

Published: July 20, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: July 20, 2012 05:09 IST

Farmers, residents to stage protest in Navalgund

Staff Correspondent

Farmers of Navalgund, Naragund and Annigeri, and residents of Hubli-Dharwad who are dependent on the Malaprabha reservoir for their drinking water needs will stage a dharna on July 21, 'Farmer Martyrs' Day', in Navalgund to protest against the alleged apathy of the State government to their plight. Addressing presspersons here on Thursday, State general secretary of the Janata Dal (Secular) N.H. Konaraddi said that unless the Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project was initiated, the drinking water problems of the people of the region could not be solved.

He said the water problem would become severe in the coming days unless water from the Mahadayi was diverted to the Malaprabha under the project. "Before the BJP came to power, Basavaraj Bommai, who is now the Water Resources Minister, had taken out a padayatra to press for the early initiation of the Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project. However, after coming to power it had forgotten the project. Although the then Water Resources Minister K.S. Eshwarappa initiated the project with much fanfare, the work was stopped midway and till date there has been no progress," he said.

Now that Jagadish Shettar, who is from Hubli, had become Chief Minister, the people of the region would want him to take immediate steps to ensure that the project was implemented. He said the farmers of the region would urge Mr. Shettar to make a specific announcement on the project on July 21.

He urged the government to announce special compensation of Rs. 25,000 a hectare to farmers in the wake of the severe drought situation. He said the government should take steps to release crop insurance to farmers immediately.

COIMBATORE, July 20, 2012

Cultivation area shrinks as monsoon plays truant

KARTHIK MADHAVAN

Farmers asked to go in for cultivation of maize and pulses



Alarming situation: Southwest monsoon's poor show has affected millet cultivation in Coimbatore.- File Photo: M. GOVARTHAN

A deficit monsoon helps sprout too many news. The latest germination is from the Agriculture Department. Sources there say that the shortfall in rains this season has brought down the area of cultivation by nearly 3,900 ha in Coimbatore district.

By June-July, the district ought to have seen cultivation in a little over 11,500 ha but has thus far seen cultivation in only around 7,800 ha. Most affected is the millet cultivation area.

The sources say that paddy cultivation is the least affected because farmers take up cultivation only in assured irrigation areas – places where canal irrigation system ensures water supply - in Anamalai and Thondamuthur.

Worst hit

The worst affected areas are Sultanpet, Karamadai, S.S. Kulam, Annur, Kinathukadavu and parts of Pollachi and Periyanaickenpalayam. These areas and other parts of the district, this year, have received only 102.5 mm rain as against the average rainfall 232.5 m.

This works out to minus 56 per cent of the average and minus 72 per cent of last year's 368.8 mm.

The sources say the Agriculture Department is opting for Plan B to negate the impact of shortage of rain by going in for maize and pulses (Bengal gram and green gram).

It has asked the Agriculture Extension Officers to sensitise the farmers to go in for the aforementioned crops and not take up cultivation of conventional ones. By doing so, the Department wants to meet the target the Agriculture Production Commissioner has given – to produce 120 lakh metric tonnes food grains for the year for the State.

In this regard, Agriculture Secretary Sandeep Saxena had, a couple of days ago, held meetings through video conference with the officials, the sources point out.

The sources add that the department, in order to mitigate farmers' woes, is also promoting integrated farming and micro irrigation. In integrated farming, the farmers also take up poultry, sericulture and a few other allied activities so that the loss of income is compensated by additional revenue.

ERODE, July 20, 2012

Turmeric procurement price not adequate, say farmers

S. RAMESH

The government's announcement extending the deadline for turmeric procurement till the end of July did not come as a happy news to the farmers in Erode district.

The government said that it would procure turmeric from farmers at the rate of Rs. 4,000 a quintal till July 30. But the prices of good quality turmeric in the open market hover around Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 5,500.

No one will be interested in selling their turmeric for Rs. 4,000 when they can get Rs. 5,000 plus in the open market. It appears that the government has failed to take note of the current prices of the turmeric before extending the deadline, farmers here say.

The government first announced the initiative of turmeric procurement in the beginning of June and stated that the process would be carried out till June 30. But it could not commence the procurement immediately following the delay in framing guidelines. The procurement

commenced on the evening of July 28, leaving just two days for the farmers to bring in their produce. As a result, none of the farmers sold their yellow spice to the government in June.

They appealed to the government to extend the deadline for the procurement and increase the price to Rs. 7,000, besides allowing a farming family to sell at least 100 quintals.

Many farmers also expect that the price of the spice will increase in the near future as the acreage under turmeric cultivation has declined in the country.

NAGAPATTINAM, July 20, 2012

Livestock protection scheme launched

The State government has launched the Livestock Protection Scheme in all districts. As per the scheme, 5,500 livestock protection medical camps will be conducted at all villages in the State, at a cost of Rs.23 lakh. The scheme was launched here at Paalayur village on Monday, and over a few hundred livestock and poultry were brought in for treatment. Vaccination, deworming, castration, artificial insemination of livestock, vaccination for poultry was provided. Livestock owners were counselled on best practices in animal husbandry. Earlier, a rally of calves was held and 10 healthy calves were selected and prizes were distributed. An exhibition was organised with the participation of experts from the Tiruvarur veterinary hospital. The camp was inaugurated by Collector T.Munusamy. Joint Director, Animal Husbandry, G.Prithiviraj, was present.

THANJAVUR, July 20, 2012

IFFCO shifts fertilizers for use in delta

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) has moved basal fertilizers for use in the Cauvery delta districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, and Nagapattinam.

A total of 1,324 tonnes of IFFCO Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and 1,321 tonnes of IFFCO-phos arrived in 42 wagons at Thanjavur railway station on Wednesday.

"The fertilizers were moved from IFFCO factory at Paradeep in Orissa," said D.Subramanian, Chief Area Manager, IFFCO, Tiruchi. Two days ago, IFFCO moved 2,630 tonnes of Urea to Kumbakonam from Oman. These fertilizers are now moved to various places in Thanjavur,

Tiruvarur, and Nagapattinam district through Thanjavur Cooperative Marketing Federation (TCMF) in Tiruvarur. "Besides these fertilizers, we are introducing 100 per cent water soluble fertilizers that can be used for foliar spray. One kilo of these fertilizers can be dissolved in 100 litres of water and sprayed. This will reduce the requirement of basal fertilizers," Mr.Subramanian said. The water soluble fertilizers are IFFCO Urea Phosphate, NPK 18 18 18, and IFFCO Sulphate Potash. "We have 15 tonnes of these fertilizers in Tiruchi. Soon these will be distributed to farmers in delta districts," he added.

TIRUPUR, July 20, 2012

'Bring out white paper on profitability of emu farming'

Social activists and farmers' associations have called upon the State government to come out with a 'white paper' on profitability of Emu farming besides asking the government agencies to stringently monitor emu farming activities 'prospering' in Tirupur, Coimbatore and Erode districts.

C. Nallasami, president of Lower Bhavani Farmers Association, pointed out that about a decade ago, many Emu rearing firms in Maharashtra and Gujarat amassed many crores of rupees from people before fleeing from the country without giving back any of the promised material to the investors.

"To avoid any possibilities of such incidents from occurring again, the government as well as institutions like Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University should come out with authoritative reports on whether emu farming would be a profitable entity to offer huge returns to the investors in the magnitude in which the firms advertise to lure the people," he said.

L. Kathiresan, state organizer of People's Movement of India, was of the opinion that the emu farming business seeking investments from general public by offering huge dividends in return, need to be checked carefully for its transparency to avoid any investor from getting duped.

"Not being a native bird, most of the people have little knowledge of emu farming, its rearing methodology and profitability.

“If it is a case of sheep or goat rearing, there is very little scope for anyone to fool the investors in the region,” he said.

TUTICORIN, July 20, 2012

Do not construct check dam: farmers



MORE STEPS NEEDED:Collector Ashish Kumar addressing the farmers at the grievance day meeting at the Tuticorin Collectorate on Thursday.— Photo: N. Rajesh

Farmers have objected to construction of a check dam across the Tamirabrani river at Vallanad during farmers grievance day meeting convened by the district administration here on Thursday.

Kandasamy, a farmer from Srivaikuntam, said if the check dam was constructed at Vallanad, 25 acres of farm land being irrigated by the north main channel and south main channel in and around Srivaikuntam area would dry up and farmers would be adversely affected.

He sought the intervention of the district administration to stall the process immediately and warned that if their demands were not considered, the farming community would stage a widespread protest against the check dam.

Collector Ashish Kumar, who presided, said any infrastructure facility would be set up by State government in the interest of people and not against their wishes. No development work was undertaken for a certain group of farmers but facilities would be augmented on an equal footing, he said and appealed to Mr. Kandasamy to pay a visit to the dam site and assess the existing scenario.

Rajendran from Nazareth sought the support of authorities concerned to strengthen Marudhur anaicut to store sufficient water. An official from the Public Works Department replied that a proposal has been forwarded to the authorities for extension of funds to execute the task.

While replying to P. Murugesan of Chinnayapuram village, Pudur block, the Collector asked his Assistant to forward a show cause notice to the Pudur Block Development Officer, who failed to execute works citing that officials did not carry out survey for desilting an oorani at Chinnayapuram village for drinking purpose and for harvesting. Funds were extended to take the survey but there was no headway in the task. The need for desilting the water body under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme was felt a year ago, he recalled.

The Collector said that seeds had been raised for cultivation in the Aadi Pattam season and silt (karambal) from the water body at the revenue village was lifted for manure. "No farmer is prohibited from lifting the silt in any tank and there is no legal restriction from doing such task. But both the Village Administrative Officer and the Deputy Tahsildar have been deliberately involved in extracting money by threatening the farmers", he said. Mr. Kumar appealed to the authorities to take necessary action to solve the problem. Tamilmanian from Kurumbur said farmers were unable to receive water from Manimuthar reservoir. Under Crop Yield Competition in 2011- 12, cash prize of Rs.10, 000 each was given to A. Arumugapandian of Pasuvanathanai for the yield of maize and S. Ramamurthy of Kalugumalai for Cumbu. V. Kannan of Chidambarapatti for Cumbu and R. Dharmaraj of Kuruvarpatti for maize received Rs. 5, 000 each as second prize. C. Srinivasan, Deputy Director of Agriculture and M. Kanagaraj, Personal Assistant to Collector (Agriculture) were present.

TUTICORIN, July 20, 2012

Fertilizers meant only for farmers

Fertilizers and urea meant for farmers to be used for agricultural purposes under the government subsidy should not be used for industrial operations, according to a statement. The Central government has been extending subsidy for urea, potash and super phosphate for agricultural purpose. State government has exempted 4 per cent value added tax on the subsidised fertilizer.

Since the cost of fertilizers is lesser in Tamil Nadu than other States, it is said that possibilities are more for selling such goods illegally to other States.

If any offender was charged with misuse of fertilizers in violation of The Essential Commodities Act, 1955, he would undergo seven year rigorous imprisonment, the statement added.

KOCHI, July 20, 2012

Voice bulletin service for spices farmers in the State

The Spices Board plans to extend the voice messaging interactive service for the community of spices farmers, which was launched in Tamil Nadu last week, to all spice-growing States soon.

Spices farmers will get daily bulletins on Spices Board schemes and projects, price of spices and announcements by the board through the new service, said a press release issued in Coimbatore after the service was launched for farmers in Tamil Nadu.

There will also be bulletins on the weather, opportunities for phone-ins, interactive sessions for farmers as well as quiz programmes in which farmers can win prizes.

The “novel venture” to link farmers on the mobile tele-network for direct interface was launched in association with Iffco Kisan Sanchar Limited of Tamil Nadu, the press release added.

Community

Spice farmers’ communities will be launched in Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, etc. The spices farmers’ group in Tamil Nadu has been named Tamil Nadu Spices Community and it will have members from farmers across the State. It is expected to have an initial strength of at least 6,000 farmers.

Farmers involved in cultivating spice crops like cardamom, chilly, curry leaf, coriander, pepper, nutmeg, clove and herbs will benefit from the day-to-day voice messages on various aspects of cultivation, processing, marketing and exports.

The Spices Board too stood to gain from the new venture because it will now have direct link with the large number of spices farmers in Tamil Nadu.

The press release cited Chairman A. Jayalthilak as saying that the new service would especially help farmers in remote areas and those who are not literate.

The new service also involves a helpline where farmers can find answer to their questions and solve their problems.

ELURU, July 20, 2012

Weather-based crop insurance for oil palm

West Godavari district has been selected for implementation of the weather-based crop insurance scheme for oil palm, according to M. Raviprakash, Assistant Director, Horticulture department. The prolonged dry spell, minimum temperatures, drought or deficit rainfall conditions would be taken into consideration while implementing the scheme, he added. The oil palm farmers, willing to opt for the scheme, may pay the premium as per guidelines before August 8 next.

HYDERABAD, July 20, 2012

Steps suggested to make farming sustainable in Anantapur

Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) S. Ayyappan has suggested cultivation of alternative crops to groundnut in the drought-prone Anantapur district for making agriculture sustainable. A committee of experts led by him had toured the district during the last week of February and had submitted its report to the State government a couple of months ago recommending a special plan, Project Ananta, with an outlay of Rs.500 crore to reduce the risk of losses in agriculture there.

Speaking on the sidelines of the regional committee meeting of ICAR here on Thursday, Mr. Ayyappan said the committee had gone round about 30 mandals in the district, studied the pattern of rainfall and depletion of groundwater levels over the years and interacted with over 2,000 farmers.

They had recommended cultivation of new groundnut varieties instead of discontinuing its cultivation to make it profitable on one hand and taking up alternative crops like millets and cluster beans, particularly in 15 mandals, on the other. Stating that presence of Animal

Husbandry and agriculture officials was very poor, the ICAR chief said they had recommended increasing their numbers considerably.

Further, they suggested identification of rivulets and streams whose courses were blocked with the help of satellite and restoring them to allow flow of rainwater. On the prospects of current kharif season in the country hit by scanty rainfall, Mr. Ayyappan said the threat of El Nino impact appeared to be averted for now as rains had resumed.

Earlier, inaugurating the ICAR meeting Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan remarked that there was a wide gap between the agriculture research and farmers and it need to be plugged with higher interaction between the lab and farm. He suggested propagation of integrated farming system to make agriculture profitable and improving productivity with private public partnership.

Mr. Ayyappan said the meet would deliberate on improving input-use efficiency, introducing new seed varieties, management of crops, farm mechanisation and marketing for two days. Director of the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) S.L. Goswami and others spoke.

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- *A special plan Project Ananta with an outlay of Rs. 500 crore recommended*
 - *ICAR suggests increase in number of agriculture and animal husbandry officials in the district*

SRIKAKULAM, July 20, 2012

Rains revive hopes of farmers for kharif

Several parts of Srikakulam received moderate to heavy rainfall on Thursday with the impact of South-West monsoon. Palakonda and Ranasthalam areas witnessed 2 cm rainfall, reviving the hopes of farmers over kharif season.

Revenue officials estimated 30 per cent deficit rainfall in the district with the delay in onset of monsoon. Drought like situation was continuing in many mandals with the lack of rains till July 15.

Meanwhile, moderate rain in Srikakulam town cheered up residents of several localities such as Bankers' Colony, Visakha-A, Visakha-B, Surya Nagar and other areas which completely depended on groundwater.

There is no municipal water supply as those areas are not under the jurisdiction of civic body.

Complete depletion of groundwater caused tension among the thousands of residents.

The residents hoped that the groundwater would be recharged with the impact of monsoon at least in the next few weeks.

hindustantimes

■ Fri, 20 Jul 2012

water

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Friday, Jul 20

Max Min

32.1° | 26.3°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 62%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:45

Sunset: 18:39

Barometer: 993

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Saturday, Jul 21

Max Min

35° | 27°

Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday Jul 22	Monday Jul 23	Tuesday Jul 24	Wednesday Jul 25	Thursday Jul 26

32° | 26°

Rainy

34° | 27°

Rainy

33° | 27°

Rainy

33° | 27°

Rainy

34° | 27°

Rainy

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

19 JUL, 2012, 02.45PM IST, REUTERS

India oilseeds, soyoil rise in line with world market

MUMBAI: Indian oilseeds and soyoil futures rose on Thursday, tracking a rally in the world market on concerns over corn and soybean production in the United States, which is facing its worst drought in over 50 years.

Thin supplies of oilseeds and concerns over Indian soybean production due to a delay in sowing and patchy rainfall also underpinned sentiments.

U.S. soybeans rose to a record high on Thursday, while front-month corn scaled an all-time high as weather maps showed no sign of an end to a drought that has damaged U.S. crops and provoked concern about food supplies.

"The overseas rally influenced market more than local fundamentals. It is certain that supplies will remain limited in the world market due to bad weather," said Chowda Reddy, a senior analyst at JRG Wealth Management.

The August soybean contract on India's National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) was up 2.88 percent at 4,722 rupees per 100 kg by 0830 GMT, just below the record high of 4,754 rupees hit earlier this week.

Indian farmers have cultivated soybean on 5.45 million hectares as on July 13, compared with 6.73 million hectares during the same time a year ago, farm ministry data showed.

The drought in United States has hit the soybean crop, which was rated 34 percent good-to-excellent by the USDA in its report on Monday, down 6 percentage points from the previous week and one point below estimates for 35 percent.

India's soymeal exports rose to 180,987 tonnes in June, from 117,600 tonnes the same period a year ago, the Solvent Extractors' Association of India said earlier this month.

The August soyoil contract rose 0.91 percent to 801 rupees per 10 kg, while rapeseed jumped 1.36 percent to 4,320 rupees per 100 kg, after hitting a record peak of 4,379 on Monday.

In the Indore spot market in Madhya Pradesh, soyoil was up 1.95 rupee at 787.7 rupees per 10 kg, while soybean climbed 40 rupees to 4,659 rupees per 100 kg. At Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan, rapeseed rose 20 rupees to 4,240 per 100 kg.

19 JUL, 2012, 10.14AM IST, REUTERS

NCDEX slaps 20% special margin on cottonseed oilcake

MUMBAI: National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) has imposed a 20 per cent special margin on the long side of cottonseed oilcake contracts, effective Saturday, according to a notification posted on its website.

The margin will be applicable to all current and yet-to-be-launched contracts of cottonseed oilcake.

The key August contract has risen more than 21 per cent since the start of the month.

19 JUL, 2012, 04.20PM IST, REUTERS

India sugar futures rise on dry spell, global cues

MUMBAI: Indian sugar futures edged higher on Thursday on poor rainfall in cane-growing areas and a rise in global prices, though muted demand in the physical market weighed on sentiment.

October raw-sugar futures on ICE rose 0.22 percent to 23 cents a lb by 1018 GMT.

The key August contract on India's National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange was up 0.65 percent at 3,241 rupees (\$58.6) per 100 kg. It hit a contract high of 3,300 rupees earlier this week.

"Dry weather has affected the cane crop. Since yesterday we are getting rains. That will limit the damage, but the prolonged dry spell has already hit the crop," said an official at Ajinkyatara Co-operative Sugar Factory in Maharashtra.

In Kolhapur's spot market in top producing Maharashtra state, sugar fell 0.73 percent to 3,284 rupees per 100 kg as traders postponed purchases hoping the government will release additional non-levy quota for the September quarter.

India has allowed millers to sell 4.5 million tonnes of non-levy sugar from July to September in the open market, unchanged from the previous quarter. Usually, the government increases the quota for festivals.

Traders were expecting the government to provide an additional 300,000 tonnes for the September quarter.

Non-levy, or free-sale sugar, is sold by millers in the open market, but the quantity each mill can sell is fixed by the federal government on a quarterly basis to control sharp price swings and ensure adequate supply.

Almost all key sugar producing regions in the country have received over 31 percent less rainfall since the beginning of the monsoons on June 1.

Late monsoon rains over the two main cane-growing areas in India may reduce the 2012/13 output by some 19 percent, but the overall crop is likely to see a surplus due to increased output from another region, officials said.

19 JUL, 2012, 11.14AM IST, PTI

Sugar futures extend losses on profit-booking

NEW DELHI: Amid profit-booking by speculators after recent gains and increased supplies in the spot market, sugar prices fell by another Rs 13 to Rs 3,270 per quintal today.

In addition, fall in demand at prevailing higher levels in the spot markets, also put pressure on the sweetener prices at futures trade.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for delivery in September lost Rs 13, or 0.40 per cent, to Rs 3,270 per quintal, with an open interest of 25,240 lots.

Similarly, the sweetener for delivery in August traded Rs 4, or 0.12 per cent lower, at Rs 3,216 per quintal, with an open interest of 37,790 lots.

Marketmen said fall in sugar futures prices was mostly due to continued profit-booking by speculators at existing higher levels after recent gains and fall in demand in the physical markets at prevailing levels.

Meanwhile, at Kolhapur spot market in largest producing state of Maharashtra, sugar surged by 0.73 per cent to Rs 3,284 per quintal in yesterday's trade.

DECCAN Chronicle

Published on *Deccan Chronicle* (<http://www.deccanchronicle.com>)

Weak rains drain Peppara dam



Water supply to the city appears to be in for troubled times as the water level in the Peppara dam is at a disturbingly low level. If the monsoon continues its erratic run, there will be water in the dam for only a couple of weeks more. This is the first time in the history of Peppara dam that the water level has dipped to 98.3 metres. Usually at this time of the year, the dam overflows.

Though there is provision for increasing the storage capacity by six more metres, the Supreme Court has not cleared the proposal due to the Forest Conservation Act of 1980. According to Kerala Water Authority managing director Ashok Kumar Singh, more land has to be acquired from the surrounding regions of the Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary. “We don’t want to increase the storage capacity as it can hold a maximum of 96 days water storage capacity,” he said. However, Raja Raja Varma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests said that a lot of correspondence and deliberations had been held in this regard. “Further land has to be acquired and with the Forest Conservation Act of 1980, it looks bleak though we have to get consent from the Supreme Court, the Centre and the union environment ministry”, said Varma. The Aruvikkara dam which is 33 km downstream from Peppara, has only 47 per cent storage capacity as it is partially covered with weeds and silt.

Source URL: <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/cities/thiruvananthapuram/weak-rains-drain-peppara-dam-120>



'Rainfall below average so far this season'

THURSDAY, 19 JULY 2012 22:27

PNS | DEHRADUN

People are looking skyward in the hope of vapour laden clouds, but the rain god seems to be unhappy with Dehradun.

Even in the peak monsoon season that is the month of shraavan, there has been no rain for several days. So far there has been only about 300 mm rain in Dehradun. This is far below the average rainfall for this time of the rainy season.

According to Met officials, there has been at least 38 per cent less rainfall this season. Besides, the humidity in the air has made life difficult for people. Air coolers do not work when the humidity in the air increases. This has added to the people’s problems as there is no respite from incessant sweating.

This happened as the monsoon got diverted in some other direction. But some good news is on the cards as post July 20 rains are expected again. "We are expecting rains after July 20. So far the rainfall has been far below the average but some changes are occurring and probably there would be rains after July 20," said Anand Sharma, Director, Met Department.

ICFRE recommends fruit plantations to tackle monkey menace across India

THURSDAY, 19 JULY 2012 22:27

PNS | DEHRADUN

Taking cognisance of the growing conflict between humans and monkeys across the nation, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) director general VK Bahuguna has suggested to the principal chief conservators of forests (PCCF) of all Indian States to spread the seeds of fruit trees on forest floors near villages and suburban areas.

In a letter written to all the PCCFs of India, Bahuguna said, "After analysing the situation apart from the practice of people feeding monkeys on roadsides and villages, it is felt that the major factor responsible for the rising human-monkey conflict is the gradual elimination and reduction of fruit bearing trees in the adjoining forests. It has been observed that if fruit bearing trees are available near the villages and suburban areas, the monkey menace is considerably less in such areas."

The ICFRE DG further states, "This is the season of ripening of mango, leechi and other fruits so it is worth trying to collect the seeds of these and other seasonal fruits, which may be spread on the forest floor near areas affected by monkey menace. This will ultimately enrich the forest biodiversity by bringing up these trees which will help provide food for the wildlife. This operation can be undertaken with a bare minimum expenditure. We should also plant more fruit bearing forestry species in the afforestation programme," he stressed in his letter to the PCCFs.

It is worth mentioning here that to tackle the monkey menace in Uttarakhand, the Forest department is utilising its resources on establishing one centre each in Garhwal and Kumaon region for sterilising monkeys before releasing them. The sterilisation of monkeys has been eliciting criticism from animal activists who aver that this is not the scientific solution to the problem.

People for Animals, Uttarakhand member secretary Gauri Maulekhi welcomed the suggestions made by the ICFRE DG. She said that PFA Uttarakhand has been stressing on the need for

plantation of fruit bearing trees for the past two years to tackle the monkey menace while the Forest department is investing crores of rupees on sterilising monkeys.

“Planting fruit trees is the best scientific and sustainable method of resolving the human-monkey conflict though the State Forest department still believes in fighting the animals in stead of improving the environmental conditions they live in. We hope the Forest department acts on the ICFRE DG’s suggestions in stead of continuing its compulsive spending on unscientific methods which are liable to worsen the situation in stead of improving it,” she stressed.

Business Standard

Friday, Jul 20, 2012

Vegetable prices surge on poor rain

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai July 20, 2012, 0:07 IST



Prices of essential commodities have risen sharply in the past month, due to hoarding by stockists amid expectations of higher realisation, after a fortnight of delay, followed by 22 per cent deficiency in monsoon rainfall.

While essential vegetable prices have jumped 72 per cent, foodgrains recorded a surge of 10-15 per cent. In vegetables, tomatoes led the spurt, recording a 71.4 per cent rise in the past

month.

“We have to consume green vegetables, whatever the price. We might have to reduce the quantity, but cannot completely deny its use,” said Avinash Patil, deputy secretary of the vegetable section at the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) at Vashi, Navi Mumbai.

PINCHING POCKETS			
Inflationary trend in essential vegetables (Rs /10 kg)			
Items	Price		Change (%)*
	15-Jun	19-Jul	
Tomato	120-140	200-240	71.43
Onion	50-60	60-85	41.67
Capsicum	180-200	200-260	30.00
Cabbage	70-80	80-100	25.00
Cauliflower	70-100	80-120	20.00
Potato	115-140	155-160	14.28
* Based on the higher end of the prices			
Source : APMC, Vashi			

This year, the three major tomato belts in Maharashtra — Sangli, Narayangaon and Baramati — have remained absent from the market, as major growers in these belts have shifted to short-duration crops like leafy vegetables, including cabbage and cauliflower. Also, because of lower rainfall, the yield is 70 per cent lower than the average of last year in these regions.

Tomato is currently supplied to the Vashi APMC from Karnataka. Tomato arrivals in the mandi are 55-60 trucks of 20 tonnes each in a day, against the demand of 100 trucks.

According to R P Gupta, director, National Horticultural Research & Development Association, farmers are taking resort to short-duration crops instead of long-duration ones. The former, such as cabbage, cauliflower and spinach, are harvested in 40-45 days and require less

water. Late sowing of these crops also has a higher potential of normal yield. Against that, the long-duration crops' yield declines with lower rainfall and delay in sowing. Such crops are cotton, jowar, bajra, soybean and coarse grains, he said.

Potato prices have also seen an upsurge, as stockists are reluctant to release their holdings. Farmers in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal might release some quantity in August, ahead of the festival season. As a consequence, the price could go up to Rs 22-24 a kg by September-end, as farmers in Karnataka did not sow this season, due to lower price last year. The new season crop is expected in October-end, coinciding with stock release by major traders, said Rajeev Maniar, secretary, Onion-Potato Traders Association.

The crop diversion into major leafy vegetables has resulted in 10-15 per cent higher sowing area. But output and its impact on price would depend up rainfall during the remaining period of this monsoon season, said Patil.

B Venkateswarlu, director of the Hyderabad-based Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, said, "The sowing of kharif crop has been delayed, which would result in proportionate delay in harvesting. But overall yield would not be impacted if rainfall revives during the rest of the season."

As a consequence, the consumer would suffer until September-end from high vegetable prices in case the deficiency continues, said Usmanbhai Syed, president, Wholesale Vegetable Merchants' Association.

Turmeric surges 4% pc

Participants create speculative positions, driven by deficient rains in key growing areas

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 19, 2012, 14:41 IST

Turmeric prices surged by Rs 212, or 4.03%, to hit upper circuit at Rs 5,476 per quintal in futures trade today after participants created speculative positions, driven by deficient rains in key growing areas.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the August contract for turmeric climbed Rs 212, or 4.03%, to Rs 5,476 per quintal with an open interest of 19,560 lots.

The July contract jumped up by Rs 168, or 3.36%, to Rs 5,170 per quintal in 380 lots.

Analysts said a steep rise of over 4% in turmeric prices in futures attributed to a speculative positions created by traders, triggered by weak monsoon rains in key growing areas which may push back sowing operations, hurting the yield and the output.

Mentha oil moves up in futures trade on export demand

Prices rise on increased domestic and export demand in the spot market

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 19, 2012, 12:49 IST

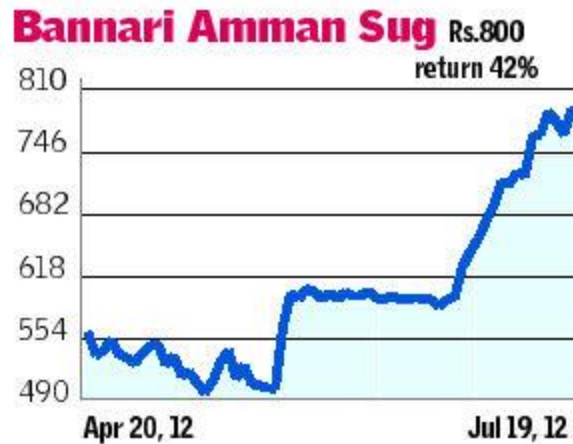
Mentha oil prices rose by Rs 19.90 to Rs 1,407 per kg in futures market today on increased domestic and export demand in the spot market. Restricted arrivals from Chandousi in Uttar Pradesh also supported the uptrend. At the Multi Commodity Exchange, the August contract rose by Rs 19.90, or 1.43%, to Rs 1,407 per kg in business turnover of 264 lots. The July contract moved up by Rs 18, or 1.32%, to Rs 1,382.60 per kg in 719 lots.

Market analysts attributed the rise in mentha oil futures to pick up in domestic and export demand against restricted arrivals from Chandousi in Uttar Pradesh.

Sugar stocks: will the short-term rally sustain?

Yoganand D.





July 19, 2012:

International sugar prices can be tracked through the raw sugar futures traded on Intercontinental Exchange (ICE). This contract touched a three-month high of 23.16 cents on July 19. The contract took support at around 19 cents in early June and reversed direction. Since then, the contract has been on a short-term uptrend. Sugar is displaying strength, surpassing the 21- and 50-day moving averages and trading well above them.

A brief technical view on three of the sugar stocks follows.

Bajaj Hindusthan (Rs 32.8): Bajaj Hindusthan is in a long-term downtrend since the high of Rs 205 marked in January 2010. The stock declined below its long-term support range between Rs 35 and Rs 38 in November 2011 and recorded a low at Rs 23 in last December. However, after consolidating sideways, the stock is now facing resistance in the range between Rs 35 and Rs 38 which is acting as a crucial hurdle. Conclusive jump above this band will take the stock higher to Rs 43 and then to Rs 50-52 levels in the medium-term.

But failure to surpass the key resistance band between Rs 35 and Rs 38 will pull the stock down to Rs 30 and then to Rs 24 in the medium-term. Short-term support for the stock is at Rs 31.5.

Bannari Amman Sugars (Rs 800): The stock emphatically broke out of its sideways consolidation range between Rs 500 and Rs 650 by jumping 11 per cent in the first week of July. Bullish momentum has continued and the stock has gained 22 per cent so far in July. The stock is presently testing key long-term resistance in the band between Rs 800 and Rs 820.

Moreover, its daily indicators are hovering in the overbought territory signalling a likely correction in the stock price. In such a scenario, the stock can decline to Rs 725 in the short-term. Key supports below the level are at Rs 650 and Rs 600.

On the upside, decisive breakthrough of resistance of the Rs 800 and Rs 820 band will lift the stock higher to Rs 900 and to Rs 1,000 in the medium-term with a minor pause around Rs 950.

Shree Renuka Sugars (Rs 32.9): Following a steep nosedive in mid-November 2011, breaking through a key long-term support at Rs 50, the stock found support in the base zone between Rs 22 and Rs 25 in last December. Long-term trend has been down for the stock since its January 2010 peak at Rs 123.

The stock's long-term base zone Rs 22 and Rs 25 provided support in early June this year. Since then, the stock has been in a short-term uptrend. However, the stock met with a key resistance at around Rs 35. An emphatic breakthrough of this resistance will pave way for a rally to Rs 40 and Rs 42 range in the medium-term. Immediate support is positioned at Rs 30. Tumble below this base can drag the stock downwards to Rs 27.5 or to Rs 25 in the medium-term.

Profit-taking pulls mentha oil futures down

Suresh P. Iyengar

Mumbai, July 20:

Mentha oil futures were down two per cent to Rs 1,342 a quintal on Thursday, giving in most of the gains registered in the opening session.

Investors preferred to book profit after a sharp rally in prices during the last couple of sessions. In the last one week, mentha oil futures have gained six per cent.

Prices at the Chandausi spot market in Uttar Pradesh were down 0.45 per cent to Rs 1,480 a quintal on Thursday.

The overall acreage under mentha has increased to 2.1 lakh hectares this year from 1.75 lakh hectares recorded in the same period last year, according to market estimates. Production may increase by 30 to 40 per cent.

Arrivals of the fresh crop have started in the main sowing regions and currently stand around 1,200 drums (each drum weighs 180 kgs).

Though mentha futures may trade on the lower side, demand is expected to revive as stockists in the domestic market may accumulate stocks in anticipation of better demand from importing countries.

Sugar falls on Govt stock limit comment



Mumbai, July 19:

Sugar prices on the Vashi terminal market declined sharply on Thursday on higher resale selling pressure in mill tenders. Mills' direct tender rates were almost unchanged but in resale it was down by Rs 40-50 a quintal. Routine demand and lifting pressure for July 20 due date, pulled down naka rates further by Rs 50-60, while spot prices dropped by Rs 30-40 a quintal. The Government's statement on stock limits and export controls to rein in price of essential commodities, including sugar, weakened sentiments.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association has written to the Union Government, demanding immediate release of additional free sale quota to meet the festival demand, and a ban on futures trading in essential commodities.

As Ramzan, Janmastami, Raksha Bandhan and Ganeshotsav will be celebrated in the current quarter, the quota of 45 lakh tonnes will be short of demand.

Hence, prices in the open market may rise further if additional quota is not given.

New crushing season is two months away and the market has to depend on stocks available with producers and market inventory.

In the first 17 days, sugar prices in the Vashi market went up by over Rs 350-400 a quintal .

Reselling of mill tenders at Rs 40-50 lower due to lifting pressure for July 20 due date lead to a bearish sentiment .

Spot rates have gone up by more than Rs 200 on Monday and Tuesday and some stockists preferred to book profit by reselling.

On Tuesday, M-grade prices crossed new high of Rs 3,500, a wholesaler said.

Dry weather is also hurting cane crop. Erratic monsoon will reduce the 2012-2013 sugar output in Maharashtra to 73-75 lakh tonnes, compared to 90 lakh tonnes this year.

Karnataka is also faces the same problem.

In Vashi market arrivals were 52-54 truckloads and local dispatches were 48-50 truckloads.

On Wednesday, about 10-12 mills offered tender and sold 70,000 -75,000 bags (each of 100 kg) in the range of Rs 3,210-3,300 (Rs 3,220-3,300) for S-grade and Rs 3,340-3,400 (Rs 3,340-3,440) for M-grade.

This including one rake of 26,000 bags of S-grade was sold to eastern buyers.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were (Rs/quintal): S-grade Rs 3,312-3,382 (Rs 3,352 -3,411) and M-grade Rs 3,370- 3,451 (Rs 3,391- 3,471).

Naka delivery rates: S-grade Rs 3,280 -3,320 (Rs 3,340 -3,380) and M-grade Rs 3,320-3,380 (Rs 3,370-3,430).

Turmeric gains on arrivals of fine variety



Erode, July 19:

Spot turmeric prices increased by Rs 400 a quintal on arrival of fine variety and continuous buying by stockists.

“ Prices of root variety improved heavily and almost all of the 1,200-odd bags of root variety that arrived were sold.

Stockists quoted a higher price due to arrival of fine variety.

The finger variety also increased by Rs 200 to Rs 400 a quintal,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

One of the stockists Mr Periyasamy said: “We are expecting that the price will touch minimum Rs 10,000 within two months.

We are ready to purchase as many bags as possible, and will resell the same after the prices go up .

But there are no possibilities right now for a price increase.”

On Thursday, of the 4,800 bags that arrived, 70 per cent stocks was sold.

Stockists purchased the stockists fully.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety fetched Rs 3,232-5,711 a quintal and the root variety Rs 3,067-5,232.

Salem crop

The finger variety was sold at Rs 4,896-6,699 and the root variety Rs 4,711-5,609. Of 1,076 bags that arrived, 614 were sold.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,399-5,969 and the root variety Rs 5,006-5,606.

Of the 340 bags on offer, 337 were sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,619 to Rs 5,859, the root variety Rs 4,588-5,269.

All 425 put up for sale were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,439-5,809 and the root variety at Rs 3,096-5,199. All 53 bags on offer were sold.

Cotton surges on quality, mills' buying



Erode, July 19:

Surabi and Bt cotton prices surged on arrival of quality produce and heavy purchase by spinning mills.

Over 3,500 quintals (10,000 bags) of cotton arrived for sale on Wednesday at the Bhoodapady Regulated Marketing Committee. The sale continued till Thursday afternoon. The Surabi variety

fetched Rs 6,800-7,400 a quintal – Rs 700 more than last week’s price. Some 210 quintals of Surabi were sold. Bt cotton prices increased by Rs 400 a quintal. The variety was sold at Rs 4,000-4,700. An oil extracting unit owner said: “We have purchased huge stocks of seeds for oil extraction and also for supplying to farmers. Some spinners those who attended the auction for the first time said: “We were happy as the quality of cotton is good here. We purchased heavily. We can spin good yarn and also sell the seeds at a premium.” A regular buyer, Mr Arumugasamy, said he normally purchases Bt variety, but this time he had purchased Surabi variety.

The Supervisor of the marketing committee said that more bags may arrive next week when the prices may go up, as the demand is high. In North India, due to rain and inclement weather, cotton put up for sale is of inferior quality. The cotton grower farmers said that they were double happy as they are getting increased price for cotton and also getting the payment immediately.

At the Antiyur Regulated Marketing Committee, its Superintendent Mr Subburaman said, “For the past few days, good quality cotton especially surabi cotton and seeds are gaining heavily.”

He said on Monday 3,854 quintal (10,720 bags) arrived for sale, fetched increased price. The surabi variety was sold at Rs 5,700- 6,500, while the Bt cotton was sold at Rs 4,700-5,000.

Mustard seeds, oil firm on purchases



Indore, July 19:

Mustard seeds and oil continued to rule higher on improved buying support and weak monsoon on Thursday. Mustard oil in mandis hereruled at Rs 815 for 10 kg, while it was at Rs 825 in Morena and at Rs 815 in Neemuch. In Rajasthan mustard oil ruled higher, with price in Kota at Rs 820, in Shri Ganga Nagar (Niwai) at Rs 825 and in Jaipur at Rs 835.

In Gujarat mandis, the oil was quoted at Rs 820 on strong buying support. Compared with last week, mustard oil is Rs 15 higher in Indore, Rs 10 up in Neemuch, while it is up Rs 30 in Morena. Similarly in Kota, it is ruling Rs 20 higher, in Ganga Nagar it is up Rs 25, while in Jaipur it is up Rs 20 against last week.

Though mandis in the State were closed today on account of *amavasya*, mustard seeds in Neemuch mandi in private trading ruled Rs 100 higher at Rs 4,300 a quintal. Given decline in stock and delay in sowing of the next crop, bullish trend in mustard seeds is likely in the coming days and it may touch Rs 4,500-a-quintal mark.

An increase in special cash margin to 15 per cent on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange has failed to dent the trend. Mustard traded higher in the futures with July and August contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 4,300 (up Rs 90) and Rs 4,358 a quintal (up Rs 96).

Global cues buoy edible oils

Mumbai, July 19:

Edible oils bounced back on Thursday, tracking the sharp rise in Malaysian palm oil futures and a bullish US soya oil.

Malaysian crude palm oil futures rebounded from a three-week low, as the worst drought in the US threatens to squeeze global oilseed supplies further. Local refiners have increased prices of palmolein and soya oil following firm foreign markets. Palmolein rose by Rs 2 for 10 kg.

Groundnut oil declined by Rs 5, tracking a weak Saurashtra market. Soya refined and rapeseed oil dropped by Rs 3 for 10 kg each. Sunflower and cottonseed refined oil ruled steady. Stockists placed new bets and covered about 1,200-1,300 tonnes of palmolein directly from local refineries at Rs 618-623. One refinery sold about 80-100 tonnes of super palmolein at Rs 670 and another sold 350-400 tonnes of soyabean refined oil at Rs 755. About 100-150 tonnes of palmolein was traded in the resale market at Rs 613-614. After buying sufficient volume, local refiners increased prices of palm and soya oil by Rs 2-4. Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 624-625, super palmolein at Rs 674, soya oil at Rs 765 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 765. Ruchi

quoted palmolein at Rs 620-625 for August; soya refined oil at Rs 757 for July and at Rs 760-763 for August; and sunflower refined oil at Rs 757 for July and at Rs 760-763 for August. Allana offered palmolein at was Rs 619. In Saurashtra and Rajkot, groundnut oil declined by Rs 10 each to Rs 1,840 for a *telia* tin and to Rs 1,210 for loose (10 kg).

Buoyed by contracts hitting a record high of \$17.11 a bushel (August) on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), soyabean futures on the domestic commodity exchanges hit the circuit. On National Board of Trade in Indore, soya refined oil for August delivery closed at Rs 809.20 (Rs 795.30) and for September at Rs 812.50 (Rs 803). **Malaysia's crude palm oil's** August contracts settled higher at MYR3,025 (MYR2,970), September at MYR3,040 (MYR2,982) and October at MYR3,045 (MYR2,993) a tonne.

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil 1,185 (1,190), soya refined oil 752 (755), sunflower exp. ref. 700 (700), sunflower ref. 760 (760), rapeseed ref. oil 872 (875), rapeseed expeller ref. 842 (845) cottonseed ref. oil 745 (745) and palmolein 615 (613).

Bangladesh, S. India demand keep jeera high

Rajkot, July 19:

Jeera rose on buying support from Bangladesh and South India on Thursday. On the back of strong spot market, futures also gained 4 per cent.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), the August contract increased by Rs 627.50 to Rs 16,270 a quintal with an open interest of 17,616 lots and the September contract traded higher by Rs 642.50 to Rs 16,677.50 with an open interest of 13,530 lots. Stocks in NCDEX-accredited warehouses gained 255 tonnes to 9,304 tonnes.

In the spot market in Unjha, jeera gained Rs 40-45 to Rs 2,380-2,500 for 20 kg, while NCDEX quality (raw) quoted at Rs 2,725-2,875. While 12,000-13,000 bags arrived, around 15,000 bags were traded.

An Unjha-based jeera trader said, "Sentiments are firm because of export demand and poor rains in Gujarat. Prices are expected to stay firm."

According to a commodity analyst, local demand is strong and is likely to stay firm in the coming months due to upcoming festivals. Weak monsoon, which could hit sowing operations and crop output, also influenced prices.

Bullish trend continues in aromatic rice

Karnal, July 19:

Bullish trend continued in the rice market with prices of a few aromatic rice varieties moving up by Rs 200-800 a quintal on Thursday. Mr Tara Chand Sharma, Proprietor, Tara Chand and Sons, told *Business Line* that a sudden increase in demand lifted prices of Pusa-1121 and pure basmati rice varieties. The market has witnessed some frantic buying by bulk buyers and retail traders in last two days, he said. According to market experts, domestic demand is improving and the aromatic and non-basmati varieties may hold on to their current levels for the next few days, said Mr Sharma. In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) increased by Rs 500 to Rs 6,400-6,500, while Pusa-1121 (sela) sold at Rs 5,500 a quintal, up Rs 375 from the previous level. Pure basmati (raw) rose by Rs 800 and quoted at Rs 6,500-6,600, while pure basmati (sela) ruled at around at Rs 5,400 a quintal, up Rs 200 from the previous level. Duplicate basmati remained unchanged at Rs 4,900-5,000 a quintal. For the broken of Pusa-1121, Tibar sold at Rs 3,550, Dubar at Rs 2,800-3,000, and Mongra at Rs 2,100-2,325 a quintal.

Chana gains on supply shortages, low stocks

Chennai, July 19:

Chana (gram) futures gained on supply shortages and lower carryover stocks on the National Commodities Exchange (NCDEX) on Thursday. Spot chana prices ruled firm at Indore.

Improved buying ahead of the festive season helped sustain the uptrend. Chana for August delivery increased 1.27 per cent or Rs 60 to Rs 4,786 a quintal towards close on the NCDEX.

In the spot market at Indore, it was quoted at Rs 4,990 a quintal.

According to analysts, the slow progress in the sowing of kharif pulses is an additional factor weighing on the minds of traders. The delay in kharif pulses sowing has led to fears that sowing of chana, also a kharif crop, could be delayed.



Supply shortages and low carryover stocks have put pressure on chana prices.

Chana production in the last season that ended in June was affected by indifferent weather in December. The yield and production have been lower this year and the short supply is seen extending to November.

Prices have been rallying from around Rs 3,950 a quintal in mid-June due mainly to fears of shortage.

The weak rupee has also contributed to the surging trend since imports have become costlier in view of the rupee dropping sharply against the dollar.

Pan-India mobile network launched for spice farmers

Kochi, July 19:

A pan-India mobile tele network, a joint venture of Spices Board and IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Ltd, was launched in Kerala on Thursday.

The aim of the initiative is to strengthen the spice farming community with the help of latest technologies.

Utilising mobile technology, this project paves the way to reach out to the spice farmers across the country with the aim of retaining India's prime position in the global spice market and to ensure sustainability, traceability and food safety, Dr A. Jayathilak, chairman, Spices Board said while launching the Kerala Mobile Tele Network for farmers at Thodupuzha.

Sops to farmers

He said that farmers are given the prime place in the development programmes of the board. Cardamom grading machines will be distributed to farmers through growers' societies. The grading machines will enable graded cardamom that could be put up for sale by farmers for better prices.

Nutmeg farmers will be given the technology to scientifically dry nutmeg and mace. Schemes are in vogue to help take mechanisation in farming operations, support schemes to retain farmers in organic production of spices etc. These schemes are now with the Planning Commission for approval, he said.

The Spices Board has taken up the Codex Alimentarius Commission of Rome, a proposal to harmonise standards for various spices, herbs and their formulations. The Commission had agreed to consider the proposal provided an international discussion between the stakeholders takes place.

The chairman said that the harmonised standards are very much needed in international trade. This has been sought by other producing countries also.

Free messages

Mr KG Luke, State manager, IKSL, said that registered farmers would get five voice free messages every day. Free Sim cards were distributed to the farmers who have registered for the programme.

The service will give a chance to the farmers to get first hand information about GAP, market details, new schemes of the Board, weather forecasts and the latest technological aids. It also helps to bridge the gap between the farmers and the authorities concerned.

White areca rallies as fruit rot disease eats output

Mangalore July 19

Mangalore, July 19:

The price of old stocks of white arecanut is on an upward swing. The commodity has crossed Rs 240 a kg in some of the APMCs (agricultural produce marketing committees) in the last few days. The old stocks of white arecanut crossed Rs 200 a kg mark in September 2011.

Mr Ramesh Kaintaje, a farmer from the Bantwal taluk of Dakshina Kannada district, told *Business Line* that the bull rally began in mid-March 2011. However, there were two to three corrections in between.

He said that some private traders at Vittal in the Bantwal taluk of Dakshina Kannada district offered Rs 247 a kg on Wednesday. The decline in the yield in March 2011 due to fruit rot disease launched the rally.

When the rally started then, no grower was hopeful that it will last for almost a year. He quoted a similar experience of growers in 1999 when the price of old stocks crossed Rs 150 a kg mark and crashed to Rs 60 a kg in April 2000.

To avoid missing selling opportunities like last time, most growers started regularly releasing the old stocks to the market at every peak. "From Rs 180 a kg onwards growers started regularly releasing the commodity to the market at Rs 185, Rs 202 and Rs 222 a kg levels," Mr Kaintaje said.

Now the growers could be holding around 10-15 per cent of old stocks. Earlier growers used to have at least 25-30 per cent of old stocks with them at this point of time, he said.

Agreeing that there is not much availability of old stocks, Mr M. Srinivas Achar, President of All-India Areca Growers' Association, said that this may help improve the price for new stocks. The new stocks are trading in the range of Rs 170 a kg. This may improve a bit, and the gap between old and new stocks may narrow down, he added.

The price of old stocks of white arecanut, which was at Rs 239.50 a kg on July 13, stood at Rs 242 a kg on Wednesday at the Mangalore APMC market. The price at Puttur APMC remained at Rs 240 a kg for the past three sessions till July 18.

Turmeric futures shine bright



Fears of lower acreage and the build up of inventory by stockists have kept turmeric futures up. Chennai, July 19: Turmeric futures continued to shine on fears that the area under turmeric this season will be lower. Stockists are also building up their inventories, further consolidating the rally. August futures were last quoted at Rs 5,436 a quintal against Rs 5,264 at the close on Wednesday. Futures have been moving in line with the spot market since last week. Prices have increased over Rs 1,000 for a quintal during this period.

Soya futures hit upper limit on US cues



In India, the main soya growing States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra have received deficient rain.

Chennai, July 19:

Buoyed by contracts hitting a record high on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), soyabean futures on the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange surged further, rising by the maximum permissible limit on Thursday. August contracts rose to a new high of Rs 4,735 a quintal before stabilising at Rs 4,725, up by Rs 135. On CBOT, August soyabean contracts hit a record \$17.11 a bushel in Thursday's electronic trade. Unfavourable weather conditions in the US Midwest, where soyabean is the main crop, could affect yield prospects, according to analysts. The US is the world's largest producer of soyabean and is currently facing a drought.

Besides, in India rains have been patchy in the main growing States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Even in Andhra Pradesh, where soyabean has begun to make some headway, the monsoon has been deficient. In the spot market, soyabean was quoted at Rs 4,659 a quintal at Indore.

Firm sugar prices to help millers pare losses

Vishwanath Kulkarni



(in Rs cr)

SCORECARD				
Company		Jan-March 2012	Oct-Dec 2011	FY 2011-12
Simbhaoli Sugars	Revenue	209.95	191.48	1,350.21
	Net Profits	(-9.23)	(-39.22)	(-108.17)
Mawana Sugars	Revenue	336.98	242.52	1,101.60
	Net Profits	(-35.50)	(-101.68)	(-168.90)
Balrampur Chini	Revenue	577.75	663.74	2,309
	Net Profits	129.93	(-64.01)	6.62
Bajaj Hindustan	Revenue	1,226.16	617.80	4,918
	Net Profits	8.78	(-44.43)	12
Triveni Engg	Revenue	506.58	426.11	1,717
	Net Profits	(-31.13)	(-70.92)	13.06
DSCIL	Revenue	1,296.11	1,397.48	4,955.7
	Net Profits	34.69	(-20.50)	(-14.26)
Shree Renuka Sugars	Revenue	980.30	697	6,362
	Net Profits	5.50	29.10	84.10
Sakthi Sugars	Revenue	393.57	180.17	1,103.16
	Net Profits	27.87	(-35.24)	(-47.72)
EID Parry (India)	Revenue	466.12	252.99	1,536.65
	Net Profits	143.11	(-48.09)	137.32

Source: BSE

Global cues, dry weather in Maharashtra and Karnataka aid rise

New Delhi, July 19:

The bullish trend in sugar prices could help companies such as Simbhaoli Sugars Ltd and Mawana Sugars Ltd prune their losses and improve earnings.

Prices of sugar have firmed in recent weeks on global cues and concerns over dry conditions affecting the crop in Maharashtra and Karnataka. Global supplies have been tight on harvest delays in Brazil, the world's largest producer, as also in Australia.

"Sugar prices have inched closer to our cost of production, but it is still not a bullish situation. Stability in prices at these levels should help us mitigate the losses," said Mr G.S.C Rao, CEO, Simbhaoli Sugars Ltd.

Sugar producers in Uttar Pradesh have been reeling under the impact of high cane prices. The cost of production in UP is higher at Rs 34 a kg because of high cane costs and lower recovery of 8.5 per cent, while it is about Rs 30 a kg in Maharashtra.

Millers are hopeful that prices will stabilise at current levels. Spot prices in Muzzafarnagar, UP, moved up to Rs 3,451 a quintal on Thursday against Rs 3,100 a quintal in January, a growth of

11 per cent. Similarly, in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, the spot prices have moved up by 13.5 per cent over the same period to Rs 3,300 a quintal from Rs 2,907 a quintal in January. The domestic and global futures indicate to an upward trend in prices.

Mr Abinash Verma, Director General, Indian Sugar Millers Association, said: "The prices are reaching a break-even level now for millers in North, which should have happened some six months earlier. They still have cane arrears to be cleared." . Mr Verma expects prices to stabilise at current levels as there are enough supplies.

Some of the sugar producers have started posting profits in recent quarters, but the margins are still under pressure. The current uptrend in prices would also help lift their margins.

Cane arrears, as on May 31, stood at a total of Rs 5,123 crore against Rs 9,900 crore at end of March. UP still tops the list with arrears of Rs 3,162 crore (Rs 5,531.99 crore as of March-end), followed by Karnataka at Rs 400 crore (Rs 1,423.29 crore) and Maharashtra Rs 170 crore (Rs 513.48 crore).

Mahyco denies it sold its seeds in black market

Rahul Wadke

Mumbai, July 18:

Seed producer Mahyco has refuted allegations, levelled against it by the Maharashtra Government, of selling its own cotton seeds in the black market and violating the Seed Act.

In Beed district, the State Government has filed a first information report against Mahyco officials for selling the popular 'Mahyco 7341 Kanak Bt cotton seeds' in the black market. The firm has also been accused of violating the Seed Act.

Protecting the brand

Mr Raju Barwale, Managing Director of Mahyco, told *Business Line* that the company has regularly communicated the stock availability to the State Agriculture Department, disproving allegations of unfair practices. He said that for the current planting season, the company had submitted a supply plan of providing 6.5 lakh Bt cotton seed packets (450 g) to the Government. Against this, the company has provided 8.6 lakh packets.

“We don’t believe in a legal solution and want to collaborate with the State Government in resolving this issue. However, if that does not work, then we will consider taking the legal option. It is our last resort,” Mr Barwale said.

Mr Barwale said that profiteering on seeds was possible by agriculture input dealers, on which the company has no control. It is physically not possible to keep a check on all the dealers. In a few instances, where the company has found that the dealers are indulging in unfair practices, it has terminated their dealership.

“If we wanted to black-market our products, then we would have done it across the board and not just Bt cotton seeds,” Mr Barwale said.

Spot rubber slips on buyer resistance

Kottayam, July 19:

Spot rubber continued to rule weak on Thursday. Prices slipped on buyer resistance and the commodity is expected to move down further.

Sheet rubber declined to Rs 183 (Rs 184) a kg, according to traders. The grade dropped to Rs 183.50 (Rs 184) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board.

In futures, the August series concluded at Rs 180.29 (Rs 180.33), September at Rs 179.07 (Rs 179.41) and October at Rs 179 (Rs 178.93) a kg while the most distant months remained inactive on National Multi Commodity Exchange.

Natural rubber edged up, tracking gains in crude oil and other commodities in the international markets. Futures on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM) gained more than 1 per cent after dropping over 3 per cent on Wednesday. However, worries over low demand continued to cap the gains.

RSS-3 (spot) closed at Rs 173.90 (Rs 173.75) a kg at Bangkok. The July futures increased to ₹236.1 (Rs 165.74) from ₹234.5 a kg during the day session but then remained inactive in the night session on Tocom.

Spot rubber rates (Rs a kg): RSS-4: 183 (184); RSS-5: 177 (178); Ungraded: 172 (173); ISNR-20: 175.50 (178); and Latex 60 per cent: 130 (130).