard

Tuesday, Feb 07, 2012

Crude palm oil rules firm as demand picks up

Press Trust of India / New Delhi February 06, 2012, 13:08 IST



Crude palm oil prices rose by Rs 1.50 to Rs 516.70 per 10 kg in futures trade today supported by pick up in demand on account of marriage season.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for delivery in

February added Rs 1.50, or 0.29% to Rs 516.70 per 10 kg in business turnover of 38 lots.

The March contract edged up by Rs 1.20, or 0.23% to Rs 520.40 per 10 kg in 69 lots.

Analysts said pick-up in demand in the spot market in view of marriage season mainly supported the upside in crude palm oil prices at futures trade.

Mentha oil extends gains on rising demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi February 06, 2012, 12:57 IST



Buoyed by a firming trend in the spot markets on rising demand, mentha oil prices were up by Rs 6.50 to Rs 1,558.90 per kg in futures market today.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, mentha oil for delivery in February added Rs 6.50, or 0.42% to Rs 1,558.90 per kg in business turnover of 382 lots.

The March contract moved up by Rs 5.20, or 0.33% to Rs 1,565.10 per kg in 37 lots.

Analysts said apart from firming trend at the spot markets on strong demand, restricted arrivals from Chandausi in Uttar Pradesh also influenced mentha oil prices at futures market here.

Cardamom up 0.85% on spot demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi February 6, 2012, 12:45 IST



Cardamom prices rose by Rs 5.80 to Rs 691.50 per kg in futures trading today as speculators created fresh positions, tracking a firming trend at spot market on the back of rising demand in view of marriage season.

Restricted arrivals from producing regions also supported the uptrend in cardamom futures prices.

At the Multi-Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in February rose by Rs 5.80, or 0.85% to Rs 691.50 per kg in business turnover of 474 lots.

The March contract gained Rs 5.60, or 0.75% to Rs 750 per kg in 307 lots.

Analysts said fresh buying by speculators following pick up in demand in the spot market led to rise in cardamom prices at futures trade.

THE HINDU Business Line

Fertiliser subsidies for 2012-13 may top Rs 60,000 crore

Shishir Sinha

Fertiliser Subsidy for 2011-12		(in Rs crore)	
Budget Estimates		Supplementary Demand for Grants	
Imported (urea) fertilisers	6,983	Imported fertiliser	2,200
Indigenous (urea) fertilisers	13,308	Imported decontrolled fertilisers	3,000
Sale of decontrolled fertilisers with concessions to farmers	29,706.87	Indigenous decontrolled fertilisers	5,200
	49,997.87	Indigenous fertilisers	2,600
		Loss on account of sale of fertiliser bonds	778.93
			13,778.93
Grand Total			63,776.80

New Delhi, Feb. 6:

The Finance Ministry may provide Rs 60,000-62,000 crore for fertiliser subsidies in Budget 2012-13. This is even as the Government is set to rollout the first phase of direct cash subsidy for fertiliser in a few days.

“The revised estimate for fertiliser subsidy during 2011-12 is expected to touch Rs 62,000 crore. Usually, the Budget Estimate for the following year is at par with the Revised Estimate of the previous year.

A senior Government official, however, said that subsidy requirement for fertiliser would touch Rs 85,000-Rs 90,000 crore during current year. “But part of this excess can be met through saving while remaining can be sought in the Budget,” he said adding that this may not be easy. So, it can be said that the provision for 2012-13 could be around Rs 60,000-62,000 crore,” a person close to the development said.

At present, the fertiliser market comprises two key product types — urea and NPK (nitrogen-phosphorous-potash) — produced, imported and sold in 23 different grades.

While urea makes up half the market, the other complex fertilisers account for the rest.

For NPK, there is nutrient-based subsidy, where the retail price is fixed by the producer. For urea, the Government sets the retail price and pays the difference between the cost and retail price as subsidy.

Rising prices, consumption

Till last December, nutrient prices in the international market and cost price (produced in the country and imported) were rising. This necessitated more subsidies. Hence, the Government provided an additional Rs 13,778.93 crore through the supplementary demand for grants, which took the total fertiliser subsidy to over Rs 63,000 crore.

“Now, international prices are down. But keeping the consumption and average price trend in mind, the plan is to provide subsidy of around Rs 60,000-62,000 crore in the next Budget,” he said. However, the Finance Minister will take a final call, he added.

Meanwhile, the Government intends to rollout the first phase of direct cash subsidy for fertiliser. The Finance Minister, in last year's Budget, had said: “The system will be in place by March 2012.”

Direct Cash Subsidy

The first phase involves mapping of the nearly three lakh retailers. However, there is no clarity on how many have been mapped. A senior Government official claimed that nearly half the retailers had been registered, while another said the number was just 40,000.

The first phase will ensure tracking of dispatch and sales through SMS. The retailer will inform how much stock he has received, sold and what is left. This will be relayed to a centralised information system that will keep the Government informed about supply and consumption.

After the first phase, the subsidy will be given to retailers in the second phase and, finally, to the farmers in the third phase.

M&M gets 444 nominations from Hubli for Agri Awards

Hubli, Feb 6:

The Farm Equipment division of Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) has received 19,714 nominations for its Mahindra Samriddhi India Agri Awards 2012.

As many as 1,605 nominations were received from Karnataka alone, out of which, 444 nominations were submitted by farmers from Hubli.

The wide network of Mahindra dealerships have helped to create awareness, resulting in several nominations from farmers.

The previous year, which was also the first year of the Mahindra Samriddhi India Agri Awards, saw 14,614 farmer nominations from across the country.

Farmers, NGOs demand Rs 16,800 cr allocation for agriculture in AP Budget



Business Line Brainstorming: Agriculture scientists, farmers, planners, politicians and policy makers at the roundtable discussion in Hyderabad on Monday on allocations for agriculture in the forthcoming State Budget 2012-13. — Photo: P.V. Sivakumar

Hyderabad, Feb. 6:

Felt neglected and under-served, farmers, non-governments organisations and agricultural economists have called for at least 20 per cent of the Andhra Pradesh Budget on issues related to agriculture in the ensuing Budget for 2012-13. They called for allocations of Rs 16,800 crore exclusively for this ailing sector. This includes Rs 2,000 crore for a fund to help out farmers in times of natural disasters.

A round table meet organised here on Monday by Rythu Swarajya Vedika (RSV) and Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA) demanded the Government allocate Rs 1,000 crore each for

price stabilisation and for setting up a fund to provide guarantees to enable tenant farmers to get bank loans.

“The agriculture sector is in severe crisis. The Government is allocating just 2.6 per cent of the Budget to this sector, despite the fact that it is providing livelihood to 69 per cent of people. Whatever is allocated is going to salaries of the staff and subsidies being given to companies,” Mr Vissa Kiran Kumar of RSV, said.

The day-long meeting was attended by farmers and representatives of farmers' organisations and NGOs, from different parts of the State. Representatives of Telugu Desam and Congress parties too have taken part in the meeting. Recommendations of the meeting would be sent to the Government as it prepares the Budget for 2012-13.

Farmers have alleged that tenant farmers were not getting bank loans, forcing them to depend on private lenders and landlords themselves.

Mr Kodanda Reddy, Chairman of Kisan Cell of Congress Party, wanted the Government to set up a State-level Committee to monitor and oversee commodity prices as they did at the Central level. He also called for a change in procurement policy.

The roundtable demanded the Government to set up a Rs 100-crore welfare fund to pay compensation to the kin of farmers who committed suicide and died of electric shocks.

Blip seen in guar complex rally

Latha Venkatraman



Mumbai, Feb. 6:

The recent strong rally in guar prices, both spot and futures, is possibly taking a pause as high prices are forcing buyers to halt purchases in the physical markets and traders in futures markets are unwinding positions, traders and analysts said.

The delay in the launch of August contract on National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange is probably prompting traders to wind down positions.

“There is no demand in spot. Now, prices are likely to move down,” said Mr Jaiprakash Sharma, a Jodhpur-based trader. Guarseed and gum futures are also expected to consolidate at current levels tending towards the lower side, analysts said.

Front month guarseed futures are likely to move down to Rs 11,000 for 100 kg by the time of its expiry on February 20, Mr Dharmesh Bhatia, Analyst, Kotak Commodities, said.

“Overall, supply tightness is there but at these prices, there is not much demand. A correction is needed for export demand to pick up too,” said Ms Vedika Narvekar, Senior Analyst, Angel Commodities.

She expects the contract to decline to Rs 11,370 levels.

Regulatory move

Stumped by the recent continuous rise in guar complex, NCDEX has delayed the launch of August contracts of both guar seed and guar gum futures.

The move, done at the behest of the regulator, Forward Markets Commission, is the latest in the series of curbs or measures adopted to halt the relentless spike in prices of both guar seed and guar gum.

Guar prices, both spot and futures, have been continuously moving up touching record highs several times.

Guarseed futures for February delivery on NCDEX has risen three-fold since mid-August until now. On Monday, they were trading at Rs 12,075 for 100 kg, down 13.8 per cent, at 12:30 p.m.

Guar gum futures for the same delivery also recorded similar gains. They were being quoted at Rs 39,400 for 100 kg, down over 3 per cent from the previous close.

The sharp rise in guar seed, or cluster beans, which are used for the manufacture of guar gum, has drawn the attention of everybody including farmers, traders, investors, politicians and government officials.

The demand supply mismatch warrants a price rise but whether this rise is justified is the question that has emerged. Guar futures have been hitting the 4 per cent upper price limits almost daily prompting many market participants to conclude that this little known agricultural produce will be the star performer among commodities.

Many of the curbs imposed by the regulator include increasing special margins on the buy side, revising open position limits, imposing a trading ban on a few members among others.

The latest move to delay the launch of the far month contract is likely to impact those participants who have short positions, analysts said.

These participants will be forced to square off their positions with a loss, they said.

The delay in the launch of the far month contract would impact market's sentiment and thereby bring prices down, they said. It may prompt traders to wind down positions.

Volumes and open interest in guar complex have been declining last few sessions possibly due to many trading curbs. Declining volumes has prompted NCDEX to reduce special margins on guar futures.

"The regulator should have looked at innovative ways of tackling this rise in guar prices," said Mr Kishore Narne, Head – Currency and Commodity Research, AnandRathi Commodities.

Spot rubber improves on short covering



Kottayam, Feb. 6:

Physical rubber prices made moderate gains on Monday. According to observers, the market improved on fresh buying and short covering following the sharp gains in the trendsetting

Japanese futures. Tokyo rubber futures gained more than 3 per cent, the highest in four months supported by promising US jobs data and concerns of a drop in supply. Sheet rubber improved to Rs 190.50 (188) a kg, according to traders. The grade improved to Rs 190 (188.50) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as quoted by the Rubber Board.

In futures, the February series slipped to Rs 191.10 (191.48), March to Rs 194.30 (194.54), April to Rs 200.77 (201.37) and May to Rs 204.25 (204.85) a kg for RSS 4 on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) increased to Rs 199.47 (198.77) a kg at Bangkok. The February futures flared up to ₹307.5 (Rs 197.06) from ₹297.5 a kg during the day session but then remained inactive in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 190.50 (188); RSS-5: 186 (183.50); ungraded: 182 (179); ISNR 20: 187.50 (187) and latex 60 per cent: 122.50 (120.50).

Bengal seeks Central aid for paddy procurement

Kolkata, Feb. 6:

In view of the procurement crisis in West Bengal, the State government has urged the Centre to extend monetary support to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore.

The State has asked for Rs 1,000 crore for paddy procurement and another Rs 1,000 crore for enhancing the "storage logistics," said Mr Jyotipriya Mallick, State Food and Supplies Minister.

"We require Rs 1,000 crore in order to ensure that all the agencies involved in the procurement of custom milled rice (CMR) can operate. So far, we only have the Rs 50 crore given to various agencies by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee," Mr Mallick told reporters here on Monday.

The State government would require Rs 1,000 crore for setting up of 342 warehouses across each block of the State for proper storage of foodgrains.

West Bengal government had fixed a target of 20 lakh tonnes for procurement of paddy this season; however, the State has been able to procure only about four lakh tonnes so far. The State witnessed a 25 per cent rise in paddy production to 15 million tonne this year.

In a notification earlier this season, the state government had asked rice mills to directly buy paddy at minimum support price from the farmers by cheque. The move was taken apparently to keep the middlemen (private arotdars and over 500 co-operative societies) at bay.

Meanwhile, a delegation led by Leader of the Opposition Surya Kanta Mishra met Mr Mallick during the day and demanded that the State government implement adequate measures to ensure that farmers are not forced to resort to distress sales of paddy.

Stockists' demand lifts palmolein, soya oil futures



MUMBAI, FEB. 6:

Imported edible oils strengthened on improved stockist demand for palmolein and firm soya oil futures. Palmolein and soya refined oil each increased by Re 1 for 10 kg.

Groundnut oil shot up by Rs 10 and cotton refined oil increased by Rs 2, tracking bullish trend in producing centres. In Saurashtra, groundnut oil sharply went up by Rs 30 taking the total rise to Rs 60 in the last five working days. Sunflower and rapeseed oil ruled unchanged. Volumes increased as local stockists have started fresh covering in ready and forward despite need-based retail demand. A leading broker said that about 1,000-1,200 tonnes of palmolein were sold for Rs 553-555 during the day on improved local demand. On the other side, retail demand continued to be need-based and thin. Leading refineries sold palmolein at Rs 553, while most volumes took place in resale. Resellers sales to fulfil old commitments kept prices at check. In

December–January, importers sold a good amount of quantity in forward for February delivery. As supply position is now easy and prices are stable, stockists indulged in fresh buying. In indigenous oils, improved arrivals of seeds in producing centres and higher prices kept buyers away. In Saurashtra, groundnut oil and cotton oil improved on higher demand at lower prices, he added.

Resellers quoted palmolein at Rs 554-555; Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 558-559. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 557, soya refined oil at Rs 651 and sunflower refined oil Rs 661. Allana's palmolein was Rs 557. Mewah quoted Rs 556. In Saurashtra, groundnut oil shot up by Rs 30 to Rs 1,645 (Rs1,615) for telia tin and Rs 1,075 (Rs 1,045) for loose-10kg.

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg): Groundnut oil 1,045 (1,035), soya refined oil 655 (654), sunflower exp. ref. 600 (600), sunflower ref. 670 (675), rapeseed ref. oil 745 (745), rapeseed expeller ref. 715 (715), cotton ref. oil 607 (605) and palmolein 559 (558).

Coonoor tea prices ease to 11-month low

P. S. SUNDAR



COONOOR, FEB. 6:

About 89 per cent of the 11-month low offer of 10.15 lakh kg at Sale No: 5 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions was sold with prices easing Rs 2 a kg.

“Orthodox leaf lost to Rs 2-4 a kg. High-priced CTC leaf eased Rs 3-4, mediums Rs 2-3 and plainers Rs 1-2. Orthodox dusts gained Rs 2-5 but some finer sorts lost Rs 2-3. High-priced CTC dusts lost up to Rs 3 and others, Rs 1-2,” an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

Among CTC teas from bought-leaf factories, Vigneshwar Estate, auctioned by Paramount Tea Marketing, topped at Rs 151 a kg. Homedale Estate got Rs 150, Deepika Supreme Rs 145, Kannavarai Estate Rs 142, Darmona Estate and Shanthi Supreme Rs 141 each and Blue Mont Speciality and Rs 140.

Among orthodox teas from corporate sector, Curzon got Rs 240, Highfield Estate Rs 163 and Tiger Hill Clonal Rs 162.

Cardamom at 4-month high on fears of supply squeeze

G. K. Nair



SHRINKING SUPPLY

- Average price has topped Rs 600/kg for the first time in the last four months
- Growers feel unfavourable weather might lead to drought
- Upward trend in prices could result in aggressive buying by exporters and upcountry dealers

Kochi, Feb 6:

Apprehensions of a supply squeeze in the coming days due to unfavourable weather in the cardamom-growing areas and consequent declining trend in the volume of current harvest have pushed up cardamom prices in the auctions held in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

“(This is) for the first time, since Oct 1 last (year) — that is, four months after the auction average price crossed Rs 600 a kg (that prices are up)”, Mr P C Punnoose, General Manager of CPMC, told *Business Line*.

He said the current weather conditions are unfavourable and growers feel it might lead to drought . In that case, there could be a substantial drop of output in the final round of harvesting, which may come to a close by the month end or early March.

Thus, there could be a long lean period until the time of the next crop, which might again depend on the summer rains. These factors, if they materialise, may squeeze availability, pushing the prices up in the coming days, trade sources in Kumily and Bodinayakannur, the hub of cardamom trading in the country said.

EXPORT DEMAND

Exporters have been covering good quantities every week of late because of the competitive price coupled with superior quality of the material. The recent upward trend in prices might result in aggressive buying by both exporters as well as upcountry dealers, resulting in the market heading north with average prices moving in the range of Rs 700 – 750 a kg, they claimed.

The current dry spell (of over a month) has changed the sentiment of the market to bullish. Farmers claim if the spell lasts without summer showers, then it will affect plants, leading to poor yield in the coming season.

Non-availability of quality cardamom from the lone other source, Guatemala, at competitive prices has prompted exporters to cover regularly from auctions here for quite some time. Last week, they were said to have bought around 120 tonnes of cardamom .

A major dealer in Bodi told *Business Line* today that the current rise in prices here has pushed up parity with overseas market prices by \$3 a kg, making it unattractive.

Arrivals at the Sunday auction held by KCPMC stood at 90 tonnes and the entire quantity was sold out. The maximum price was at Rs 934.50 and the minimum was at Rs 415.50 a kg.

Auction average increased to Rs 627.84 a kg yesterday from Rs 576.38 a kg the previous Sunday, Mr Punnoose said.

The individual auction average from mid-last week showed a significant rise and was vacillating between Rs 590 and Rs 630 a kg.

However, arrival of good quality capsules continued to be thin and limited availability of 8 mm bold has pushed up its prices to Rs 880 – Rs 900 a kg last week.

ARRIVALS

Total arrivals as on Feb 5 stood at around 11,617 tonne and the sales were at around 11,357 tonne as against about 7,320 tonne of arrivals and around 7,285 tonne of sales in the same period last year.

Weighted average price as on Feb 5 was at about Rs 572 a kg as against around Rs 1,085 on the same date last year, auction sources said.

On Feb 5, prices of graded varieties in Bodinayakannur moved up sharply: AGEB was at Rs 780 a kg; AGB Rs 670; AGS Rs 620 and AGS 1 at Rs 600, trade sources in Bodi said.

The growers, having experienced such weather conditions in the past, fear that the current dry spell might continue to prevail and lead to a potential drought. In that case, it might result in a poor crop next season, they say.

Turmeric firm on low arrivals



Erode, Feb 6:

Spot turmeric prices ruled steady on Monday on low arrivals but rates of the hybrid variety increased on demand.

“The arrival of turmeric bag has decreased very low of 3,565 bags on Monday. But prices did not improve. Usually, when the arrival of turmeric bags reduces, the prices may improve and sales will also be high. Contrast to this, sales were only 55-60 per cent of the arrived produce. Further on every Monday, the arrivals will be low, but during this Monday they were very low compared to previous weeks. This is stated to be the lowest arrival in a year on Mondays,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

The demand for the Hybrid Salem Crop has increased and fetched Rs 180 a quintal higher than last week price. Almost all the hybrid turmeric bags were sold.

Mr Ravishankar said due to festival here, turmeric growers won't be attending the market on Tuesday and will visit the market on Wednesday.

He said the arrival of new Mysore and Number 8 variety has increased. Of the total arrival, the new crop's share will be 80 per cent, he said. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales Yard, the finger variety (new crop) was sold at Rs 2,799-4,299 a quintal while the root variety at Rs 2,499-4,016. The finger variety (old crop) was sold at Rs 3,619-4,746. The root variety at Rs 3,609-4,266.

Salem Crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 4,006-5,409, and the root variety at Rs 3,009-4,309. Of total arrival of 2,146 bags (new 1,639 bags and old 512 bags) 1,121 bags were sold.

At the Regulated Marketing Society, the finger variety (new crop) fetched Rs 3,919-4,749, the root variety at Rs 3,399-4,040. The finger variety (Old crop) was sold at Rs 4,280-4,899, and the root variety at Rs 3,777-4,202. About 781 bags were sold against the arrival of 904 bags. At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,746-4,869 and the root variety Rs 3,269-4,191. All the 105 bags of turmeric arrived for sales were sold. At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,809-4,769, the root variety at Rs 3,222-4,282. Of 520 bags arrived for sale, 497 bags were sold.