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Farmers asked to store maize

Staff Reporter

The Domestic and Export Intelligence Cell (DEMIC) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has said that the price of maize will hover around Rs. 1,100 to Rs. 1,175 during May and thereafter it is likely to increase up to Rs. 1,250 a quintal in June-July.

Hence, farmers are asked to store the harvested maize and sell during June-July for higher price.

Market

The analysis is based on the 15-year price that prevailed in Udumalpet market and also traders' survey.

Since Tamil Nadu's production is not sufficient to meet the demand, poultry firms are procuring the produce from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Bihar.

They procure from Karnataka during September-October, from Andhra Pradesh during March-April and from Bihar during April-July, the cell said.

In Tamil Nadu, maize is mainly grown in 'Adipattam' and 'Thaipattam', of which 70 per cent of the production comes from 'Adipattam' sown crop.

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200 varieties of native paddy for rice mela

Staff Correspondent

A native Rice Mela will be held under the aegis of Sahaja Samrudha organisation at Daivajna Kalyana Mandir here on May 19 and 20, said the coordinator of the organisation Shantha Kumar.

Mr. Kumar told presspersons on Monday that the event was being organised to popularise the consumption of rice made from native paddy varieties. The event would serve as a forum for

exchange of seeds and ideas among farmers engaged in cultivation of native paddy varieties. The rice made from native paddy varieties such as Navura, Kari Gajavili, Karibhatha, Kempakki, Rajamudi, and Rathnachudi which were believed to have medicinal qualities would be sold at the event.

More than 200 varieties of native paddy seeds would be displayed, he said.

The traditional food items prepared from native rice would be sold. A cooking competition would be held to mark the occasion, he added.

Progressive farmers Nandish Churchagundi, Eshwaratirtha Kudligere, Jagadish Naik, and Mallikarjuna B.M. were present in the press conference. For details, call 9845087558 and 9731275656.

Published: May 15, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 15, 2012 05:25 IST

Removal of weed in irrigation canals a non-starter

K. N. Murali Sankar

Even as farmers from East Godavari district are getting ready for kharif crop



Cause for concern:Samalkot Canal filled with water hyacinth due to absence of annual maintenance works by the authorities.— Photo: Special Arrangement

Even as farmers from East Godavari district are getting ready for the kharif crop, works of weed removal from the irrigation canals and drains remains a non-starter. The usual practice is that the irrigation department makes arrangement to remove water hyacinth from the canals and drains immediately after the closure of the canals.

This year, however, no uniform schedule had been followed with regard to closure of canals due to the ongoing delta modernisation works in some parts of the district and no attention has been paid to weed removal and dredging of the water bodies.

In all, main canals spread over 254 km in the eastern delta, whereas the length of distributary canals is 857 km. In the central delta, the main canals account for 199 km and the distributary canals spread in 742 km, taking the total canal network to 2,042 km in the entire district.

Modernisation works are in progress in some parts of central delta, besides the Kakinada and Mandapeta canals in eastern delta.

“Absence of weed removal and dredging works will result in improper distribution of water to the tail-end lands. Despite submitting several representations to the officials, we haven't got concrete response with regard to commencement of the maintenance works,” says Ch. Kesava Setty, general secretary of the Rythu Sangham's district unit.

He says in the central delta, the canals are expected to reopen in a day or two, whereas in the eastern delta the reopening will be in a week or so. “If there is any further delay in the reopening of canals, it is going to be difficult to get yield from the kharif,” Mr. Setty explains.

Last year, the village panchayats had taken up the canal maintenance works following orders from the government. “The works were taken up under the MNREGS last year. There seem to be no such orders to the panchayats this year,” says Palivela Veerababu, ex-sarpanch of Indrapalem village abutting Kakinada.

When contacted, Engineer-in-chief of the irrigation department C. Muralidhar has told *The Hindu* over telephone that plans are afoot to take up the maintenance works.

“The irrigation department will take up the works soon,” he says.

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- *'No uniform schedule had been followed with regard to close of canals, this year'*
 - *Plans are afoot to take up maintenance works, says irrigation official*
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Seminar on climate change

All India Women's Conference, in association with the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Kakinada (JNTUK), is conducting a seminar on 'Advocacy for climate change' at the JNTUK on May 16. Secretary of the programme I. Seshu Kumari, in a statement here on

Monday, said district Collector Neetu Prasad would be the chief guest of the inaugural session, in which Usha Nair and Kalpakkam Yechury of the AIWC, New Delhi, would participate.

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Chilli farmer sets fire to produce

Was offered Rs.400 per quintal

A distressed farmer created flutter at the Market Yard here on Monday by setting ablaze his produce.

The incident triggered protest from other farmers who dumped chilli on the main road and blocked traffic.

Vehicular traffic was disrupted at the bus stand for more than an hour on account of the protest. According to reports, Venkateswarlu from Krishnadoddi in C. Belagal mandal was awarded a price of Rs.400 per quintal. Hurt by the poor price, he set his produce ablaze.

Rythu Sangham leaders K. Jagannatham, J.N. Sessaiah and others reached the place and expressed their solidarity with the farmers.

The farmers complained of the prices ranging between Rs.1,500 a quintal to Rs.3,000 while the prices last year around this time were around Rs.10,000.

Minimum price

The farmers demanded that a minimum price of Rs.8,000 per quintal be paid to get back their investment. Following the protest, Market Yard chairman D. Venkateswara Reddy and secretary Sudhakar visited the place and announced a compensation of Rs.8,000 to Venkateswarlu.

Following this, the farmers withdrew their protest.

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- *Last year at this time, prices were around Rs.10,000*
 - *Farmers dump chilli on main road and block traffic*
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weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Tuesday, May 15

Max Min

38.3° | 22.3°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 63%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 6:35

Sunset: 18:03

Barometer: 1007

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, May 16

Max Min

37° | 28°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday May 17	Friday May 18	Saturday May 19	Sunday May 20	Monday May 21
37° 29°	38° 29°	38° 29°	38° 28°	36° 26°
Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

14 MAY, 2012, 05.23PM IST, REUTERS

India soybean, soyoil drop on subdued demand

MUMBAI: Indian soybean and soyoil futures extended the previous session's losses on Monday on weak exporter demand due to a sharp fall in overseas prices and as the country's edible oil imports rose, analysts said.

A weak rupee, which makes edible oil imports expensive and at the same time raises returns of oilmeal exporters, limited the downside.

Malaysian palm oil futures were down 2.17 percent at 3,204 ringgit per tonne by 0743 GMT, while U.S. soybean dropped 1.39 percent to \$13.86-1/2 per bushel.

"The competitiveness of Indian soymeal has gone down due to a fall in prices in other countries. Indian soymeal exporters are not in position to charge hefty premium over overseas markets," said Subhranil Dey, an analyst with SMC Comtrade.

"In the local spot market, oil millers have trimmed soybean buying as demand for oil is weak. Besides higher availability from imports means demand to remain weak in short-term," Dey said. Soybean is crushed to produce oil and meal.

The country imported 4.71 million tonnes of vegetable oils in November to April, up 31 percent from a year ago period, data with a leading trade body showed.

June soyoil on India's National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange fell 0.92 percent to 734.8 rupees per 10 kg, after hitting a record high of 791.4 rupees last month.

The June soybean dropped 1.65 percent to 3,343 rupees per 100 kg, after hitting a record high of 3,785 rupees earlier this month, while rapeseed for June delivery edged up 0.29 percent to 3,834 rupees per 100 kg.

In the Indore spot market in Madhya Pradesh, soyoil eased 4.1 rupees to 726.6 rupees per 10 kg, while soybean was down 29 rupees at 3,372 rupees per 100 kg. At Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan, rapeseed dropped 20 rupees to 3,762.5 per 100 kg.

Check inflation via agri-mkt reform: FM

Agencies Posted online: Mon May 14 2012, 17:21 hrs

New Delhi : Expressing concern over rise in food inflation, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee today said the prices could be kept under check through institutional reforms in agricultural marketing and he would discuss the issue with states.

Reacting to the latest WPI inflation data, he said the rise in prices of food items could be checked by creating storage facilities and bringing in institutional reforms in the agricultural marketing.

"Food inflation is a matter of concern, particularly it has reached the double digit...Food inflation can be tackled by creating storing facilities and cold chain and also is required the institutional reforms in the agricultural marketing.

"In both these areas state governments have to take appropriate steps, I will also discuss with them," Mukherjee said, he said.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation shot up marginally to 7.23 per cent in April against 6.89 per cent in the previous month. On the food front, the inflation increased to 10.49 per cent in April from 10.66 per cent in March.

The rise in inflation is due to spurt in prices of vegetables, fruits meat, milk, pulses, and other items.

Mukherjee, however expressed satisfaction over the decline in core inflation and those of manufactured items.

"...core inflation is on whole satisfactory...and manufacturing is also under declining trend," Mukherjee added.

"There has been some marginal increase in the numbers... On the whole, I feel that inflation will be 6.5-7 per cent for 2012-13," he said.

Agriculture marketing is a state subject and most of the states have their own Agricultural Produce Market Committees Act (APMC) to regulate such sales.

The Central government circulated a model APMC Bill to bring reforms in the agricultural sector. However, so far only 16 states have amended their Acts based on the model provided by the centre.

Inflation limits RBI moderation: PMEAC

Agencies Posted online: Mon May 14 2012, 17:32 hrs

New Delhi : The rise in April inflation at 7.23 per cent will make it difficult for the Reserve Bank to moderate its monetary policy, the key advisor to the Prime Minister said today.

"The inflation numbers are a very uncomfortable statistics. Many people have been calling for an easing in monetary policy, but the recent rise in inflation makes it difficult for RBI to moderate policy," Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council Chairman C Rangarajan told reporters.

The WPI inflation in April accelerated to 7.23 per cent as pressure on prices of food, fuel and manufactured items rose. The inflation in March was 6.89 per cent.

Rangarajan said there is a need for policy action to control inflation as high rate of price is unacceptable.

"The need to tackle inflation and to bring it down becomes critically important and therefore the policies have to be designed in such a way that the inflation is brought down. Policy must address in an adequate fashion to control inflation," he said.

Reserve Bank had hiked policy rates 13 times between March 2010 and October 2011 to combat inflation, which has remained close to double digits for most part of 2011.

However, with GDP growth slowing to a three-year low of 6.9 per cent, and RBI had eased its policy and lowered interest rates by 50 basis points in its April 17 policy review. The apex bank had, however, said the scope for reduction in policy rates in future was limited.

"The scope for action on the part of RBI gets narrowed when inflation is rising. The possibility of lowering interest rate will come only when inflation rate comes down," Rangarajan said.

He said a decline in non-food manufacturing inflation would give greater manoeuvrability to the RBI to act on the policy rate.



Inflation above 7% in April

MONDAY, 14 MAY 2012 23:27

PNS | NEW DELHI

inShare

Inflation inched up in April on the back of high food, fuel and manufactured product prices, posing a fresh policy headache.

Data released by the commerce ministry on Monday showed the annual rate of inflation, based on monthly wholesale price index, stood at 7.23 per cent for April, 2012 (over April, 2011) compared to 6.89 per cent for the previous month and 9.74 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year.

While inflation is lower in April against 9.74 per cent a year ago, high numbers are disconcerting for the government.

Both Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Chairman of the PMEAC C Rangarajan expressed concern over the rate of price rise.

High inflation is a setback to the big picture of the economic Growth as well. Prices are rising along side decline in industrial production. IIP contracted by 3.5 per cent in March and GDP growth slowed to three-year low of 6.9 per cent in 2011-12.

As per the official data released today, food inflation increased to 10.49 per cent in April, from 9.94 per cent in the previous month.

Among the food items, which have a weight of 14.3 per cent in the WPI basket, vegetables turned costlier by a whopping 60.97 per cent. Besides, pulses were expensive by 11.29 per cent in April year-on-year, milk prices went up by 15.51 per cent in April, egg, meat and fish by 17.54 per cent.

"Food inflation is a matter of concern, particularly it has reached the double digit... State governments have to take appropriate steps, I will also discuss with them," the Finance Minister said.

For the first time since March, 2010, RBI had lowered the benchmark interest rates by 0.5 per cent on April 17 with the industry clamouring for more cuts.

Business Standard

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Acreage under guar expected to rise by 28%

Press Trust India / Jodhpur May 15, 2012, 1:07 IST

The area under guar is expected to rise by 28 per cent to 450,000 hectares in the coming kharif season, according to experts. The country had planted guar in about 350,000 hectares in the last kharif (summer) season. According to market analysts, the prices of guar are expected to remain in the range of Rs 28,000-30,000 per quintal as there is almost negligible stock left due to high demand, which will also encourage the farmers to sow the commodity again in a larger area.

Govt plans to set up cashew board

There already are separate boards to promote coffee, tea, tobacco

Press Trust of India / May 14, 2012, 18:17 IST



The government is planning to set up a Cashew Board to promote production and export of the commodity.

"A proposal to form a Cashew Board is planned," Minister of State for Commerce Jyotiraditya M Scindia said in a written reply to the Lok

Sabha.

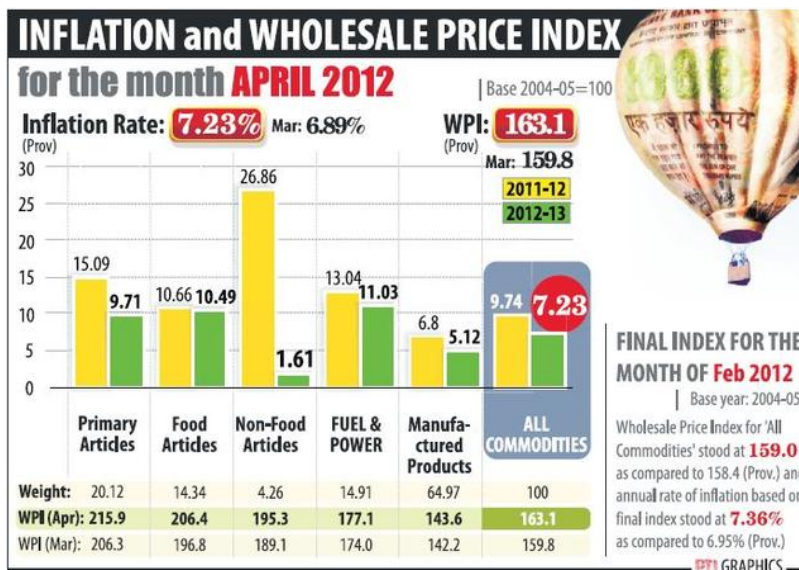
Presently, a draft note is under preparation for seeking approval of the Expenditure Finance Committee of the Finance Ministry and the Project Appraisal and Management Committee of

the Planning Commission, he said. The Board will be formed by merging activities of Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPC) under the Commerce Ministry and the Directorate of Cocoa and Cashewnut Development (DCCD) of Agriculture Ministry, he added. Scindia said presently, there is no separate commodity board to look after the cashew industry. The DCCD has been looking after production issues and the CEPC has been involved in export promotion activities of cashew. There is a separate board to promote coffee, tea and tobacco industries. The minister said during the 11th Five Year Plan period, the CEPC was provided an assistance of Rs 9.02 crore for upgrading processing facilities. That apart, the government has put in place various schemes to boost export of agri-products including cashew. In 2010-11, the country exported 1,02,923 tonnes of cashew valuing Rs 2,630 crore, he added. Replying to a separate query, Scindia said that import of essential items has increased in the last three years. Placing data before Parliament, he said import takes place either because the country is short of it as in the case of pulses and edible oils or because domestic prices are higher. During the April-January period of the 2011-12 fiscal, pulses import stood at Rs 7,126 crore, edible oils at Rs 37,718 crore and petroleum products at Rs 5,88,177 crore, he said.

THE HINDU Business Line

April inflation surge to 7.23% curbs rate-cut hope

K.R. Srivats



New Delhi, May 14:

India's continuing run of bad news on the economic front persisted on Monday. The headline inflation for April hit 7.23 per cent, much higher than the 6.89 per cent recorded the previous month.

The inflation numbers, coming on the back of the sharp decline in industrial output in March, spooked the markets, with the benchmark BSE Sensex declining for the fifth day in a row to close at 16,215.84, its lowest level in four months.

Analysts said market sentiment was also hit by credit rating major Moody's downgrading three major banks, as well as grading index heavyweight Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) as credit negative on lower gas output projections.

The move sent RIL down 2.39 per cent closing on the BSE at Rs 680.6 a share.

The Nifty ended close to the psychological 4,900 point mark, ending the day at 4,907.8 points.

Analysts said rising inflation levels — core inflation edged up to five per cent — left little room for the RBI to cut interest rates to spur growth.

Though the April inflation number was lower than the 9.74 per cent recorded in the same month last year, both the Finance Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, and the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) Chairman, Dr C. Rangarajan, expressed concern.

Terming the latest WPI number as an “uncomfortable statistic”, Dr Rangarajan said this has diminished scope for further monetary easing by the RBI for now.

“The possibility of lowering interest rates can be thought of only when interest rates show signs of easing,” he added.

The RBI had since March 2010 raised policy rates by 375 basis points to tackle inflation, but gave in to growth concerns last month by cutting its repo rate by 50 basis points.

Mr Mukherjee said that food inflation at 10.49 per cent was “a matter of concern”.

“Food inflation can be tackled by creating storing facilities and bringing in institutional reforms in agricultural marketing,” he said.

In both the areas, State governments have to take appropriate steps, he added.

Cardamom gains on buying, limited arrivals

G.K. Nair



Kochi, May 14:

Cardamom prices increased significantly last week on buying support amid limited arrivals at auctions.

Individual auction average last week vacillated between Rs 805 and Rs 890 a kg from Tuesday to Saturday, while it dropped to Rs 764.24 on Sunday. According to reports from Bodinayakannur, prices are on the upward swing at the auction currently underway conducted by the CPA on Monday.

Some in the trade told *Business Line* that some new stockists are buying good quality capsules on the anticipation that there would be a shortage of the material in the coming months and till the arrival of the fresh cardamom which is likely to be delayed due to unfavourable weather conditions.

The next crop is expected by late August. They are said to be operating through local traders. This phenomenon has aided the price rise, they claimed.

Exporters, who are still hoping that the prices would fall, bought some 15-20 tonnes. Ramzan buying is yet to pick up, they said.

Not a good sign

This kind of high volatility in the market is not a good sign, Mr P.C. Punnoose, General Manger, CPMC told *Business Line*. The current bullish trend in the market sends out the impression that some gambling is going on in the market. "Otherwise, such a significant rise in price would not take place."

He said that from Tuesday to Friday of last week, the market was moving up sharply and crossed Rs 885 a kg on Friday. However, on Saturday and Sunday it showed a decline. But on Monday it is reported to have moved up significantly.

Mr Ranganathan, a trader based in Bodi, told *Business Line* that the market was moving up on speculation and prices were up by Rs 70 on an average from Sunday. He said that exporters bought an estimated 20 tonnes last week. However, Ramzan buying has begun at a slow pace because of the uptrend in prices, he said.

Arrivals at the Sunday auction stood at 80 tonnes and of this, 76.5 tonnes were sold. Maximum price was at Rs 1,197 a kg while the individual auction average was Rs 764.25 a kg, up from Rs 731.18 the previous Sunday, Mr Punnoose said.

Total arrivals during the current season to May 13 were 17,334 tonnes and sales 16,732 tonnes against 9,726 tonnes of arrivals and 9,474 tonnes of sales in the same period last year.

The weighted average price as on May 13 was Rs 621.9 a kg against about Rs 1,069.91 a kg on the same date last year, according to market sources.

Prices of graded varieties in Kumily on Sunday in rupees a kg were: AGEB 1,125-1,135; AGB 810-820; AGS 790-800 and AGS 1: 770-780

Open market prices of graded varieties in Bodinayakannur on Monday in rupees a kg were: AGEB Rs 1,100-1,120; AGB Rs 850-860; AGS Rs 800 and AGS-1: Rs 725, Good colour 8 mm bold cardamom was fetching prices up to Rs 1,400 a kg on Monday at Bodi, trade sources there said.

Cotton wilts on weak global market,demand



Rajkot, May 14:

Cotton prices continued to decline on the back of weak international market and lower demand from mills and exporters. A Rajkot-based broker said that prices may decline by another Rs 500 for a candy of 356. "The global cotton scenario is bearish and it has affected our market too, bringing down cotton prices. Moreover, domestic demand is weak," he said. On Monday, Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton declined by Rs 200 to Rs 33,500-33,700 for a candy of 356 kg. Kapas price moved down by Rs 10-12 to Rs 800-820 for a *maund* of 20 kg in local and Kadi delivery kapas was stood at Rs 830-835 per 20 kg. About 17,000-18,000 bales arrived in Gujarat and 80,000 bales arrived across the country. Similar trend was seen in Maharashtra also.

In Maharashtra, arrivals were 12,000-13,000 bales and traded was done at Rs 31,000-32,500 a candy. On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, *kapas* contract for April 2012 declined by Rs 14.50 to Rs 981.50 for 20 kg, with an open interest of 1,276 lots.

Heavy sales in palm oil amidst dull trade

Mumbai, May 14:

Trading was dull in the edible oils market as traders turned cautious. Imported palmolein declined sharply by Rs 8 for 10 kg in line with drastic fall in Malaysian markets, while soyabean refined oil rose by Rs 5 despite fall in domestic futures market. Rapeseed-Mustard oil prices were up by Rs 5. Groundnut oil dropped by Rs 10 and sunflower oil eased by Rs 5.



A Mumbai-based broker said that report of China's plan to cut bank reserve ratio failed to lift the global commodities market.

Poor Industrial production data in India and China weighed on the sentiments. Investors rushed to reduce riskier bets amid fears over Greece's political stability.

The possible exit of Greece from the Ec may lead to further crash. He said that the domestic market took cues from the foreign market leading to heavy selling pressure in palm oil.

Needy stockists took benefit of lower resale rates covering small quantity of palmolein in isolated trade.

Towards the day end, Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 643/10 kg. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 637, soya refined oil at Rs 708 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 735.

Resellers were offering palmolein at Rs 634-635.

Malaysia's crude palm oil June contracts closed lower at MYR 3,153 (MYR 3,283), July at MYR 3,150 (MYR 3,275) and August at MYR 3,145 (MYR 3,265) a tonne.

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates were (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil 1,170 (1,180), soya refined oil 710 (705), sunflower exp. ref. 665 (670), sunflower ref. 740 (740), rapeseed ref. oil 802 (798), rapeseed expeller ref. 772 (768) cotton ref. oil 685 (685) and palmolein 642 (650).

Sugar fundamentals to come into play from June



Mumbai, May 14:

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale spot market increased by Rs 10-20, tracking firm trend upper level on Monday. *Naka* delivery rates rose by Rs 10-25 on higher tender rates as mills were reluctant to sell, hoping for higher demand from local traders and exporters. Mill tender prices were up by Rs 20 as producers held the price, taking support from prevailing overall bullish sentiments, said sources.

A leading retail broker said the sentiment was bullish in the spot market. Crushing for the current season will be over by this month-end, leaving it for the demand to move the market. Permits for unrestricted sugar exports and better prospects of exports due to a weak rupee are also likely to help. From June all these factors are likely to come into play, leading to higher demand and rise in sugar price in the medium term.

Currently, price rise in sugar is limited on normal local demand. Neighbouring States buying is isolated. Supply in local market is ample, resulting pressure on price, sources said.

The area under sugarcane cultivation has dropped to 9 lakh hectares compared with 10.22 lakh hectares in Maharashtra last year. Next year, sugar production in the State is expected to be 80-82 lakh tonnes.

In the Vashi market, arrivals were 52-53 truckloads and local dispatches were 51-52 loads.

On Saturday, 15-16 mills sold 74,000-75,000 bags to local traders in the range of Rs 2,850-2,940 (Rs 2,830-2,920) for S-grade and Rs 2,950-3,020 (Rs 2,930-3,000) for M-grade.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 2,952-3,006 (Rs 2,932-3,006) and M-grade Rs 3,041-3,171 (Rs 3,032-3,161). ***Naka* delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 2,940 -2,970 (Rs 2,915-2,960) and M-grade Rs 3,000-3,080 (Rs 2,980-3,070).

Punjab, Delhi demand adds lustre to turmeric

Our Correspondent



May 14, 2012:

The price of the spot turmeric decreased by Rs 150 a quintal. “We have received fresh order for the Root variety turmeric from Punjab, Delhi and some other places. So we have purchased almost all the arrived root variety turmeric”, said the exporters of turmeric.

They also said that they also received fresh orders for the ‘quality finger variety’ turmeric and they have purchased reasonable stocks said the traders. The stockists again dominated in the buying and they purchased huge stocks.

The turmeric grower farmers brought very limited stock of thirteen thousand and odd bags of turmeric for sale. 70 percent of the stocks were sold. The Hybrid Salem crop also fetched good price.

The farmers though brought limited stocks, the traders did not quote increased price for the turmeric. Because of the same the farmers were frustrated.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 2611 to Rs 3569 a quintal, root variety Rs 2219 to Rs 3305 a quintal.

Salem Crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 3784 to Rs 4667 a quintal. Root variety Rs 3349 to Rs 3671 a quintal. Out of a total arrival of 2931 bags of turmeric 930 bags were sold.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, finger variety was sold at Rs 3339 to Rs 3860 a quintal, root variety Rs 3269 to Rs 3739 a quintal. 1291 bags of turmeric were sold as against the arrival of 1346 bags.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, finger variety was sold at Rs 2969 to Rs 3899 a quintal, root variety Rs 2901 to Rs 3689 a quintal. All the 1192 bags of turmeric arrived for sales were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society finger variety was sold at Rs 2869 to Rs 3939 a quintal, root variety Rs 2869 to Rs 3639 a quintal. All the 260 bags were sold.

Coonoor tea auction sees buoyant trend

P. S. Sundar



Coonoor, May 13:

There was buoyancy in Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions here this weekend with as much as 95 per cent of the 9.18 lakh kg offered for Sale No: 19 were sold at Rs 2 a kg more.

Vigneshwar Speciality Tea, auctioned by Paramount Tea Marketing (SI) P Ltd., topped the CTC market at Rs 185 a kg. Homedale Estate got Rs 162, Shanthi Supreme Rs 151 and Kotagiri Estate speciality Rs 150. In all, 118 marks got Rs 100 and more.

Among orthodox teas from corporate sector, Pascoe's Woodlands got Rs 301 a kg; Chamraj got Rs 241, Curzon Rs 175, Havukal Rs 170, Glendale and Kairbetta Rs 166 each. In all, 40 marks got Rs 100 and more.

“Whole leaf orthodox got up to Rs 3 a kg more. CTC teas fetched Rs 2-3 more. Orthodox dust market was, however, down by Rs 1-2. Generally, good demand prevailed in CTC dust market and prices rose Rs 2-3”, an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

On the export front, Pakistan bought selectively for Rs 55-77 a kg and the CIS, Rs 57-70.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 50-54 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 95-157 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 63-67 for plain dusts and Rs 90-162 for brighter liquoring dusts.

Natural rubber output skids 7.2% in April

V. Sajeev Kumar



Kochi, May 14:

Natural rubber production in the country has declined by 7.2 per cent for the month of April compared to the corresponding month of the previous fiscal. The figure stood at 52,700 tonnes against 56,800 tonnes in April 2011.

According to the figures available from the Rubber Board, consumption of natural rubber also decreased by 4.7 per cent in April to 80,500 tonnes compared to 84,500 tonnes during the month of March.

Mr N. Radhakrishnan, Advisor, Cochin Rubber Merchants Association, cited low yield, shortage of manpower and incessant rains as the reasons for drop in production. He said that man-days for tapping of rubber were reduced to a reasonable extent because of rains.

He said that the re-plantation activity in Kerala is on the lower side for the last few years.

Majority of the planters are reluctant to cut aged trees for re-plantation purpose, as the prices of rubber are ruling high.

This phenomenon was seen in many of the estates, he said adding that age old trees are giving lower yield.

Referring to drop in consumption, he said this is because of low off take in replacement markets as well as in original equipment markets.