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## NABARD to help farmers in implementing drip irrigation

R. Sairam



Judicious use:Drip irrigation underway at a NABARD watershed at Poosaripatti in Dindigul district.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will be helping 365 small, marginal and large farmers in Dindigul district to implement drip irrigation.

The farmers would be provided subsidy from 75 to 100 per cent of the project cost under the NABARD Watershed Programme.

S. Natarajan, Deputy General Manager, NABARD Watersheds Unit in Madurai which covers eight southern districts, told *The Hindu* here on Thursday that this was part of a development plan prepared by the Village Watershed Committees with the guidance of CIRHEP (a watershed development specialist NGO based at Nilakottai), GIZ, a German Federal body and NABARD.

“With drip irrigation and by switching over to alternate crops, farmers could see sizeable increase in their income and could even face a drought year without sizeable reduction in their farm incomes. The beneficiaries would be drawn from two watershed projects in Dindigul – Poosaripatti and Appiyampatti,” he said.

Drip irrigation system could also help increase the cultivation area and cropping intensity. The automated drip irrigation system given at the root zone of crops would result in savings such as reduced labour for irrigation and weeding.

The project would be implemented in six villages covered by two watershed projects of NABARD in Dindigul district, he said.

Utilising its Watershed Development Fund, NABARD in partnership with the State Government, had executed 160 micro watersheds for holistic development in Tamil Nadu.

The impact studies carried out by independent agencies have revealed that these projects had contributed significantly in enhancing productivity and increased agricultural production.

They have also brought comprehensive and holistic development besides making the villages become resilient to some extent from the effects of climate change, added Mr. Natarajan. A meeting was held on Wednesday at Appiyampatti, one of the villages in the two watersheds in Dindigul district, to explain about drip irrigation system and the procedures for obtaining loans and subsidies.

About 150 farmers who intend to install drip irrigation units in their farms attended the meeting.

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### **Farmers not pleased over functioning of rented tractors**

G.Sathyamoorthi



common platform: A farmer raising a point at the grievances day meet in Perambalur on Thursday. —PHOTO: M.SRINATH

Farmers in the district expressed their displeasure over the functioning of tractors rented out to them by the primary agricultural cooperative societies. These tractors, which were pricey if rented from private sector, are provided at nominal rates.

These machines with 42 HP engines, costing totally Rs.3.08 crore, were distributed apiece to 47 cooperative societies by Collector Darez Ahmed at a function recently. While the government subsidy was Rs.1.43 crore, the Tiruchirappalli District Central Cooperative Bank had extended a loan of Rs.1.64 crore.

Six more societies in the district are yet to be given these implements.

During the past few days, as many as 1,315 farmers had availed of this facility for 3,908 hours to plough 2,488 acres.

The rental per tractor at the maximum worked out to Rs.600 per hour if used with rotovator, Rs.500 with disc plough and Rs.400 with cultivator.

The district administration is planning to provide farmers more such implements through cooperative societies and they are likely to be maintained by self-help groups.

Raising the issue at the farmers' grievance meeting here on Thursday, they alleged that the rotovator was not functioning properly.

Mr.Ahmed, who was in the chair, immediately instructed the officials to attend to the issue.

Power supply, as usual, has become another major issue. "While the farmers in the delta region are assured of 12-hour-supply, we in the non-delta region should be given at least 10 hours of supply—six hours during the day and four hours at night," they pleaded.

Pointing out that the prices of fertilizers had skyrocketed, they wondered how anyone could survive in farm sector if the price of potash and DAP were to shoot up.

When some of them alleged the Permabalar sugar mill had failed to disburse the cane arrears to the suppliers, the mill officials said disbursement had been going on and by the end of this month, the entire arrears would be settled.

A turmeric farmer appealed to the State government to raise the procurement price of turmeric to Rs.5,000 from the current Rs.4,000 a quintal as done by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Some agriculturists were unhappy that they were not able to get loans even through Tamil Nadu Adi Dravida Housing and Development Corporation for sinking wells.

Then the officials told them it was because the banks were unwilling to release funds for such purpose as the district has been classified as 'dark' (water scarce).

## Collector holds meeting on farm operations

Special Correspondent

With agricultural operations showing signs of picking up with the on-set of monsoon, the District Collector, Chittoor, Solomon Arokiaraj, held separate meetings in Chittoor on Thursday with the department heads and officials of agriculture, horticulture, micro irrigation, irrigation, etc.

As for the promotion of drip and sprinkler irrigation system in the semi-arid district, he said 5,985 hectares of land was targeted to be covered this year under the drip system and 500 ha under 'semi-permanent sprinkler irrigation' system which was introduced this year. While the cost per unit of the semi-permanent sprinkler irrigation system is Rs.28,000, it would be supplied at 100 per cent subsidy to the farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes, 90 per cent subsidy to the small and medium farmers and at 75 per cent subsidy to middle-class farmers.

Collector asked the officials to motivate the farmers to take to the sprinkler and drip irrigation system to achieve water conservation and also avail themselves of the subsidy being provided by the government. He said so far in the Chittoor district, 60,000 ha of land was brought under drip irrigation.

The Collector has asked the agriculture officials to remit into the accounts of the farmers concerned before July 15 the input subsidies for the losses they suffered during the last kharif.

He asked the MAOs to visit villages to motivate farmers to open bank accounts in case they had not done it already. The Collector told the officials to keep a tab on the dealers of fertilizers and seeds to check black-marketing and such other malpractices.

### **New tanks**

Mr. Arokiaraj asked irrigation engineers them to complete on a priority basis repairs of the irrigation tanks that were damages/breached during the last monsoon.

The Collector was informed at the meeting that 14 new tank works were taken up in the district with Rs.65 crore provided by the NABARD. Already works valued up to Rs.45 crore had been completed while the remaining were pending due to land acquisition problems, it was said.

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• *Officials told to motivate farmers to take to sprinkler and drip irrigation*

MAHABUBNAGAR, June 22, 2012

**'No shortage of seed, fertilizer in Mahabubnagar'**

Minister for Agriculture Kanna Laxminarayana said that there is no scarcity of seed and fertilizer in Mahabubnagar district.

The Minister was speaking to press persons in Mahabubnagar on Thursday after reviewing the situation with officials.

BIDAR, June 22, 2012

**Crop insurance scheme for farmers**

The Department of Agriculture plans to implement the national crop insurance scheme in the district.

Farmers under the scheme can claim insurance in case of crop loss owing to flood, hailstorms, landslide or other calamities, a release from the Joint Director of Agriculture K.R. Lakshmikant has said. Crops covered under the scheme are red gram, green gram, black gram and kharif jowar (all hoblis), as well as paddy, bajra, soya, sunflower and groundnut (select hoblis). Between 2.5 and 3.5 per cent of the insurance amount fixed for each crop should be paid as premium. Small and marginal farmers get 10 per cent subsidy on premium. August 31 is the last date to apply. For details, contact the raitha samparka kendras, primary credit cooperative societies or the district central cooperative bank, the release added.

DHARWAD, June 22, 2012

**Expert bats for organic farming**

Physician and environmentalist Sanjiv Kulkarni has urged people to change their diet and opt more for organically cultivated food crops for better health. Inaugurating a workshop on 'Health and legal knowledge' at Karnatak Vidyavardhak Sangha here on Wednesday, Dr. Kulkarni said modern lifestyle changes had led to health-related complexities.

The way out of this was to embrace traditional food again, he said.

Self-reliance

Organic farming and traditional forms of cultivation would help address several problems affecting the Indian agrarian sector and make it self-reliant, Dr. Kulkarni said.

Rising demand

Dr. Kulkarni pointed out the rising demand for food crops to feed our large population and the dangers of using chemical fertilizer.

**'Raise awareness'**

He urged policy-makers and the youth to raise awareness about the benefits of organic farming.

Organic farming experts A.P. Chandrashekar, Cherkala Ramachandra and Bhaskar shared their experiences.

Advocate Basavaprabhu Hoskeri called for a greater understanding of law in day-to-day life.

Sangha general secretary Shankar Halghatthi and Senior Assistant Director of Information, P.S. Hiremath, were present.

*Embrace traditional food to combat lifestyle-related health problems, says physician*

KAKINADA, June 22, 2012

**'Make the most of the cotton seed available'**

District Collector Neetu Prasad on Thursday advised the cotton farmers to make better use of the available cotton seed, but not to wait for the seed of a particular company.

Addressing a press conference here, Ms. Neetu said that out of the total requirement of 33,000 packets, over 60,000 packets of BT-2 cotton variety seed was available with the Agriculture department and it was scientifically proved that all the BT-2 varieties would give more or less the same yield. "Scientists of Acharya NG Ranga Agriculture University have confirmed it after conducting a research on BT-2 varieties. Farmers need not go for the seed of a particular company. The yield will remain the same for all the seeds," she said. Referring to the paddy,

Ms. Neetu said that there was no dearth of seed, fertilizer and pesticide in the district and special teams would be formed with the officials of the revenue, police and the Agriculture departments to ensure that there should not be any black marketing of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

### Loan eligibility cards

“Modernisation works in Kakinada and Mandapeta canals are nearing completion and water will be released into the two canals on June 26,” she said, adding that there was an increase by 20 per cent in the loan eligibility cards, as compared to the last year. “We will ask the bankers to release the loans in time, so that the farmers can go ahead with the agriculture works,” she said.

### Tapioca setts



To a question on shortage of tapioca setts, Ms. Neetu said that steps would be taken to provide the setts through the Horticulture department. “We have no information about the yield down and I can’t respond unless I have full information about it,” she said to a question on the proposed yield down by the farmers from Konaseema region. Joint Director of the Agriculture department D. Prameela and other officials were present.








Fri, 22 Jun 2012



### Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather		Tomorrow's Forecast	
	Friday, Jun 22		Saturday, Jun 23
Cloudy	Max Min 39.1°   28.5°	Rainy	Max Min 35°   28°
Rain: 0.1 mm in 24hrs	Sunrise: 6:35		
Humidity: 59%	Sunset: 18:03		
Wind: Normal	Barometer: 1005		

### Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday Jun 24	Monday Jun 25	Tuesday Jun 26	Wednesday Jun 27	Thursday Jun 28
				
35°   28°	35°   28°	33°   27°	31°   27°	31°   27°
Cloudy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy

## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

21 JUN, 2012, 05.37PM IST, ET NOW

### Urad, moong rise on pick up in demand

NEW DELHI: Prices of urad and moong rose by up to Rs 200 per quintal in the wholesale pulses market today on pick up in demand from retailers against slowdown in arrivals from producing belts.

Marketmen said pick up in demand from retailers against restricted arrivals from producing regions mainly pushed up urad and moong prices.

In the national capital, urad and its dal chilka local rose by Rs 100 each to Rs 3,300-3,900 and Rs 4,165-4,465, respectively. Urad dal best quality quality and dhoya traded higher by the same margin to Rs 4,600-5,100 and Rs 5,140-5,240 per quintal, respectively.

Moong and its dal chilka local moved up by Rs 100 and Rs 200 to Rs 3,550-4,550 and Rs 4,400-4,800 per quintal, respectively. Moong dal dhoya local and best quality were up by Rs 200 each to Rs 4,900-5,000 and Rs 5,600-5,700 per quintal, respectively.

The following are today's pulses rates per quintal: Urad 3,300-3,900, Urad Chilka (local) 4,165-4,465, best 4,600-5,100, Dhoya 5,140-5,240, Moong 3,550-4,550, Dal Moong Chilka local 4,400-4,800, Moong Dhoya local 4,900-5,000 and best quality 5,600-5,700.



Masoor small 3,350-3,650, bold 3,500-3,750, Dal Masoor local 4,300-4,400, best quality 4,400-4,500, Malka local 4,200-4,250, best 4,400-4,500, Moth 2,600-3,000, Arhar 3,450-3,750, Dal Arhar Dara 4,850-5,050.

Gram 4,225-4,825, Gram Dal (local) 4,700-4,800, best quality 4,750-4,850, Besan (35 kg) Shakti bhog 1,920, Rajdhani 1,920, Rajmah Chitra 7,400-8,900, Kabli Gram small 4,500-8,000, dabra 2,700-2,800, imported 4,700-5,100; Lobia 4,700-5,500, Peas white 2,800-2,825 and green 2,950-2,975.

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# Business Standard

Friday, Jun 22, 2012

## Edible oil prices on the boil as rupee slides further

Delayed rains and firm global trend push prices north may rise further by 10%

Rutam Vora & Vimukt Dave / Ahmedabad/rajkot June 22, 2012, 0:59 IST

Edible oil prices have indicated an uptrend amid firm global trend, a weak rupee and a delayed monsoon. The prices of key edible oils, including palm, mustard, cottonseed and soya, have surged by five-seven per cent over the past week.

"The monsoon's progress seems to have halted for the past few days. There was a sustained fall in edible oils, both globally and in the domestic market. The sentiment is upbeat due to delay in monsoon here and firming global trends. Therefore, a spurt in prices is visible," said B V Mehta, executive director, Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India.

Today, RBD (refined, bleached and deodorise) palmolein traded at Rs 601 per 10 kg, while groundnut oil prices stood at Rs 1,190 per 10 kg. Rapeseed refined was quoted at Rs 812 per 10 kg and cottonseed oil hovered at Rs 690 per 10 kg; while soyabean refined oil stood at Rs 715 per 10 kg. The rupee fell to a record intra-day low of Rs 56.70 against a dollar, making imports of edible oils costlier.

"Rupee depreciation would jack up prices in the domestic market. This was not felt earlier as edible oil prices were lower globally, due to weak sentiment. But now, global prices have firmed up the while rupee has been sliding," said Mehta.

According to SEA data, import of vegetable oils increased 30 per cent in the first half of the oil year (November 2011 to April 2012). Total imports were 4.71 million tonnes (mt) against 3.6 mt during the same period last year.

"Weather conditions in the US are not favourable for soybean, while China has increased its oil purchases. Also, we have seen increased demand due to Ramzan. Overall, prices of edible oil have risen 8-10 per cent in the short term," said Suresh Kaneriya, managing director, Kaneriya Oil Mills.

Malaysian crude palm oil prices surged to its highest since June 1. September palm oil futures contracts on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange rose 3.2 per cent to close at 3,041 ringgit (\$964) per tonne, after surging to 3,058 ringgit.

Crude palm oil prices have jumped 15 per cent so far during the month. However, groundnut prices may see some correction as demand is lower and availability is increasing. The price may decline to Rs 1,950 per 15 kg in the next 15 to 20 days if foreign demand does not come through, said industry sources. About 75,000 bags of groundnut arrive every day in Gujarat markets.

In the non-edible oil segment, castor oil prices have gained Rs 100 per 10 kg to Rs 680-685 per 10 kg in the past two weeks. Experts attributed the increase in prices to a rise in industrial and mills demand.

"Prices in the spot market are gaining for the past 8 to 10 days as traders have increased their stock positions. Also, domestic demand is strong.

The prices will continue to move up as we are expecting good buying from exporters too," said Rajubhai Pobaru, president of the Rajkot Commodity Exchange.

## Groundnut sowing seen up 10%: Study

Vimukt Dave / Mumbai/ Rajkot June 22, 2012, 0:14 IST

Junagadh Agriculture University (JAU) has estimated 10 per cent higher groundnut sowing in current kharif season as compared to last year.

According to university research report farmers possibly divert from cotton crop to groundnut as they received good return in groundnut last year.

"During last year farmers had received good return for groundnut and it will encourage farmers to switch over to groundnut crop from cotton crop. As per our estimates groundnut sowing in this kharif season will increase by 10 per cent to around 1.6 million hectares," said MG Dhandhalya Assistant Research Scientist, JAU.

The research team of Department of Agricultural Economics, Junagadh Agricultural University has analysed that due to groundnut production in Gujarat lower than expected in 2011-12 and increase in export demand owing to decrease in value of rupees against American dollar, the groundnut price raised from Rs 800 per 20 kg in January 2012 to Rs 1,000 per 20 kg in May 2012. The area under groundnut is expected to increase about 10 per cent over last year in Gujarat and in the country.

At presently groundnut price is stood at Rs 750-950 per 20 kg. According to Indian Oilseed and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) during 20011-12, India had exported around 600,000 tonnes groundnut. Previous year it was about 450,000 tonnes.

During 2011-12 in Gujarat, the area under groundnut crop was estimated to be about 1.43 million hectares and production about 1.9 million tonnes. Also, the area under summer season is estimated to be about 187,000 hectares in Gujarat.

The econometric analysis of groundnut price and in consultation with DEMIC, TNAU, Coimbatore, it is revealed that the prices of groundnut bold (pods) during October to December, 2012 may hover between Rs 800 to 900 per 20 kg and the groundnut small (pods) in the range of Rs 750 to 850 per 20 kg.

## **Grain price falls below MSP in spot market**

**Bulk traders remain absent, await a clear trend prices likely to fall further on excess procurement, storage by govt agencies**

**Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai June 21, 2012, 0:00 IST**

The price of grain fell below the minimum support price (MSP) in the Delhi spot market yesterday due to a supply glut on bumper output and absence of large trading firms. The Food Corporation of India's much higher purchases than the earlier estimates, resulting in storage problems, added to the woes.

Wheat for fair average quality variety was quoted at Rs 1,222 a quintal, substantially lower than the MSP announced by the government for the 2012-13 marketing season. The Centre had only last week raised the MSP for wheat by 15 per cent or Rs 165 to Rs 1,285 a quintal for the current marketing season. Similarly, the price of paddy slumped to Rs 990-1,020 a quintal and to Rs 1,240-1,250 a quintal for the common and fine varieties. On Thursday, a rise in the MSP for paddy had been announced, from Rs 1080 to Rs 1,250 a quintal for the common variety. The MSP for the fine variety has been raised to Rs 1,280 from last year's price of Rs 1,110 a quintal. While these are for the kharif season, open market prices for the earlier season's stock is creating anxiety among farmers.

The fall in the spot trading price of major grains indicates that traders have given a thumbs-down to the MSP rise, which is set to benefit only producers of a couple of states, including Punjab and Haryana, where FCI has been active in grain procurement. Distress sale, however, continues in other major grain producing states such as Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, where farmers continue to sell to the arhatiyas, the middlemen, at a substantially lower price than the MSP. The FCI's absence and private players finding it unviable to procure grain at the MSP in these states have pulled down prices of major foodgrain across the country.

"Traders have realised only FCI can procure grains at the MSP, that too, with funds from the government. Since private players would have to go back to sell it in the open market, they do not feel much sense in their procurement. Hence, grain prices are likely to remain lower in the near future," said Vikash Gupta, proprietor of Superior Agro Crops Pvt Ltd, a Delhi-based grain trader.

Bulk traders such as Cargill, Adani and others remained absent from active buying, according to some traders in the Delhi grain market.

Wheat prices on the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange have plunged to trade at Rs 1,205 a quintal for delivery in September. The July expiry wheat contract is trading even lower, at Rs 1,168 a quintal. Grain prices are down, on a record harvest, with rice and wheat output estimated to be 102 mt (90.2 mt last year) and 88.3 mt (86.9 mt), respectively.

To meet the annual procurement obligation, FCI requires an allocation between Rs 3,000 and Rs 4,000 crore. With the rise in MSP, the allocation is estimated to increase. Private sector entities such as the National Collateral Management Services Ltd (NCMSL) and National Bulk Handling Corporation, along with others, have offered to reduce the procurement cost by 10 per cent if they are allowed to procure on its behalf.

“While procuring foodgrain from the market, the government must decide the objective for doing so -- whether it is being procured for food security and buffer norms for market intervention or release through the Public Distribution System at a subsidised rate for people below the poverty line. Mixing the two can create confusion,” said Sanjay Kaul, managing director, NCMSL.

Total grain stock in FCI's central pool had swollen to 82.4 mt as on June 1, compared to 65.6 mt in the corresponding period last year. A quantity of 31.8 mt of wheat was initially estimated to be procured during the current rabi marketing season (RMS). However, as on May 24, a quantity of 32.3 mt had been already procured in the central pool as against a total procurement of 28.3 mt in the previous RMS. It is estimated the procurement during the ongoing RMS will be 36 mt, about 7.7 mt higher than last year.

FCI should require 9.8 mt of buffer stocks and 2 mt of strategic reserves of rice as on July 1. Wheat stocks as on the same date ought to be 17.1 mt and 3 mt under buffer norms and strategic reserves, respectively. The available stock, therefore, is 250 per cent higher than the required buffer stock. FCI has procured 16.2 per cent additional rice (including unmilled paddy) at 32.15 mt this year, as compared to 27.7 mt last year.

According to Kaul, it makes no sense for private players to stock grain for future sale. For stockists to make a profit, the spot price should remain higher than MSP, he said.

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# THE HINDU Business Line

## Edible oil futures may rule higher

Our Bureau



Delay in sowing of soyabean in MP and the prevailing dry weather spell in the soyabean growing areas of the US may lead to lower global output and push up prices.

Mumbai, June 22:

The edible oil complex –soyaoil, soyabean, mustard seed and crude palm oil – may trade higher with delay in sowing of soyabean in Madhya Pradesh.

The South-West monsoon is yet to arrive in the soyabean growing areas of MP. The prevailing dry weather spell in the soyabean growing areas of the US may lead to lower global output and push up prices.

### Pepper may gain

Pepper prices in the futures market may move up with a possibility of profit booking at certain levels. Buying support remain good amid limited supply. Arrivals in the physical market may

remain thin. About 16 - 20 tonnes of un-garbled pepper arrived in the open market and were traded at Rs 388 – 392 a kg.

On Thursday, pepper for July delivery on the NCDEX increased by Rs 145 to Rs 40,875 a quintal. August and September contracts were also up by Rs 110 and Rs 195 respectively to close at Rs 41,050 and Rs 41,250 a quintal. Volume increased by 423 tonnes to close at 2,845 tonnes on NCDEX. Open interest moved up by 46 tonnes to 5,121 tonnes, reflecting strong buying interest.

Spot prices remained steady as supply matched strong demand. Price of un-garbled pepper was at Rs 38,500 and Rs 40,000 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$7,550 a tonne (c&f) for Europe and \$7,850 a tonne (c&f) for the US.

### **Palm oil's bull run halted; soya, sunflower oil gain**

Our Correspondent



Mumbai, June 21:

Palmolein's rally came to a halt on Thursday, tracking weak closing of Malaysian palm oil futures. Other edible oils extended gains despite lower demand.

Soya refined and sunflower expeller refined oil rose by Rs 5 for 10-kg each. Rapeseed oil and cotton refined oil were up by Rs 4 each. Groundnut oil declined by Rs 10 on bearish reports from Saurashtra. Palmolein ruled steady on eased demand with nominal volume. Palm oil

touched a near three-week high on Wednesday. But some traders said that the price rally had set the stage for a price correction.

Rising palm oil exports confirmed stronger demand for the tropical oil ahead of Ramadan that starts in July. Malaysian palm oil exports grew 15 per cent in the first 20 days of the month. Another supportive factor for palm oil is the dry weather in the US. The USDA said that unfavourable weather had damaged soyabean crop quality. A lower soyabean crop will result in more demand for cheaper palm oil.

Sources said that with mood being cautious, activities remain limited. Only needy buyers bought about 250-300 tonnes of palmolein in the range of Rs 600-603. Ruchi sold about 100-150 tonnes and rest was traded in resale.

Weak Indian currency will make import parity costlier will force refiners to hold the rates. Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 607-608, super palmolein at Rs 640, soya oil at Rs 715 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 730. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 605 for July and Rs 610 for August 1-15, soya refined oil at Rs 715 for July 15 and Rs 718 for July 15-31. Sunflower refined oil was offered at Rs 725-728. Allana's rate for palmolein was Rs 608 for July 15-31. Bunge quoted palmolein at Rs 610 for July 1-20. In Saurashtra - Rajkot market, groundnut oil declined by Rs 30 to Rs 1,890 for *Telia* tin and dropped by Rs 20 to Rs 1,230 for loose - 10kg.

**Malaysia's crude palm oil** July contracts settled at MYR 2,984 (MYR 3,035), August at MYR 2,996 (MYR 3,045) and September at MYR 3,000 (MYR 3,041) a tonne. On the National Board of Trade – Indore, Soya refined oil July futures closed at Rs 750.30 (Rs 749.10).

**The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates were (Rs/10 kg):** groundnut oil 1,190 (1,200), soya refined oil 715 (710), sunflower exp. ref. 660 (655), sunflower ref. 725 (725), rapeseed ref. oil 812 (808), rapeseed expeller ref. 782 (778) cotton ref. oil 690 (686) and palmolein 601 (601).

### **Jeera may gain on hopes of export demand**

Rajkot, June 21:

Lower demand in spot market pulled down jeera (cumin) prices, while profit-booking dragged the futures market.

A trader said that domestic demand has declined and exports are slow pulling down the price. According to analysts, jeera may trade stable to firm in the coming days on speculation that demand will likely rise from overseas buyers. There are reports of jeera output being lower in in



Syria and Turkey, India's main competitors in the global market. Fresh arrivals from Syria have commenced, while harvest in Turkey will commence shortly.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, jeera July contracts declined by Rs 100 to Rs 13,465 a quintal with an open interest of 13,365 lots. August jeera declined by Rs 117.50 to Rs 13,885 with an open interest of 13,569 lots.

At the spot market in Unjha, jeera declined by Rs 25-30 and medium quality jeera was quoted at Rs 2,000-2,025 for a *maund* of 20 kg, NCDEX raw quality ruled at Rs 2,450-2,550. Arrivals stood at 10,000-11,000 bags and traded around 10,000-11,000 bags.

Raw jeera at Jodhpur in Rajasthan quoted at Rs 12,600-13,400 a quintal. Arrivals were reported around 300-350 bags.

## Exports

According to the Spices Board, exports of Jeera during April 2011- January were higher at 34,500 tonnes compared with 22,450 tonnes in 2010-11, a 54 per cent rise. However, month-on-month exports of jeera declined 40 per cent.

## Local buying, firm futures boost spot sugar

Mumbai, June 21:

Sugar prices continued to head north on strong local support at upper levels amid firm futures markets on Thursday.

In the Vashi wholesale market, spot rate rose by Rs 10 a quintal for S-grade and Rs 40 for M-grade, tracking improvement in naka rates that increased by Rs 25-30. Mill tender rates gained further by Rs 20-25. Mr Jagdish Rawal a wholesaler, said that stockists continued to build inventories of quality sugar before monsoon peaks. At the upper level, increased buying inquiry from upcountry supported the firm sentiment. Prices firmed up in other main producing centres and in the futures markets on expectation of higher demand. Due to the need-based demand, spot sugar prices have increased by Rs 50-60, while mill tender rates increased by Rs 70-90 in the last 15 days. This indicates prospects of further rise in the spot market.

A broker said that mills sold continuously with steady price rise this month, indicating that they are not under pressure to sell.

In the Vashi wholesale market, arrivals were 54-55 truckloads and local dispatches were 50-52 loads. On Wednesday, 10- 12 mills sold about 75,000-77,000 bags at higher prices of Rs 2,840-2,900 (Rs 2,825-2,880) for S-grade and Rs 2,950-3,020 (Rs 2,920-3,000) for M-grade. It included the sale of one rail rake (27,000 bags) to eastern buyers.

**The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were (Rs/quintal):** S-grade Rs 2,952-3,002 (Rs 2,942-2,991) and M-grade Rs 3,042- 3,191 (Rs 3,002-3,181).

**Naka delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 2,930 -2,970 (Rs 2,905-2,945) and M-grade Rs 3,010-3,075 (Rs 2,955-3,055).

### Turmeric loses lustre on lack of N. India orders



Erode, June 21:

Spot turmeric prices dropped on lack of orders from North India and poor quality of arrivals on Thursday.

“Traders and exporters are not getting good orders from North India. They are currently selling turmeric at a lower margin to upcountry traders. Further, for the last two months we are not getting orders from other States. So buying is limited,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

On Thursday, 8,500 bags of turmeric arrived for sale and 65 per cent was sold. Of this, 90 per cent was purchased by stockists. Local traders bought the rest to fulfil the orders from *masala* firms. The trend was in contrast since prices rise when arrivals are as low as they were on Thursday. Only inferior quality goods are arriving. Prices in the futures market, too, were dormant.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 2,236-3,891 a quintal and the root variety at Rs 2,207-3,604.

**Salem Crop:** The finger variety was sold at Rs 3,374-4,879 and the root variety at Rs 3,299-3,669. Of the arrival of 1,586 bags for sale, 803 were sold.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,389-3,989 and the root variety Rs 3,239 to Rs 3,629. Around 913 bags were sold against the arrival of 982 bags.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,139-4,260 and the root variety Rs 3,030-3,659. Of 944 bags that arrived, 941 were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 2,869-3,909 and the root variety at Rs 2,569-3,589. All 166 bags which arrived for sales were sold.

## Pepper maintains upward momentum

G. K. Nair



Kochi, June 21:

Pepper market continued to head north on Thursday on good buying support amid limited availability. All the active contracts moved up marginally and closed above the previous day's last traded price.

Activities were limited and there was additional buying as is evident from the increase in open interest. The market opened on a firmer note and moved up and remained firmer till the afternoon and then started declining in the closing session and ended marginally above the previous day's closing.

An estimated 85-90 per cent of the exchange stocks are now allegedly held by a major group/ groups/cartel and they had built up positions, market sources told *Business Line*.

In the physical market, arrivals continued to remain thin. About 16 - 20 tonnes of ungarbled pepper arrived and the entire quantity was traded at Rs 388 – 392 a kg depending upon the grade and area of production, they said.

July contract on the NCDEX increased by Rs 145 to the last traded price (LTP) of Rs 40,875 a quintal. August and September contracts went up by Rs 110 and Rs 195 respectively to close the LTP of Rs 41,050 and Rs 41,250 a quintal.

### **Turnover**

Total turnover increased by 423 tonnes to close at 2,845 tonnes. Total open interest moved up by 46 tonnes to end at 5,121 tonnes, showing additional buying. July open interest declined by 49 tonnes to 3,247 tonnes while that of August and September increased by 75 tonnes and 21 tonnes respectively to close at 1,394 and 75 tonnes. Spot prices remained steady on matching demand and supply at Rs 38,500 (ungarbled) and Rs 40,000 (MG 1) a quintal. Indian parity in the international market was at \$7,550 a tonne (c&f) for Europe and \$7,850 a tonne (c&f) for the US.

### **Aromatic rice flat on lack of new export orders**



Karnal, June 21:

Prices of aromatic rice varieties are ruling unchanged as exporters have been unable to sign new contracts with overseas buyers. In addition, consumption in the domestic market has been slack.

Demand for full grain aromatic rice is not picking up, said Mr Tara Chand Sharma, proprietor of Tara Chand and Sons. Exporters have not signed new export contracts in the recent past and these are the old contracts which are being executed at present, he said.

Traders expect exporters to sign new contracts in October and November as arrivals of new crop may start by mid September, said Mr Sharma. Any major change in the prices of aromatic varieties is unlikely in the near future, he added.

In the physical market, 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 at around Rs 5,000 a quintal.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar sold at Rs 3,800, Dubar at Rs 2,800-2,900 and Mongra at Rs 2,100-2,300, a quintal.

Duplicate basmati quoted at Rs 4,500 while Sugandha (steam) was at Rs 3,700 a quintal.

On the other hand, after witnessing a good uptrend earlier this week, prices of non basmati varieties remained range bound. Non basmati varieties may witness some alteration next week, said Mr Sharma.

PR-11 (sela) sold at 2,500-2,800, PR-11 (Raw) was at Rs 2,400-2,650 a quintal, Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,000-2,400 a quintal while Permal (sela) went for Rs 2,370. PR-14 (steam) went for Rs 2,800-2,920 a quintal.

Sharbati (steam) quoted at Rs 3,700-3,750 a quintal, while Sharbati (sela) sold at Rs 3,400 a quintal.

### **Board cracks down on tea units**

P. S. Sundar



Coonoor, June 21:

The Tea Board has threatened to recover the subsidy extended to factories in South India for modernising their machinery if the prices fetched by teas manufactured by such units are less than the South Indian auction price or private sale average price.

The Board contends that lower price means failure to manufacture quality tea.

It has sent notices to the factories concerned whose teas had fetched a lower price in 2011.

“If this is continues, it will compel the Tea Board to recover the subsidy paid to your factory and also cancel the licence issued under the Tea (Marketing) Control order to manufacture and sell the tea,” the notice warns.

“You are requested to submit your explanation as to whether your factory is willing to improve the manufacturing of tea so that the price realised shows continuous increase indicating your efforts in quality tea production.

Otherwise, it would be presumed that the subsidy did not achieve the value for the money and needs recovery,” the notice states, and asks for a reply on or before June 25.

## Cheaper buffalo meat helps double beef exports in 3 years

M. R. Subramani



<b>GAINING PROMINENCE</b>					(in '000 tonnes)
<b>Country</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,525</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>1,425</b>
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>1,350</b>
<b>US</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>1,236</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>544</b>

Source: USDA

Chennai, June 21:

Beef exports have doubled in three years between 2008 and 2011 and are set to scale further heights. In 2011, India edged out the US as the third largest exporter of beef.

Buffalo meat, known as carabeef in the global market, is shipped out of the country as beef. Technically, buffalo meat is treated as beef export. Though questions are being raised whether all consignments shipped are buffalo meat, official sources say that 99 per cent of the shipments are buffalo meat.

## **Moving up the list**

This year, the US Department of Agriculture says, India is all set to end as the top beef exporter. India could export 1.5 million tonnes of beef compared with 1.28 million tonnes last year. This marks a significant growth since 2009 when 0.61 million tonnes were shipped from the country. (See Table)

“India is forecast to become the world’s leading beef exporter in 2012 due to an expanding dairy herd, efficiency improvements, increased slaughter and price-competitiveness in the international market particularly vis-à-vis Brazil,” the USDA said in its report in April.

“Indian buffalo meat is rising due to its competitiveness. Global buyers are also assured of our quality,” said Dr Tarun Bajaj, General Manager, Livestock Products, Agricultural and Processed Food Exports Development Authority (Apeda).

“International demand is rising and the growth rate in Australia, Europe and the US is static,” said Dr Bajaj.

“We exported Rs 8,000 crore-worth beef in 2010-11 and it could have easily topped Rs 13,000 crore last fiscal,” said the Apeda official. (Full details of 2011-12 exports are not available yet). Though there has been a drop in the value in the rupee, Mr Bajaj said it could at the most contribute an additional Rs 1,000 crore.

## **Global scenario**

According to the USDA, global beef production in 2012 is likely to be 57 million tonnes, up marginally over 56.8 million tonnes produced in 2011.

Exports, on the other hand, will likely be a record 8.7 million tonnes fuelled by India, Columbia, Australia and New Zealand.

“India’s beef production is projected at 3.5 million tonnes based on an expanding dairy herd, increased slaughter and price-competitiveness in the global meat market compared to Brazil. As exports account for 44 per cent of production, growth in exports underpins production increases,” said the department.

According to 2007 livestock census, buffalo makes up one-third of the bovine herd in the country.



Buffalo is preferred to cow due to its adaptability to climatic conditions and high milk fat content as dairy production is fuelling the bovine sector. Since slaughter of cow is banned, beef production is driven by buffalo slaughter which is allowed. However, the slaughter is restricted to males and unproductive females.

“We are experiencing good growth in the Gulf, Africa and the Far-East,” said Dr Bajaj. “Our exports are rising since we have surplus meat. Also, our people due to rise in their income are shifting to lamb and other meat products, including poultry,” he said.

### **Pushing down Brazil**

The USDA said Indian export have made inroads in West Asia, North Africa and South-East Asia, which is a key market for Brazil, as buffalo meat is priced lower in the price sensitive markets and is produced according to halal standards (meat prepared as prescribed by Islamic dietary law).

On the other hand, Brazil, which is seeing a constant decline in its beef exports, is dogged by shrinking availability of lands for grazing due to expansion in sugarcane and soyabean cultivation. Higher transport costs to get the produce to the ports are adding to the cattle sector woes.

### **India, Australia join hands for protecting foodgrains from insects**

Coimbatore, June 21:

A research project to protect the country’s grain harvest from insect threats is in the offing.

Titled ‘Ensuring food security: Harnessing Science to protect food grains from insect threats’ – the project would aim at developing sustainable strategies for enhancing the efficacy of phosphine – a fumigant for controlling insect infestation in stored food grains.

This three-year collaborative research project between India and Australia has been sanctioned by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore.

Dr E.I. Jonathan, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies (CPPS), TNAU, said that the University would work with University of Queensland and the Department of Employment,

Economic Development & Innovation (DEEDI), Australia for evolving new methods to enhance the efficacy of phosphine fumigant.

The Principal Investigator of the project and Professor (Entomology) at TNAU, Dr S. Chandrasekaran, said that within India, TNAU would work jointly with Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi and Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT), Thanjavur, on this project.

The outcome is expected to assist the country in modernising its post-harvest management and research capacity; enable rational management of fumigant resistance, a major issue for the large scale grains storage at Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporation (SWC).

It is also expected to benefit farmers and industrial partners involved in storage and processing of grain and grain products.

The total outlay is Rs 2.29 crore of which TNAU's share would be Rs1.07 crore for carrying out the project, CPPS Director said.

Citing a World Bank report, Dr Jonathan said that post-harvest losses owing to all causes averaged 11-15 per cent of India's total food grain production (roughly around 20 million tonnes).

Insect infestations alone have been estimated to reduce production by 3-15 per cent depending on climate, commodity and storage structure.

"Globally, grain-handling organisations rely on phosphine for controlling insect infestations in stored food grains.

But the high-level of resistance to phosphine in storage insects is an acute and growing problem in both India and Australia.

This seriously threatens the long-term security of stored food grains.

Therefore, the immediate challenge is to develop sustainable strategies that will enhance the efficacy of phosphine to control the storage insects effectively," Dr Jonathan said.

## Food storage units likely to be brought under rural job scheme



New Delhi, June 21:

After roads, embankments, ponds and toilets, foodgrain storage units may get created under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme.

Faced with storage crisis, Food Minister, Mr K.V.Thomas, discussed the issue of creating such facilities at the village level under the job guarantee scheme with the Rural Development Minister, Mr Jairam Ramesh, on Thursday.

“It is still in the preliminary stages and modalities will soon be worked out,” Mr Thomas told reporters, detailing the steps taken by his Ministry to enhance foodgrain storage and its quick movement.

Following a record foodgrain production aided by an increase in minimum support price, procurement by Government agencies has touched an all-time high this year. Central foodgrain stocks as on June 1, 2012 stood at 82.31 million tonnes consisting of 50.1 million tonnes of wheat and 32.14 million tonnes of rice, Mr Thomas said. This is against a storage capacity of 64 million tonnes with FCI and other agencies.

He expressed concern over the 6.6 million tonnes of wheat in the Government stock lying in the open, mainly in Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, which runs the high risk of damages during monsoon. “We will give utmost priority to move this wheat to safe place in

monsoon,” Mr Thomas said.FCI has been directed to plan for additional storage jointly with the State governments and draw a list of locations including private storage spaces and co-operative mills and use the same, Mr Thomas said.

### **Agri census in Ernakulam dist**

June 21:

An agriculture census to collect details about the usage of agriculture land is progressing in the district. Economics and Statistics Department Deputy Director said that the census is being carried out in two phases. Land usage, ownership, crop diversity, irrigation, manure and fertilisers used are among the details being collected.Meanwhile, a survey on the extent of land used for horticulture crops, production, and value of farm land is also being undertaken as part of a Centrally-administered project. Cost of cultivation survey to determine the expenditure on farming is also under way.The cost of cultivating crops like coconut, areca nut, banana, pepper, tapioca, ginger and turmeric are being assessed under this survey.

### **Mangalore jackfruit fest from tomorrow**



Mangalore, June 21:

Krishi Vijnana Kendra, Mangalore, will conduct a two-day jackfruit fest in Mangalore from Sturday.

Dr H. Hanumanthappa, programme coordinator, Krishi Vijnana Kendra, Mangalore, said that there will be technical sessions on various aspects of jackfruit cultivation and value addition during the two days.

Mr Shree Padre, Editor of the farm journal *Adike Patrike*, will speak on opportunities in jackfruit and its future. Dr Jagadish S.L. from Kittur Rani Channamma Horticultural College, Arabhavi, will speak on cultivation of different varieties of jackfruit.

Mr Ravikumar, secretary of the Doddaballapur-based Toobugere Jackfruit Growers' Association, will speak on the association's activities.

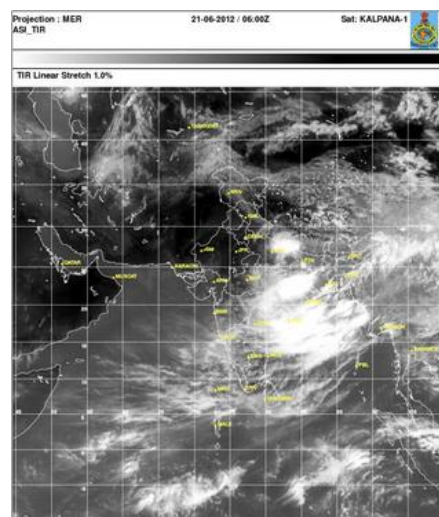
Exhibition of various food items made from jackfruit will be organised on June 24. Ms Mamatha Bhat from Sirsi taluk in Uttara Kannada district, who has been marketing value-added jackfruit items, will be the resource person for this event.

Farmers can display good varieties of jackfruits at the venue.

Ms K.T. Shailaja Bhat, president of the Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat, will inaugurate the festival. Dr K.N. Vijayaprakash, chief executive officer of the zilla panchayat, will inaugurate the exhibition stalls. Brochures on jackfruit will be released on that day.

## Rain deficit down to 26%, gains for east seen

Vinson Kurian



Thiruvananthapuram, June 21:

The all-India seasonal rain deficit has come down to 26 per cent as on Wednesday, an India Meteorological Department (IMD) update said.

This is a vast improvement on the 41 per cent deficit a week ago, after enhanced rains along the west coast and central India immediately after.

#### RAINS FOR EAST

But 24 of the 36 met subdivisions have returned deficient or scanty rains. The rest 12 recorded excess (three subdivisions) rain and nine, normal.

Global models have forecast moderate to heavy rain for east India and east-central India during the week beginning Thursday.

Parts of north coastal Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, east Bihar and Gangetic West Bengal may make gains.

But entire peninsula (except the west coast), west and northwest India are expected to see deficient rain during the period.

Another global forecast for the first week of July show rains racing into entire Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, probably aided by a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal.

#### CONVECTIVE CLOUDS

The Konkan coast is also shown to receive rains as part of the reviving monsoon.

Meanwhile, the IMD said on Thursday that the monsoon has advanced into Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar.

Some parts of east Madhya Pradesh and east Uttar Pradesh also received the first few showers of the season.

Satellite pictures showed convective (rain-producing) clouds standing tall over parts of east Uttar Pradesh, east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha.

Clouds also covered east and northeast India, north Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, east-central and southeast Arabian Sea, Comorin area and the Bay of Bengal.

#### RAIN OUTLOOK

An IMD forecast for the next two days said that rain or thundershowers may break out along the west coast, the Northeastern States, West Bengal, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa.

Rains have also been forecast over east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, east Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, north Andhra Pradesh, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Towards west, rains are likely over east Gujarat, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathawada, west Madhya Pradesh and interior south peninsular India.

A heavy rainfall warning is valid for Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and coastal Karnataka during the next two days.