

# THE HINDU

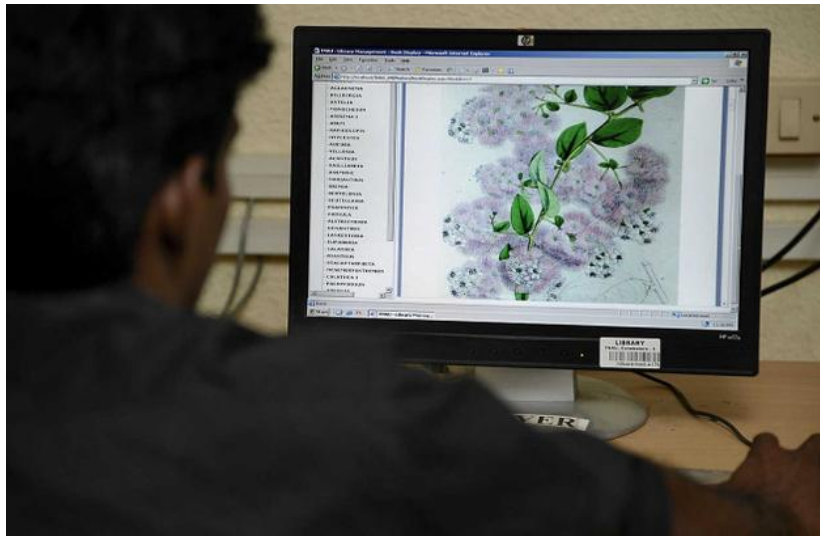
COIMBATORE, July 3, 2012

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's treasure house of rare books



For eternity: The archives section at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Library which has rare books dating back to 17th century. (centre) A page in 'Horti Malabarici', a Latin treatise on the flora in Kerala written in the 17th century. (right) A rare book in the archives section which has been digitised. -Photos: K. Ananthan





*Varsity's archaic library houses as many as 50,000 rare books and journals; works under way to digitise select books*

Deep inside the maze of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's (TNAU) century-old library, is a room labelled 'Archaic library'. Among the 50,000 rare books and journals stacked on the dusty shelves of this room, is one published 334 years ago - 'Horti Malabarici Vol I (1678)'. The hardback had broken from its spine and its 500 pages of Latin had fed countless silverfish. Even so, the book overwhelms for the sheer detail in its double-page sketches of Malabar's indigenous flora. Each drawing is accompanied by the plant name in Latin, Arabic, Malayalam, the Brahmi script and occasionally, Portuguese.

The 12 volume series was the brainchild of the then Governor of Dutch Malabar, Hendrik van Reede. Fascinated by the plants in the land he ruled, he recorded nearly 750 finds with a team of over 100 local physicians, illustrators, translators and botanists. Today, his work is revered by botanists for being the first scientific documentation of the area's flora, by historians for its narration of the sociocultural milieu then and by linguists for the earliest prints of the Malayalam script. TNAU possesses the very first edition of this seminal work.

The other treasures in the rare books and journals collection include 30 books from the 17th Century, 150 from the 18th Century, 2,300 from the 19th century and 50,000 between 1900 and 1950. Of these, 83 of the earliest books have been digitised using high-resolution cameras that capture even the detailing of Hendrik's illustrations. Thus while readers today cannot physically turn the pages of Hendrik's work without crumbling them, they can zoom in on the illustrations, 'bookmark' pages and even 'favourite' chapters of its virtual version.

The process of digitisation has been encouraged by grants from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), under which TNAU operates. ICAR hopes to create EGranth, a virtual library, from the collections of the 40 State Universities under it. Thus digitisation began at TNAU in 2007. Currently, digitised books are available only to TNAU's students but in the next phase of EGranth's growth, they will be available nationwide, through ICAR.

The books for digitisation are chosen by the various heads of TNAU's departments, says librarian C. Prema. "We've picked books that are either important works which are no longer in print or those that are relevant to today's syllabus," says A. Vadivel, professor of soil science at TNAU.

Books on the history of agricultural subjects are especially popular for digitisation since current editions leave out the details adds Mr. Vadivel. Among these is Motilal Kashalchand Shah's 'The Principles of Agriculture for India' (1888) – one of the first books in English on local agriculture by an Indian. The library's copy contains a note from Motilal's wife, in a calligraphic hand, dedicating the book to TNAU in memory of her late husband.

However, Indian authors are few in a collection overrun by the British. Bound by ropes and stacked on the floor for digitisation, are a series of over 35 books called the 'Fauna of British India, Including Ceylon and Burma'. The series was begun in 1881 on the suggestion of a group of British scientists including Charles Darwin. TNAU and West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences in Kolkata are the only universities that possess the complete series, nationwide.

While most of the books digitised are agriculture-specific, the 'Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi 1903-05' and 'The History of Ancient India' by R. C. Dutt (Price – Rs. 5) have found their way in. Hidden somewhere between the cobwebs and the dust of the books yet to be digitised, lie Volumes III, IV and VII of 'Castes and Tribes of Southern India' (1909) - E.

Thurston and K. Rangachari's controversial work which marked the beginning of Indian anthropological studies. As the edges of Thurston's entry on tribal Kota women powdered into my palms, author C. S. Lewis' advice came to mind: "If we had to choose between reading old books and new books, it should be the old ones we choose. Not because they are better but because they contain precisely those truths of which our own age is neglectful."

COIMBATORE, July 3, 2012

## Counselling for agricultural courses takes off

*TNAU has received 16,017 applications including 1,954 under the vocational stream*



A candidate, along with her mother, choosing a course of her choice at the first phase of counselling for undergraduate courses of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore on Monday.- PHOTO: S. SIVA SARAVANAN

The first phase of general counselling for admission to the agricultural courses of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University began here on Monday with the first provisional admission being made to a candidate with the cut-off 198.25.

Tirupur boy M.R. Dinesh was the first rank holder for the counselling. With a total of 1,173, Dinesh a student of Nyruthi Matriculation Higher Secondary School, chose B.Tech. in Biotechnology. Planning to pursue his research in biotechnology, Dinesh said he chose the stream because it was an upcoming one and had much scope.

The counselling under the single window system is being held for 2,365 candidates as against last year's 1,837. The university received 16,017 applications including 1,954 under the vocational stream. This was a huge increase when compared to the 10,250 received last year.

The counselling is for admission to 13 programmes, viz., B. Sc. Agriculture, B. Sc. Horticulture, B. Sc. Forestry, B. Sc. Home Science, B.Sc. Sericulture, B. Tech. in Agricultural Engineering, in Horticulture, Food Processing, Energy and Environmental Engineering, Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, and Agricultural Information Technology, and B.S. in Agribusiness Management.

The number of seats is 1,365. Chennai girl C.V. Gayathri with the second cut-off of 198 chose B.Sc. Agriculture. After graduation, she wants to attempt Civil Services examination.

C. Deepika from Erode with the third cut-off of 197.75 also chose B.Sc. Agriculture. Daughter of an agriculturist, she nurtures the dream of entering the Civil Services. Handing over the first provisional admit card to Dinesh, Registrar and Vice-Chancellor in-charge P. Subbian said the response to agricultural courses, especially the B.Sc. Agriculture course, was increasing every year because many were showing interest in agriculture-based studies because of the high scope it offered for job opportunities and also the Civil Services.

A. Rajarajan, Dean (Agriculture), said that though the topper chose a technology-based course, the most-preferred however continued to be the conventional B.Sc. Agriculture course. True to this, at the end of day one, there were 90 takers for the course, out of the total 117 who got admitted, followed by 14 for B.Tech. Energy and Environmental Engineering, five for B.Tech. Biotechnology, and four each for Food Processing Technology, and Bioinformatics.

VINJANAMPADU (GUNTUR DT), July 3, 2012

**Truant monsoon gives cotton farmers the jitters**

P. SAMUEL JONATHAN

*Staggering patterns of rainfall casting a shadow on prospects of yield*



TRoUBLEd TIMES: A cotton farmer at Vinjanampadu in Guntur district readies the soil in anticipation of a big spell of rain.— Photo: T. Vijaya Kumar

The farmlands on the vast stretch of black cotton soils are brimming with activity. The air is filled with the familiar blaring sound of the tractor ploughing away in the furrows. One can even see farm hands plucking away the weeds while chattering about rain.

The rain and its undulating patterns are the subject of chatter among the farmers. With the monsoon continuing to play truant, the farmers are keeping their fingers crossed over the timing of sowing.

“We want to start sowing by the second week of July. We are waiting for a big spell of rain so that the soil becomes soft,” says Narne Purnachadra Rao, a cotton farmer from Vinjanampadu. Mr. Rao has a small land holding of 1.3 hectare, an ancestral property, in which he cultivates cotton.

### **Drought in 2011**

In the year 2011, the farmers were worst affected by drought conditions.

“I could get just three quintals per hectare. The loss was devastating since the cost of cultivation and farm labour charges had been rising all the time,” Mr. Rao reminisced.

As against the normal rainfall of 86.3 mm, the district received a deficit rainfall of 45.4 mm. The deficit measured to 47 per cent as the farmers struggled to come to grips with the conditions.

But in 2012, the onset of monsoon as per schedule rekindled the hopes of the farmers. But the staggering patterns of rainfall are casting a shadow on the prospects of yield. The rainfall recorded in June this year measured up to 109.7 mm as against the normal rainfall of 86.3 mm, but the number of rainy days remained lesser when compared to the rainy days in 2010.

Cotton is among the three major commercial crops in the district with cultivation being taken up in 1.60 lakh hectare. “Sowing of summer cotton is complete in 11,000 hectares, mostly in the Palnadu region, where farmers raise the plants in the Nagarjuna Sagar Project ayacut area,” Joint Director, Agriculture Department, A. Sridhar, said on Monday.

But the situation is vastly different in the dry lands abutting Prathipadu, Sattenapalli, and Amaravathi, where Cotton is a rain-fed crop. The yield varies from place to place, depending on the rainfall and the quality of seed.



## Huge demand

However, the demand for cotton has been keeping the farmers' interest alive. Cotton commands a Minimum Support Price of Rs.3,900 per quintal and the demand for quality cotton is always high, thanks to the boom in exports.

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- *We are waiting for a big spell of rain so that soil becomes soft, says a farmer*
  - *Cotton is being cultivated in the district in 1.60 lakh hectares*
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Published: July 3, 2012 03:25 IST | Updated: July 3, 2012 03:25 IST

## Bugs come to the rescue of Bangalore's dying ponds



The effective microbe (EM) technology being used for the clean-up of the lotus pond and other areas in Cubbon Park in Bangalore. Photo: K. Gopinathan

Maybe there's some hope for the city's dying lakes, kalyanis and ponds. A private firm, in association with the State Horticulture Department, has embarked on a project to restore the water bodies with microbial treatment.

Green Farm Innovators, in coordination with the Horticulture Department, launched a project on Monday to clean up the lotus pond in Cubbon Park.

The restoration methodology is the use of effective microbe (EM) technology, said the firm's representative, Kiran P. Kulkarni.

### **Ulsoor lake first**

Pointing out that the same technology was used to clean Ulsoor lake in 2009, Mr. Kulkarni said the results seen there were significant. "We hope to replicate the same model here," he said.

Explaining the technology, he said it "uses several breeds of live microbes, including yeast and photosynthetic bacteria that react with the decomposing or dead matter and break it down."

"This has the effect of reducing any odour emitted by the substance."

The technology can even break down solid waste, he said, citing the Anjanapura junkyard as an example. "We cleaned up the smell there in 45 minutes."

### **Elsewhere too**

The technology has been increasingly deployed around the world, and is in use in Egypt, China, and Myanmar, among others.

Referring to the Cubbon Park lotus pond, Mr. Kulkarni pointed out that its water goes to Bal Bhavan and is used for gardening outside park.

In addition to the effectiveness of EM technology, the cost of the "effective eco solution" was also very accommodating as 1 litre costs Rs. 50, and 5 to 10 litres would effectively clean one lakh litres.

### **Follow-up doses**

He claimed that results would be apparent within 10-15 days, and they expected to use about 25-50 litres of the "effective eco solution" for the clean-up of the lotus pond and other areas in



Cubbon Park. “We would need smaller increments of EM dosages to maintain the results,” he added.

### More help

Although this endeavour was supported by the Horticulture Department, Mr. Kulkarni said he hoped to collaborate with non-governmental organisations or individuals to fund the clean-up of various water bodies in the city.

BANGALORE, July 3, 2012

### Just reach out to your window for that tomato

RANJANI GOVIND

*Windowfarms makes hydroponic platforms to grow veggies*



“Growing some portion of one’s own food is a simple pleasure in one’s relationship with nature. Did you know that by the time a head of lettuce is transported to the supermarket, most of its

nutritional value is lost? It's beneficial to take a microcosmic view of the food system and come up with ideas to take care of ourselves and our planet in troubled times."

These words of Britta Riley, New York artist and innovator, accompanied a prototype model of her Windowfarms project displayed at Deutsche Bank Pavilion at the Indo-German Urban Mela which concluded last weekend at the Palace Grounds.

According to Shrinath Bolloju, interim CEO, Deutsche Bank India, "The initiative, in line with the bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR), showcases meaningful contributions by thinkers and change-makers from across the world who have contributed to bringing about significant implications in society living."

### **Unique approach**

Britta Riley's Windowfarms has gained worldwide attention for her unique approach to growing food in small urban apartments using a window, plastic bottles and some plants.

Her company was named one of the top 100 businesses to watch in 2010 by *Entrepreneur Magazine*. Windowfarms makes vertical hydroponic platforms for growing food in city windows.

Logon to [www.windowfarms.org](http://www.windowfarms.org) and you'll get an idea of Britta Riley's and Rebecca Bray's efforts in building and testing the first window farm inside a New York apartment. The team's knowledge accumulated through working with agricultural, architectural and other specialists (along with online crowd sourcing and a R-DIY — research and develop it yourself — collecting data and reinterpreting hydroponics research by NASA scientists and marijuana farmers.

The research led to the development of hydroponic designs which the team claims is inexpensive and made from relatively low-cost materials.

### **What is hydroponics**

Hydroponics is a subset of hydroculture and is a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions in water without soil.

The working prototype designed by Riley and Bray is a drip system made from recycled water bottles, holding 25 plants.

“Beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, arugula, basil, lettuce and kale thrive, but one should go along choosing your greens according to prevailing local temperatures,” advises Riley on the website. She also believes that growing ones own food is a step in combating the food industry’s heavy carbon footprint.

## **Contact**

To obtain window farm kits, email [windowfarmers@gmail.com](mailto:windowfarmers@gmail.com) or visit [www.windowfarms.org](http://www.windowfarms.org)

MYSORE, July 3, 2012

### **Centre blamed for hike in fertilizer price**

The district unit of BJP’s Raitha Morcha staged a dharna outside the Deputy Commissioner’s office here on Monday over the rise in prices of fertilizer.

Its members alleged that the Centre had allowed the fertilizer companies during 2010-11 to decide the prices on the basis of nutrient-based subsidy. The prices of various types of fertilizer had gone up manifold in the last four years, they charged. It was unfortunate that the Centre had no control over the fertilizer companies, they said.

The government should provide fertilizer at regulated prices to farmers. They submitted a memorandum, addressed to the President, to the district administration.

BELGAUM, July 3, 2012

### **KRRS seeks farm loan waiver**

The district units of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) and Hasiru Sene have set a seven-day deadline for the State and Union governments to waive farm loans in drought-hit areas.

The sangha leaders said they would picket the offices of deputy commissioners and tahsildars in drought-hit districts if their demand was not met. Its members took out a procession from Fort Circle to the Deputy Commissioner’s office here on Monday and staged a dharna. They organised a rasta roko too, disrupting the traffic for more than an hour.

VELLORE, July 3, 2012

## **Rally planned to mark Farmers' Day**

The Tamil Nadu Farmers' Association will be organising a rally in support of their demands in connection with Farmers' Day here on July 5.

According to K. Kannaia Naidu, Vellore district president of the association, their demands included the establishment of a State Farm Produce Price Fixation Commission comprising farmers' representatives to fix the prices of farm produce, direct procurement of farm produce by the government during times of fall in prices, releasing of a separate budget for agriculture by the Central and State governments.

They also want a payment of Rs.3000 per tonne for sugarcane, Rs.10,000 per quintal for turmeric and Rs.2000 per quintal for paddy, payment of a compensation of Rs.10,000 per acre for sugarcane farmers who were affected by the recent strike by the workers of cooperative and public sector sugar mills, steps by the Centre and State to protect the water resources and riparian rights of Tamil Nadu in the Cauvery, Palar and Mullai Periyar rivers, unconditional waiver of all farm loans, and opening of copra procurement centres in all districts and procurement of copra at Rs.50 per kg to offset fall in prices.

S.A. Chinnasamy, State president of the association would preside over the rally.

### ***The association to put forward its demands***

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## **Credit plan target under agri sector revised upward**

R. Vimal Kumar

In a significant mid-fiscal move, the credit disbursement target under agriculture and allied activities in Tirupur district for 2012-13 fiscal have been revised further upward by the Lead Bank following instructions from the Union Ministry of Finance.

According to revised estimates, the envisaged credit flow in agriculture and allied sector has been pegged at Rs.1,803.31 crore which is 80 per cent over the credit plan target set for the last financial year (2011-12).

Initially, when the Annual Credit Plan document- 2012-13 for Tirupur was released on March 24 this year, the target has been set at Rs. 1,500.97 crore, an increase of only 50 per cent over the credit plan target of Rs. 1,001.31 crore in 2011-12 fiscal.

“The credit flow target has been asked to revise upward again mainly for enabling the farm growth rate to touch the targeted 4 per cent mark as quickly as possible,” Lead Bank sources told *The Hindu* .

### **Bridging the gap**

According to experts, greater credit flow into the agriculture sector will be helping bridge the gap existing between crop yield per hectare and the achievable potential under ideal farming practices.

Currently, the agrarian community is in need of huge credit to adopt latest farming technologies that could give them better dividends.

Following demands from different quarters, there are also plans in the district to open bank branches in villages like Lakhamanaickenpatti, Pudupai (both in Vellakoil block) and in Kamnacikenpalayam (Palladam block).

“Opening of more branches in rural areas will enhance the overall agricultural flow,” banking sources said.

NEW DELHI, July 3, 2012

### **Centre seeks to step up pulses production**

With the monsoon playing truant and sowing of most kharif crops lagging behind, the Centre has launched a special programme to achieve more than 19 million tonnes pulses production this season. Pulses crop are suitable for rain-fed areas and can be cultivated with little irrigation.

The programme aims to increase pulses crop area by promotion of inter-cropping apart from promoting dry land agriculture techniques like *in situ* moisture conservation. Three crops -- pigeon pea ( *arhar* ), green gram ( *moong* ) and black gram ( *urad* ) -- have been selected for this programme. The focus is on inter-cropping of pulses crops over other crops during kharif and accelerating productivity through adoption of innovative technologies relating to plant nutrition and water use.

The programme will promote planting of pigeon pea with groundnut, soyabean or cotton. Similarly, emphasis will be on inter-cropping *moong / urad* with maize, *jowar* or *bajra* with use of sprinkler and drip irrigation.

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## Farm suicides rise in Maharashtra, State still leads the list

P. Sainath

FARM SUICIDES IN INDIA & 5 WORST-HIT STATES (1995-2011)							
Year	Maharashtra	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Madhya Pradesh+ Chhattisgarh*	Yearly Total for Big 5	Yearly Total All-India Farm Suicides	Big 5 FS as % of all farm suicides
1995	1063	1196	2490	1239	6008	10720	56.04
1996	1981	1706	2011	1809	7507	13729	54.68
1997	1917	1097	1832	2390	7236	13622	53.12
1998	2409	1813	1883	2278	8383	16015	52.34
1999	2423	1974	2379	2654	9430	16082	58.64
2000	3022	1525	2630	2660	9837	16603	59.25
2001	3536	1509	2505	2824	10374	16415	63.20
2002	3695	1896	2340	2578	10509	17971	58.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>20066</b>	<b>12716</b>	<b>18070</b>	<b>18432</b>	<b>69284</b>	<b>121157</b>	<b>57.19</b>
2003	3836	1800	2678	2511	10825	17164	63.07
2004	4147	2666	1963	3033	11809	18241	64.74
2005	3926	2490	1883	2660	10959	17131	63.97
2006	4453	2607	1720	2858	11638	17060	68.22
2007	4238	1797	2135	2856	11026	16632	66.29
2008	3802	2105	1737	3152	10796	16196	66.66
2009	2872	2414	2282	3197	10765	17368	61.98
2010	3141	2525	2585	2363	10614	15964	66.49
2011	3337	2206	2100	1326**	8969	14027	63.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>33752</b>	<b>20610</b>	<b>19083</b>	<b>23956</b>	<b>97401</b>	<b>149783</b>	<b>65.03</b>
<b>Total 1995-2011</b>	<b>53818</b>	<b>33326</b>	<b>37153</b>	<b>42388</b>	<b>166685</b>	<b>270940</b>	<b>61.52</b>

If we include Chhattisgarh's 2011 figure not as 'zero' but as 1555 based on the preceding five-year average.

2011#	3337	2206	2100	2881	10524	15582	67.54
<b>Total 2003-11</b>	<b>33752</b>	<b>20610</b>	<b>19083</b>	<b>25511</b>	<b>98956</b>	<b>151338</b>	<b>65.39</b>
<b>Total 1995-2010</b>	<b>53818</b>	<b>33326</b>	<b>37153</b>	<b>43943</b>	<b>168240</b>	<b>272495</b>	<b>61.74</b>

Source: Tables derived from National Crime Records Bureau reports from 1995 to 2011

\*It is not possible to disaggregate MP and Chhattisgarh data for the years they were an undivided state. So their numbers are taken together here.

\*\*2011 Chhattisgarh figure is 0

# With Chhattisgarh figure taken as average of 2006 to 2010 period which is 1555.

*It accounted for well over a fifth of the total of 14,027 deaths in 2011*

With a figure of at least 14,027 in 2011, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the total number of farm suicides since 1995 has touched 2,70,940. The State of Maharashtra shows a rise in numbers yet again, logging 3,337 against 3,141 farmers' suicides



the previous year (and 2,872 in 2009). This, despite heavy massaging of data at the State level for years now, even re-defining of the term “farmer” itself. And despite an orchestrated (and expensive) campaign in the media and other forums by governments and major seed corporations to show that their efforts had made things a lot better. Maharashtra remains the worst single State for farm suicides for over a decade now.

The total number of farmers who have taken their own lives in Maharashtra since 1995 is closing in on 54,000. Of these 33,752 have occurred in nine years since 2003, at an annual average of 3,750. The figure for 1995-2002 was 20,066 at an average of 2,508. Significantly, the rise is occurring even as the farm population is shrinking a fact broadly true across the country. And more so in Maharashtra which has been urbanising more rapidly than most. The rising-suicides-shrinking-population equation suggests a major intensification of the pressures on the community. A better understanding of that, though, awaits the new farm population figures of the 2011 Census — not expected for many months from now. At present both national and State-wise farm suicide ratios (the number of farmers committing suicide per 100,000 farmers) are based on very outdated 2001 Census numbers.

### **Big five States**

The 2011 total gets dicey with Chhattisgarh’s posting a figure of zero farm suicides. A zero figure should be great news. Except that Chhattisgarh had 7,777 farm suicides in the preceding five years, including 1,126 in 2010. It has been amongst the very worst States for such deaths for several years. The share of the worst (Big 5) states (Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh) as a percentage of total farm suicides, is now around 64 per cent. Even with Chhattisgarh showing a ‘zero’ figure, that is not much lower than the preceding five-year average for the Big 5 of close to 66 per cent. It could be that Chhattisgarh’s figures have simply not made it to the NCRB in time. Otherwise, it means that the State is in fact a late entrant to the numbers massaging parlour. Others have been doing it for years. Maharashtra since 2007, following the Prime Minister’s visit to Vidarbha. Union Minister for Agriculture Sharad Pawar has strictly avoided using NCRB farm data in Parliament since 2008 because the data are unpleasant. (The union government however quotes the NCRB for all other categories). Now, governments are deep into fiddling the data that goes from the States to the NCRB.

With the Big 5 also staring drought in the face, what numbers the coming season will throw up is most worrying. Within Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Marathwada have already been under great

stress (which in turn pushes officials to step up data fiddles). If the numbers are re-calculated using the annual average of Chhattisgarh in the past five years, the national total of farm suicides for 2011 would be 15,582. And the share of the Big 5 (at 10,524) would be nearly 68 per cent. That's higher than the five-year average for those States, too. In 1995, the first time the NCRB tabulated farm suicide data, the Big 5 accounted for 56.04 per cent of all farm suicides.

In 2011, five States showed increases of over 50 farm suicides compared to 2010. These included Gujarat (55), Haryana (87), Madhya Pradesh (89), Tamil Nadu (82). Maharashtra alone showed a rise of 196. Nine States showed declines exceeding 50 farm suicides, of which Karnataka (485) and Andhra Pradesh (319) and West Bengal (186) claimed the biggest falls. That, of course, after Chhattisgarh, which claimed a decline of 1,126, with its zero farm suicides figure in 2011. [sainath@mtnl.net.in](mailto:sainath@mtnl.net.in)

# hindustantimes

■ ■ Tue, 03 Jul 2012

weather

## Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 0 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 71%

Wind: Normal

Tuesday, Jul 3

Max Min

34.8° | 26°

Sunrise: 5:45

Sunset: 18:39

Barometer: 993

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Wednesday, Jul 4

Max Min

35° | 27°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday Jul 5	Friday Jul 6	Saturday Jul 7	Sunday Jul 8	Monday Jul 9

34° | 28°

Rainy

34° | 28°

Rainy

33° | 28°

Rainy

33° | 27°

Rainy

33° | 27°

Rainy

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## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

3 JUL, 2012, 04.52AM IST, ET BUREAU

### Sugar production likely to fall by 4% in 2012-13: ISMA

PUNE: Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) lowered its all India sugar production estimate for 2012-13 by close to 4% as it expects output in biggest sugar-producing state Maharashtra to decline by about 16%.

ISMA has estimated that the sugar production in the ongoing 2011-12 season will be 260 lakh tonne. Till June this year, 257 lakh tonne has been produced.

The industry body estimates that sugar production in second-largest producer Uttar Pradesh will go up due to a gain in acreage. "The area under sugar cane in UP has increased from 22.52 lakh hectare last year to 24.25 lakh hectare. But the output in Maharashtra and Karnataka will decrease due to inadequate rainfall," it said.

From about 90 lakh tonne in 2011-12, ISMA expects, Maharashtra's production will slip to 76 lakh tonne. Maharashtra Co-operation Minister Harshvardhan Patil had announced in June that the state government expects the sugar production to decline to 80 lakh tonne in 2012-13 from 90 lakh tonne in the current season.

However, sugar cane is being diverted on a large scale to fodder and the monsoon rainfall has been inadequate in the western Maharashtra region. ISMA has termed it as preliminary estimates.

In its release, ISMA has said: "Sugar production for 2012-13 season works out to be 250 lakh tonne, of which 78 lakh tonne is expected to be from UP, 76 lakh tonne from Maharashtra, 30 lakh tonne from Karnataka.", 25 lakh tonne by Tamil Nadu, 10 lakh tonne each by Gujarat and

Andhra Pradesh."

ISMA also felt that the yield and recovery in the northern part of the country could be slightly better whereas the monsoon in the next few months in Maharashtra and Karnataka can give different production figures.



### Historical Laxmi Niwas to be reshaped into agriculture museum

MONDAY, 02 JULY 2012 23:22

AKANSHA PRIYADARSHI | RANCHI

Laxmi Niwas, a nineteenth century double storey edifice, struggling to maintain an existence in the Agriculture Combined Directorate Building at Kanke Road is finally going to get a new lease of life.

The State agriculture department has taken an initiative to conserve the derelict building and utilise it in the form of a museum.

"Yes, we have decided to make a museum in that place. The building is of heritage importance and has been there since long. We have spoken to INTACH for the job," Agriculture Secretary Arun Kumar Singh said.

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), a non-profit organisation working for protecting and conserving natural, built and cultural heritage, convener SD Singh affirmed working on the project. "The agriculture department has made a request to us for restoring the building. We have been working on the project, the costs and the plan and most of the things have been finalised. The building is around 100 years old and it would take at least a year time to reinstate it. The eradication of ingrown trees in the building would take at least three to four months," Singh said.

Built in surkhi (brick dust) and wooden planks, the red building — popularly known as 'Laxmi Niwas' — has been in a shambles since long. The officials of the agriculture department though have their version of the 'story behind the building' to narrate.

“From what we have heard, the building used to belong to a Bengali Zamindar from Kolkata and was popular as Laxmi Niwas as it still is. The agriculture department bought it in between year 1956-1961. We don’t know much of the story other than this but the building in a way speaks of its unexplained history,” an officer from the department said.

Singh, the building spread in almost 5,000 square feet has very interesting carvings which showcases stunning architecture from the 19th century. “The building though appears to be from the year 1905 but it can be even more ancient. The agriculture department has taken a great initiative. Conservation of such sites have also become crucial as they are generally seen vanishing in the ever increasing spree for quick profit-motivated development,” Singh said. The building will be conserved without using any modern material, in its original form. The structure would undergo a fine toothcomb for removal of foliage from cracks and damp-proof mixtures would be put in different nooks and crannies.

The museum meant to be built in the building would display the historical milestones from the field of agriculture along with the education and research aspects in agriculture. Students of agriculture, farmers, researchers and common people are said to benefit from the museum.

### **State decides to Store fertilizers at local levels**

MONDAY, 02 JULY 2012 21:15

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | LUCKNOW

In order to ensure availability of fertilisers to farmers on time, the state government has decided on storage of fertilisers at local level in advance. The scarcity of fertilisers during every sowing season have become a major problem which gives way to sale of fake fertilisers in the state.

According to director of Agriculture department, for 2012-13 Rabi season the government would store 3 lakh metric ton (LMT) of Urea and 8 LMT phospheric fertilisers. The state government would bear the interest amount on the price of fertilisers purchased in advance, charges of storage and amount spent on transportation.

Stressing that the state government have already made provision of Rs 100 crore in recent budget for advance storage of fertilisers, he said, the new arrangement will help farmers in getting fertilisers on time since government is taking measures to send the bags of fertilisers straight from nearest rail heads to godowns of cooperative committees at block level.

Following steep hike in fertilisers, in Rabi season fertilisers of old and new both rates will be available to farmers. In this view government has decided selling phosphoric fertilisers on old rates first and only after clearance of old stock the bags of new rates will be provided to farmers.

In every sowing season, delay in transportation and allocation of fertiliser quota of UP by the centre causes the serious crisis which leads to blackmarketeering of fertilisers and agitation by farmers. This time state government has also planned to check strictly the trafficking of fertilisers to neighbouring Nepal where it is sold on higher prices.

The Agriculture department officials are expecting the new arrangement might put an end to sale of fake fertilisers in state since sufficient amount of fertilisers at sowing time will be available at local level in godowns of cooperative committees.

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# Business Standard

Tuesday, Jul 03, 2012

## Deficient monsoon to hit sugar output

Dilip Kumar Jha & Sharleen D'Souza / Mumbai July 3, 2012, 0:08 IST

Sugar output is likely to decline by four per cent in the coming season, on lower recovery from the standing cane crop, due to deficient monsoon rainfall.

According to the latest forecast by the Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma), total sugar output might decline to 25 million tonnes during the crushing season beginning October, marginally lower than the current year's estimated production at 26 mt. At the start of the sowing season, many experts had estimated a bumper output again this year, after excessive production in successive seasons. Sugar season 2010-11 and 2011-12 saw 24.7 mt and 26 mt, respectively. Earlier, analysts were forecasting a little over 27 mt of output during 2012-13.

The southwest monsoon in June has delivered 31 per cent less than the long-term average rainfall, resulting in paucity of moisture and excess of sunshine, both harmful for germination, plant growth and accumulation of sucrose (sweetener) content in the standing cane crop.



“The monsoon period in June and July is crucial for the overall growth of the sugarcane plant. Lack of water and excessive sunshine affects overall germination and sucrose accumulation in cane,” said Abinash Verma, secretary general of Isma. The India Meteorological Department has forecast a normal monsoon in July and August; however, it had made the same prediction for June, too.

“Although, this is a very preliminary estimate, we see a negative impact on the overall output next season. Hence, we have cautiously estimated the overall output at 25 mt for the marketing season 2012-13,” said Verma.

India’s cane crushing season begins in October. Actual crushing often sometimes starts only by mid-November, sometimes because of the delay in announcing a State Advised Price by the government of Uttar Pradesh and also due to delay in harvesting of cane, on abnormally high moisture in the field due to prolonged monsoon rain. Crushing ends in most states in May, while the activity continues with late season cane in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

However, even with 25 mt of annual production, India needs to export around three mt, as the estimated domestic consumption would be 22 mt. The surplus needs to be exported, said Verma, despite downward sentiment in the global market.

### **Tea Board to set up two new centres for quality control**

**BS Reporter / Kolkata July 03, 2012, 0:24 IST**

The Tea Board of India is planning to come up with two regulatory councils — in North and South India — within six months, which would be entrusted to monitor the quality of tea.

“Our plan is to set up Tea Councils in North and South India to maintain and monitor quality standards in the industry. The body will have members from exporters, producers, traders, warehouse owners and also representatives from Tea Board,” said MGVK Bhanu, Tea Board Chairman, on the sidelines of the 117th annual general meeting of Calcutta Tea Traders Association. The councils are expected to come up within a time period of about six months.

However, the bodies will be under the control of Tea Board. Roshni Sen, Deputy Chairman of the board said, “The councils would be checking samples of every export consignment. The self-regulatory body will have the rights to cancel licence of exporters violating quality norms

and importers will be assured of quality.”

## **Onion prices up 25% as govt allows export without MEP**

**Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai July 3, 2012, 0:09 IST**

Onion prices rose 25 per cent in the spot market here on Monday due to lower output estimates on deficient monsoon rainfall and the government's decision, on Friday, to allow its shipment abroad without any minimum export price (MEP).

Data compiled by the National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation showed the model price of onion jumped by Rs 150 a quintal from yesterday, to trade at Rs 750 a quintal. Arrivals in the spot market here have also intensified. Accordingly, on Monday total arrivals in the spot market were 11,200 quintals as compared to 10,466 quintals yesterday.

A Friday notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade showed the government had scrapped the MEP barrier to boost exports. Pakistan, the normal competitor has none available at present, with its crop having failed last year. Continuous revision of MEP had restricted India's opportunity; the government feared rising onion prices might help raise inflation. However, after May 8, the MEP requirement had been removed; the loosening was applicable till July 2, when it was to be reviewed.

“Trade was better, with export demand having got support from the MEP removal,” said Ashok Valunj, director of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee at Vashi.

Traders are optimistic on a further rise in prices due to the deficiency in monsoon rain. According to the India Meteorological Department, there was 31 per cent lower rainfall in June, on the long term average, resulting in a 60 per cent delay in sowing of the early crop in Karnataka.

Union food minister K V Thomas had earlier estimated India's total onion output at 15.7 million tonnes in the 2011-12 crop year (July-June), against 13 mt in the previous year. However, frequent changes in government policies restricted demand at home and abroad. Due to the high export price, India had lost its competitive edge in international markets to China and Egypt. In January, the government had lowered the MEP on all varieties, except Bangalore

Rose onions and Krishnapuram onions, to \$150 per tonne.

India ranks second in the world in onion production, with Maharashtra and Gujarat the main producing regions. There was a serious supply crunch in late 2010 and early 2011, when prices rocketed to Rs 80-85 a kg in the retail market. Demand was usually stable through the year in 2011-12.

The vagaries of nature affect the crop badly. Hence, the deficiency of rainfall is likely to hit output this season. India exports onion to Sri Lanka, West Asia and Malaysia, besides a small quantity to some European countries.

### **Deficient monsoon to hit sugar output**

**Dilip Kumar Jha & Sharleen D'Souza / Mumbai July 3, 2012, 0:08 IST**

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However, even with 25 mt of annual production, India needs to export around three mt, as the estimated domestic consumption would be 22 mt. The surplus needs to be exported, said Verma, despite downward sentiment in the global market.

### **Indonesia mulls introducing support price for rubber**

**Might go for pact with Thailand, Malaysia weak global demand hits prices**

**George Joseph / Kochi July 3, 2012, 0:07 IST**

Indonesia, the world’s second-largest natural rubber producer, is considering introducing a minimum price under an agreement with other major Southeast Asian producers Thailand and Malaysia, to avert a further decline in the commodity’s price in the crisis-hit global markets.

Weakening global demand amid the ongoing economic crisis has recently hit rubber prices badly. The Bangkok price tag for the RSS-3 grade dropped to Rs 183 per kg on Monday, compared to Rs 190 per kg three weeks ago.

“Setting a minimum price is one of the alternatives we’re considering now,” Indonesian Trade Minister Gita Wirjawan was quoted as saying in a release posted on the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries’ (ANRPC) website.

“The measure would likely help stabilise the commodity’s price amid slowing demand during the current global economic crisis,” he added. The Indonesian government would soon meet officials from Thailand and Malaysia to discuss the issue, but a time frame for such talks is yet to be determined.

The three countries, whose natural rubber production accounts for 70 per cent of global output, might jointly limit exports and set an export quota for natural rubber, Thailand Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Nuttawut Saikua said, according to the ANRPC website. Thailand, the world's largest producer of natural rubber, produced 3.5 million tonnes (mt) in 2011 against Indonesia's three mt and Malaysia's 996,000 tonnes. A joint effort to cut sales through a tripartite agreement in 2009 by the Southeast Asian producers proved effective in maintaining prices at that time. Rubber futures have slid 28 per cent this quarter, the worst since 2008. It is down 10 per cent so far this year, as the economic slowdown weakens global demand. Asril Sutan Amir, chairman of the Indonesian Rubber Association (Gapkindo), said the minimum price should be set at about \$4 per kg. The three producers also need to plan supply management, agree on export quantities and reduce tapping frequency. The three countries should apply all of these measures instead of just a single measure to make the joint efforts more effective, Amir was quoted as saying on the ANRPC website. Indonesian farmers have reduced tapping, which will cut the nation's rubber output by 9.7 per cent to 2.8 mt, lower than the previous estimate of up to three mt. Domestic output was already down by six per cent to 700,000 tonnes in the first quarter this year from the year-ago period. The association's data shows exports might tumble by up to eight per cent to 2.3 mt this year from last year. During the first quarter, Indonesia exported 564,320 tonnes of rubber, down 10 per cent from the same period last year, according to Gapkindo.

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## THE HINDU Business Line

### Turmeric futures gain



Scanty rains in the turmeric growing regions is likely to impact output for the coming year, say market players.

Mumbai, July 3:

Turmeric futures on NCDEX gained 3 per cent to Rs 4,240 per quintal.

Opening at Rs 4,130 a quintal on Tuesday, the August contract on NCDEX touched a day's high of Rs 4,272 and a low of RS 4,120.

There is strong buying interest as production is expected to fall sharply next year. Market players expect scanty rains in the turmeric growing regions to impact output for the coming year.

Exports remained buoyant throughout the year. In March, exports jumped 7 per cent to 6,300 tonnes from 5,900 tonnes in the same period last year. For the fiscal ended March 2012, exports were up 62 per cent to 79,500 tonnes against 49,250 tonnes registered last year. This was largely due to good demand amid low prices.

### **Soyabean futures top Rs 4,000 a quintal on low stocks**

Indore, July 2:

The bullish trend in soyabean is likely to continue on lower carryover stocks and delay in sowing of the oilseed crop, mainly in Madhya Pradesh. On Monday, soyabean for August delivery hit a record Rs 4,000 a quintal on the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).

According to Mr Vinod Choudhary, an Indore-based trader, due to delay in the arrival of monsoon, sowing of soyabean in Madhya Pradesh is lower at 2.75 lakh hectares. Monsoon is yet to lash Malwa, Nimar and other major growing regions in Madhya Pradesh. Though farmers have prepared their fields, sowing will get delayed this season because of late monsoon, said a crusher. Delayed sowing will lead to shortage in supply, said a soya trader adding that currently arrivals in spot markets are weak and new crop is still two-three months away.

In Madhya Pradesh mandis, soyabean on Monday ruled at Rs 3,700-3,815 a quintal. Higher demand from the crushers and weak arrival on account of rains which finally arrived in the State also lent strength to soyabean prices. With monsoon finally setting in Madhya Pradesh, increased demand for soya oil in the coming days will also add to the bullish sentiment in the coming days. Plant deliveries rose by about Rs 50 to Rs 3,880-3,950.



In futures also, soyabean traded higher on improved buying support with its July and August contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 3,988 (up Rs 19.50) and Rs 4,018 (up Rs 8).

Arrivals in Madhya Pradesh was recorded at 35,000 bags against 2,500 in Indore mandis.

Soya oil also traded higher on improved buying support and strong global cues with soya refined ruling higher at Rs 715-18 for 10 kg (Rs 710-15). Similarly, soya solvent also traded higher at Rs 685-90 for 10 kg (Rs 680-85) on scattered buying support.

Similarly on the National Board of Trade, Indoore, soya refined traded higher with its July contract closing at Rs 760.50.

On the NCDEX, however, soya oil July futures closed marginally lower at Rs 760.50, while its August contract closed Rs 1.20 higher at Rs 771.

With better export demand, soya DOC on Kandla ruled at Rs 34,500 a quintal, while it was Rs 33,500 in the domestic market.

### **Refineries hike palmolein, soya oil rates**

Our Correspondent Mumbai, July 2:

Imported palmolein and soya refined oils rose Rs 4 for 10 kg and Re 1 each on Monday in line with price hike by refineries, tracking firm foreign markets.

Groundnut oil shot up Rs15 for 10 kg despite steady reports from producing centres. Cotton refined oil dropped Rs 5, while sunflower oil and rapeseed oil were unchanged.

Crude palm oil futures rose to a one-month high on Monday, driven by stronger demand outlook for palm oil as a worsening US drought could further tighten global oilseed supplies. Rising demand ahead of Ramadan continued to support prices.

Mr Shailesh Kataria, a broker, said: "Lower than expected local demand capped upward move; otherwise fundamentals were positive". Once the festival demands improve, prices may go up. He further said that due to need-based demand, volumes were thin. Vaibhavi sold about 250–300 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 612–614. At the About 80 -100 tonnes of palmolein were traded in resale at Rs 610- 613. Local stockists bought about 80–100 tonnes of fine quality soyabean refined oil from Dhulia side at Rs 738 –740 plus tax basis.

Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 619-621, super palmolein Rs 655, soya oil Rs 747 and sunflower refined oil Rs 752. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 618 for July and Rs 623-625 for August. Soya

refined oil at Rs 747-752 for July. Sunflower refined oil at Rs 745-750. Allana's rate for Palmolein was Rs 620. Bunge quoted Palmolein at Rs 620 and Mewah offered at Rs 618.

In Saurashtra - Rajkot groundnut oil increased by Rs 20 to Rs 1,900 for *Telia* tin and by Rs 20 to Rs 1,250 (Rs 1,230) for loose - 10kg.

**Malaysia's crude palm oil** August contracts settled at MYR 3,070 (MYR 3,000), September at MYR 3,088 (MYR 3,020) and October at MYR 3,094 (MYR 3,031) a tonne. **The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates were (Rs/10 kg):** groundnut oil 1,200 (1,185), soya refined oil 739 (738), sunflower exp. ref. 670 (670), sunflower ref. 750 (745), rapeseed ref. oil 825 (825), rapeseed expeller ref. 795 (795) cotton ref. oil 700 (705) and palmolein 616 (612).

#### Mills rush to buy cotton on delay in monsoon



Rajkot, July 2:

Cotton prices continued to move up on Monday with demand from mills and spinners increasing. According to market sources, the Rs 300-400 gain for a candy of 356 kg was expected.

A Rajkot-based cotton broker said, "Like last week, cotton prices increased on higher domestic demand. Delay in the arrival of rain in key production regions is forcing domestic mills to scale up procurement."

Exporters didn't participate, though. In fact, some exporters were selling their stocks in Gujarat and North India due to the lack of fresh orders and the appreciating rupee. Some traders said that despite the increasing price, farmers and ginnerers are still holding back their stock as they want higher profits. Arrivals, however, ruled steady on 10,000 bales in Gujarat and 25,000 bales in India.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton traded at Rs 34,200- 34,800 a candy and B-grade cotton at Rs 33,700-34,000. Prices of New V 797 offered at Rs 28,000-28,300. In Maharashtra A grade cotton low micronaire quoted at Rs 33,500-34,000 a candy and A grade high micronaire cotton 29+ MM quoted at 34,200-34,700.

J-34 RG quoted in the range of Rs 3,575-3,625 a quintal in Punjab, Rs 3,500-3,520 in Haryana and Rs 3,500-3,510 in Rajasthan.

### Quality offerings lend colour to turmeric



Erode, July 2:

Spot turmeric prices gained on lower arrivals in Erode markets on Monday. Though demand was lukewarm, prices gained since the quality of arrivals was good.

“About 8,500 bags of good quality turmeric arrived for sale. Bulk buyers and stockists purchased 50 per cent of the arrivals . Prices will remain at the same level of Rs 4,000-4,300 a quintal in the near future,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said no exporter or bulk buyers had received fresh orders from North India. Added to this, due to heavy rain and flood in Assam, the traders there have not place any orders. Similarly, as rains are expected in various places in North India, no new order was placed. Meanwhile, no grower is yet to sell turmeric to TANFED at Rs 4,000 a quintal fixed by the Tamil Nadu Government. This is because current prices are higher. Due to arrival of very fine turmeric variety of Hybrid Salem turmeric, prices touched Rs 5,000 a quintal. Some bulk buyers purchased them to dispatch them to Delhi traders. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety sold at Rs 2,309-4,084 a quintal, the root variety at Rs 2,226-3,791

**Salem crop:** The price of the finger variety was Rs 3,869-5,007 a quintal and root variety Rs 3,686-4,239. Of 1,348 bags that arrived, only 407 were sold.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,649-4,169 and the root variety Rs 3,637-3,961. All the 924 bags on offer were sold. At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,269-4,300 and the root variety at Rs 3,028-3,949. Some 1,076 bags of turmeric were sold as against arrival of 1,084. At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,269-4,460. The root variety was quoted at Rs 2,840-3,859 a quintal. All the 432 bags of turmeric kept for sales were sold.

### Rice stays flat amid tepid sales



Karnal, July 2:

Arrivals of Sathi rice variety from Uttar Pradesh started last weekend. Around 5,000 bags arrived at the Karnal Grain Market Terminal and sold at Rs 1,040-1,080 a quintal. Arrivals are not regular, it may increase in the coming days, said Mr Tara Chand Sharma, proprietor of Tara Chand and Sons.

Sathi comes here from Uttar Pradesh as there is ban on the production of Sathi in Haryana, he added. On the other hand, in the physical market, rice prices remained flat amid tepid selling at low margins on Monday. Miscalculations by the trade along with expectations of higher prices were responsible for this bad phase in rice trade, said Mr Sharma. Traders expect aromatic varieties to witness a fall in the near future while non-basmati varieties may continue to rule around current levels, he said. Lack of buying interest kept aromatic varieties unchanged. Pusa-1121 (steam) quoted at Rs 5,750-5,800 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) sold at Rs 4,800-4,850. Pure Basmati (raw) quoted at Rs 5,450-5,500, while pure basmati (sela) ruled around at Rs 5,000 a quintal. Duplicate basmati quoted at Rs 4,500-4,600.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar sold at Rs 3,400, Dubar at Rs 2,800-2,900 and Mongra at Rs 2,100-2,200 a quintal. After witnessing a fall last weekend, PR varieties managed to maintain their previous levels. PR-11 (sela) sold for Rs 2,500, PR-11 (raw) was at Rs 2,350-2,450 a quintal, Permal (raw) Rs 2,000-2,100 a quintal, while Permal (sela) Rs 1,900-21,00. PR-14 (steam) Rs 2,650-2,850 a quintal. Sharbati (steam) quoted at Rs 3,650-3,700 a quintal, while Sharbati (sela) sold at Rs 3,400-3,500 a quintal.

### Pepper recovers on limited activity

G. K. Nair Kochi, July 2:

The pepper market on Monday recovered on limited activity and buying interest amid tight availability.

Some small and medium players, who were holding long positions, liquidated today. But buying interest was more as evident from the open interest and consequently the market moved up.

## **Domestic demand**

Domestic demand from the industry buyers was also seen. However, upcountry consumer demand is yet to pick up from the North Indian States as they are currently under the grip of hot weather conditions.

Speculative long position holders last weekend resorted to liquidation, which had led to the prices dropping in recent days. But, those who have a feeling that out of around 2,700 tonnes available for July delivery, already around 1,000 tonnes are in the hands of strong operators and with the possibility of fresh deposits given the unfavourable weather conditions being unlikely, were covering and that in turn pushed the prices up, market sources told *Business Line*.

Consequently, the market opened on a firmer note and closed above the previous day's closing.

July contract on the NCDEX increased by Rs 345 to the last traded price (LTP) of Rs 41,050 a quintal. August and September contracts moved up by Rs 270 and Rs 200 respectively to the LTP of Rs 41,370 and Rs 41,550 a quintal.

## **Turnover**

Total turnover dropped by 116 tonnes to 1,723 tonnes. Total open interest increased by 51 tonnes to 5,002 tonnes.

July open interest dropped by 64 tonnes to close at 2,764 tonnes while that of August and September were up by 100 tonnes and 5 tonnes respectively to close at 2,141 tonnes and 90 tonnes.

Spot prices increased by Rs 200 a quintal on good buying support and in tandem with the futures market trend to close at Rs 38,600 (ungarbled) and Rs 40,100 (MG 1) a quintal.

On the spot 29 tonnes of farm grade pepper arrived and the entire quantity was traded at Rs 385, 387 and 389 a kg depending on the quality, grade and area of production, they said.

## **Overseas market**

Indian parity in the international market was at \$7,500 - \$7,600 a tonne (c&f) Europe and \$7,800 - \$7,900 a tonne (c&f) for the USA. MG 1 at this rate remained totally out priced, they said.

Other origins were much below the Indian parity.



According to an overseas report today Vietnam pepper on basis FOB Hcmc, prompt/July shipments per tonne were Black FAQ min 500 G/L \$6,160; 550 G/L \$6,450; V Asta \$6,870 and white double washed at \$8,980.

Lampong ASTA quality was being quoted at \$ 6,500/6,550 (FOB) July/August shipment while Brazil was offering B Asta at \$ 6,400 a tonne (fob).

### Festival demand sweetens sugar



Mumbai, July 2:

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market increased by Rs 10-15 a quintal on Monday, tracking a firm trend at upper levels. Quality sugar was in demand and this pushed up tender rates by Rs 20. Markets extended gain as traders believe that 45 lakh tonnes of free sale quarterly quota for July-September quarter will be inadequate due to a series of festivals during that time. As markets were closed on Saturday for *Ashadhi Ekadashi* festival, volumes were higher on Monday. A Vashi-based wholesaler said that demand will be higher during festivals such as *Ramadan*, *Raksha Bandhan*, *Janmashtami* and *Ganeshotsav* during the second quarter. Secondly, erratic monsoon has also increased the concern about new crop and yield. The situation is definitely worrisome.

He said that sugar prices shot up by Rs 15-20 on Friday on the announcement of free sale quota. .



Domestic sugar futures market has been firm since last week with steady gains.

In Vashi market, arrivals were 55-56 truckloads and local dispatches were 54-55 loads. On Saturday, only 6-8 mills offered tenders and sold 50,000–52,000 bags in the higher range of Rs 2,900-2,950 (Rs 2,880-2,940) for S-grade and Rs 3,000-3,050 (Rs 2,980-3,040) for M-grade.

**The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were (Rs/quintal):** S-grade Rs 2,991-3,041 (Rs 2,991 -3,041) and M-grade Rs 3,066- 3,211 (Rs 2,960- 3,201).

**Naka delivery rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,960 -3,000 (Rs 2,960 -3,005) and M-grade Rs 3,060-3,130 (Rs 3,050-3,120).

### Sugar spurts on unchanged quota

New Delhi, July 2:

The wholesale sugar prices shot up by Rs 100 per quintal here on Monday on increased seasonal buying.

The government keeping the quarterly free-sale sugar quota against current seasonal demand also fuelled the uptrend to some extent.

Marketmen said the government keeping free sale sugar quota for July-September unchanged at approximately 45 lakh tonnes was less than market experts amid rising demand for wedding and summer season.

Fresh buying by stockist and bulk consumers, such as softdrink and ice-cream makers also supported the gain in sugar price, they said.

Sugar spot M-30 and S-30 both climbed up from Rs 3,170-3,370 and Rs 3,145-3,345 to settle at Rs 3,260-3,460 and Rs 3,225-3,425 per quintal, respectively.

Mill delivery M-30 and S-30 also jumped up from Rs 2,980-3,235 and Rs 2,960-3,220 to Rs 3,070-3,300 and Rs 3,050-3,280 per quintal, respectively.

Among millgate excluding duty section, sugar morna and baghapat shot up to Rs 3,070 and Rs 3,090 per quintal, showing a rise around Rs 90 per quintal.

Sugar ramala surged by Rs 100 to Rs 3,070 per quintal, while bulandhsar rose by Rs 80 at Rs 3,090 per quintal.

The following were today's rates per quintal:

Sugar ready: M-30 3,260-3,460, S-30 3,225-3,425.

Mill delivery: M-30 3,070-3,300; S-30 3,050-3,280.

Sugar mill gate prices (excluding duty): Mawana 3150, Kinnoni 3290, Asmoli 3220, Doralala 3140, Budhana 3130, Thanabhavan 3140, Ramala 3070, Bulandshar 3090, Morna 3080, Sakoti 3060, Chandpur 3070, Dhanora 3130, Khatuli 3120 and Baghpat 3090.

### **Heavy arrivals crush copra**

Erode, July 2:

Heavy arrivals and low demand dragged copra prices at Avalpoondurai Regulated Marketing Committee auctions. Arrivals touched 4,800 bags or 240 tonnes. Surprisingly, the entire quantity was sold, said Mr Dhandapani, Superintendent, Avalpoondurai Regulated Marketing Committee. On Monday, prices for the 175 tonnes that were sold fell by 90 paise a kg compared with the previous auction. On Friday, 4,800 bags or 240 tonnes arrived. The first grade was sold at Rs 38.35-41.15 a kg, down 75 paise. The second grade fetched Rs 33.15-39.40 a kg, down Rs 2.50 compared with a week ago. During the last weekend at the Perundurai Cooperative Marketing society, the former was sold at Rs 39.45-41.35 a kg and the latter Rs 31.15-38.70 a kg, and 190 tonnes were sold in total, he said. He said demand for copra is low and so buyers quoted lower prices. Mr R.M. Palanisamy, a coconut oil trader, said the price of the oil decreased to Rs 900 for a 15-kg loose pack as sales were poor. Coconut oil will increase to Rs 930 for a 15-kg loose pack next month, he said, as copra will also improve then. Rains won't affect crushing for oil as the crushers have adequate stock of copra, Mr Palanisamy said. Coconut oil is unlikely to rise above Rs 930 as there won't be any demand at those prices.

### **ISMA lowers 2012-13 sugar output estimate to 25 million tonnes**

New Delhi, July 2:

The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has forecast an output of 25 million tonnes (mt) for 2012-13 season starting October. This is one million tonne lower than the 26 mt projected by the industry body for the current year. The lower forecast, despite higher cane acreage, is mainly on account of inadequate rains impacting yields and recovery in the key States of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

The Agriculture Ministry data indicate that sugarcane has been planted in 52.22 lakh hectares (lh) in the 2012-13 season, about 2.30 lh more than previous year's 49.92 lh.

"It is slightly early to make a good estimation of sugar production since the rainfall in the next couple of months would be crucial to firm up estimates on the yield, recovery and sugar production," ISMA said in a statement.

Of the projected 25 mt for 2012-13, Uttar Pradesh is likely to produce 7.8 mt and Maharashtra 7.6 mt. Karnataka may produce 3 mt and Tamil Nadu 2.5 mt. States such as Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh are expected to produce 1 mt each and the balance by other States.

ISMA felt yields and recovery in Northern States may be slightly better, whereas monsoon in next few months in Maharashtra and Karnataka could result in better output. It expects to review its forecast after the end of monsoon.

The actual sugar production in the current 2011-12 season, up to end June-2012, stood at 25.7 mt. ISMA, sticking to its forecast of 26 mt, expects a production of another 3 lakh tonne in the next three months, mainly in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The sugar body expects the exports to touch 3.5 mt by end-September and that the country will have a comfortable opening balance for 2012-13. It expects the county to remain a net exporter of sugar next year too.

### **Board plans regulatory councils to check tea quality**

Kolkata, July 2:

The Tea Board is planning to set up self-regulatory councils under its fold to check the quality of tea leaves being exported.

According to the Board Chairman, Mr M.G.V.K. Bhanu, two such self-regulatory councils will be set up by the end of this year.

While one council will monitor exports from northern regions of the country, the other will operate in Southern India.

"The council will self-regulate export consignments and if necessary suggest to the Tea Board the need for cancellation of licences of errant exporters or warehouse owners," Mr Bhanu told reporters on the sidelines of the 117<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Calcutta Tea Traders Association.

The proposed council will comprise stake-holders including warehouse owners, tea exporters and producers. He, however, did not specify any other details.

### **Warehousing**

According to Mr Bhanu, discussions are already on with Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT) authorities to develop nearly 6 lakh sq ft of additional warehousing space. Land will be leased out to the Tea Board authorities. The Board will develop the warehousing facilities on a public private partnership basis, Ms Roshni Sen, Deputy Chairman, told reporters.

Warehousing facilities are likely to come up in another six months.

### **Call for value-addition in coconut through farm level processing**

Our Bureau



Taking tech to farm: The Union Food Minister, Prof K.V. Thomas, at the inaugural session of 45th APCC Cocotech meeting in Kochi on Monday. The Tamil Nadu Minister for Agriculture, Mr S. Damodaran (left) and Mr A.A. Jinnah, MP and Member of Coconut Development Board, is also seen. — Vipin Chandran

Kochi, July 2:

The Coconut Development Board is committed to making the country the global topper in production, productivity, processing for value addition and exports during the 12th Plan, Prof K.V. Thomas, Union Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs, said. He was inaugurating the 45th Cocotech meeting of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) here on Monday.

The Board, he said, has chalked out a host of ambitious programmes under the Technology Mission on Coconut to encourage manufacture of various coconut products such as desiccated coconut powder, packaged tender coconut water, coconut milk concentrate, cream, and virgin coconut oil. The emphasis is mainly on evolving technologies for the development of new value-added products in tune with those of other leading countries such as the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Indonesia had yielded results, he added. “Aggregation of farmers and their produce will help to make available raw materials at competitive rates,” he said adding this will also trigger farm-level processing for value addition, effective marketing strategies and market promotional activities. Mr S. Damodaran, Agriculture Minister, Tamil Nadu, called upon scientists to identify new technologies and genes for coconut development particularly to evolve new varieties confirming resistance to root wilt disease and to withstand drought conditions. He pointed out that Central Plantation Crops Research Institute has 401 genotypes in their gene bank which can be used to develop the sector globally. He also urged the Board to initiate steps to demonstrate new technologies to the farmers in Tirupur, where the Tamil Nadu Government had allotted 33 hectares for production of coconut seedlings. Mr Romulo N. Arancon, Jr., Executive Director, APCC, stressed the need to increase productivity through replanting and rejuvenation programmes in all coconut growing countries by replacing senile palms, crop intensification promotion and crop diversification through intercropping. More than 200 delegates are attending the 5-day meet. The conference with the theme “Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development of the Coconut Industry” is taking place in India after a gap of 12 years.

### Delayed rain may dampen jute production



Parched hopes: Mr Atri Bhattacharya (left), Secretary, National Jute Board and Jute Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India and Mr Ashok Aikat, President, Bharat Chamber of Commerce at an interactive session on Jute and Bengal in Kolkata. — A. Roy Chowdhury

Kolkata, July 2:

Jute production is likely to be lower this year on delayed rainfall, according to

Mr Atri Bhattacharya, Secretary, National Jute Board and Jute Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles.

Market sources estimate that there could be a 12 per cent drop in production of raw jute to 95 lakh bales (1 bale – 180 kg) this year, as compared with 108 lakh bales in 2011-12.

“Last year we saw a good crop on account of favourable weather and availability of seeds. This year, however, the crop is likely to take a beating due to delayed rain,” Mr Bhattacharya said at an interactive session on ‘Jute and Bengal’ organised by the Bharat Chamber of Commerce here on Monday.

Jute sowing usually starts by the end of March and continues up to the end of May. Sowing requires a hot and humid weather with regular bouts of showers. However, this year, the State did not receive adequate showers that are ideal for sowing.

However, the area under jute production is likely to remain the same, he said.

### **Diversification**

Jute industry, which is highly dependent on sacking, should look at innovation and diversification to improve its market. “There is a risk of being dependent on sacking alone as some markets such as Punjab are already looking for alternatives and are conducting pilot project for storing grains in silos,” he said.

### **Labour shortage**

The Rs 8,500-crore industry is facing a severe labour crunch, he said. “We are running out of labour as people are drawn towards employment under NREGA. We need to provide proper working conditions to help retain these labourers,” he added. [Shobha@thehindu.co.in](mailto:Shobha@thehindu.co.in)

## **Research unit for Zebrafish launched at Hyderabad**

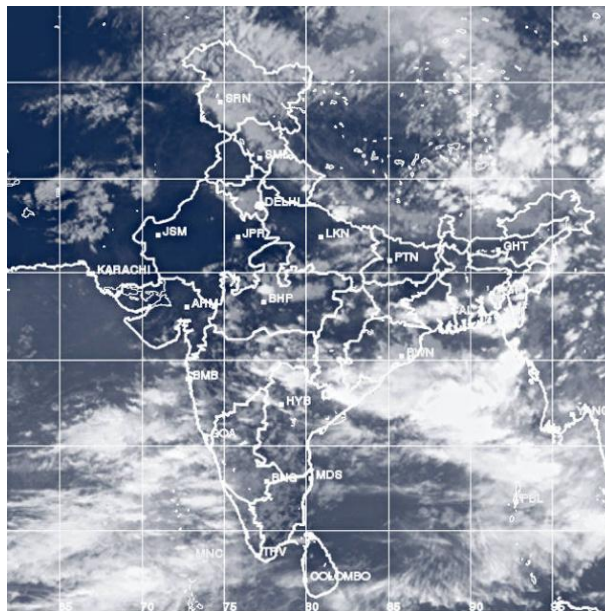
Hyderabad, July 2:

An exclusive research facility for Zebrafish has been set up at the city-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB). The lab has been doing research on Zebrafish. The facility will be laboratory for research on this alternative animal model. It was inaugurated on Monday by

Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari, Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Zebrafish, a native of Indian subcontinent, has gained prominence as a model organism as it provides access to various genetic, genomic and biology information with distinct advantages in the vertebrate systems. Speaking on this occasion, Dr Ch Mohan Rao, Director, CCMB said the genome of Zebrafish is similar to the genome of human beings. This has prompted the lab to deal exclusively with this fish to investigate developmental biology in vertebrates. It is an important model to study human diseases.

## Monsoon likely to venture into north-west by next week

Vinson Kurian



Thiruvananthapuram, July 2:

India Meteorological Department (IMD) expects monsoon rains to venture into northwest India from early next week.

A facilitating trough, which would help monsoon easterlies to blow in from the Bay of Bengal, is apparently coming into its own across the plains.

### MONSOON TROUGH

On Monday, the northwest to southeast-oriented trough lay extended from Punjab to northwest Bay of Bengal across Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, the IMD said.



A weather warning for next two days said that heavy rains would lash Konkan, Goa, coastal Karnataka, Telangana, north coastal Andhra Pradesh, south Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

The offshore trough along the Gujarat to Kerala coasts indicated that the monsoon had entered an active phase, at least for now.

The cyclonic circulation over northeast Arabian Sea off Maharashtra and Gujarat coasts too persisted on Monday.

Thus, the monsoon rally triggered in the wake of the passing of tropical storm 'Doksuri' in the northwest Pacific became entrenched on Monday.

#### MORE SHOWERS

A peer cyclonic circulation over northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of north coastal Orissa and Gangetic West Bengal also has persisted.

The IMD expected thundershowers to break out along the west coast, east and adjoining central India and the Northeastern States during the rest of the week.

It also expected to see the monsoon trough to become well-defined across the plains to push the first rains of the season into northwest India from early next week.

But the northern limit of monsoon has not pushed beyond Veraval, Navsari, Malegaon, Betul, Jabalpur, Sidhi, Varanasi and Gorakhpur where it has been locked in for weeks together now.

#### NORTHWARD PROGRESS

The IMD assessed conditions as favourable for further its advance into remaining parts of Maharashtra and more parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh during next two days.

But forecasts from global agencies still suggest that Arabian Sea flows might begin to weaken from the weekend and into the next.

Given this background, monsoon behaviour in northwest India would bear watching through the rest of the week.