

Published: March 30, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: March 30, 2012 04:37 IST

## 'Take up sericulture to boost income'

Special Correspondent

Collector S.Nadarajan has appealed to the farmers of the district to take to sericulture as an alternative form of agriculture allied activity to augment income.

At the monthly farmers' grievances day meeting here , Mr. Nadarajan said farmers could cultivate mulberry for providing feed to silk worms. With a view to encourage farmers to take to sericulture, an exhibition showing the various stages of sericulture was organised at the meeting by the sericulture department.

The Collector assured farmers of repairing shutters in the regulators across canals, remove Neyveli Kattamanakku weed in the rivers and canals, and provide drip irrigation to palm oil cultivation through horticulture department.

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## Go for rainwater harvesting structures on agri lands, Collector tells farmers

Staff Reporter



A farmer showing mango crop withered due to non availability of water for irrigation, at the monthly grievances meeting of farmers at the Krishnagiri Collectorate on Thursday.— Photo: N.Bashkaran

Farmers should go for rainwater harvesting (RWH) structures on agriculture lands as it will dilute the fluorosis content in ground water and also improve water table, said Collector C.N. Maheshwaran here on Thursday.

Presiding over the farmers' grievances meeting, the Collector said that to encourage the farmers to create RWH facilities, the district administration and the Agriculture Department had developed a model project in mango orchards near Kaveripattinam in the district. The scheme, besides diluting the fluorosis content in the water, would also prevent soil erosion and improve the moisture content of the soil.

The administration was planning to take the farmers to the model RWH facility before the next grievances meeting. The proposal would be sent to the government for approval. If the government approved the proposal, the farmers would be getting over Rs. 8,000 an acre as subsidy, he added.

Besides, the district administration also sent a proposal for supplying mango juice in noon meal scheme in different formats viz. tetra pack, pouch and bottle. If the proposal was accepted, the 45 and odd mango pulp industries and the mango growing farmers in and around Krishnagiri would be benefited, Mr. Maheshwaran said.

He also invited the farmers and business community to prepare a project to establish cold storage facility for mango at the block level and the proposal could be submitted to the Horticulture Department.

K.M. Ramagoundar, general secretary, Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam, demanded patta to the farmers who had given land for construction of Krishnagiri Reservoir Project.

The farmers also raised issues such as voltage fluctuation and power holiday for poultry industries in the district at the meeting.

## **Share**

Published: March 30, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: March 30, 2012 04:34 IST

## **Paddy yield nearly doubles in Tiruchi district this season**

M. Balaganessin

*System of rice intensification technique played a role*



The district has nearly doubled its paddy yield this season, thanks to good irrigation practices and the system of rice intensification technique adopted.

Against 4,503 kg per hectare, the yield this year stood at 8,046 kg, said J. Sekar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Tiruchi.

In an interview to *The Hindu* here on Wednesday, he said that the area under samba had also increased this year from 62,224 hectares last year to 64,178 hectares. The SRI technique had gone a long way in increasing the yield.

Farmers are evincing keen interest in shifting to SRI, he said.

From 31,800 hectares last year, the SRI area had risen to 34,816 hectares now.

Published: March 30, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: March 30, 2012 04:37 IST

### **Mettur level**

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 78.85 feet on Thursday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 606 cusecs and the discharge, 1,335 cusecs.

ERODE, March 30, 2012

### **Turmeric market: panel formed**

The Turmeric Farmers Association of India has formed a committee to study the functioning of the private turmeric market in the district.

The initiative was taken up following allegations from the farmers that there were irregularities in the conduct of auction, weighing process, payment and various other activities, association president P.K. Deivasigamani has said in a statement here.

Over 60 per cent of the turmeric auction takes place in the private market in the district. Besides, the auction is held at three other places belonging to Regulated Marketing Committee, Erode, and Gobichettipalayam Cooperative Marketing Societies.

Erode is one of the largest turmeric markets in the country. Thousands of turmeric farmers from Erode and neighbouring districts depend on the market here to sell their produce. The committee led by association's propaganda secretary D. Thangaraj would conduct the study and submit a report on or before March 31.

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■ Fri, 30 Mar 2012

weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Friday, Mar 30

Max Min

34.6° | 25.3°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 70%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 6:35

Sunset: 18:03

Barometer: 1012

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Saturday, Mar 31

Max Min

34° | 23°

Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday Apr 1	Monday Apr 2	Tuesday Apr 3	Wednesday Apr 4	Thursday Apr 5
34°   24°	32°   24°	31°   22°	33°   24°	34°   24°
Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy

29 MAR, 2012, 04.37PM IST, PTI

## Medium sugar advance on better demand

MUMBAI: Medium sugar prices advanced at the Vashi wholesale market here today on better demand from stockists and retailers. Meanwhile, small sugar declined further on reduced retail offtake amid ample supply positions. Medium sugar (M-30) climbed by Rs 9 per quintal to Rs 2,960/3,046 from Wednesday's closing level of Rs 2,951/3,046. However, small sugar (S-30) went down by Rs 10 per quintal to Rs 2,860/2,925 from Rs 2,870/2,925 yesterday. The following are today's closing rates for sugar (per quintal), with the previous rates given in brackets: Small sugar (S-30) quality: Rs 2,860/2,925 (Rs 2,870/2,925). Medium sugar (M-30) quality: Rs 2,960/3,046 (Rs 2,951/3,046).

29 MAR, 2012, 04.35PM IST, PTI

## Sugar mill prices up on better offtake

NEW DELHI: Sugar prices improved by Rs 25 per quintal in the national capital today following restricted arrival along with better offtake.

Marketmen said restricted supply in the face of rising demand from bulk consumers like ice-cream and softdrink makers mainly pushed up the sweeteners prices.

Sugar mill delivery medium and second grade prices improved from Rs 2,825-3,000 and Rs 2,800-2,975 to end at Rs 2,840-3,025 and Rs 2,925-3,000 per quintal.

Among millgate section, sugar titabi rose to settle at Rs 2,940 per quintal. Khatauli also hardened to finish at Rs 2,940 per quintal.

The following are today's quotations per quintal: Sugar ready: M-30 3,025-3,150, S-30 2,975-3,100. Mill delivery: M-30 2,840-3,025; S-30 2,825-3,000. Sugar mill gate prices (excluding

duty): Kinnoni 3,030, Asmoli 2,975, Mawana 2,960, Titabi 2,940, Thanabhavan 2,900, Budhana 2,895, Doralala 2,945, Khatauli 2,940, Morna 2,880 and Ramala 2,860.

29 MAR, 2012, 04.30PM IST, PTI

### **Gur ends quiet in Delhi, falls in Muradnagar**

NEW DELHI: Gur ( jaggery) prices ended quiet in the national capital today following scattered buying support against adequate supply. On the other hand, Muradnagar gur market showed a fall of Rs 50 per quintal on increased supply.

Marketmen said fresh arrivals and slackness in demand mainly pulled down gur prices in Muradnagar.

In Muradnagar, both gur pedi and dhayya prices quoted lower by Rs 50 to settle at Rs 2,500-2,550 per quintal.

The following are today's quotations per quintal: Gur chakku 2,750-2,800, pedi 2,800-2,900, dhayya 2,850- 2,900 and shakkar 3,000-3,100.

Muzaffarnagar: Raskat 2,250-2,300, chakku 2,425-2,600 and khurpa 2,250-2,300. Muradnagar: Pedi 2,500-2,550 and dhayya 2,500-2,550.

29 MAR, 2012, 04.12PM IST, PTI

### **Select copra moves up on good demand**

MUMBAI: Copra Rajapur Mumbai and Copra office Alapuzha prices moved up at the spices market here today on renewed demand from consumers and millers offtake.

Meanwhile, rest of the spices remained steady in the absence of any worthwhile buying.

Copra office Alapuzha and copra Rajapur Mumbai both rose by Rs 50 per quintal to Rs 4,650 and Rs 7,150 from Wednesday's closing level of Rs 4,600 and Rs 7,100, respectively.

The following are today's closing rates in rupees with the previous rates in brackets:

Black pepper (per kg) 450/475 (450/475), ginger bleached (per kg) 100 (100), ginger unbleached (per kg) 110 (110), copra office Alapuzha (per quintal) 4,650 (4,600), copra office

Kozhikode (per quintal) 4,500 (4,500), copra Rajapur Mumbai (per quintal) 7,150 (7,100) and copra edible Mumbai (per quintal) 5,400 (5,400).

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# Business Standard

Friday, Mar 30, 2012

## **Govt mulls ban on mustard seed, gram futures**

**Press Trust Of India / New Delhi March 30, 2012, 0:49 IST**

The government is examining a proposal to ban futures trading in mustard seed and gram (chana) due to sharp increase in prices. A senior consumer affairs ministry official said, "We are monitoring the price movements of these two items that have risen sharply in the past few months."

Mustard seed and chana are largely traded on the leading agricultural commodity exchange, the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX). According to NCDEX data, chana prices had risen 67 per cent to Rs 3,989 a quintal as on March 28 in the April contract of this year, as against Rs 2,382 a quintal in the same period of the April contract last year. Similarly, prices of mustard seed in the April contract of 2012 increased 44 per cent to Rs 3,808 a quintal from Rs 2,646 a quintal in the April 2011 contract.

However, analysts are of the view that unlike guar gum and guar seed, prices of mustard seeds and chana are driven by fundamentals and not speculations.

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## **Potato rises on spot demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi March 29, 2012, 13:31 IST**

Potato prices recovered by Rs 18.60 to Rs 1,350 per quintal in futures market today after speculators created fresh positions driven by rising demand in the spot market.

At the Multi Commodity exchange, the June potato rose by Rs 18.60, or 1.40% to Rs 1,350 per quintal in business turnover of 43 lots. The April delivery moved up by Rs 9.20, or 0.91% to Rs 1,022.80 per quintal in 125 lots.

Analysts said pick up in demand in the spot market due to ongoing "Navratas" festival mainly pushed up potato prices at futures trade.

### **Wheat down 1.25% on hopes of higher output**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi March 29, 2012, 13:25 IST**

Wheat futures fell by another Rs 16 to Rs 1,265 per quintal as speculators reduced their positions amid expectations of a higher output this year. Also, slackened demand from flour mills also put pressure on the wheat futures prices. At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, June wheat traded Rs 16, or 1.25% lower, at Rs 1,265 per quintal, with an open interest of 1,265 lots. The April delivery shed Rs 14, or 1.13%, to Rs 1,222 per quintal, with an open interest of 10,380 lots. Analysts said the fall in wheat prices at futures trade was due to off-loading of positions by speculators, driven by expectations of a higher output this crop year.

Meanwhile, the country is expected to produce 88.31 MT of wheat in the current crop, as per Agriculture Ministry's advance estimates.

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# THE HINDU **Business Line**

### **Marginal drop in pepper prices**

G.K. Nair





Kochi, Mar 29:

Pepper prices dropped marginally on Thursday despite liquidation and bearish reports following volatility and some circular trading .

Bull and bearish operators were equally responsible for the volatility, market sources told Business Line.

Market was opened firm with the Apr price at Rs40,650 a quintal and traded with high volatility and after some time Apr nosedived to the lowest level of Rs 39,265 a quintal. However, showed some upward trend during mid afternoon and just before closing moved up to Rs40,840 a quintal registering an increase of Rs1,575 a quintal from the lowest price of the day and then declined and closed marginally below the previous day. Similar pattern was seen in the case of May delivery also.

Rumours that the pepper futures market would also be closed because of the high volatility at a time the production was around 50 per cent, on the similar lines of Guar Gum said to have prompted the small and medium players to liquidate and square off, the sources said. This phenomenon coupled with reports of easier Vietnam market was taken as a tool by the bear operators who succeeded in pushing the market down, they said.

There was no selling pressure of ready pepper while arrivals of fresh pepper were also very thin.

Apr contract on the NCDEX declined by Rs40 to the last trading price (LTP) of Rs40,780 a quintal. May and Jun dropped by Rs45 and Rs205 respectively to the LTP of Rs41,425 and Rs41,855 a quintal.

Total turn over increased by 60 per cent (3,336 tonnes) over the previous days total volume to close at 8,938 tonnes, showing some circular trading.

Total open interest dropped by 354, indicating good liquidation, to close at 8,218 tonnes.

Apr open interest fell by 435 tonnes to 5,078 tonnes. May and June moved up by 69 tonnes and 17 tonnes respectively to 2,717 tonnes and 296 tonnes.

Spot prices remained unchanged at previous levels of Rs38,000 (ungarbled) and RS39,500 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$8,200 a tonne (c&f) for Europe and \$8,500 a tonne (c&f) for the US.

### Weak demand, futures halt mustard rally

Our Correspondent



Indore, March 29:

Sluggish demand and weak futures halted a rally in mustard oil on Thursday. Apprehensions about the Forward Markets Commission keeping mustard out of futures trade to rein in speculation aided the bearish sentiment.

In *mandis* here, mustard oil declined by Rs 5 for 10 kg at Rs 765, while it was down Rs 2 at Neemuch and Mandsaur where mustard seeds quoted at Rs 758 for 10 kg. Similarly in Morena,

the oil declined to Rs 755 (down Rs 15); in Rajasthan, it was unchanged at Rs 780 in Ganganagar and Kota and at Rs 795 in Jaipur. In Gujarat, it fell by Rs 5 for 10 kg at Rs 760. Compared with last year, prices have gone up by 37.85 per cent. Against Rs 548 last year, the oil in the current season has gone as high as Rs 775 for 10 kg. Though prices in the past 2-3 days have dropped on bearish futures, prospects for mustard seeds and oil appear bullish given the decline in crop output to about 60 lakh tonnes against 70 lakh tonnes last year. Besides, carryover stocks have fallen too, said Mr Chiman Lal, a Neemuch-based mustard oil trader. With arrival of other seasonal crops in *mandis*, arrival of mustard seeds in Neemuch and Mandsaur declined to 2,500-2,700 bags, while 13,000 bags arrived in Morena.

After ruling high for almost a month, mustard seeds in Madhya Pradesh *mandis* have declined by about Rs 150 a quintal. It ruled at Rs 3,250-3,450 a quintal in Neemuch on Thursday. However, with its April contract on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange closing Rs 100 up at Rs 3,840 a quintal, mustard seeds in Neemuch *mandi* gained Rs 50 to Rs 3,500 a quintal. In Mandsaur, mustard seeds ruled at Rs 3,350-3,400 a quintal (down Rs 20), while it fetched Rs 3,200-3,500 at Morena.

### Heavy arrivals grind turmeric

Our Correspondent



Erode, March 29:

Spot turmeric decreased by Rs 300 a quintal on Thursday on heavy arrivals.

“Over 21,000 bags arrived to the four markets. For want of space more than 10,000 bags could not be taken for sales. Only few stockists and traders have purchased,” said Mr R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Traders are expecting orders from other States after April 1 when the new financial year begins. Only 45 per cent of the arrivals were sold. More than 25,000 bags are expected to arrived on Friday.

The best quality hybrid Salem crop decreased by Rs 300 a quintal on poor demand. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 2,511-3,761 a quintal and the root variety at Rs 2,416-3,411.

**Salem crop:** The finger variety was sold at Rs 3,999-4,139 a quintal and the root variety at Rs 3,364-3,661. Of the 7,229 bags that arrived, 3,197 were sold.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,249-3,746 a quintal and the root variety at Rs 3,167-3,686. All the 1,605 bags that arrived were sold. At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 2,979-3,929 a quintal and the root variety Rs 2,950-3,669. All the 1,474 bags that arrived were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,072-3,909 a quintal and the root variety at Rs 2,677-3,677. Out of the 647 bags that arrived, 593 were.

### **AP Seeds' officials told to ensure seeds availability**

K. V. Kurmanath

Hyderabad, March 30:

The Andhra Pradesh Government has directed the officials of AP Seeds to ensure smooth flow and availability of seeds for the ensuing kharif season.

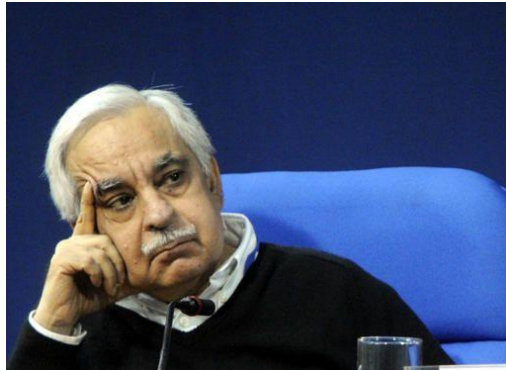
Keeping in mind last year's shortages and hiccups in supply, Mr Kanna Lakshminarayana, AP Minister for Agriculture, asked the officials to procure groundnut seeds directly from farmers in Kurnool district.

Last year, farmers faced severe problems in buying cottonseed as the Government delayed its decision on pricing.

As a result of late decision, cottonseed producing companies had to delay packaging (to print MRP details) and supply it to dealers in the hinterland. With a view to averting this situation, the State had announced its decision on cottonseed pricing in the first week of March.

## Ministers' panel to review Centre's ban on cotton export

Our Bureau



Dr Rahul Khullar

New Delhi, Mar 29:

A Group of Ministers will review the Centre's decision to stop new registrations for cotton export next week, the Union Commerce Secretary, Dr Rahul Khullar, said on Thursday.

On March 12, the Centre formally withdrew the ban on cotton exports that was imposed on March 5. However, it suspended issuing new export registration certificates (RC) "until further orders".

The inter-ministerial panel review will assess the supply-balance situation afresh.

The March 12 notification of the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade had said that contracts already registered till then, but not shipped, will be scrutinised to ensure that their papers are in order and revalidated. An RC is valid for 30 days from the date of issue.

Dr Khullar then said that the RCs issued during January and February will be scrutinised to find out whether there are any "fictitious" export transactions. Over 85 per cent of cotton exports go to China and there is evidence of stockpiling there, he had said.

## Karnataka to set up integrated rice technology park at Koppal

Our Bureau

Bangalore, March 29:

Karnataka is setting up an integrated rice technology park at Koppal to boost paddy processing and production in the State.

The park is being set up at Karatagi in Koppal district on 471 acres of land. The park will have exclusive zones for modern rice mills; value added by-products, common facilities, warehousing, packing, quality control lab knowledge resource centre and transport.

It is expected to serve as a main marketing point for both farmers and traders from Bellary, Koppal and Raichur districts where paddy is largely cultivated.

“Bellary, Koppal and Raichur districts have around 200 rice mills operational. Due to lack of necessary infrastructure, a huge quantity of paddy is being transported to Tamil Nadu for processing,” said a study conducted by the Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing and Export Corporation (Kapepec).

“The rice park when completed in two years will address this key issue and allow farmers and traders market their produce at a single point and also help improve paddy processing at the existing rice mills in the region,” it added.

## **Employment**

The park is being set up according to the recommendations of a committee headed by the former Vice-Chancellor of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Dr P.G. Chengappa. The committee had recommended to the Government to set up integrated parks for value creation, which in turn would also give a boost to production and offer employment. The Chief Minister, Mr D. V. Sadananda Gowda, told State Assembly on Wednesday that land acquisition process had begun and so far 90 acres have been acquired. The process for acquisition 140 acres is also nearing completion.

“Though 330.17 acre of Government land is available, 121 acre of land has already been sanctioned for other needs and efforts are on to acquire these lands also,” he added.

The Chief Minister also said the Government plans to release Rs 5 crore grants for the park in the current fiscal.

To speed up land acquisition, Mr Gowda said a sub-divisional officer and land acquisition officer in Koppal have been authorised to release Rs 59.44 lakh for acquisition of 140.27 acres of land at Navali and Somanala villages for the park.

## Rice procurement dips in AP

Our Bureau



Hyderabad, March 29:

There has been a marginal drop in rice procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Andhra Pradesh. According to the latest figures available (as on March 27), FCI procured 39.58 lakh tonnes in the State as against 40.13 lakh tonnes on the same date last year.

Various Government agencies procured paddy stocks of 9.77 lakh tonnes on March 27 as against 2.57 lakh tonnes in the comparable period. The agencies included FCI, AP State Civil Supplies and Indira Kranti Patham which is , a World Bank funded programme. Rice millers procured 83 lakh tonnes (74.45 lakh tonnes) of paddy.

In all, the State procured 92.75 lakh tonnes of paddy (77 lakh tonnes) from 1,760 purchase centres, a Civil Supplies Department statement said.

Farmers can deliver paddy to Government agencies at a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 1,080 a quintal for common grade paddy and Rs 1,110 for Grade-A paddy, Mr Harpreet Singh Commissioner of Civil Supplies, said.

“If need be, Joint Collectors will open more paddy purchase centres to ensure that farmers get the MSP. If they face any problem in getting the MSP, they can call us at toll-free numbers 1800 4252 977 or 1800 4250 092,” he said.

Farmers associations have alleged that Government has failed in paddy procurement, forcing farmers to pile up stocks on the fields. They also complained that farmers short-changed with respect to MSP as millers paid far less.

## Govt examining proposal to ban mustard seed, gram futures

PTI



New Delhi, March 29:

The Government is examining a proposal to ban futures trading in mustard seed and gram (chana) due to a sharp increase in prices.

“We have received proposals to ban futures trade in mustard seed and chana. We are examining them,” a senior Consumer Affairs Ministry official said.

“We are monitoring the price movement of these two items that have risen sharply in the last few months,” he said.

Mustard seed and chana are largely traded on the leading agricultural commodity exchange NCDEX. These two products are also traded on ACE, NMCE and MCX but volumes are very low.

According to the NCDEX data, chana prices have risen by 67 per cent to Rs 3,989 per quintal as on March 28 in the April contract of this year, as against Rs 2,382 per quintal in the same period of the April contract last year.

Similarly, prices of mustard seed in the April contract 2012 have increased by about 44 per cent to Rs 3,808 per quintal from Rs 2,646 per quintal in the April 2011 contract last year.

However, analysts are of the view that unlike guar gum and guar seeds, prices of mustard seeds and chana are driven by fundamentals and not speculation.



According to industry data, chana output is expected to drop 20 per cent from last year's level of 8.22 million tonnes. Similarly, mustard seed production is seen to be low at 5.68 million tonnes this year, as against around 7 million tonnes in 2010-11.

There have been reports of a sharp increase in prices of some agricultural commodities in the futures market. Recently, the NCDEX had to terminate all its contracts in guar seed and guar gum due to a sudden spike in prices following speculation.

### **DAP imports down 7% during April-Feb: Govt**

PTI

New Delhi, March 29:

Import of key fertiliser di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) has declined by 7 per cent to 6.87 million tonnes in the April-February period of this fiscal, Parliament was informed today.

India had imported 7.41 million tonnes of the important crop nutrient in the year-ago period, data presented by Minister of State for Fertilisers and Chemicals, Mr Srikant Jena, in the Lok Sabha showed.

In a separate query, the Minister said that maximum retail price (MRP) of urea has not been increased by the Government.

However, Jena added that "MRP of phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers have gone up due to a rise in the prices of fertilisers/raw materials in the international market. Now, the downward trend has started."

The Minister told the House that the requirement of DAP in the rabi 2011-12 season (October-February) stood at 5.16 million tonnes, while the availability of the soil nutrient was 5.62 million tonnes during the period.

On fertiliser requirements, Mr Jena said demand for DAP in the current fiscal is expected to rise by 4 per cent to 12.61 million tonnes from 12.09 million tonnes in the 2010-11 financial year.

In the April-October period of the current fiscal, the Government made subsidy payments of Rs 6,118.24 crore for DAP, while payments for the whole of 2010-11 fiscal stood at Rs 12,274.87 crore, he added.