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Cane farmers demand compensation

we want:Members of Tamil Nadu Sugar Cane Farmers Association staging a demonstration in front of the RDO office in Pudukottai on Friday.

Cane farmers affiliated to Tamil Nadu Sugar Cane Farmers Association staged a demonstration in front of the office of Revenue Division Officer in the town on Friday urging the State government to provide compensation of Rs.10 lakh to family of cane farmer Murugaian of Mappadukai village near Mayiladuthurai who committed suicide recently.

They alleged that Murugaian committed suicide due to his inability to bear burden of the loan. The farmers also demanded the State to waive all loan dues of Murugaian.

S. Rajasekaran, former MLA and district convener of the association, led the agitation, and S. Ponnusamy, district secretary of the Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, inaugurated the same. M. Sebastian, district president of the Sangam, M. Chinnadurai, district secretary of the CPI (M) and others spoke highlighting the demands.

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Regional directorate of animal husbandry opened

Special Correspondent



process begins:V. Kalaiarasi, Collector, lighting the traditional lamp, to mark the inauguration of the regional directorate of animal husbandry department in Pudukottai town on Tuesday.

The new regional directorate of State animal husbandry department was inaugurated at a brief function held in the town here on Tuesday. Collector V. Kalaiarasi inaugurated the directorate and the new office premises on Government Cattle Farm campus by lighting the traditional lamp.

The State government recently announced the creation of five new regional directorates of animal husbandry department at Pudukottai, Nilgris, Krishnagiri, Kanyakumari and Perambalur district. The department of animal husbandry of Pudukottai district was covered by the regional joint directorate at Thanjavur for a long time.

The new regional joint director's office here will account for 16 officials. The State has allocated a sum of Rs.1.85 crore for the recurring expenses of the new office here. R. Kamalraj, regional joint director of animal husbandry, Pudukottai (in-charge), T. Pandian, regional joint director of animal husbandry, Thanjavur, Daniel, director (in-charge) of Government Cattle Farm, and other officials, were present. The Collector handed over the keys of the new vehicle sanctioned under the Tamil Nadu Livestock Development Agency to the driver.

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Farmers receive cash awards

incentive:K.Baskaran, Collector, handing over the cash award to a farmer in Thanjavur on Friday.Photo: M.Moorthy

The best incentive for farmers is the appreciation they receive for achieving highest yields. District level cash awards are distributed to farmers in the district who have come first and second in raking in the highest yield every year.

K. Baskaran, Collector, distributed cash awards to farmers who topped the district in paddy and pulses for 2011-12 at the monthly farmers' grievances day meeting held at the collectorate on Friday. A cash award of Rs.15,000 was given to M.Ashok Kumar of Kambankdi village in Budalur taluk, as first prize for a yield of 11,825 kilos of paddy per hectare. He cultivated CR1009, a long-term samba variety.

The second prize of Rs.10,000 went to S.Shanmugham of Peramur, Thiruvaiyaru taluk. He had an yield of 11575 kilos of CR1009 samba paddy per hectare. With respect to black gram, M.Rajendran of Omkulam in Budalur taluk got the first prize of Rs. 10,000. He had an yield of 4510 kilos of ADT five variety of black gram per hectare. The Collector also distributed Rs. 1.49

lakh to 12 coconut farmers under the insurance scheme implemented by Agriculture Insurance Company Ltd.

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Fall in coconut price puts growers in a tight spot

Government urged to procure copra directly at Rs.20 per kilogram

Coconut growers are in tears as the price has plummeted.

Raising this issue at the agriculturists' grievances meet here on Friday, Siva.Suriyan, district secretary of Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, pointed out that while coconut was raised in about 10 lakh acres in the State, Tiruchi's share was about one lakh acres.

The major coconut areas in the district are Andhanallur, Srirangam, Thottiyam, Musiri, Lalgudi, Mannachanallur, Marungapuri and Thuvrankurichi.

A coconut weighing 400 grams, which was quoted around Rs.7 a couple of months ago, is now ruling around Rs.2.50. "This has caused huge loss to farmers," he lamented.

Appeal to State

He appealed to the State government to procure copra directly ensuring at least Rs.20 per kilogram. He also pleaded for opening a direct procurement centre in the district. Joint Director of Agriculture J.Sekar said copra procurement centres had so far been opened at Pollachi and Thanjavur, "However, we will also send a proposal," he added.

Mr. Siva. Suriyan also expressed serious apprehensions over the survival of agriculturists in the country considering skyrocketing prices of fertilizers.

For instance, he pointed out that the price of DAP which was Rs.750 (a bag of 50 kg) in 2009, rose to Rs.950 last year. For the current fiscal, it would cost Rs.1,250. Similarly, the price of potash, which was quoted at Rs.245 per bag in 2009, went up to Rs.565 last year and it would cost Rs.840 this year.

The Central government should immediately intervene and make the fertilizer companies withdraw the hike, he pleaded. At the same time, the minimum support price announced by the Central government was meagre.

Besides, the State government had been extending only Rs.50 per quintal as incentive for paddy and this should be increased substantially, he said.

All that Collector Jayashree Muralidharan, who was in the chair, and the Joint Director of Agriculture, could say was that all the fertilizer outlets, that had old stocks, had been instructed to sell at old rates.

The new prices had come into effect only from June 1 and the new rates could be applied only if they had procured new stock.

Besides, they had been advised to sell at new rates only after obtaining explicit permission from Revenue and Agriculture Department.

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Kuruvai to be raised in 6,000 hectares

Certified seeds of high-yielding varieties ready at agricultural extension centres

Despite the inability of the State government to throw open the Mettur dam for delta irrigation on the scheduled date of June 12, the district administration has decided to raise kuruvai in its normal area of 6,000 hectares. (It is samba which covers as much as 62,000 hectares in this district).

According to an official release, kuruvai crop is popular in Lalgudi, Manachanallur, Uppiliyapuram and Thuraiyur taluk. As much as 4,000 hectares would come up under kuruvai in Lalgudi taluk alone.

Certified seeds of high-yielding and short-term varieties like ADT 36 and ADT 43 are kept ready at agricultural extension centres.

Of the total 51.465 metric tonnes of seed stored, 35.950 metric tonnes have been distributed so far.

Subsidy

For such certified seeds, a subsidy of Rs.5 per kg is provided under the Integrated Grain Development Programme.

Requisite fertilizers — 4,869 metric tonnes of urea, 1,943 MT of DAP and 2,267 MT of potash — are available with the primary agricultural cooperative banks and private outlets.

Subsidy to increase vegetable production using trellis method

R. Vimal Kumar

The Department of Horticulture is set to disburse subsidy assistance to farmers to increase the yield of vegetables that are creeper in nature by using the trellis method.

“This is the first time that the subsidy is being planned to be extended for cultivation using trellis since such type of farming could result in improving the productivity by almost 20 per cent,”

Deputy Director of Horticulture Mohammed Kalimullah Sherif told *The Hindu* .

As per the plan, subsidy assistance is to be given away to farmers cultivating bitter gourd, snake gourd, cucumber and other vegetables spread over 1,073 ha under hi-tech productivity enhancement programme.

Assistance

Official sources said subsidy assistance would be restricted to Rs 1.55 lakh per hectare with the fund to be used to off-set the costs incurred to erect trellis, fencing and digging pits.

The usage of trellis instead of the predominant practice adopted by farmers of growing the creeper variety of plants on the ground itself to save capital cost, will help the agrarian community to enhance agronomical practices and improve irrigation as well as plant protection in the long run.

“Growing of the creeper varieties using trellis and under fenced environment will also prevent root decaying caused normally due to water-logging as well as reduce the labour charges significantly since application of fertilizer and harvesting becomes easier,” Mr. Sherif pointed out further.

The department also has plans to popularise the usage of trellis among the grapes growers in the district in the next phase.

For farmers cultivating bitter gourd, snake gourd, cucumber and other vegetables

Declare Tiruchi district as part of delta, demand farmers

G.Sathyamoorthi

Around two lakh acres of cultivable area in the region should be given power supply for 20 hours

hoping for greener pasture:A farmer raising a point at grievances day meet in Tiruchi on Friday.PHOTO:R.M. RAJARATHINAM.

Farmers of the district on Friday made a fervent plea to the State government to declare the district part of the 'delta'.

Raising the issue at farmers' grievances day meeting here, R.Subramani, Deputy Secretary of the Cauvery Delta Farmers Welfare Association, pointed out that even as early as June 16,1989, the Public Works Department mentioned in an order that the "integrated Tiruchi, Lalgudi, Musiri and Kulithalai" should also be deemed a region benefited by the Cauvery delta irrigation. The cultivable area in this region alone would be around two lakh acres and hence should be extended power supply for 20 hours.

However, he lamented that it was only Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam district which were considered delta region by the State government and a number of benefits accorded to the delta farmers were denied to those in Tiruchi district.

This was endorsed by G.Kanagasabhai, president, Cauvery Delta Farmers' Welfare Association.

Collector Jayashree Muralidharan , who was in the chair, said she was in total agreement and had already taken up the issue with the State government. She urged the farmers' associations to give a memorandum in the regard "which will help strengthen my hands further."

Mr.Kanagasabhai, who pointed out that the State government itself, had accepted that the surplus water in the Cauvery and the Kollidam, during the rainy season, could be stored using barrages. As four barrages had been erected by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board below the Mettur Dam to generate electricity, he suggested that 23 more such barrages could be erected in the Cauvery and the Kollidam to generate power.

Several farmers' associations thanked Chief Minister Jayalalithaa for announcing that she would ensure 12 hours of power supply to the delta region.

At the same time, P.Viswanathan, Tamil Nadu Eri and Aatrupasana Vivasayigal Sangham, alleged that a number of farmers who had applied for power connection had been left high and dry for the past several years. He also pleaded for appointment of a retired high court judge as the chairman of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission to fill up the post lying vacant for quite some time now. The Superintendent Engineer, Tamil Nadu Electricity Generation and Distribution Corporation, said while three-phase domestic connections had been cleared up to May 7 this year, agricultural pumpset connections had been cleared up to March 31, 2000.

Wells for irrigation

Raja Chidambaram, State general secretary of the Tamilaga Vivasayigal Sangham, while expressing happiness over the assurance of the Chief Minister for delta farmers, appealed to her to accord some attention to those utilising wells for irrigation. "They are getting meagre power supply though they are also raising various crops," he lamented.

Another important issue regarding which all the farmers' associations have submitted a memorandum to the Collector was regarding the processing charge collected by the nationalised banks for the crop loans and agricultural jewel loans.

While the Central government itself has recommended these loans to be extended at an interest of seven per cent and a rebate of three per cent for those who settled the dues in full within the scheduled date, Tamil Nadu government has been extending these two loans through primary agricultural co-operative banks without any interest in a bid to promote food grain production.

But the nationalised banks choose to charge three per cent to five per cent processing charges while extending these loans "which betrayed their anti-farmer attitude," they alleged.

They wondered whether the Central government itself was indulging in a sort of a "chicanery" by making an announcement but allowing it to come naught.

Hence, they pleaded that the State government should take up the issue with the Centre which alone could remedy the situation.

NAMAKKAL, June 23, 2012

Poultry farmers unhappy even as egg price shoots up

M.K. ANANTH

Wholesale price of egg in the Namakkal Zone that reached a new record high price of Rs. 3.22 on Monday climbed two more paise on Thursday as it was fixed at Rs. 3.24 at the Rate Fixation Committee meeting of the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) at its zonal office here on Thursday.

Egg rate went past the Rs. 3 mark for the second time this year when it climbed five paise on June 11 when it was fixed at Rs. 3.04., which climbed to Rs. 3.11 on June 14, to Rs. 3.16 on June 16 and to Rs. 3.22 on June 18. Thereby egg rate has been more than Rs. 3 for the last 11 days, but this has not brought smiles on the face of farmers.

S. Muthusamy, a leading poultry farmer, told *The Hindu* that poultry farmers got Rs. 3.04 as cash in hand on Thursday, as 20 paise is deducted by the traders – from the NECC board rate – towards packing, loading, transportation and unloading charges. “This is however the highest realisation price that has reached farmers till date,” he added.

“We are not happy despite the prices scaling record high as we are only matching the price hike of feed for the birds that has been on the rise alongside the increasing egg rate,” he lamented. He recalled that couple of years ago the cost of feed was not so high and farmers realised a better profit even while the egg rate was not as high, as it is today.

Joint Secretary of the Namakkal Poultry Farmers Federation M. Murali told *The Hindu* that feed price for the egg laying birds – a mixture of 15 ingredients – has gone up to about Rs. 17,280 a tonne on Thursday.

“It was only Rs. 13,000 a tonne about two months ago and increased by Rs. 4,000, resulting in a 33 per cent price hike in the cost of production of an egg”, he observed.

He said that this drastic rise in price of feed was due to escalation of the price of the main feed ingredients. “One tonne of soya cost Rs. 26,000 two months ago and came up to Rs. 31,500 (up by 21 percent) three days ago before it rocketed to Rs. 34,000 on Thursday (31 per cent more). De-oiled rice bran Rs. 6,500 per tonne two months ago to Rs. 10,000.

Egg rate was soaring in other NECC zones as well. Price of egg in other NECC zones across the country where it was priced higher than Namakkal till Friday is as follows: Kolkata – Rs. 3.50, Raipur – Rs. 3.36; Chittoor – Rs. 3.34; Miraj, Mumbai and Pune – Rs. 3.33; Chennai – Rs. 3.31; Ahmedabad – Rs. 3.29; Vizag – Rs. 3.28.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

23 JUN, 2012, 05.09PM IST, PTI

Edible oils up on wedding season demand; firm global cues

NEW DELHI: Edible oils rose at the oils and oilseeds market during the past week on wedding season buying amid a firming global trend.

In addition, restricted arrivals from producing belts also supported the uptrend in edible oil prices.

A few oils in the non-edible section were also in some demand on increased offtake by consuming industries.

Traders said increased buying by vanaspati millers and retailers to meet ongoing wedding season demand and a firming trend in global markets led to a rise in the wholesale edible oil prices.

They said reports of delay in monsoon in producing belts also influenced select edible oil prices.

Globally, palm oil futures advanced 3.7 per cent this week on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange.

Meanwhile, state-run trading firm PEC has invited bids for import of 18,000 tonnes of refined, bleached and deodorised (RBD) palmolein for the domestic market.

In the national capital, groundnut mill delivery oil (Gujarat) rose by Rs 100 to Rs 11,650 per

quintal and groundnut solvent refined held steady at Rs 1,850-1,900 per tin.

Mustard expeller (Dadri) oil was up by Rs 50 to Rs 8,000 per quintal on pick up in local demand. Mustard pakki and kachi ghani oils in line with mustard also traded higher by Rs 10 each to Rs 1,175-1,315 and Rs 1,330-1,430 per tin, respectively.

Sesame and cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) oils gained Rs 100 and Rs 50 to Rs 8,250 and Rs 6,450 per quintal, respectively.

Taking positive cues from overseas markets, soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) and soyabean degum (Kandla) oils moved up by Rs 50 each to Rs 7,800 and Rs 7,350 per quintal, respectively.

Palmolein (rbd) and palmolein (Kandla) oils traded higher by similar margin to Rs 8,000 and Rs 7,650 per quintal, respectively.

In the non-edible section, linseed oil traded higher by Rs 50 to Rs 5,200 per quintal on fresh enquiries from paint's industries. Neem oil edged up by Rs 50 to Rs 4,400-4,500 per quintal on increased demand from soap industries.

Business Standard

Monday, Jun 25, 2012

More farmers expected to switch to soya this year

Shashikant Trivedi / Bhopal June 23, 2012, 0:52 IST

With cotton prices down, the area under sowing for soybean is estimated to go up this year. The monsoon delay could complicate things, but even if it hits Madhya Pradesh, the lead growing state, by the end of this month, the area under the crop should go up.

“We are expecting a five to seven per cent increase in overall acreage,” said Rajesh Agrawal, ex-chairman and spokesperson of the Soybean Processors Association of India (Sopa). The Indore-based Sopa is the only independent body that conducts crop surveys and estimates.

Of last year’s 10.3 million hectares sown, Madhya Pradesh led with 5.7 million hectares, Maharashtra with three mn hectares, Rajasthan with 896,000 hectares, Karnataka with 217,000 hectares, Andhra with 155,000 hectares, Chhattisgarh with 150,000 hectares and the rest of India had 124,000 hectares.

“There are two reasons Maharashtra, Rajasthan and the southern states are most likely to up acreage — the fall in realisation of cotton and better realisation in soya. It (total) may touch 1.1 million ha,” Agrawal told Business Standard.

The Union government had raised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for soybean by 30 per cent, up to Rs 2,200 a quintal, noted Sushil Goenka, president of the Solvent Extracters Association of India. As the oilseeds’ MSP had also been raised by 21 to 37 per cent, he said there would be diversion from cotton to these crops as well.

N S Sipani, a prominent farmer who also runs an agricultural research entity at Mandsaur (in the Malwa region of MP) in association with the Indian Agriculture Research Institute, said monsoon normally hits Madhya Pradesh by June 15-25. “If it skips till June 30, it means we will have a delayed soya crop,” he said. Madhya Pradesh grows the finest varieties of soya, but the yield per hectare is better in Maharashtra at 1,256 kg per hectares against 1,077 kg per hectares in Madhya Pradesh. Government officials say they have yet to prepare sowing estimates. “We have yet to send our staff into the fields,” an official said.

India overtakes US as Nigeria's biggest export market

US remained the country's largest export market since 1964

Press Trust of India / Abuja June 23, 2012, 17:55 IST

India has overtaken the US to become Nigeria's largest market for exports, according to the first quarter Trade Statistics released by the oil-rich African country's National Bureau of Statistics.

The moving of the US to the second position is seen as a major development for Nigerian and Indian trade relations, given that the US had remained the country's largest export market since 1964.

In a broader context, the NBS data also reveals that during the quarter, India-Nigeria bilateral trade reached \$5.15 billion in the first quarter or within 0.5% of the US which, for the moment, retains the top-spot.

NBS put the total value of Nigeria's exports in the first quarter of 2012 at about \$30 billion, showing that exports to India reached \$4.2 billion, compared to \$3.7 billion credited to the US in the period under review.

Nigeria's export to India is mostly crude oil and cashew nuts while India exports pharmaceutical goods, machinery, electronics and rice.

The US was trailed by the Netherlands with \$2.9 billion, followed by Spain with \$2.4 billion and Brazil which recorded \$2 billion.

High Commissioner to Nigeria Mahesh Sachdev said it is indicative of a trend of consistent robust growth.

"If this growth persists, India can be expected to emerge as Nigeria's largest trading partner in the next quarter. Interestingly, Nigeria was India's 14th largest trading partner last year." he added.

Sachdev said an important take-away from this data-set is the trade deficit of \$3.7 billion that India had with Nigeria.

"This figure is obviously too high to be sustainable. Consequently, both sides need to ensure that more Indian products are imported into Nigeria so that the momentum of growth in bilateral trade can be maintained," he said.

This data, Sachdev said, is consistent with official Indian data which puts the bilateral trade in

2011 at \$16.4 billion, with Indian exports to Nigeria at \$2.6 billion (up 38% annually) and India's imports from Nigeria at 13.728 billion (up 34% annually). He gave a figure from India's Department of Commerce for the financial year that ended June 12 2012 which shows the country's exports to igeria in the first quarter of 2012 increasing by nearly 4% over previous quarter. Sachdev pointed out that in recent weeks, India has permitted global unrestricted exports of agricultural products such as wheat, rice, sugar, milk powder and other goods which are needed by Nigeria. He said he hoped Nigerian stake-holders would take steps to source these items from India as this would promote a more balanced bilateral trade.

THE HINDU Business Line

Pick up the pace of reform for sustained growth: Ashok Chawla



A file picture of Mr Ashok Chawla

Ahmedabad, June 23:

The Competition Commission of India Chairman, Mr Ashok Chawla, on Friday suggested that similar to the way in which India had moved beyond the “Hindu rate of growth” in the 1990s, it should now surpass the “Hindu rate of reform” for sustained growth.

Delivering a speech at the Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration (SPIPA) here, he said India had moved from the average Hindu rate of growth of 3.5 per cent between the 1950s and 1980s to 9 per cent for a few years before the 2008 financial crisis.

The 1991 reforms were actually thrust upon the Indian economy. "The big bang reforms of 1991 were not a consciously bold step in a new direction. They were, in a way, thrust on the policy makers," he said.

He regretted that once the initial spurt of reforms was over, the pace became more gradual, "sometimes even painfully slow." "That, perhaps, is in keeping with the Indian philosophy of incrementalism. Today, this issue of policy changes is the subject of intense discussion once again. Cynics are now talking in terms of the "Hindu rate of reforms!"

About the "unfinished agenda on economic policy", Mr Chawla, who was Finance Secretary before taking over as CCI Chairman, identified seven major themes: the growth story must not bypass agriculture or land and labour markets; infrastructure must not become a binding constraint in the movement to a higher trajectory; the financial sector and tax regime must move faster to support a vibrant realty sector; GST must be implemented; skill upgradation should be identified as a national goal; the "resource raj" should be abolished on lines of the licence raj to end crony capitalism; good governance architecture should be put in place and institutional credibility improved.

Mr Chawla also hailed the role of various regulators and said more regulators for coal, mining and real estate are proposed to be set up.

He said CCI had so far received 267 matters alleging violations of Section 3 and 4 of the Competition Act, 2002, relating to anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominance in diverse sectors. The panel has taken action on 200 of these matters.

AP energy demand up 12% , focus on 7 hr supply to farmers

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23:

The average energy demand in Andhra Pradesh during June 2012 was up 12.2 per cent at 256.69 million units per day against 228.68 MU per day during the same period last year.

Due to incessant rains in the past few days following onset of monsoon, for the first time this year, the demand supply gap had narrowed down. This picked up again with the deficit now up at 24.22 MU on June 22. Andhra Pradesh Distribution companies could supply 209.88 MU against 234.10 MU demand on Friday.

Factoring the agriculture operations during the Khariff season, AP Transco has directed power utilities to gear up to ensure seven hours power supply to agricultural consumers. It has called upon the Discoms to compensate the farmers and ensure gap is bridged the next day.

The AP Transco emphasised that Discoms should implement the one lakh distribution transformer project aimed at preventing overloading of transformers and to improve voltage profile.

Reviewing the power supply situation with utilities, Mr. Hiralal Samariya, Chairman and Managing Director of AP Transco, has reiterated the Government's commitment to provide seven hours of power supply to the farm sector without any deviation. The accent is to ensure that farmers do not miss crop output due to inadequate power supply.