

## Horticulture Board to the rescue of farmers hit by cyclone

The National Horticulture Board, functioning under the Union Ministry of Agriculture, has come to the rescue of the 'Thane cyclone' affected farmers of Cuddalore district, according to Bijay Kumar, Managing Director of the Board.

Mr. Kumar was here to coordinate with all agencies to ameliorate the lots of distraught farmers on Wednesday. On the sidelines of the meeting, he told *The Hindu* that the Board suggested cashew farmers, who were badly affected, to form clusters of 10 acres to raise bank loan to take to hi-tech commercial cultivation.

Traditional cashew groves looked like shrubs or jungles owing to lack of vegetation management. If the canopy is properly pruned, yield would be more and quality of nuts better.

If the foliage was kept in right density, the yield per hectare would double from 50 kg of nuts per hectare. As it would take more than five years to get the yield from fresh stocks, cashew farmers could go in for intercropping, particularly vegetables, wherever irrigation facility was available.

Mr. Kumar also noted that farmers could form clusters of 10 acres each and approach banks for loans to raise fresh crops. In such case, the Board would extend them 20 per cent loan subsidy.

It meant that farmers would have to repay only 80 per cent of loans sanctioned to them. But, he stressed the point that they ought to promptly repay the loan to get the subsidy. He also noted that farmers could tell the banks to keep the monetary support of Rs 25,000 per ha given by the State government for removing uprooted trees as margin money.

For setting up processing units, the Board would give a subsidy of 40 per cent of the project cost. Project proposals should be complete in its contents and viable.

Mr. Kumar said that the Board was ready to organise exposure visits for the cyclone-affected farmers to the areas in Western coast, Karnataka and Maharashtra where modern technology was being adopted for raising cashew crops. Such visits would be funded by the Board.

Earlier, addressing farmers, Mr. Kumar said that for technical guidance they could not depend fully on the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, the Indian Council for Agricultural Research and the Krishi Vigyan Kendras because they could not spare experts all the time. Therefore, the Board proposed to train progressive farmers and unemployed educated youths as master trainers to render full time assistance to farmers in need, Mr. Kumar said. K.S. Alagiri, Cuddalore MP, said that after a great deal of efforts, he convinced Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar to send Central officials, including Mr. Kumar and Joint Director of Agriculture B.K. Singh, to Cuddalore to interact with farmers. Collector Rajendra Ratnoo and Additional Collector K. Veera Raghava Rao, who is also Project Officer, Thane Project Management Unit, were present.

NAGAPATTINAM, June 1, 2012

### **Renewal of licence for prawn farmers**

Prawn farm owners are mandated to renew their licences as mandated under the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005, here in the district. The Act mandates renewal of licences and registrations once in five years, as directed under Rule no.12 of the CAA. According to a department release, the renewal shall be made in Form 3. Prawn farm owners are required to submit Form 3 two months prior to the expiry of the registration period. Form 3 may be procured from the office of Assistant Director, Fisheries and Coastal Aquaculture, or alternatively may be downloaded from the website of CAA on [www.caa.gov.in](http://www.caa.gov.in).

KOCHI, June 1, 2012

### **Vegetable prices show signs of easing**

Vegetable prices appear to be softening despite the price of a couple of items continuing to rule high on cues of a shortage of supplies.

On Thursday, the costlier items continued to be carrot (selling between Rs. 40 and 42 a kg in the retail market) and French beans selling between Rs. 36 and 40 a kg while drumstick has made its way into the list of costlier items with a retail price of Rs. 32 a kg.

Vegetable retailers here said that supplies were normal but they were not placing orders for larger supplies because of the threat of rains that lead to damage of vegetables being transported.

The Nendran variety of banana continued to rule high at Rs. 42 a kg in the retail market. Cabbage was selling at Rs. 30 a kg; cauliflower at Rs. 30; green chilli at Rs. 16; big onions at Rs. 12; pumpkin at Rs. 16; potatoes at Rs. 24; cowpea (achinga) at Rs. 32 and tomato at Rs. 18 a kg.

Meanwhile, market intervention by government agencies like the Kerala State Horticultural Products Development Corporation (Horticorp) and the Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council (VFPC) appears to have had its impact on the price with the slowing down of the prices this week.

Horticorp has opened stalls all over the State, while its presence is more dominant in Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts. The VFPC has opened its stall in the city and the sales have picked up considerably over the last week. The sales turnover has averaged Rs. one lakh a day.

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# hindustantimes

■ Fri, 01 Jun 2012

weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Friday, Jun 1

Max    Min

42.4° | 30.4°

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy






Saturday, Jun 2

Max    Min

39° | 30°

**Rain:** 00 mm in 24hrs      **Sunrise:** 6:35  
**Humidity:** 53%              **Sunset:** 18:03  
**Wind:** Normal                **Barometer:** 1002

**Extended Forecast for a week**

Sunday Jun 3	Monday Jun 4	Tuesday Jun 5	Wednesday Jun 6	Thursday Jun 7
				
39°   30°	39°   30°	39°   31°	39°   30°	39°   30°
Rainy	Cloudy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy



**27.80 lakh hectares area to come under paddy transplantation this year**

WEDNESDAY, 30 MAY 2012 23:02

PNS | CHANDIGARH

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Punjab Government on Wednesday claimed to have made all arrangements to ensure smooth transplantation of paddy. Mangal Singh Sandhu, Director, Agriculture said that during this Khareef season 27.80 lakh hectares area is expected to come under paddy transplantation with the expected yield of 161.94 metric tonne.

He said that the Punjab Government while considering the demands of farmers has amended the Punjab prevention of sub soil water Act, 2009 and changed the date of nursery sowing from 10 May to 1st May but date of transplanting would remain the same i.e. 10th June.

Sandhu said that the Punjab State Power Corporation limited has been asked to ensure uninterrupted eight-hours power supply to all the tubewells. He said that all the concerned departments have also been asked to work under joint strategy to achieve the set target of paddy production.

He said that keeping in view the acute shortage of migrant labourers especially during the paddy season, farmers are being motivated to opt for mechanised transplanting and to use the saplings of MAT type nurseries for paddy transplantation.

"In the previous year, the area under transplantation was 28.21 lakh hectares. This year the area under paddy has decreased to 27.80 lac hectare because some area has been spared for the transplantation of Basmati and Guar," he added.

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## Business Standard

Friday, Jun 01, 2012

### Global woes take a toll on arabica coffee

Exports decline 5% anticipation of bumper crop in Brazil drags down price by 26%

Mahesh Kulkarni / Bangalore June 1, 2012, 0:20 IST



Unlike robusta coffee prices, which have recently seen a 25 per cent increase, prices of arabica coffee have crashed 26 per cent, since January. Its price is currently at Rs 8,200 per bag (each bag is equal to 50 kg), against Rs 11,000 a bag in January.

The decline in prices of arabica has been attributed to relatively low demand in the international markets, a record bumper crop in Brazil and the euro zone crisis. The Brazilian crop size is estimated at 50.5 million bags.

ICE arabica coffee futures dropped to new lows, as the macroeconomic situation in Europe and a stronger dollar continued to weigh on the market. ICE Arabica for July delivery settled 0.6 per cent lower at \$1.6440/lb, the Coffee Board of India said on its website.

India's arabica exports during the first five months of the year have declined five per cent to 35,237 tonnes. While arabica parchment exports have fallen nine per cent to 26,843 tonnes, exports of arabica cherry have increased 14 per cent to 8,394 tonnes.

"The demand sentiment is slightly lower in the international coffee market in anticipation of a record bumper crop in Brazil, which has started shipping its coffee for the year. As a result, prices have crashed in the past few months. The prices in India are a reflection of the global trend. Lower prices also mean less investible funds with growers for the next crop year," Marvin Rodrigues, chairman of the Karnataka Planters Association (KPA), said.

However, 2012-13 is an off-year for Indian coffee and early estimates made by KPA peg arabica production at about 10 per cent less than in the past year.

This is primarily on account of 40 per cent less rainfall during the pre-blossom and blossom periods. In major growing regions in Karnataka, which account for over 70 per cent of the country's coffee production, rainfall was below average during the March to April period, he said.

"Since this is an off-year for coffee in India, we cannot expect a good crop. The plants cannot produce the same yield for consecutive years. Moreover, due to less than normal blossom showers, there will be an adverse impact on the output of arabica variety," Rodrigues added.

For the year 2011-12, coffee production is estimated at about 295,000 tonnes, about 2.3 per cent less than in the previous year. Arabica production is pegged at about 95,000 tonnes, about 9.5 per cent less than in the previous year. "We expect arabica production to be lower by 10 per cent on expectation for 2012-13. Our official estimates for the year will be announced by the middle of June," he added.

## Sugar output up at 25.5 mt this year

Press Trust Of India / New Delhi June 01, 2012, 1:18 IST

Sugar output has surpassed the government's projection of 25.2 mt in the 2011-12 marketing year so far. According to the Indian Sugar Mills Association, mills have produced 25.5 mt of sugar till May of the 2011-12 marketing year, higher by eight per cent from the year-ago period.

## AgriMin proposes Rs 170/qtl rise in paddy MSP

Press Trust Of India / New Delhi June 01, 2012, 1:19 IST

In view of rising farm input costs, the agriculture ministry has proposed a Rs 170 per quintal increase in the minimum support price of paddy at Rs 1,250 per quintal for the 2012-13 crop year (July-June).

## Tobacco Board to cut crop target by 8%

BS Reporter / Hyderabad June 1, 2012, 0:27 IST



The Tobacco Board has decided to reduce the target for the crop by eight per cent or about 59 million kg (mn kg) even in the current year, said Chairman G Kamala Vardhana Rao.

The board had brought the crop size down by a similar quantum in the past year, by reducing it five per cent in Andhra Pradesh and three per cent in Karnataka. About 250,000 hectares are under tobacco cultivation in these two states.

India produces around 735 mn kg of tobacco annually, of which 375 mn kg is utilised for making cigarettes, while the remaining 360 mn kg is meant for non-cigarette products like beedi and chewing tobacco.

The board, a signatory of the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention for Tobacco Control, is reducing the crop size as a part of efforts to curb tobacco usage.

Rao said the board was also encouraging farmers to shift to cultivation of alternative crops like maize, cotton and pulses. Last year, more than 4,000 of an estimated 150,000 tobacco

farmers, raised alternative crops instead of tobacco.

He said the Union government was examining a rehabilitation package, proposed three years earlier, for encouraging tobacco farmers to shift to alternative crops.

The tobacco farmers were, however, demanding compensation for the barns they have set up at a cost of Rs 2-3 lakh.

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# THE HINDU Business Line

## Oil slides to new 7-month low

PTI

Singapore, June 1:

Oil prices fell to a fresh seven-month low in Asian trade today as Euro zone debt worries and signs of faltering demand in the United States dragged down crude markets, analysts said.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for delivery in July, was down 33 cents at \$86.20 per barrel, while Brent North Sea crude for July shed 35 cents to \$101.52 in the morning trade.

WTI crude had yesterday plunged \$1.29 to \$86.53, its lowest closing level since October 20, while Brent crude shed \$1.60 to hit a five-month low of \$101.87.

Declines in both contracts in the past week capped the worst month for oil prices since December 2008, with futures falling 17 per cent in May, Dow Jones Newswires reported.

"Oil prices continued to fall extremely heavily.... At the moment, sentiment seems to be pricing in a dark future of major economic discontinuities," said Barclays Capital in a commentary.

The oil market has been pounded in recent days along with equity markets amid fears over Spain's troubled banking sector.

Demand has also been hurt by the plunging euro, making dollar-priced crude more costly for Euro zone countries.



Concerns were further exacerbated by weak US economic and jobs numbers as well as the weekly oil stockpiles report showing an increase of 2.2 million barrels.

Stockpiles in the US — the world's largest oil-consuming economy — now stand at the highest level in 22 years for this time of the year.

## Pepper continues to fall on bearish trend

G.K. Nair



Kochi, May 31:

Pepper prices dropped on bearish propaganda and liquidation on Thursday. All active contracts declined. June contracts opened and touched a high of Rs 39,740 a quintal at noon.

Then it fell by Rs 1,170 and closed even lower. July contracts also saw volatile trade. The turn indicated sings of circular trading.

June and July contracts ended up in *ulta badla* today. Long position holders in June sold their contracts and switched over to July contracts at a discount.

It was attractive to long position holders.

International bearish reports on Sri Lanka exporting pepper to India and Indonesia at lower rates was taken as a tool by bear operators to push the market down. Traders quoting regular shippers from Sri Lanka said they would be selling to West Asia and Egyptian markets at \$6,200-6,300 a tonne rather than to India.

They said 500 GL Sri Lankan pepper when imported at \$6,000 would come to Rs 350 a kg and that would also have 13-14 per cent moisture.

June contract on NCDEX dropped by Rs 725 a quintal to the last traded price (LTP) of Rs 38,820 a quintal. July and Aug fell by Rs 1,075 and Rs 1,180 respectively to the LTP of Rs 38,700 and Rs 38,950 a quintal.

### **Turnover**

Total turnover increased by 1,528 tonnes to 6,297 tonnes. Total open interest declined by 127 tonnes to 6,153 tonnes.

Thin open interest as against high turn over is a matter of concern, they said. June open interest dropped by 659 tonnes to 2,984 tonnes showing heavy liquidation. July and August increased by 360 tonnes and 170 tonnes respectively to 2,762 tonnes and 392 tonnes indicating good switching over.

### **Spot prices**

Spot prices in tandem with the futures market trend fell by Rs 400 to close at Rs37,200 (ungarbled) and Rs38,700 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$7,200 a tonne (c&f) for Europe and \$7,500 a tonne (C&f) for the US.

Indonesia was reportedly offering at \$6,950 a tonne (fob) for US. Vietnam was offering at \$7,000 a tonne (fob).

### **Rally likely in mustard seed, oil in short term**

Indore, May 31:

A bullish trend is likely in mustardseed and mustard oil prices in the near future.

According to traders, talk of the Centre planning to increased tariff on imported edible oil, including refined soya oil and palm oil, next month has led to improved sentiment in the market.

Besides improved domestic buying support and a weaker rupee are aiding the trend.



According to Mr Kamlesh Nahta, a Neemuch-based trader, given the fact that mustardseed futures are already ruling at the lower level compared with prices a couple of months ago, the futures market could see a rally in the coming days. June contracts ruled as high as Rs 4,199 a quintal a couple of months ago. Demands is also likely to emerge from pickle manufacturers in coming months as well as for the festival season ahead.

On Thursday, mustard oil ruled firm despite mandis in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat remaining closed on account of nation-wide bandh against fuel hike.

In private trading, mustard oil either ruled firm or gained marginally. Mustard oil in all major mandis of Madhya Pradesh including Indore, Neemuch and Morena ruled at Rs 750 for 10 kg.

In the past one week, mustard oil in Indore mandis has gone up by Rs 22.

Mustard seeds also ruled firm with prices in Indore mandis being quoted at Rs 3,750-3,800 a quintal, while it was Rs 3,450-3,550 at Neemuch and Mandsaur mandis. Compared with prices last week, mustard seeds in Indore mandis have gained Rs 50-100 a quintal.

Plant deliveries for mustard for Jaipur line was quoted Rs 10-20 up at Rs 3,925 a quintal, while plant deliveries of mustard for Ganganagar and Alwar lines ruled higher at Rs 3,700 and Rs 3,949. In the futures market, mustardseeds June contracts on the NCDEX closed Rs 6 lower at Rs 3,835 a quintal.

Similarly, July contracts closed Rs 7 lower at Rs 3,903.

Despite closure of mandis, arrival of mustard seeds in the country on Thursday was recorded at 1.15 lakh bags.

## New month demand may sweeten sugar



Mumbai, May 31:

Sugar ruled flat on Thursday even as a nation-wide strike by Opposition parties against the petrol price hike reduced arrivals. Spot rates increased by Re 1 to Rs 2 for a quintal.

Traders said arrivals were low as transporters were not working due to the strike. There were no local despatches as retail transporters also joined the strike. Traders expect prices to rise with the start of the new month.

Commodity analysts said prices at the producing level have declined by Rs 70-80 a quintal in the last 10 days, while at the spot level, they have fallen by about Rs 50, as demand has been steady amid rising supplies. Producers continue to sell even though supplies are ample.

Moreover, speculators have reduced positions because of ample stocks. Besides, the industry has also revised up its output estimate to 260 lakh tonnes. A fall in spot demand has also brought down sugar futures. Demand from neighbouring States has been absent, too, for a long time now.

Higher output and the nearing due date to fulfil the free-sale quota has left producers with no choice but to sell, a wholesaler said. In Vashi, the 25-30 truckloads that arrived were not unloaded due to the strike. Higher arrivals are expected on Friday. On Wednesday, 12-13 mills

offered tenders and sold about 42,000-45,000 bags at Rs 2,780-2,840 (Rs 2,780-2,840) for S-grade and at Rs 2,850-2,930 (Rs 2,850-2,930) for M-grade.

**Spot rates:** S-grade Rs 2,920-2,970 (Rs 2,922-2,971) and M-grade Rs 2,995-3,140 (Rs 2,996-3,141).

**Naka delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 2,880-2,910 (Rs 2,880-2,910) and M-grade Rs 2,970-3,040 (Rs 2,970-3,040).

### Edible oils could gain on festival season demand

Our Correspondent



Mumbai, May 31:

In the absence of active business due to Bharat Bandh, most edible oils prices ruled steady on Thursday, except imported palmolein which rose by Re 1 and cotton refined oil up by Rs 7 for 10 kg. Groundnut oil, soya oil, sunflower oil and rapeseed oil ruled unchanged.

Extended decline in Malaysian palm oil futures weighed on the sentiment.

Mr Shailes Kataria, a leading edible oil broker, said that the undercurrent of the edible oil markets will remain firm at the domestic level due to higher import parity on weak rupee. With the onset of monsoon, arrival of indigenous oilseeds is expected to decline. Weather concerns

in South-East Asia will direct the future trends. Higher demand ahead of *Ramadan Eid* (Muslim festival) may lift CPO and soya oil futures. About 80-100 tonnes of palmolein were traded in resale at Rs 636-637. Ruchi sold about 250-300 tonnes palmolein at Rs 638 for delivery during June 10-30. It then raise rates by Rs 2 to Rs 640. Towards the day end, Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 646 for June, soya oil Rs 715 and sunflower refined oil Rs 740. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 640 for June10-30, soya refined oil at Rs 710 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 735. Allana's rate for Palmolein was Rs 646 for June15- 30. Resellers quoted palmolein at Rs 637-638. In Rajkot, groundnut oil was up by Rs 30 to Rs 1,840 (Rs 1,810) for *Telia* tin and higher by Rs 20 to Rs 1,200 (Rs 1180) for loose 10 kg.

Malaysia's crude palm oil July contracts closed at MYR 3,095 (MYR 3,109), August at MYR 3,101 (MYR 3,111) and September at MYR 3,104 (MYR 3,108) a tonne. **The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates were (Rs/10 kg):** groundnut oil 1,175 (1,175), soya refined oil 705 (705), sunflower exp. ref. 670 (665), sunflower ref. 725 (725), rapeseed ref. oil 815 (815), rapeseed expeller ref. 785 (785) cotton ref. oil 672 (665) and palmolein 637 (636).

#### Lower Syria, Turkey crop boost jeera futures



Rajkot, May 31:

Jeera futures increased further on Thursday on speculation that a lower crop in Turkey and Syria could lead to higher demand for the produce in the country. Amidst the increased demand, supply declined. Spot markets were closed due to Bharat Bandh.

The country's production is expected to be 28-30 lakh bags, translating to over 1.5 lakh tonnes.

According to Kedia Commodity report, futures trade higher as speculators enlarged their positions supported by rising demand in spot markets.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), jeera June contracts increased by Rs 337.50 to Rs 13,042.50 a quintal with an open interest of 9,327 lots. July contracts moved up by Rs 350 to Rs 13,420 with an open interest of 15,498 lots. NCDEX accredited warehouses jeera stocks gained by 56 tonnes to 11,123 tonnes.

Total arrival of jeera decreased to 10,000 bags from 11,000 bags, while demand was seen at around 9,000 bags against 12,000 bags on Wednesday. Arrivals at Unjha fell to around 10,000-12,000 bags of 60 kg each from 15,000-17,000 bags that was seen daily at the start of this month.

### Reports of Assam growing turmeric pound markets

Our Correspondent



Erode, May 31:

Reports of turmeric being cultivated in Assam and the crop being harvested now sent markets in Erode into a tizzy on Thursday.

“Over three lakh bags harvested in Assam are likely to be sent to Delhi and Karnataka markets, we are told,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President of Erode Turmeric Merchants' Association.

If such arrivals reach north Indian towns, turmeric prices will drop further as no merchant there will place orders for the Erode crop. Further, the arrival of hybrid varieties has decreased and only lower quality turmeric is coming for sale, he said. Prices of hybrid varieties of turmeric

decreased by Rs 450 a quintal. "There is no possibility of prices rising now, as arrivals in all markets have increased. In Erode, the arrival was around 12,000 bags. Further, 70 lakh bags still remain with farmers," said Mr Ravishankar. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants' Association sales yard, the finger variety sold at Rs 2,300-3,536 a quintal, and the root variety, at Rs 2,229-3,439.

**Salem crop:** The finger variety sold at Rs 3,369-3,669, and the root variety, at Rs 3,169-3,498. Of the 632 bags that arrived, 401 were sold. At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety sold at Rs 3,229-3,571, and the root variety, at Rs 3,164-3,434. Of the 1,188 bags that arrived, 1,133 were sold. At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 2,801-3,610, and the root variety, Rs 2,772-3,440. Of the 1,047 bags kept for sales, 1,030 were sold. At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety sold at Rs 3,039-3,716, and the root variety, at Rs 2,869-3,426. All the 353 bags of turmeric kept for sale were sold.

#### Rice unchanged as bandh shuts markets



Karnal, May 31:

Rice prices remained unchanged on Thursday in the absence of physical trading in the market. In response to the Bharat Bandh called by opposition parties and social welfare organisations against the petrol price hike, all markets and business establishments remained closed. As a result, there was no physical trading in the market.

However, traders took orders on phone from domestic buyers and from those in other cities and States as well. However, due to the bandh they did not dispatch the consignments, said market sources.



Rice prices have been ruling unchanged since Tuesday.

Pusa-1121(steam) quoted at Rs 5,600 a quintal while Pusa-1121 (sela) sold at Rs 4,550 a quintal.

Prices of pure basmati (raw) quoted at Rs 5,500 a quintal and pure basmati (sela), at Rs 5,000.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar sold at Rs 3,600-3,800, Dubar at Rs 2,900-3,000, and Mongra at Rs 2,200-2,400 a quintal.

Duplicate basmati went for Rs 4,300 a quintal. PR-14 (steam) was at Rs 2,400-2,600, while Sugandha (steam) sold at Rs 3,700 a quintal.

### **Sugar output up 8% this season**



New Delhi, May 31:

Sugar production stood at 25.5 million tonnes during October-May period in the current season, up 8 per cent over same period a year ago.

The increase in output was led by higher production in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

UP registered an 18 per cent increase over the previous year at 6.95 million tonnes. Cane recovery in UP was 9.07 per cent, down marginally from 9.14 per cent last year.

In Maharashtra, the output touched 8.96 million tonnes, a marginal increase over previous year's 8.91 million tonnes. The cane recovery improved marginally to 11.64 per cent against 11.32 per cent last year.

In Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the sugar production was 3.72 million tonnes and 1.8 million tonnes, respectively. Tamil Nadu recorded a 29 per cent jump in sugar production compared with the same period last year.

Crushing operations in all States have ended, including in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. However, about 39 mills are still operational in Tamil Nadu. Some mills in Karnataka are expected to restart crushing in August.

Another 5 lakh tonnes are expected to be produced in the remaining period of the current season in these two States.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association has projected an output of 26 million tonnes for 2011-12 that can be easily achieved.

### **Amul FY12 turnover up 20% at Rs 11,668 cr**

Ahmedabad, May 31:

Amul has crossed the \$2.5-billion mark with India's biggest dairy brand reporting a turnover of Rs 11,668 crore in 2011-12, ended March 31, 2012, out of which Rs 9,901 crore were paid back to 32 lakh farmer members of milk unions.

Announcing the annual results after the 38th annual general body meeting of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd, which markets the Amul brand, its Chairman, Mr Parthibhai Bhatol, said on Thursday that the turnover of FY12 was 20 per cent higher than that in 2010-11, Rs 9,775 crore.

In 2012-12, GCMMF plans to achieve a turnover of Rs 14,400 crore.

At a time when farmers in other States were struggling to make their milk business viable in the absence of good returns, their counterparts in Gujarat are rejoicing over a 58 per cent increase in their milk prices over the last three years, he said in a statement. Member farmers of GCMMF received a price of Rs 468 per kg of fat for their milk production this year, the highest price being paid to farmers in the country.

Last year, GCMMF initiated its largest distribution expansion exercise to extend its reach to smaller towns and semi-urban areas.

Apart from the 750 distributors added in dairy and fresh products segment, GCMMF also added 150 super distributors through the implementation of its new 'hub & spoke' model, to reach the smaller markets. In 2011-12, 965 new Amul Parlours have been added, taking the total strength to 6,315. Apart from the 170 parlours at railway stations and 303 operating at various centres of excellence, Amul also has 600 air-conditioned ice-cream scooping parlours, making it the largest single brand retail in the country. GCMMF will be investing Rs 3,000 crore to set up nine processing units in the next four years. "This would enhance our milk handling capacity from the existing 145 lakh litres per day to 180 lakh litres per day."

Currently, dairying contributes 26 per cent in agricultural output but still receives only 12 per cent of the public expenditure on agriculture. Exempting income-tax on dairying, as in case of agriculture, and reduced VAT rates on consumer products at 12.5 per cent, would help boost dairy sector and ensure better returns to milk producers and consumers, he added.

### Sugar production touches 25.5 mt by end-May

Vishwanath Kulkarni



Cane recovery in Uttar Pradesh stood at 9.07 per cent, marginally down from 9.14 per cent last year.

New Delhi, May 31:

Sugar production till end-May stood at 25.5 million tonnes in the 2011-12 season, registering a growth of 8 per cent compared to the same period last year.

The increase in output is led by higher production in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka, the Indian Sugar Mills' Association said.

UP has registered an 18 per cent increase in output at 6.95 mt over the previous year. Cane recovery in the state stood at 9.07 per cent, marginally down from 9.14 per cent last year.

In Maharashtra, the output touched 8.96 mt, a marginal increase over the previous year's 8.91 mt. Cane recovery improved marginally to 11.64 per cent from 11.32 per cent.

In Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the sugar production is at 37.27 lakh tonnes and 18 lakh tonnes, respectively. Tamil Nadu has recorded a 29 per cent jump in production compared to the same period last year.

Crushing operations in all the states have ended including in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

However, about 39 mills are still operational in Tamil Nadu. Some mills in Karnataka are expected to restart their crushing in August.

Another five lakh tonnes is expected to be produced in the balance period of the current season in these two states.

ISMA had projected an output of 26 mt for 2011-12, which would be easily achieved, the apex sugar industry body said.

### **Monsoon deadlock across Sri Lanka sea continues**

Thiruvananthapuram, May 31:

There has been no perceptible change in conditions which have prompted an outlook for a delayed-than-forecast onset of monsoon over the Kerala coast.

It continues to be bright and sunny morning, though at times cloudy but mostly windy, in Thiruvananthapuram, the monsoon gateway for mainland India.

Winds continued to track west-northwesterly, which is contra-indicative for monsoon onset conditions, but have picked up in speed (24 km/hr) compared to yesterday.

Humidity also is at slightly elevated levels of 74 per cent this morning. A spell or two of thundershowers has been forecast.

Winds would continue to be west-northwesterly at least until Monday, thanks to the disruptive influence of a circulation in the southwest Arabian Sea.

The monsoon advance line has not progressed beyond the Colombo, Sri Lanka-latitude since past three days. The deadlock continued this morning, too.

India Meteorological Department merely said that conditions would become favourable for its advance into parts of southeast Arabian Sea (off Kerala) during next two days.

It said that the rains along the west coast of India might scale up by Tuesday. This phase is likely to be accompanied by the onset of monsoon.

Meanwhile, the monsoon is yet to cover the island nations of Sri Lanka and Maldives in their entirety.