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Call for innovative methods in sugarcane cultivation

Special Correspondent

Sugarcane research and development workers' meeting gets under way



Sugarcane consultant Sathinder C. Reddy, IISR Director, Lucknow, Solomon, AU Rector P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy, Deputy Cane Commissioner, Hyderabad, Sudhender Rao, and others participating in the meeting of sugarcane research and development workers in Visakhapatnam on Friday.— Photo: C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Increasingly high cost of cultivation and scarcity of labour being the major problems for sugarcane growers which is forcing many farmers to think of shifting to other remunerative crops, innovative methods and practices are necessary to sustain the sugarcane cultivation and the industry. This was stated by Director of Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (Lucknow) S. Solomon while speaking during the inaugural session of the two-day 25th meeting of sugarcane research and development workers of Andhra Pradesh here on Friday. The meeting is being jointly organised by Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University and Commissionerate of Sugar of AP.

Sugarcane was an important component of country's economy with 7.5 per cent of rural population depending on it either directly or indirectly. Being the main source of sugar the demand for it was increasing and sugarcane was also in demand for other uses like biofuel and

fodder. Large area was under the crop but productivity and recovery were low making it difficult both for farmer and industry, Dr. Solomon said while explaining the scenario.

“In time to come, productivity enhancement options have to be resorted to, keeping also in mind the small size of holding. Adoption of such cultivation practices is necessary if sugarcane cultivation is to be sustained in the long run,” he said.

Stress on synergy

Dr. Solomon suggested some measures like using low-cost and high-yielding varieties, alternative planting material and methods, water efficient methodologies, crop diversification, use of organic and bio-fertilizers, bio-control of insect pests, multiple rationing and ratoon management and mechanisation. Andhra University Rector P.V.G.D. Prasada Reddy, who inaugurated the meeting, wanted a synergy between scientists and farmers. Scientists and researchers should interact with farmers at the field level, he said. Deputy Cane Commissioner Sudhender Rao said the farmer, scientist, industry, Central and State governments were the major stake-holders and that there was a gap between farmers and industry which should be bridged and one support the other. Former Director of Research of ANGRAU A. Padma Raju, Principal Scientist (sugarcane) of RARS at Anakapalle K. Prasada Rao, Managing Director of Chodavaram Cooperative Sugar Factory T.P. Sivaram Prasad and sugarcane consultants of major sugar factories Vemuri Venkateswara Rao, N. Prabhakar, Gopinathan and Sathinder C. Reddy also spoke.

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- *‘Large area is under the crop but productivity and recovery are low’*
 - *Scientists and researchers must interact with farmers at field level, says AU Rector*
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PWD urged not to open Bhavanisagar reservoir for irrigation

Farmers fear trouble as water storage in the reservoir continues to dip



S. Nallasamy

In the light of scant rainfall in the Western region that could spell trouble in the near future, the farming community in the district appealed to the public works department (PWD) not to open the Bhavanisagar reservoir for irrigation until its water position improved significantly.

The water storage in the reservoir, which is the lifeline of thousands of farmers in Erode and neighbouring Karur and Tirupur districts, fell to 1.8 tmcft and the department was forced to stop the discharge to the old ayacuts of Bhavani river a few days ago.

“The water reserves in the dam actually hit the dead storage level and the department stopped the discharge to save the fish,” pointed out Lower Bhavani Farmers Association President S. Nallasamy. Mr. Nallasamy claimed that the department had let out about three tmcft of water to the old ayacuts without considering the water requirements of 2,07,000 acres in the Lower Bhavani Project ayacut. “The department should have provided only 0.6 tmcft of water to the old ayacuts as per the norms and implemented effective water management techniques as the weather department predicted a deficit rainfall. But the PWD officials failed to adopt any water management techniques, worsening the water situation in the district,” he accused.

The farmers in LBP ayacut said that they required more than 4.4 tmcft of water to save the standing crops, coconut plantations and the cattle.

The authorities should keep the shutters of the dam closed in order to enhance the storage. If the department opened the reservoir before its water position improved, more than two lakh acres of land would be left barren.

“The LBP farmers will be left to face a worst drought condition,” Mr. Nallasamy feared.

Mango exhibition concludes

Staff Reporter

Assistance to 25 farmers distributed



Recognition:Collector C.N. Maheshwaran (right) giving away the best farmer prize toM. Parameswaran at the valedictory of the mango exhibition held in Krishnagiri on Friday.

Curtains came down on Friday evening on the 20th All India Mango Exhibition held for the past four weeks at the playground of the Government Boys Higher Secondary School here. As many as 2.4 lakh people visited the exhibition.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Municipal Administration and Rural Development Minister K.P. Munusamy in the presence of Minister for Agriculture S. Damodaran on June 24.

It was the only annual entertainment for the public in and around Krishnagiri in the evenings amidst protest by the residents and hospitals in the surroundings due to sound pollution. The three-week exhibition was extended by the district administration after requests from different corners such as public, traders etc.

Collector C.N. Maheshwaran presided over the valedictory function and gave away prizes to the best farmers who had displayed their mangoes in the exhibition. He also gave away welfare assistance to 25 farmers to the tune of Rs. 5.5 lakh.

The exhibition besides providing entertainment, created awareness among the farmers on latest farming technologies available. School children demonstrated their skills in dance and drama. Traditional dance and dramas by locals and musical programmes were part of the daily events.

Besides these, 28 government departments set up stalls in the exhibition and explained the government schemes.

An exhibition of animals by the forest department attracted visitors.

The forest department bagged the best stall award from the Collector. Dog show was conducted by the department of animal husbandry at the exhibition.

N. Nachiappan, Joint Director, welcomed the gathering. C. Prakasam, District Revenue Officer, A.K. Mani, Head, Regional Research Station of TNAU, Paiyur, spoke on the occasion.

Nagarajan, Personal Assistant to the Collector, Agriculture, proposed a vote of thanks.

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Farmers seek increased quantum of water from Pechipparai dam

Staff Reporter

Appeal to desilt and renovate all water bodies to increase storage capacity

The representatives of various farmers' associations have urged the district administration to increase the quantum of water released from Pechipparai dam for the benefit of farmers undertaking agriculture activities in the tail end areas of the district during the farmers' grievance day meeting held here on Friday.

It may be noted that the Pechipparai dam was opened again on Thursday for irrigation purpose and 538 cusecs of water was being released from the dam to save the water-starved paddy crop. Water from all the four dams including Pechipparai, Perunchani, Chittar I and Chittar II was released on July 7. However, due to widespread rain, the release of water was stopped for a few days recently.

The farmers also demanded the release of water from Mambazhathuraiyaru dam for the benefit of those who have raised paddy crop in and around Villukuri area near Thuckalay on over 900 acres. When the farmers expressed their apprehension in connection with taking water from Pechipparai dam to Kudunkulam Nuclear Power Project, the Collector, S. Nagarajan, who presided over the meeting said that there was no proposal of taking water from Pechipparai dam to KKNPP till date.

The district administration has already taken steps to ensure the availability of organic manure for the benefit of farmers to increase the yield and to reduce the cost of production. The

Collector also assured the farmer representatives of action against the illegal blasting of stone quarries in different parts of the district.

The chairman of Kodayaru irrigation project (WRO), A.Vins Anto urged the district administration to take steps to desilt and renovate all water bodies to increase the storage capacity during rainy season.

The farmers had no other way but to prefer inter-crops (pulses) in the already withered paddy crop fields particularly in the tail end areas of the district.

The Collector finally assured that water from Pechipparai, Perunchani and other dams would be supplied on turn system to save the water starved standing crops for the benefit of the farmers.

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 9.60 feet, 38.60 feet in Perunchani, 3.18 feet in Chittar I and 3.28 feet in Chittar II.

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Collect receipts for seeds purchased, farmers told

Special Correspondent

Collector Darez Ahmed has urged farmers to collect receipts for the seeds they purchase as receipts alone could help them get compensation in case of slump in production.

According to an official release, he was speaking at the farmers' grievances day meet at the collectorate here on Thursday.

Mr. Ahmed said it was imperative on the part of the farmers to go in for crop insurance.

Besides, he wanted them to utilise agricultural implements given to co-operative societies which could be hired at a nominal rent.

He urged them to plant sugarcane giving sufficient space in between so that machines could be deployed to cut the crop.

While pointing out that all the fertilizer stocks are available with the co-operative agricultural marketing societies, he wanted the officials to ensure that price list of fertilisers is provided to the agriculturists.

"If required, farmers could buy necessary fertilizers now itself," he added.

If the private outlets failed to provide receipt for the fertilizer sold, complaint can be lodged with the district administration even through SMS. "We will take action against such vendors immediately".

Micro-irrigation

Referring to micro-irrigation, he said it would be immensely helpful to farmers to utilise drip or sprinkler irrigation methods.

Apart from saving considerable water, the area of coverage could also go up.

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Centre urged to increase copra procurement price

Special Correspondent

Coconut farmers of Thanjavur have appealed to the Central government to increase the procurement price of copra.

A meeting of the coconut farmers would be held on July 25 at Peravurani, according to A. Palanivel, convenor of the meeting and a leading coconut farmer.

Incentive

"We are also demanding procurement of coconuts (not only copra but also coconuts) from farmers by the government. The government should ban import of coconut cakes. The State government should give incentive to coconut farmers along with the procurement price as is done for paddy and sugarcane," Mr. Palanivel said.

Union Minister of State for Finance S. S. Palani Manickam would attend the meeting to be held at STD marriage hall on July 25 at 2 p.m.. T.K.Jose, Chairman of Coconut Development Corporation, R.Kalaiselvan, Coconut Board member, N.R.Rangarajan, Pattukottai MLA, and R.Sigaram and G.Swaminathan, former MLAs, would participate in the meeting.

Increased cultivation cost

Mr. Palanivel said that though the cultivation cost has increased over a period of years, cost of a nut remained the same.

“The Centre has fixed the procurement price for copra at Rs.51 per kilo. It should be increased. One nut should be sold for Rs.5. But the farmers are getting only Rs.3.50 per nut.” A coconut farmer has to wait for seven years for getting yield after planting a coconut seedling.

‘Government should ban import of coconut cakes’

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Opposition urges Government to waive last year’s crop loans



In the wake of drought across the State, the Opposition parties, Congress and Janata Dal(S), on Friday demanded that the State government waive crop loans borrowed by farmers last year.

Continuing the debate on drought in the Legislative Assembly, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and Janata Dal(S) floor leader H.D. Revanna urged the government to waive crop loans borrowed by all farmers as a one-time measure. On account of drought last year and this year, farmers were in distress. Waiving crop loans borrowed last year and early settlement of crop insurance amount for damaged crops would provide some relief to farmers, they said.

Noting that 90 per cent of sown crops were damaged on account of deficit rainfall, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that continued load-shedding, withdrawal of 30 lakh below poverty line ration cards, non-release of social security pension amounts, denial of jobs under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, and non-implementation of drought relief measures adversely affected the daily life of farmers and the poor.

“If this trend continued, farmers will be left in the lurch,” he said.

He demanded that the Government, which has presented a Rs. one lakh crore budget, set aside Rs. 5,000 crore to mitigate drought. The government had handled the drought situation poorly and also, it had not spent Rs. 700 crore sanctioned by the Union government last year. “The

Ministers neither conduct review meetings nor visit villages to gather information about drinking water and fodder shortage,” he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the Raitha Samparka Kendras should be strengthened. He said that the government take steps to fill 4,000 vacancies in the Agriculture Department. Apart from the minimum support price announced by the Union government, he said, the State government should announce additional support price for commodities.

Mr. Revanna said that the State’s food production and economic growth rate would decline if farming failed this year.

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Fodder shortage driving cattle to slaughterhouses in Ramanagaram

M.T. Shiva Kumar

Farmers in drought-hit Ramanagaram district are in trouble as the price of fodder has risen, mainly because of scarcity.

The severe shortage of fodder has forced farmers to sell their cattle to slaughterhouses.

Many have already sold their cattle at throwaway prices to abattoirs upon realising that they couldn’t afford to get fodder from neighbouring districts.

C. Puttaswamy, former State secretary of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, told *The Hindu* that most of the villages in Ramanagaram, Channapatna, Magadi and Kanakapura taluks were reeling under severe drought.

No official had visited the affected villages to assess the situation, and relief works were yet to be taken up in the district, he alleged.

Price doubled

There had been a 100 per cent increase in the price of fodder in Ramanagaram as farmers have not taken up cultivation, owing to drought. A truckload of straw was available for Rs. 9,000 last year.

Now, farmers have to pay at least Rs. 20,000, Mr. Puttaswamy said.

Many farmers in almost all taluks have sold their cattle to buy foodgrains and other essential commodities. They were forced to sell the cattle at throwaway prices to slaughterhouses as no fodder was available, he added.

“It is painful to hand over cattle to butchers as we consider them a part of our family. We are selling [them] as we cannot afford Rs. 20,000 to buy a truckload of fodder,” Mamje Gowda, a resident of Kudike Bevuru, said.

According to him, buyers come from even far-off places such as Sultan Bathery, Gundlupet and Hosur.

“Cows, bullocks and buffaloes are being taken away in large numbers by butchers,” he said.

As the fodder shortage is affecting farmers, the district administration has opened fodder banks at four places in the district.

“We have decided to open fodder banks at Ramanagaram, Channapatna, Magadi and Kanakapura. They may start functioning from Saturday,” Ramanagaram Deputy Commissioner Shivarama Reddy told *The Hindu* on Friday.

In addition to setting up fodder banks, the district administration has decided to give “transportation charges” to farmers to encourage them to buy fodder from neighbouring districts.

The farmers can buy fodder from any place within 300 km of Ramanagaram to avail themselves of the benefit.

The district administration will reimburse farmers the cost of transportation if the documents are submitted to the offices of tahsildars in all taluks and the Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry, the Deputy Commissioner said.

Special drives

Meanwhile, the Police Department has decided to conduct special drives on highways to check illegal transportation of cattle to slaughterhouses.

The department had received information about transport of cattle to slaughterhouses through the district.

Thus, the department would intensify night patrolling, besides conducting special drives on the Bangalore-Mysore highway, Kunigal Road, Magadi Main Road, Kanakapura Road and other roads, a top police officer said.

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- *Farmers to be reimbursed 'transportation charges' for fodder bought from other districts*
 - *Officials accused of not taking up relief works in the district*
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NIZAMABAD, July 21, 2012

Farmer dies while standing in queue for fertilizer

Bibipet Voosaiah, a farmer, collapsed and died while standing in the queue before the single window office for fertilizer distribution on Friday. The 38-year-old farmer of Ramareddi village in Sadasivanagar mandal is survived by wife Lakshmi, daughter Latha and son Pentaiah.

He collapsed, vomited and died while being shifted to a private hospital in the village. He was said to be not well over the last couple of days.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

20 JUL, 2012, 01.10PM IST, PTI

Sugar futures costlier by 0.63 pc on poor rains

NEW DELHI: Sugar prices shot up by 0.63 per cent to Rs 3,336 per quintal in futures trade today after speculators built-up fresh positions, driven by poor rainfall in cane-growing regions.

However, fall in demand in the spot markets at prevailing higher levels capped the gains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for September delivery traded Rs 21, or 0.63 per cent, higher at Rs 3,336 per quintal, with an open interest for 26,600 lots.

Sugar for delivery in August also traded Rs 16, or 0.49 per cent, higher at Rs 3,270 per quintal, with an open interest of 39,030 lots.

Meanwhile, small sugar (S-30) rose by Rs 30/74 per quintal to Rs 3,102/3,235 per quintal at the Mumbai's Vashi wholesale market in yesterday's trade.

Analysts attributed the rise in sugar futures to huge positions created by speculators driven by poor rainfall in key growing areas, which could hurt output next year but fall in spot demand, restricted the gains.

20 JUN, 2012, 03.22PM IST, PTI

Cashew rises on fresh buying

NEW DELHI: Cashew prices rose by Rs 5 per kg in the national capital today largely on the back of fresh buying support from retailers and stockists, driven by firm domestic demand.

Lower stocks following tight supplies from growing regions also supported the upside in prices.

Cashew kernel No 180, No 210, No 240 and No 320 rose by Rs 5 to settle at Rs 670-745 Rs 645-685, Rs 565-615 and Rs 570-585 per kg, respectively.

Marketmen said increased buying by retailers and stockists against tight stocks position mainly pushed up cashew prices.

The following are today's quotations (per 40 kg): Almond (California) Rs 11,900 Almond (Gurbandi-new) Rs 6,400-7,100; Almond (Girdhi) Rs 2,800-3,000; Abjosh Afghani Rs 6,000-20,000. Almond Kernel (California) Rs 430-435 per kg, Almond Kernel (Gurbandi-new) Rs 320-440 per kg.

21 JUL, 2012, 02.16PM IST, PTI

Edible oils rise on vanaspati millers buying, linseed oil gains in non-edible section

NEW DELHI: Edible oil prices rose in the wholesale oils and oilseeds market during the past week on increased buying by vanaspati millers to meet the festive season demand amid limited arrivals from producing belts.

Linseed oil in the non-edible section also firmed up on increased offtake by paint manufacturing units.

Marketmen said increased buying by vanaspati millers for the festive season against restricted

arrivals from producing areas mainly led to a rise in edible oil prices.

They however said gains were restricted after reports that the government will consider imposing stock holding limits on food items like pulses and cooking oils to check hoarding for containing price rise.

The government has approved a proposal to defreeze the import tariff value on refined palm oil from the existing USD 484 per tonne and link it to current global prices.

In the national capital, groundnut mill delivery oil (Gujarat) moved up by Rs 50 to Rs 11,850 per quintal on restricted arrivals from producing belts.

Mustard expeller oil (Dadri) found fresh buying support from local parties and recorded a gain of Rs 200 to Rs 8,250 per quintal.

Sesame and cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) oils followed suit and shot up by Rs 200 each to Rs 8,400 and Rs 6,600 per quintal, respectively.

In line with a general firming trend, soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) and soyabean degum (Kandla) oils gained Rs 100 each to Rs 8,050 and Rs 7,600, respectively.

Crude palm oil (ex-kandla) edged up by Rs 50 to Rs 7,500 per quintal.

Palmolein (RBD) and palmolein (Kandla) oils too traded in positive zone with a rise of Rs 100 each to Rs 8,250 and Rs 7,800 per quintal, respectively.

Coconut oil which remained steady for the major part of week, found fresh buying support along with higher advices from Southern region and moved up by Rs 25 to Rs 1,400-1,450 per tin.

In the non-edible section, linseed oil spurted by Rs 150 to Rs 5,650 per quintal on increased demand from paint manufacturing units.

Grains: Firm conditions were seen at the wholesale grains market during the past week as

wheat, rice and other commodities rose on increased buying by flour mills and stockists to meet the coming festival season demand amid fall in arrivals from producing regions.

Traders said increased buying by flour mills for the coming festival season against restricted supplies due to adverse weather conditions mainly led an upward movements in wheat prices.

They said deficient rains in key growing areas also influenced commodity prices.

In the national capital, wheat dara (for mills), which consumed by flour mills rose by Rs 30 to Rs 1,320-1,325 and wheat deshi gained Rs 50 to Rs 1,700-1,920 per quintal, respectively. Atta chakki delivery followed suit and traded higher by similar margin to Rs 1,325-1,345 per 90 kg.

Atta flour mills, maida and sooji also met with festive demand and ended higher at Rs 680-710, Rs 810-830 and Rs 910-930 against last close of Rs 670-690, Rs 790-800 and Rs 880-890 per 50 kg, respectively.

In the rice section, basmati common and Pusa-1121 variety strengthened to Rs 6,700-6,800 and Rs 5,700-6,800 from previous levels of Rs 6,500-6,600 and Rs 5,600-6,700 per quintal, respectively.

Among other bold grains, bajra, maize and barely found increased demand and advanced to Rs 1,145-1,150, Rs 1,340-1,350 and Rs 1,360-1,370 as compared to previous week's close of Rs 1,060-1,075, Rs 1,235-1,240 and Rs 1,270-1,290 per quintal respectively.

Pulses: Firm trend continued in the wholesale pulses market for yet another week as most of the prices strengthened further on rising demand against restricted arrivals from producing belts.

Marketmen said rising demand against tight supplies from producing regions mainly led to an upward march in pulses.

Deficient rains, which delayed sowing of new crop also supported the uptrend in pulses, they said.

The government has said it will consider imposing stock holding limits on food items like pulses and cooking oils to check hoarding for containing price rise.

In the national capital, urad and its dal chilka local traded higher by Rs 550 each to Rs 4,100-4,700 and Rs 4,950-5,250 per quintal respectively. Urad dal best and dhoya gained by a same margin to Rs 5,400-5,900 and Rs 5,950-6,040 per quintal, respectively.

Moong and its dal chilka local rose by Rs 250 each to Rs 4,100-5,100 and Rs 4,950-5,350 and dal dhoya local and best quality were enquired higher by a similar margin to Rs 5,450-5,550 and Rs 6,150-6,250 per quintal, respectively.

Masoor small and bold shot up by Rs 300 each to Rs 4,000-4,300 and Rs 4,150-4,400 per quintal, respectively.

Its dal local and best quality traded higher by the same margin to Rs 5,000-5,100 and Rs 5,100-5,200 per quintal, respectively.

Malka local and best quality, which were steady for major part of week, met with fag-end buying and rose by Rs 100 each to Rs 4,500-4,550 and Rs 4,700-4,800 per quintal, respectively.

In line with a general firming trend, gram, gramdal local and best quality were higher by Rs 200 each to Rs 4,850-5,800, Rs 5,500-5,600 and Rs 5,550-5,650 per quintal, respectively.

Kabli gram small variety moved up by Rs 200 to Rs 5,200-8,700 and moth ended higher at Rs 3,000-3,400 against last close of Rs 2,650-3,050 per quintal.

Besin Shaktibhog and Rajdhani jumped up to Rs 2,290 each from previous week's level of Rs 2,070 per 35 kg.

Arhar and its dal dara variety went up by Rs 50 and Rs 100 to Rs 3,750-4,050 and Rs 5,250-5,450 per quintal, respectively.

Peas white and green too traded in positive zone at Rs 2,950-3,000 and Rs 3,000-3,100 against last close of Rs 2,825-2,850 and Rs 2,950-2,975 per quintal, respectively.

Sugar: The wholesale sugar climbed to Rs 3,750 per quintal -- the highest level this year -- during the past week on strong demand.

Marketmen said heavy buying from stockists and bulk consumers such as softdrink and ice-cream makers for the ongoing festival season mainly pushed up sugar prices.

They said restricted supply from mills and the government decision to increase the price of sugarcane by 17 per cent for farmers to be paid by the sugar mills further influenced the trading sentiment.

Poor monsoon in sugarcane growing regions was another reason behind upsurge in sweetener prices, they added.

Sugar ready M-30 and S-30 prices jumped up from Rs 3,350-3,550 and Rs 3,325-3,525 to settle the week at Rs 3,550-3,750, showing a rise of Rs 200 per quintal.

Mill delivery medium and second grade prices also climbed up from Rs 3,140-3,400 and Rs 3,125-3,375 to end the week at Rs 3,240-3,500 and Rs 3,255-3,475, a net profit of Rs 100 per quintal.

Among millgate excluding duty section, sugar price of Ramala and Bulandshar hardened by Rs 170 each to Rs 3,310 and Rs 3,330 per quintal.

Morna and Chandpur also spurted by Rs 180 each to Rs 3,330 and Rs 3,320 per quintal.

Mawana and Asmoli surged by Rs 190 each to Rs 3,240 and Rs 3,470 per quintal.

Jaggery: The wholesale jaggery market ended on a higher note here during the past week on fall in supply from producing region against increased offtake, depicted a rise of Rs 100 per quintal.

Muzaffarnagar and Muradnagar gur market also looked up by Rs 150 per quintal on paucity of stocks.

Marketmen said lower ready stocks against fall in arrivals from manufacturing areas on adverse weather conditions mainly pushed up the prices.

The government approving a 17 per cent hike in sugarcane price that mills pay to farmers also had a negative impact on the trading sentiment, they added.

In Delhi, gur dhayya and shakkar prices advanced by Rs 100 each to close at Rs 3,550-3,600 and Rs 3,600-3,700 per quintal.

Gur chakku and pedi also improved by Rs 50 each to end the week at Rs 3,300-3,350 and Rs 3,450-3,550 per quintal, respectively.

At Muzaffarnagar, gur chakku traded higher from Rs 2,950-3,050 to Rs 3,050-3,100 per quintal. Gur raskat also jumped up by Rs 100 to Rs 2,950-3,050 per quintal on brisk demand from cattle-feed and beer making industries.

In Muradnagar, gur pedi prices shot up from Rs 3,100-3,200 to settle at Rs 3,250-3,300, a rise of Rs 150 per quintal.

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Analysts attributed the rise in sugar futures to huge positions created by speculators driven by poor rainfall in key growing areas, which could hurt output next year but fall in spot demand, restricted the gains.

20 JUL, 2012, 01.14PM IST, PTI

Chana futures surge on spot demand, thin supply

NEW DELHI: Chana prices surged by Rs 74 to Rs 4,821 per quintal in futures trade today on pick up in demand in the spot market ahead of festive season amid thin supplies.

At the National Commodity Derivatives Exchange, chana for delivery in July surged by Rs 74, or 1.56 per cent, to Rs 4,821 per quintal, with an open interest of 2,090 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in August jumped up by Rs 69, or 1.44 per cent, to Rs 4,877 per quintal in 1,03,560 lots.

Traders said pickup in demand in spot market for the festive season and reports of deficient rains in growing regions mainly led to an upsurge in chana prices at futures trade.

Business Standard

Monday, Jul 23, 2012

Spices costlier on scanty rains

BS Reporter / Mumbai July 21, 2012, 0:15 IST

Turmeric led the upsurge in spices on Friday due to renewed fear of fall in output this kharif season. Deficient rainfall this monsoon has also hit germination.

While turmeric hit the upper circuit on the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), chilli and other spice varieties remained firm. Sowing of turmeric and chilli were reported lower this season due to shortage of rain.

According to Monsoon Meter, a weekly report on rainfall collated by the NCDEX, the country received cumulative rainfall of 256.4 mm against a normal of 328.1 mm. At the same time last

year, rainfall deficiency was one per cent while this year it is 22 per cent.

CHANGING TUNE			
Commodity (Rs/quintal)			
	20-Jul	19-Jul	Change (%)
Turmeric	5,696	5,476	4.00
Chilli (Oct)	5,864	5,670	3.40
Pepper (Nov)	45,000	44,460	1.22
Coriander	4,452	4,399	1.21
Jeera	16,348	16,270	0.48
Price of near month contract			
Source : NCDEX			

Farmers begin sowing of turmeric in June for harvesting in December. However, sowing of this rainfed crop was delayed this year due to delay in the monsoon. The meteorological department reported a fortnight of delay in commencement of the monsoon rains resulting in the proportionate delay in sowing of turmeric. Sowing of other spices, including chilli, cardamom and ginger was also delayed.

“Turmeric price has moved four per cent up on stockists buying amid concern of lower output. Scanty rains, so far in key growing regions, also raised concerns over the growth of the sown crop,” said Ajay Kedia, managing director of Kedia Commodity, a Mumbai-based broking firm.

Turmeric is driving all other spices with the prices of jeera, coriander, chilli and pepper rising 10 per cent in two weeks.

Vedika Narvekar, an analyst with Angel Commodities Broking, said, “Although monsoon has recovered in the past week in major turmeric growing areas of Nizamabad (Andhra Pradesh) and Erode (Tamil Nadu), the overall distribution of rainfall is less and may hamper the yield of next year’s crop. Also, overall acreage is expected to decline as farmers are shifting to more remunerative crops. Thus, despite sufficient supplies so far to meet the domestic demand, turmeric prices are trading higher on concerns over next year’s crop.”

At Unjha (Gujarat) market, jeera spot prices witnessed an uptrend in today's trade. Declining arrivals supported the jeera spot prices. The average price of jeera moved up Rs 4 per kg to Rs 148 per kg along with minimum and maximum prices of Rs 138-158 per kg respectively. Jeera arrivals in the market were reported at 7,000 bags (50 kg each) against the previous trade arrivals of 10,000 bags.

Pepper spot prices continued to be firm across the markets.

At Cochin market MG-1 and un-garbled prices continued to remain firm at Rs 410 per kg and Rs 395 per kg, respectively.

Palm oil up on 0.3% rising demand

Analysts say speculative positions created by participants on rising demand influenced futures prices

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 20, 2012, 16:06 IST



Supported by rising demand in spot markets, crude palm oil continued to rise by adding Rs 2 Rs 573.60 per 10 kg in futures trading today.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for delivery in July gained Rs 2, or 0.35%, to Rs 573.60 per 10 kg, with a business turnover of 93 lots.

The August contract traded higher by Rs 1.70, or 0.30%, to Rs 576.20 per 10 kg in 608 lots.

Market analysts said speculative positions created by participants driven by rising demand in the market mainly influenced crude palm oil prices at futures trade here.

Cardamom futures remain up on firm spot demand

August cardamom adds 0.3% as speculators expand positions, September contract up 0.18%

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 20, 2012, 16:02 IST



Cardamom rose by Rs 4 to Rs 1,337.60 per kg in futures trading today as speculators engaged in enlarging positions amid rising spot market demand.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in August added Rs 4, or 0.30%, to Rs 1,337.60 per kg, with a business turnover of 57 lots.

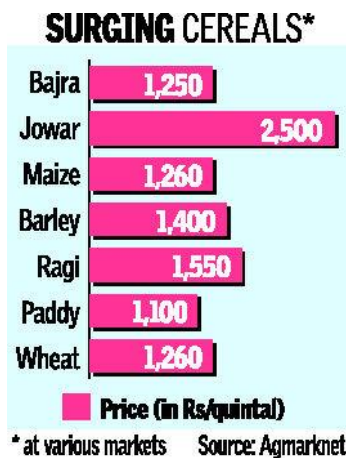
September cardamom gained Rs 2.40, or 0.18%, to Rs 1,317 per kg in 16 lots.

Market analysts said besides rising demand in the spot market, tight stocks availability in the physical market following restricted arrivals from producing belts also influenced cardamom prices, traders said.

THE HINDU Business Line

Feed grains turn costlier on surging corn, soyabean prices

M. R. SUBRAMANI



CHENNAI, JULY 21:

Global prices of cereals have begun to surge since mid-June as fears of the US facing one of its worst droughts gripped markets. Since then, wheat and corn have gained over 45 per cent. The rise in corn price, in particular, has made feed grains costlier than foodgrains in India.

In fact, despite wheat gaining between Rs 200 and Rs 400 a quintal in the domestic market, it is still ruling below the minimum support price level of Rs 1,275.

In the US, the Midwest is going through its worst dry period in the last five decades, raising concern over corn and soyabean crop. This has, in turn, pushed up wheat prices.

A US forecast of next week being dry has further pushed up prices, while deficient monsoon in India has added to market woes all over. One of the main reasons for feed grains being costlier is the surging prices of soyabean and soyameal. Soyabean prices have increased over 30 per cent since mid-June to Rs 46,000-48,000 a tonne now, while soyameal has surged to Rs 41,000-41,500 from Rs 29,800-29,900 during the same period.

The feed industry uses soyameal for making compound feed. Maize (corn) and bajra are seen as immediate alternatives for soyameal.

Maize prices have increased to Rs 12,600 a tonne from Rs 10,560 during the period, while bajra rates are up at Rs 12,500 from Rs 10,650.

Paddy is also ruling lower than the feed grains but rice prices are higher in view of higher conversion costs.

Compared with global markets, prices of wheat, maize and soyabean are lower in the domestic market. Currently, wheat from the Black Sea region that is seen on a par with Indian wheat is quoted at \$302 a tonne (Rs 16,700). Corn futures are quoting at \$7.95 a bushel (Rs 17,250 a tonne) on the Chicago Board of Trade, while soyabean futures have soared to \$16.86 a bushel (Rs 34,250 a tonne).

In the domestic markets, prices of various grains began rising after the monsoon began to falter. Since mid-June, jowar has gained over 20 per cent, finger miller or ragi by 10 per cent, maize and bajra 20 per cent and wheat between 10 and over 20 per cent.

The monsoon is 22 per cent deficient till this week. Fears of the El Nino that warms up the sea surface temperature leading to drought have only compounded the situation in the market. According to sources in the wheat milling industry, wheat prices could gain further in view of the situation in the global market. Also, 15 to 20 lakh tonnes wheat have been exported, while the Centre has procured nearly 38 million tonnes for buffer stocks. "This has left lower stocks in the hands of farmers and arrivals will continue to be low," a miller said.

Govt reviews monsoon, sowing operations



As per the latest data, the area under all the monsoon-sown crops has declined by 14 per cent to 53.4 million hectares from a year earlier.

NEW DELHI, JULY 21:

Concerned over deficient rains, the Centre today reviewed the monsoon and sowing situation in six major states, including Karnataka and Maharashtra, and said rains in August would be crucial to make up the shortfall in area.

The Union Agriculture Secretary, Mr Ashish Bahuguna, today called upon top officials of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana for discussing the contingency plans in these states which have received scanty rains so far.

“Overall, rainfall deficiency has reduced to 22 per cent from 30 per cent in June. Rains in July have not been that bad. Rains in August are crucial to make up the shortfall in area in these states,” Mr Bahuguna told reporters after the meeting.

Pointing out that large parts of land are still unsown in these six states, he said that there is still time for sowing and the shortfall could be made up if the rains are good next month. “There is sufficient supply of seeds in these states for late sowing.”

As per the latest data, the area under all the monsoon-sown crops has declined by 14 per cent to 53.4 million hectares from a year earlier.

On Karnataka, he said there is a shortfall of 10 lakh hectare area under kharif crops so far but 8 lakh hectares could be made up if monsoon recovers.

Expressing concern over the rain situation in Maharashtra, the Secretary said that 8.65 lakh hectares is likely to remain unsown due to lack of rains in western Maharashtra.

No need to ban rice, wheat exports due to poor rains: Govt

NEW DELHI, JULY 21:

The Government today said there is no need to ban exports of rice and wheat because of poor rains as the country has sufficient stock.

On the back of bumper production, the country is currently exporting various agricultural commodities including rice, wheat, sugar, cotton and maize.

“I don’t think there is any reason to be concerned. As of now, there is no problem about availability of foodgrains and I do not think we need to put our export commitment on hold,” the Agriculture Secretary, Mr Ashish Bahuguna, told presspersons.

He said, “if India wants to be a stable player in the international market, we must continue with exports.”

The monsoon, the lifeline of the Indian agriculture and economy, has been deficient by 22 per cent so far, affecting the sowing of kharif crops. The deficient rains have raised concern about

the possible impact on crop production. Last year, the country received a good monsoon helping farmers to harvest a record foodgrain output of 257.44 million tonnes, which includes 104.32 million tonnes of rice and 93.90 million tonnes of wheat. In September last year, the Government had permitted the export of wheat and non-basmati rice in the wake of a record production. Since then, the country has shipped 5 million tonnes of non-basmati rice and 1.5 million tonnes of wheat. The Government recently allowed the export of two million tonnes of wheat from its godowns to clear surplus stock. Apart from foodgrains, the country is likely to export 3.5 million tonnes of sugar and 15 million bales of cotton in the 2011-12 marketing year (October-September). Recently, the Government also allowed the export of skimmed milk powder, casein and other milk products due to higher production.

Sugar ends on a quiet note



NEW DELHI, JULY 21:

Sugar prices ended on a quiet note in the national capital on Saturday as prices by and large moved in a narrow range on alternate small bouts of trading before settling at last levels.

Marketmen said despite good festive season demand ample stocks position mainly held sugar prices at last levels.

The following were today's rates per quintal: Sugar ready: M-30 3,550-3,750, S-30 3,525-3,725.

Mill delivery: M-30 3,240-3,500; S-30 3,255-3,475.

Sugar mill gate prices (excluding duty): Mawana 3430, Kinnoni 3550, Asmoli 3470, Doralala 3440, Budhana 3450, Thanabhavan 3440, Ramala 3310, Bulandshar 3330, Morna 3330, Sakoti 3340, Chandpur 3320, Dhanora 3360, Khatuli 3430 and Baghpat 3340.