THE HINDU

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Rabbit farming best bet for housewives, unemployed youth

Ravi. P. Benjamin

Rabbits, the best producers of wool. Photo: C.V. Subrahmanyam

NABARD offers training on scientific lines to those interested

Angora rabbit culture can be the best bet for house wives who have a reasonably good backyard and even for unemployed youth to take it up as a commercial venture. They are mainly raised for their wool which is known for its quality.

Origin of these rabbits can be traced to the Angora province of Turkey from where they were taken to different parts of the world and several types of angora rabbits were evolved.

The differences are mainly in the amount of wool produced and percentage of guard hair in the wool.

Among the various types German Angora is known to be the best and annually yields 1000 to 1800 gm of wool under ideal management.

The rabbits require temperate climate and can be adopted to any set of circumstances right from a kitchen garden to a large intensive commercial enterprise. Rabbits are highly prolific and a good female can produce 25 to 30 kits per year.

They produce 6.4 times more wool than sheep on per kilogram body weight basis and do not require vast grazing land.

The wool produced by rabbits is the finest, lightest and warmest among all animal fibres and is preferred for manufacturing of high value woollens which have got very good export potential.

The wool has medicinal properties and its garments are recommended for arthritis patients due to its electro-static properties.

They are the best producers of wool on per kg body weight basis and require 30 percent less digestible energy to produce 1 kilogram of wool as compared to sheep. Its wool is 6-8 times warmer than the contemporary sheep wool and can be mixed with silk, polyester, rayon, nylon, sheep wool and other fibres to make good quality handlooms as well as hand knitted apparels.

The animals consume a large amount of forage from diverse origins and hence can be reared on roughages with very less quantity of costly concentrate feed.

They can be raised in small groups up to 50 numbers in the kitchen garden or even in the backyard of houses of farmers with kitchen waste as feed. Family labour is adequate to take care of labour requirements of the small unit. Kitchen waste and the vegetable garden waste can take care of the food requirement of the clean and lovely animal.

Quick returns

One can earn quick returns within six months after the establishment of the farm. Initial investment is low and income generation every six months will help easy repayment of loans taken. Apart from income generated by wool sales, income can be earned on sale of kits, meat which is tastier than chicken and pelt and manure. Residual feed together with rabbit manure is highly suitable for vermin-compost which in turn provides excellent manure for agriculture fields. Rabbit meat is rich in poly unsaturated fatty acids and is categorised as white meat.

Rabbit farming is another livestock activity with great scope as it is relatively easy and rewarding and takes little space compared to other livestock activities. In places where employment potential is less it provides scope for income generation.

NABARD offers training on scientific lines to those interested in rabbit farming. Loans from banks and refinance facility from NABARD is available.

Technical feasibility includes proximity of the farm to the veterinary hospital, breeding centre, marketing outlets for wool and other products apart from availability of good quality of breeding stock, training facilities, concentrate feed, kitchen waste and home grown fodder.

Access to medicines and vaccines and veterinary services should also be considered. For setting up a rabbit farm with 10 female and 3 male Angora rabbits will roughly cost around Rs.2 lakh inclusive of infrastructure and all paraphernia required.

COIMBATORE, June 5, 2012

Sell potato on harvest, TNAU tells farmers

Less chance of price increasingPrice likely to hover around Rs. 14 a kg to Rs. 18 a kg

The Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has asked farmers to sell potato on harvest as there were less chances of price increasing.

After analysing the price of potato that prevailed in the Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society for the last 22 years, price of good potato hovered around Rs. 14 and Rs. 18 a kg in May and June, it is recommended that farmers sell potato immediately.

High cost of cultivation, labour shortage, and huge arrivals from other States at economic prices have made farmers from the Nilgiris shift to other hilly vegetables. Potato from the Nilgiris is sent to Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchi, Salem and Vellore and also to other States.

The arrival of these potatoes is high from June to December.

In Tamil Nadu, potato is grown in the hilly regions of Dindigul, the Nilgiris, Krishnagiri and Erode.

BIDAR, June 5, 2012

State plans scheme to boost farmers' income

UAS-Raichur to help them take up integrated farming

In order to supplement the income of farmers and minimise their losses, the State government will launch a mission to popularise integrated farming in Hyderabad Karnataka.

The establishment of the integrated farming system modules for different agro-ecosystems of Hyderabad Karnataka is funded by the Centre under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. The three-year project, which will be launched from this kharif sowing season, will cover an estimated 1,000 farmers who cultivate on 3,800 acres of land spread across Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Koppal, Yadgir and Bellary districts.

“The motive is to push the farmers in these backward areas out of poverty,” B.T. Pujari, director (research), UAS-Raichur, said.

In times of distress

Research has shown that during natural disasters, farmers who grow fruit and timber trees and rear animals suffered less than those who depend on agricultural crops alone. That was why they wanted more farmers to take up integrated farming. Through this project, they would tell them why it was important to diversify, and also act as mentors to help them do so, Mr. Pujari told *The Hindu* .

UAS would work through its krishi vigyan kendras, and agricultural research stations and raitha samparka kendras of the Department of Agriculture in the taluks. They had identified 100 acres in each of the 38 taluks in the region and would do a ‘strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats' (SWOT) analysis of each farmer, he added.

Scientists and extension workers would visit the fields of each beneficiary, and list his on-field activities. Farmers who are only into agriculture would be convinced to take up animal husbandry, poultry farming, goat rearing, inland fisheries, forestry, horticulture, beekeeping, breeding exotic animal and bird species like emu and rabbits, and others. Advice would given to them based on their individual interests, aptitude and capacity to absorb new technology, Mr. Pujari said.

UAS would supply cattle, saplings, nutrients and other materials to farmers willing to diversify. The aim was to introduce at least one new activity to each farmer in a year.

Scientists would constantly monitor the progress in the new activities adopted by farmers. Based on the feedback, farmers would be advised on changing their cultivation or rearing patterns.

The project will be implemented at a cost of Rs. 4 crore over three years. The Centre has already released the first instalment of Rs. 1 crore. This is part of the Agriculture and Allied Sectors Development Programme being taken up in the State under the Rs. 151 crore grants allocated under the RKVY.

- *UAS to supply cattle, saplings, nutrients to 1,000 farmers willing to diversify*
- *‘The aim is to introduce at least one new activity to each farmer in a year'*

MAHABUBNAGAR, June 5, 2012

Move to get seed, fertilizer for kharif

Minister for Information and Public Relations D.K. Aruna said that the government had prepared a plan to get required seed and fertilizer for kharif season. She urged the farmers to utilise the schemes and subsidies provided by the State government.

She launched “Yeruvaka Pournavi Utsavalu” (farmers festival) at Jammichedu village of Gadwal mandal in the district here on Monday.

She inaugurated the exhibition arranged by agriculture and allied departments, besides distributing mini seed kits to the farmers under DATT centre.

Addressing them on the occasion, she said the government has decided to organise the Yeruvaka festival.

Drip irrigation

The Minister asked the farmers to undertake drip irrigation in view of the drought situation and the ground water situation in the district.

District Collector M. Purushotham Redy, Additional Director of Agriculture Vinaychand and others were also present.

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hindustantimes

Tuesday, June 05, 2012

Himani Chandna Gurtoo, Hindustan Times

New Delhi, June 04, 2012

First Published: 21:05 IST(4/6/2012)

Last Updated: 21:07 IST(4/6/2012)

Mother Dairy in high-protein growth drive

A scorching summer is good for dairy product makers. The capital's corporate milkman is betting on this for high growth.

Mother Dairy, the wholly owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) with sales in excess of Rs 500-crore, plans to double its dairy products turnover by the end of the fiscal year 2013-14, aided by ready-to-eat kheer and fruit yoghurt on which rival brands such as Amul and Danone have pushed ahead in the past one year.

“By 2013-14, dairy products will be Rs 1,100 crore business for the company from Rs 550 crore today. We plan to achieve this by adding capacities and expanding pan-India distribution and marketing,” Subhashis Basu, business head, dairy products, Mother Dairy, told HT.

The dairy products division is growing at a 35% annual clip and 13 new ice cream derivatives are planned to keep up the momentum.

“With rise in incomes, the demand for protein intake will go up. We expect that huge demand will come from first-time consumers. I believe, this is the most exciting time in dairy products business,” Basu said.

In India, the per capita consumption of dairy products does not exceed 300 millilitres per annum, compares with Europe’s 9 litres and US’ 12 litres, say officials of Mother Dairy, which plans to fan into Kolkata and southern India next year. Mumbai is the next stop.

http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/865990.aspx

weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather

Clear

Tuesday, Jun 5

Max Min

42.8º | 29.3º

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 59%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 6:35

Sunset: 18:03

Barometer: 1000

Tomorrow's Forecast

Rainy

Wednesday, Jun 6

Max Min

37º | 29º

Extended Forecast for a week

<table>
<tr><td>Thursday</td><td>Friday</td><td>Saturday</td><td>Sunday</td><td>Monday</td></tr>
<tr><td>Jun 7</td><td>Jun 8</td><td>Jun 9</td><td>Jun 10</td><td>Jun 11</td></tr>
<tr><td>36° | 29°</td><td>35° | 29°</td><td>35° | 29°</td><td>38° | 29°</td><td>38° | 30°</td></tr>
<tr><td>Rainy</td><td>Rainy</td><td>Rainy</td><td>Cloudy</td><td>Rainy</td></tr>
</table>

Business Standard

Tuesday, Jun 05, 2012

India asks Malaysia to explore bulk wheat buy

Press Trust Of India / June 5, 2012, 0:21 IST

With surplus wheat stocks, India has asked Malaysia to explore the possibility of importing the grain in large quantities from the country.

India, the world's second-largest producer, is grappling with problem of plenty after an estimated record output of 90.23 million tonne in the 2011-12 crop year (July-June).

“I made a suggestion to Malaysia to consider importing wheat in bulk from India,” Food Minister K V Thomas said after meeting Malaysia’s plantation industries and commodities minister.

India is working on options, including wheat exports, to ease a storage crisis, which is mounting, as rice and wheat stocks in the government godowns have already crossed 70 mt, against the storage capacity of 63 mt.

The government's foodgrain stocks have risen due to record procurement in the last few years following bumper production.

The Malaysian delegation is on a six-day visit to India to strengthen bilateral relations.

Bilateral trade between India and Malaysia touched a record $12.5 billion in 2011.

Malaysia to take steps to make palm oil industry competitive

Indonesia's export duty on palm oil 19.5%, much lower than Malaysia's export duty of 30%

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 04, 2012, 16:29 IST

Malaysia, the world's second largest palm oil producer, will soon take steps to make the country's palm oil industry competitive against rival Indonesia.

Indonesia, the world's largest palm oil producer, has kept export duty on crude palm oil at 19.5%, much lower than Malaysia's export duty of 30% after a duty-free limit of 3.6 million tonnes.

"I am preparing a submission to the Cabinet to see how the tax structure promulgated by Indonesia can affect the industry in Malaysia," Malaysia Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok told reporters here, after meeting Food Minister K V Thomas.

The government has not made any decisions yet in this regard. But steps will be taken to make entire palm oil industry competitive, he added.

Dompok said he has received complaints from trade bodies on impact of export duty cut in Indonesia on Malaysia's trade.

The palm oil industry has been demanding lowering of the export duty in Malaysia to make palm oil competitive against Indonesia.

On palm oil production, Dompok said the country is likely to achieve the target of about 19.3 million tonnes in 2012 despite lower production in the first quarter.

Palm oil production is expected to pick up in the next two to three months, he added.

Dompok is on a six-day visit to India to strengthen bilateral relations.

Global coffee exports down 12% in Apr: ICO

Second month of decline, coffee exports were down 7% in March

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 04, 2012, 14:56 IST

World coffee exports declined by nearly 12% to 8.77 million bags in April this year, International Coffee Organisation (ICO) has said.

The worldwide overseas shipments of the brew stood at 9.93 million bags of 60 kg each in the same month of 2011.

This is the second straight month of decline in exports of the brew after global export volumes rose by 7% to 9.32 million bags in February, 2012 from 8.67 million bags in the year-ago period.

World coffee shipments declined by almost 7% to 9.88 million bags in March, 2012 from 10.59 million bags in the year-ago period.

In the first seven months of the current coffee year, exports fell by 4% to 60.3 million bags from 62.83 million bags in the October-April period of the 2010-11 coffee year.

Coffee year lasts from October to September.

For the 12 month period ending April 2012, total coffee shipments were down at 101.99 million bags as against 103.35 million bags in the year-ago period.

According to the global body on coffee, exports in the first half of the 2011-12 coffee year fell by 2.3% to 51.7 million bags from 52.9 million bags in the 2010-11 coffee year mainly on account of drop in shipments by Brazil and Columbia.

Pepper falls on weak overseas demand

High prices kept investors away

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 04, 2012, 13:55 IST

Pepper futures prices today fell by Rs 250 to Rs 38,575 per quintal due to subdued overseas demand at prevailing higher levels.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, pepper for delivery in July fell by Rs 250, or 0.64%, to Rs 38,575 per quintal, with an open interest of 2,985 lots.

The June contract lost Rs 230, or 0.59%, to Rs 38,550 per quintal in 2,693 lots.

Analysts said subdued overseas demand at prevailing higher levels mainly kept pressure on pepper prices at futures trade.

Weather plays spoilsport with cotton in Haryana, Punjab

Komal Amit Gera/Vikas Sharma / New Delhi/ Chandigarh June 05, 2012, 0:13 IST

Adverse weather conditions coupled with better price for guar seed forcing traditional cotton farmers to abandon cotton farming

The consistent dry and extreme hot weather in the states of Punjab and Haryana might affect the yield of cotton this year. The pre-monsoon showers that give strength and vigour to the crop skipped the area this season. The farmers are worried that the hot wind (loo) blowing may burn the cotton plants.

The scientists at the Central Institute of Cotton Research at Sirsa confirmed that the cotton seed is vulnerable to high temperature. They added that the farmers may have to sow the seeds again if the plants burn due to excessive heat.

Jagtar Singh Mehma, a farmer from Bhatinda in Punjab said the hot wind carries sand particles and this is harmful for the tender cotton plant.

“Natutal showers are imperative as excess irrigation may result in compacting of cotton flower”, he added.

The cotton sowing has been delayed this year due to stretched harvesting of wheat. About three-fourth of area has been sown in north India.

As per agriculture officials in Haryana, cotton sowing has touched 3.70 lakh hectares. The area in the corresponding period last year was around 4.50 lakh hectares.

Agriculture officials are expecting a 15 per cent decline in overall cotton acreage this season. The decline in cotton acreage is because of farmers switching their options to other remunerative kharif crops like guar.

Even as Governemnt of India(GoI) allowed exports of cotton bales from May this year, it has failed to influence the farmers who have already planned a switch over.

Haryana is targeting 6 lakh hectares under cotton this year, compared to 6.03 lakh hectare achieved last year. Punjab is eyeing 5 lakh hectare area compared to 5.60 lakh hectare area achieved last year.

Agriculture officials in Haryana, however, says the final area under cotton this year would remain close to 5.25 lakh hectares, a 12.5 per cent decline in overall area under cotton.

Owing to decline in acreage, production of cotton bales is also anticipated to slide down.

Traders are saying that production of cotton in Punjab and Haryana is expected to be around 40 lakh bales compared to 55 lakh bales last year. Cotton farmers in some parts of Haryana may prefer sowing guar seed over cotton.

Prices fetched by cotton farmer last year were not as per expectations and ranged between Rs 3,000- 4,000 per quintal compared to Rs 7000 per quintal reachedthe previous year. Prices of guar seed, on the other hand, has increased from Rs 60 per kg last (Rs 6,000 per quintal) last year to Rs 300 per kg (Rs 30,000 per quintal) this year.

States including Haryana and Punjab which normally had been contributing around 40 lakh bales (1 bale=170kg) of cotton, last year had production close to 55 lakh bales(including some areas of Rajasthan).

THE HINDU Business Line

Growers may cultivate tapioca only if prices improve

Our Correspondent

Erode, June 4:

Farmers in Erode, Dharmapuri, Salem and Namakkal are likely to cultivate tapioca only if prices improve.

With input costs rising considerably, current prices are not feasible to grow the tuber, farmers said.

According to Mr Chinnasamy Gounder of Modakurichi, farmers are ready to raise tapioca in more area only if they get remunerative price. In 2010, tapioca fetched Rs 10,000 a tonne but last year, it fetched Rs 9,000.

Some farmers are thinking twice to grow tapioca due to shortage of labour. However, a few growers may be tempted to go in for the crop if they can lay their hands at a high-yield variety.

Traders said that if the price of starch increases, the tuber's price will increase.

Currently, prices continue to rule lower despite drop in the crop's arrival. The tapioca season is coming to an end, leading to drop in arrivals.

Usually, industries get more than 100 tonnes a month but it has now fallen down to 30 tonnes.

Mr S.S. Natarajan, Executive Director of SPAC Tapioca Product India Ltd, Poonachi, Bhavani taluk, said: “In Kerala, tapioca is used asfood. So, farmers get a minimum price of Rs 2,500 a tonne. In Tamil Nadu, though 85 per cent of the tuber is used for industrial purposes; still, farmersare getting only Rs 2,800 a tonne.

“With the crop withstanding the onslaught of the papaya melee bug, farmers have decided to grow more areas.”

Lower arrivals boost soyabean

Indore, June 4:

Soyabean prices increased on lower arrivals and buying by oilseed crushers in Madhya Pradesh *mandis* on Monday. Soyabean increased to Rs 3,250-3,350 a quintal. Plant deliveries ruled higher at Rs 3,320-3,400 a quintal on improved buying support from millers.

Soyabean futures on the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) were mixed. Soyabean June contracts on the NCDEX closed at Rs 3,296 a quintal, while July contracts closed Rs 11.50 higher at Rs 3,318.

Arrival of soyabean in Madhya Pradesh continued to be lower with 30,000 bags being offloaded in various *mandis.*Arrivals were 1,500 bags at Indore and Dewas, while at Ujjain 1,600 bags arrived.

Soya oil traded higher in the futures market on strong buying support. On the NBOT, soya refined June contracts closed Rs 7.80 higher at Rs 713.50 for 10 kg. Similarly on the NCDEX, soya oil futures closed higher with June and July contracts closing at Rs 713.50 (up Rs 3.50) and Rs 719.20 (up Rs 5).

In the spot, soya oil was quoted at Rs 680-85 for 10 kg (Rs 682-85). Similarly soya solvent declined to Rs 645-50 for 10 kg (Rs 648-52).

A sluggish trend prevailed in soyameal on weak export demand with prices at the port being quoted at Rs 28,700 a quintal. In the domestic market, it was quoted at Rs 27,500

Bearish trend sees few edible oil buyers

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Mumbai, June 4:

Buyers hesitated to take risk in buying edible oils in the domestic market on Monday, leading to a bearish trend.

Imported palmolein and soya refined oil dropped by Rs 9 and Rs 5 for 10 kg respectively, tracking extended weakness in global market.

Rapeseed oil and cotton refined oil lost Rs 5 and Rs 3, while groundnut oil and sunflower oil remain unchanged. Only those who wanted to take advantage of the lower price bought. A Mumbai-based wholesaler said that the retail demand was need-based. About 600-700 tonnes of palmolein were traded in resale. Out of this, about 400-500 tonnes were purchased by a leading refinery at Rs 613-615 to fulfil old commitments.

Another 150-200 tonnes were traded in resale at Rs 608-610. Towards the day end, Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 625-626 for July, soya oil at Rs 690 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 720. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 620 for July, soya refined oil at Rs 690 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 720.

Resellers quoted palmolein at Rs 612-613 for JNPT and Rs 616-617 for Shapur. In Rajkot - Saurashtra groundnut oil was down by Rs 10 to Rs 1,820 (Rs 1,830) for *Telia* tin and Rs 1,190 (Rs 1200) for loose –10kg.

Malaysia's crude palm oil July contracts closed at MYR 2,952 (MYR 3,003), August at MYR 2,953 (MYR 3,006) and September at MYR 2,949 (MYR 3,000) a tone. **The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates were (Rs/10 kg)**: Groundnut oil 1,170 (1,170), soya refined oil 690 (695), sunflower exp. ref. 665 (665), sunflower ref. 715 (715), rapeseed ref. oil 800 (805), rapeseed expeller ref. 770 (775) cotton ref. oil 665 (668) and palmolein 616 (625).

Pepper continues to fall

G. K. Nair

Kochi, June 4:

The pepper market continued its downward trend on Monday. Bearish sentiments and consequent liquidation resulted in all the active contracts ending much below the previous day's closing.

As the staggered delivery will come into force on Tuesday, small and medium players who cannot afford to take delivery were liquidating or switching over. After the seller starts tendering, all the buyers will have to take delivery in two days, market sources told *Business Line*.

There was good liquidation and switching over today. The turnover has increased by 132 per cent from the previous day.

There was no selling pressure on the spot as the material arrived was only about five tonnes. Sellers were quoting Wayanad (Pulpally, Bathery) pepper at Rs 375 a kg while the buyers were offering Rs 370 a kg while for the material from the plains sellers were at Rs 370 and the buyers were at Rs 368 a kg. For the high range pepper buyers were quoting Rs 370 while the sellers were at Rs375 a kg.

The recent rains in many of the growing areas have raised the moisture content in the pepper to 13 to 13.5 per cent, the trade sources claimed.

June contract on the NCDEX decreased by Rs 560 a quintal to the last traded price (LTP) of Rs 38,220 a quintal. July and August contracts were down by Rs 395 and Rs 325 a quintal to the LTP of Rs 38,430 and Rs 38,750 a quintal.

Turnover

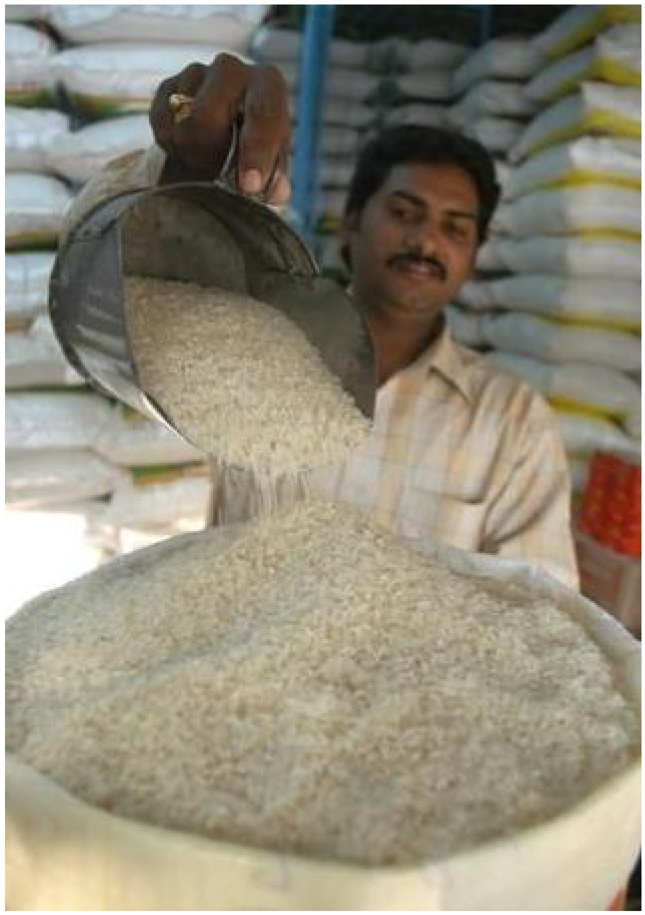
Total turnover increased by 2,172 tonnes to close at 3,811 tonnes. Total open interest dropped by 202 tonnes to close at 5,961 tonnes.

Open interest for June fell by 309 tonnes to close at 2,352 tonnes showing good liquidation while July and August moved up by 67 tonnes and 42 tonnes respectively to 3,069 tonnes and 522 tonnes indicating switching over.

Spot prices in tandem with the futures market trend were reduced notionally by Rs 300 a quintal despite having no selling pressure to close at Rs 36,800 (ungarbled) and Rs 38,300 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at $7,200 a tonne (c&f) for the Europe and $7,500 a tonne (c&f) for the US. Overseas market trend would be known on Tuesday, they said.

Rice may drop on poor demand



Karnal, June 4:

Rice prices could drop in the near future as domestic and export demand is not picking up.

Ample stocks and availability against lower consumption in the market is keeping prices of almost all rice varieties unchanged, said Mr Tara Chand Sharma, proprietor of Tara Chand and Sons.

Trading is currently lukewarm resulting in prices ruling flat. Rice prices have been ruling almost unchanged since last Tuesday.

Earlier, it was expected that rice growers may not produce aromatic varieties for the next kharif season as they did not get fair prices for their produce last season. This led to some frentic buying amongst millers a couple of months ago, said Mr Sharma.

The Agriculture Ministry has proposed a Rs 100/quintal bonus to paddy farmers over and above the minimum support price of Rs 1,250/quintal recommended for the 2012-13 crop year. A bonus will boost production next season, he said.

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 while pure basmati (sela) sold at Rs 5,000 a quintal.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar sold at Rs 3,600- 3,800, Dubar was at Rs 2,900-3,000 while Mongra was trading 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 a quintal while Sugandha (steam) sold at Rs 3,700 a quintal. Sharbati (steam) sold at Rs 3,450 while Sharbati (sela) was at Rs 3,350-3,400 a quintal, respectively.

Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,000-2,100 a quintal, Permal (sela) was at Rs 2,070 a quintal, PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs 2,300-2,430 while PR-11 (Raw) was trading at Rs 2,475 a quintal.

Cardamom futures decline on sluggish demand

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 4:

Cardamom futures prices today declined by Rs 4 to Rs 1,293.90 per kg as speculators offloaded their positions due to sluggish spot demand.

Adequate stocks availability in the physical market also kept pressure on cardamom futures prices.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in July declined by Rs 4, or 0.31 per cent, to Rs 1,293.90 per kg in business turnover of 61 lots.

In a similar fashion, the spice for delivery in June shed Rs 4, or 0.30 per cent, to Rs 1,335 per kg in 131 lots.

Market analysts said speculators offloading their positions on the back of sluggish demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position mainly influenced cardamom prices at futures trade. PTI KPS RS

Cardamom arrivals drop as sellers hold back

G.K. Nair

Kochi, June 4:

Cardamom market ruled steady with demand and supply keeping up with one another last week at auctions.

Total arrivals declined, while demand was also low. Consequently, prices remained nearly steady at previous week's levels.

Individual auction average prices vacillated between Rs 715 and Rs 800 a kg. Upcountry demand was slowly picking up, while export buying has yet to pick up, market sources in Bodinayakannur said.

Exporters bought an estimated 20-25 tonnes last week. Weakening of the rupee is expected to push up the demand from overseas, they claimed.

Trade sources attributed the decline in arrival to the downward trend in prices. According to them, when prices drop below Rs 800 a kg sellers regulate the release to sick and inferior quality material.

Stocks held back

Arrivals in the open market were qualitatively inferior, they said. At the same time, many in major markets are said to be holding stocks and that may be one of the reasons for the slowdown in purchases, they claimed.

However, the new crop is expected to arrive in August and hence, there will be an extended lean period, they pointed out.

At Monday auction in Bodinayakannur, total arrivals stood at 18 tonnes and of this 14 tonnes were sold out.

The quality of the material was inferior. The average price dropped to Rs 687.13 a kg from Rs 716.70 a kg last week, auction sources said.

The market in Bodinayakannur was steady with some export and upcountry buying interest, Mr Renganathan, a trader told *Business Line.* Arrivals at the Sunday auction stood at 48.5 tonnes against 76.6 tonnes the previous Sunday and almost the entire quantity was sold out. Maximum price yesterday was at Rs 1,235.50 a kg, while the individual auction average was at Rs 734.18 a kg down from 776.57 a kg the previous Sunday, Mr Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC said.

Total arrivals during the current season (August 2011 to June 3, 2012) were at 18,559 tonnes and the sales at 17,854 tonnes against 10,544 tonnes of arrivals and 10,274 tonnes of sales in the same period last year.

Weighted average price as on June 3, 2012, was at Rs 633.14 a kg against Rs1,039.27 a kg on the same date last year, according to market sources.

Official prices of graded varieties on Monday in rupees per Kg were: AGEB 1,100 -1,110 ; AGB 785 – 795; AGS 755 - 765 and AGS 1: 735 – 745.

Good colour 8-mm bold cardamom was fetching prices Rs 1,250-1,300 a kg today, Bodi trade sources said.

Prices of other grades there today in Rs/kg were: 7-8 mm (AGEB) 1,000-1,050; 6-7 mm (AGB) 770-780; 5-6 mm good quality (AGS) 745-755 and 4-5 mm (AGS 1) Rs 725 – 735.

Weather conditions in the growing areas were dry. The growers are eagerly waiting for the onset of southwest monsoon which is expected to hit the state on Wednesday, some of the growers in Idukki said.

Higher taxes make edible oil trade flow around TN

R. Balaji

Chennai, June 4:

Edible oil traders in South India are exploiting the large differences in State taxes to evade the high tax rates in Tamil Nadu. As a result, organised trade in Tamil Nadu and the State Government are losing out to neighbouring States, according to large players in the business.

The State Government has to adjust its rates with that prevailing in neighbouring States to plug the loop hole and increase revenue from the edible oil trade.

A large dealer and importer pointed out that Tamil Nadu levies 5 per cent Value Added Tax on edible oils. Kerala has been levying 1 per cent VAT from April 2012, down from 4 per cent, Puducherry 3 per cent and Andhra Pradesh effectively levies 2.5 per cent VAT. It offers a 50 per cent rebate on the prevailing 5 per cent VAT linked to investments in edible oil refining units.

A trader bringing edible oil into Krishnapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh, about 140 km North of Chennai, can bill the commodity for sale in Puducherry and pay the lower tax but sell the goods in Chennai. The trader saves 2 per cent on tax on a commodity priced around Rs 65,000 a tonne for palmolein or about Rs 75,000 in the case of sunflower oil.

Similarly, traders on the western parts of Tamil Nadu can save slightly more with billing in Kerala, where an equal quantum of Central Sales Tax can be paid.

Considering that the size of the edible oil market in Tamil Nadu is about 80,000 tonnes a month, there is a major loss of revenue that can be corrected said traders and importers.

The traders have represented the case to the State Government, they said.

Forex woes

The trade has also be hard hit by the rapid loss of value of the rupee against the dollar. Traders typically hedge only a portion of their commitment, and in the last one month have been caught completely off guard by the Rs 3-drop, an importer said.

Between May 1 and May 31, the value of the rupee against the dollar slid from Rs 52.97 to Rs 56.09, a loss of Rs 3.12.

Consumerfed to open200 vegetable outlets

V. Sajeev Kumar
Kochi, June 4:

Consumerfed has initiated steps to open at least 200 vegetable outlets in the State. This is part of its market intervention programme in order to stabilise prices.

Dr Rigi G. Nair, managing director, Consumerfed, told *Business Line* that these outlets would be opened before June 10 and all the Assembly constituencies in the State will be covered in the initial phase. The Federation will run these outlets till August 1.

Dr Nair said that vegetables sold in these outlets would be 30 per cent cheaper than the market price. The company is currently sourcing vegetables from neighbouring States in bulk. Agencies such as Horticorp and Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council Kerala (VFPCK) are also extending support to Consumerfed in this venture, he said.Consumerfed had opened fair price outlets during festival seasons last year. Though they had incurred losses, the people benefited from lower prices, he said.According to Dr Nair, the recently opened outlet in Kochi is getting encouraging response from the public and the federation had been able to clock daily sales turnover of Rs 25,000 in the last two days.

Earlier, inaugurating the sales, the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Prof K.V. Thomas, called upon the State to explore possibilities for raising organic crops in a big way.Genetically modified produce would be marketed with GM mark next year so that the consumer would be able to identify them, he said.

The government has initiated several steps to help the consumer. Direct procurement from farmers is being encouraged. Regulations pertaining to weights and measures would be made compulsory on a new range of products from November this year.

Stressing on the need to set up more cold storage capacity in the country, the Minister said that intermediaries were exploiting the situation arising out of lack of cold storage facilities.

Volume at Coonoor tea auction at 12-week high

P.S. Sundar

Coonoor, June 4:

Buoyancy continued to prevail at Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions here this weekend with as much as 89 per cent of the 12-week high volume of 10.68 lakh kg offered for Sale No: 22 being sold.

Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped the CTC market at Rs 163 a kg. Vigneshwar Estate got Rs 159, Hittakkal Estate Rs 157 and Blue Monte speciality Rs 150. In all, 183 marks got Rs 100 and more.

Among orthodox teas from corporate sector, Pascoe's Woodlands got Rs 282, Curzon Rs 235, Chamraj Rs 234, Havukal Rs 180, Kairbetta Rs 166, Highfield Estate Rs 165 and Kodanad Rs 160. In all, 38 marks got Rs 100 and more.

“Orthodox leaf market eased Rs 2-4 a kg. High-priced CTC leaf lost Rs 2-4, while others, Rs 2-3. Primary orthodox dust, eased up to Rs 3. High-priced CTC dusts eased Rs 4-5 while others Rs 1-3”, an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

On the export front, Pakistan bought selectively in a wide range Rs 72-90 a kg and the CIS, Rs 64-79.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 67-70 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 120-160 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 75-78 for plain dusts and Rs 120-145 for brighter liquoring dusts.

Cotton wilts on lack of demand

PTI

Cotton futures weaken on lower demand.

Chennai, June 4:

Cotton futures hit the initial lower ceiling of two per cent on the MCX on Monday on lack of demand.

Cotton June futures dropped 2.19 per cent to Rs 14,880 for a bale of 170 kg. Kapas or raw cotton was down marginally at Rs 919 for 20 kg.

However, it gained on the NCDEX with February contracts rising to Rs 930.

Cardamom and mentha oil, too, were trading lower on the MCX. On the NCDEX, the barley June contract slipped 1.64 per cent to Rs 1,256 a quintal, and the castorseed June contracts were quoted 1.32 per cent lower at Rs 2,980 a quintal.

The Chana June contracts gained marginally to rule at Rs 4,115 a quintal, while chilli June contracts dropped 1.46 per cent to Rs 4,736 a quintal.

Cottonseed oil cake futures gained as also gur (jaggery), but profit-booking dragged jeera with June declining to Rs 12,485 a quintal.

Maize, too, gained on the NCDEX but pepper, refined soya oil, soyabean, turmeric, wheat and mustard seed dropped.

Sugar gained with the medium grade July contracts up marginally at Rs 2,835 a quintal.

Global coffee exports dip 12% in Apr: ICO

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 4:

World coffee exports declined by nearly 12 per cent to 8.77 million bags in April this year, International Coffee Organisation (ICO) has said.

The worldwide overseas shipments of the brew stood at 9.93 million bags of 60 kg each in the same month of 2011.

This is the second straight month of decline in exports of the brew after global export volumes rose by 7 per cent to 9.32 million bags in February, 2012 from 8.67 million bags in the year—ago period.

World coffee shipments declined by almost 7 per cent to 9.88 million bags in March, 2012 from 10.59 million bags in the year—ago period.

In the first seven months of the current coffee year, exports fell by 4 per cent to 60.3 million bags from 62.83 million bags in the October—April period of the 2010—11 coffee year.

For the 12 month period ending April 2012, total coffee shipments were down at 101.99 million bags as against 103.35 million bags in the year—ago period.