

Published: May 22, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 22, 2012 05:20 IST

## **Khariff plan: foodgrain cultivation on 4.73 lakh ha**

Special Correspondent

The State government has slightly increased the target for the coverage of food grains during the khariff season this year in comparison to that of last year.

As against the target fixed at 4.58 lakh hectares last year, the State government has fixed the target for coverage of food grains in the khariff season at 4.73 lakh hectares.

The target for foodgrain production during the current year was fixed at 3.96 lakh tonnes.

Joint Director of the Agriculture Department I.E. Balaskar said that while the area to be covered under cereals has been fixed at 34,050 hectares with a target to produce 50,273 tonnes, the major portion of the foodgrain production would be covered by the pulses. The target for production of pulses has been fixed at 3.46 lakh tonnes covering an area of nearly 4.39 lakh hectares.

Among the pulses, the major portion of the area and production would be covered by red gram, the main stay of Gulbarga district. Last khariff season, the government had decided to cultivate red gram on 3.25 lakh hectares of land, while during this khariff season the target is set at 3.64 lakh hectares to produce 3.21 lakh tonnes.

Green and black gram would be grown on 30,000 and 40,000 hectares of land respectively with an expected production of 9,090 tonnes of green gram and 14,400 tonnes of black gram.

Mr. Balaskar said target has been set to cultivate oilseeds on 51,250 hectares of land to produce 30,135 tonnes of oilseeds.

Sunflower would be cultivated on 40,000 hectares of land with an expected production of 23,000 tonnes.

Besides this, commercial crops would be grown on 47,000 hectares of land. While cotton would be grown on 24,000 hectares with targeted production of 49,057 tonnes and area under sugarcane has been fixed at 23,000 hectares with a production target of 14.70 lakh tonnes.

Published: May 22, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 22, 2012 05:22 IST

## **Hortcorp plans to step up farming**

Special Correspondent

To regulate vegetable prices through market intervention, the Kerala State Horticultural Products Development Corporation Limited (Hortcorp) has drawn up a proposal to step up production, procurement and marketing of the commodity.

The proposal, a joint initiative with the Kerala Horticulture Mission, was to intensify vegetable production and to revive procurement and marketing chain in all the districts, Hortcorp Chairman Lal Varghese Kalpakavadi told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy had called a meeting of Agriculture Department, the Corporation and the Mission on Tuesday to discuss it, he said.

The procurement and marketing mechanism was currently confined to eight districts, including Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kannur. The system was not functioning in Idukki and Wayanad, two of the potential districts in the State, Mr. Lal said.

### **Unused centres**

“The sprawling procurement and cooling centres in Idukki and Palakkad districts have been lying unused for the last 15 years. Vegetable farming has virtually come to halt at Vattavada and Kanthalloor Panchayats, known as the prime centres of vegetable cultivation in the State. Over the years, there was considerable increase in eucalyptus cultivation. This has led to the drying up of water sources. The Forest Department has also recovered land from the local farmers. All these have had a debilitating impact on vegetable farming,” Mr. Lal said. The farmers in both the panchayats were confident of reviving cultivation and meeting the needs of the entire State, with the Government promising to provide water and revive the procurement and marketing system, he said. The Corporation would hold discussions with banks to provide easy finance to the farmers, Mr. Lal said. An assured market would clear impediments in procuring finance.

Published: May 22, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 22, 2012 05:23 IST

## **Mettur level**

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 79.41 feet on Monday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 2,075 cusecs and the discharge, 1,149 cusecs.

Published: May 22, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 22, 2012 05:02 IST

## **Farmers prepare for kharif cultivation**

Staff Correspondent

*Bellary received good pre-monsoon showers*

The good pre-monsoon rain all over the district till May 14 has encouraged farmers to prepare their land for kharif cultivation.

The district received an average 39.9 mm of rainfall against the normal rainfall of 63.2 mm up to May 14, particularly between May 10 and 14.

Bellary taluk received the most rain — 140.3 mm — against the normal 51.9 mm for the entire month. The lowest rainfall was recorded in Hagari Bommanahalli taluk with 0.4 mm against the normal 62.9 mm. Hadagali taluk recorded 5.4 mm (66.9 mm being the normal), followed by Hospet with 51.5 mm (55.4 mm); Kudligi with 13.5 mm ( 69.4 mm); Sandur with 53 mm (85.6 mm); and Siruguppa with 15.4 mm (50.6 mm).

Farmers have started agricultural operations such as levelling land, applying manure, stocking seeds and fertilizer. Sowing operations have begun in areas where the rainfall was good.

During the current kharif season, the Agriculture Department has set a target of cultivating 3.72 lakh hectares. Nearly a third of the targeted area is irrigated.

- 
- *Highest rainfall of 140.3 mm recorded in Bellary taluk*
  - *Agriculture Department has set a cultivation target of 3.72 lakh ha*
-

Published: May 22, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 22, 2012 05:22 IST

## This dairy farmer engineered his success

Firoz Rozindar

*Anil Kalagond quit his cushy job to step into an unknown field*



experience counts: I strongly believe that we will not be able to protect the agricultural sector unless educated people take interest in it, says Anil Kalagond.

Wearing branded clothes, sporting sunglasses and holding an expensive cellphone, this 37-year-old is completely at ease feeding cattle in a cowshed.

Anil Kalagond quit his job in a reputed software firm in Bangalore to become a dairy farmer in 2009.

Today, Mr. Kalagond is a successful farmer who has adopted integrated farming methods in agriculture.

He owns 22 cows, 18 buffaloes and 90 goats, which he bought to set up a goat-rearing centre. He sells 250 litres of milk every day from his farm in Aliabad village to a private ice-cream factory in Bijapur.

## **'Difficult journey'**

Mr. Kalagond says the journey from an urban corporate life in Bangalore to a farm in Aliabad village was a difficult one. Corporate life never impressed him and he loathed working within the four walls due to which he chose to shift to dairy farming.

### **Support from family**

Mr. Kalagond attributes his success to the support he received from his family, particularly his wife.

Impressed by the success of a software engineer who set up a dairy farm in Gauribidanur taluk of Chickballapur district, Mr. Kalagond decided to emulate him.

After visiting several places and meeting experts, in 2009, he started the farm with an initial investment of Rs. 30 lakh, with which he purchased land, cows and buffaloes.

Mr. Kalagond says one of the major hurdles he faced was getting good workers to help him out at the farm. "On many occasions, when things did not go as per plan, I regretted my decision to quit my job," he says.

In fact, his relatives had told him that dairy farming was not his cup of tea and that he would never succeed.

"To prove them wrong, I went ahead with my plan with zeal and determination and faced all challenges," he says.

Mr. Kalagond says he wanted to prove that if one has patience and perseverance, there are many opportunities waiting to be explored in rural areas. "I strongly believe that we will not be able to protect the agricultural sector unless educated people come forward. We must shed this notion that agriculture is meant only for illiterate people," he says.

According to him, educated persons can bring about rapid and significant changes in the agricultural sector, which will help increase production and generate employment.

### **Goat-rearing centre**

Mr. Kalagond, who has plans to set up a goat-rearing centre by crossing the native breed with the African breed, said that he wants to promote goat rearing mainly among Stree Shakti self-help groups in rural areas.

Mr. Kalagond, who has not availed himself of any government benefits, says that instead of offering subsidies and other temporary benefits, the government should ensure proper electricity and water supply, and set up marketing facilities for farmers.

For details, contact Mr. Kalagond on 9845411378.

Published: May 22, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 22, 2012 05:08 IST

### **Rare varieties to add flavour to mango expo**

The annual mango exhibition-cum-sale under the aegis of the Calicut Agri-Horticultural Society will begin at Gandhi Park near Fourth Gate in the city on Wednesday. The five-day event will have on display rare north Indian varieties of mangoes such as Jahangir, Himayudhin, Himapasanth, and Banishan, besides popular varieties from across the country such as Alphonso, Kudadath, Banganappally, Malgova, Chakkarakkutty, Neelam, and Selan. Food products such as mango juice, mango-ice and mango slices will be available at the exhibition, which will have over 50 varieties of mangoes, including colourful ones such as Banet Alphonso and Chinna Suvarnarekha and hybrid varieties such as H 4, Mallika, H 45 and H 151.

The organisers said the mangoes, which would cost less at the exhibition than what they are available for in the market, would be brought from the district agricultural farm at Karimbam in Kannur. M. Rajan, one of the organisers, said a range of mango-tree saplings suited to the State's climate would be made available for sale at the exhibition. Separate mango-eating contests for men and women would be another attraction of the event on the concluding day, Mr. Rajan said. Mayor A.K. Premajam would open the exhibition at 5 p.m. on Wednesday. District Collector K.V. Mohan Kumar, who is president of the Calicut Agri-Horticultural Society and chairman of the organising committee, would preside over the function.

Published: May 22, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 22, 2012 05:05 IST

### **Take steps for rainwater harvesting, officials told**

Water Board Managing Director, Adhar Sinha, has instructed the general managers of O&M divisions to organise orientation programmes on Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) at division, sub-division and section level and in selected colonies to take up RWH structures briskly before the on set of monsoon.

He also asked them to arrange for distribution of chlorine tablets in pollution-prone areas, slums and tail-end points of water supply system as a precautionary measure to protect consumers against any epidemic diseases which usually erupts between summer-end and onset of monsoon.

Participating in the weekly 'Prajavani' programme here on Monday, Mr. Sinha instructed the General Managers (E), O&M Circle-II to chalk out a programme and take up desilting of sewer lines before the onset of monsoon.

© The Hindu

# hindustantimes

Tue, 22 May 2012

## water

### Chennai - INDIA

#### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Tuesday, May 22

Max Min

41.8° | 24.4°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 47%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 6:35

Sunset: 18:03

Barometer: 1005

#### Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Wednesday, May 23

Max Min

39° | 29°

#### Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday May 24	Friday May 25	Saturday May 26	Sunday May 27	Monday May 28
37°   29°	38°   29°	38°   29°	38°   28°	36°   26°
Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy

Sugar export touches 13.51 lakh tonnes

**Agencies** Posted online: Mon May 21 2012, 18:07 hrs

**New Delhi** : India exported 13.51 lakh tonnes of sugar in the first six months of the 2011-12 marketing year ending September, Parliament was informed today. The country had exported 28.14 lakh tonnes in the entire 2010-11 marketing year (October-September). Food Minister K V Thomas said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha that "about 13.51 lakh tonnes of sugar has been exported till March, 2012 of the current sugar season". He quoted from the data provided by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), Kolkata. On May 2, the government decided to remove quantitative restrictions on exports. The decision was notified on May 11. Later, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Commerce Ministry issued a notification asking millers to register their contracts with it. Before this decision, the Centre had allowed two million tonnes of exports in two equal tranches. Sugar production of India, the world's second largest producer and biggest consumer, is estimated at 26 million tonnes in 2011-12 against 24.3 million tonnes in the previous year. The annual domestic demand of sweetener is expected at 22 million tonnes.



**Dairy farmers raise concern over adulterated milk**

MONDAY, 21 MAY 2012 22:17

PNS | CHANDIGARH

Dairy farmers from major dairying States in the country have found that adulterated milk is reaching the consumers causing national health concern despite the fact that dairy farmers are selling pure milk.

Assembling in Delhi from all parts of the country on the weekend, they discussed issues which are hitting both the consumers and the producers.



The dairy farmers, several of whom hailed from Punjab and Haryana, deliberated on the ways and means to check adulteration of milk during supply chain and also on how the Government should enact strict legislation to stop such practices in the country. Farmers also showed their concern on how they are blamed every time retail price of milk is increased in the country and claimed that they hardly get any share out of the rise in comparison to the rising input cost. It was also discussed during the meeting that the farmers need to get remunerative price for their products through subsidy on feed and dairy equipments as being done in poultry industry in many States in the country. After daylong deliberations, the farmers decided to have a strong association across the country to make the Government and stake holders understand the plight of consumers as well the farmers. Depending on the experience and the strength of the associate members in their respective State, farmers present in the meeting elected Daljeet Singh as the president, Randhir Singh Redhu as general secretary, Ranjeet Deshmukh as vice-president, Sanjay M Patel as vice-president and Uday S Tiwari as national coordinator of the organisation.

The office-bearers passed a resolution to meet Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar to discuss the finer points, so that consumers can come out of the situation of milk getting scarce and unaffordable and the dairy farmers get better remuneration for their produce.

---

## Business Standard

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

**Onion output estimated at 15.7 million tonne in 2011-12: Thomas**

**Demand for onion reported to be more or less stable throughout 2011-12**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi May 21, 2012, 17:04 IST**



Onion production in India is estimated to rise by nearly 2 tonnes to 15.7 million tonnes in the

2011-12 crop year.

"Production of onion as per estimates made is likely to be in the order of 15.7 million tonnes during 2011-12 (July-June)," Food Minister K V Thomas said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

India ranks second in the world in onion production. Maharashtra and Gujarat are the main producing regions of the kitchen staple.

The output of the bulb in the country was about 13 million tonnes in the 2010-11 crop year.

India had witnessed serious supply crunch of onion in late 2010 and early 2011 when the prices of the important vegetable had rocketed to Rs 80-85 a kg in the retail.

The demand for onion is reported to be more or less stable throughout the year during 2011-12, the minister said.

Thomas said the government has permitted export of onion without any Minimum Export Price (MEP) for about three months from May 8 till July 2 this year, after which the situation would be reviewed.

Earlier this month, decision to end fixing a benchmark price, below which onion could not be exported, was taken at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Due to high export price of onions, India had lost its competitive edge in international crop markets to China and Egypt.

In January this year, the government had lowered MEP of all varieties of onions, except Bangalore Rose onions and Krishnapuram onions to \$150 per tonne.

However, onion traders and onion growers said the decision to do away with export price came "late".

## **UP sugar mills owe farmers Rs 3,328 cr for 2011-12 season**

**Press Trust Of India / New Delhi May 22, 2012, 0:18 IST**

Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, the second-largest producing state, already owe cane farmers about Rs 3,328 crore in dues for the ongoing season, Food Minister K V Thomas said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Besides, Rs 143.5 crore is due against mills for the sugar seasons from 1994-95 to 2010-11, he said. On cane arrears for the 2011-12 season, ending October, the minister informed that the Supreme Court, in its order dated April 20, had directed mills to pay dues in three instalments. Each was fixed at Rs 1,470 crore and the dates were May 7, June 7 and July 7 of this year, it said.

“Out of the first installment of Rs 1,470.2 crore, sugar mills have paid Rs 1,082.4 crore and only Rs 387.7 crore are pending,” Thomas said, adding the state government is considering action against those mills who are yet to pay first instalment.

Uttar Pradesh has produced 6.96 million tonnes of sugar till April of the 2011-12 season, higher by nearly 1.1 million tonnes from the year-ago period, according to industry data.

## **Wheat recovers on hopes of higher export**

**However, increased supplies and rising procurement in ongoing rabi season limit gains**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi May 21, 2012, 13:43 IST**



Wheat futures prices today recovered by Rs 4, or 0.34%, to Rs 1,178 per quintal, as speculators created fresh positions on hopes that the government may allow more exports of grain.

However, increased supplies in the market and rising procurement of grain in the ongoing rabi marketing season, restricted the gains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, wheat for delivery in June traded Rs 4, or 0.34% higher, at Rs 1,178 per quintal, with an open interest of 22,600 lots.

The July contract rose by a similar margin to Rs 1,196 per quintal in an open interest of 12,330 lots.

Analysts said the recovery in wheat prices at futures trade attributed to speculators creating fresh positions after a Committee headed by PMEAC Chairman C Rangarajan suggested export of two million tonnes of wheat from the government stocks.

They said, however, procurement of grains by the government agencies, limited the gains.

### **Cottonseed sheds more than 2% on profit-booking**

Increased supply against lower offtake by stockists in physical markets puts weight on traders to reduce holdings

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi May 21, 2012, 14:30 IST**



Cottonseed futures prices today declined by Rs 29 to Rs 1,206 per quintal, owing to profit-booking by traders at prevailing higher levels.

Marketmen said increased supply against reduced offtake by stockist in physical markets put weight on traders to reduce their holdings, which led to the fall in cottonseed futures prices.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange counter, cottonseed prices for June contract dropped by Rs 29, or 2.35%, to Rs 1,206 per quintal, clocking an open interest of 1,99,180 lots. The July contract shed Rs 26, or 2.03%, to Rs 1,254 per quintal, showing an open interest of 89,530 lots.

# THE HINDU Business Line

## Cardamom firm on stock buying

Our Correspondent



Kochi, May 21:

The cardamom market continued its northward run last week with high volatility at auctions held in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Despite an increase in arrivals last week the prices moved up and the individual auction average vacillated between Rs 800 and Rs 890 a kg throughout the week.

Total arrivals, however, showed an increase last week and stood at 472 tonnes, of which 455 tonnes were sold. The maximum price at individual auctions gained and it was in the range of Rs 1,129 and Rs 1,381 a kg.

Some in the trade said that a few new stockists are buying good quality capsules anticipating a shortage in the coming months and till the arrival of the fresh cardamom, which is likely to be delayed due to unfavourable weather. The next crop is expected by late August. They are said

to be operating through local traders. This phenomenon has aided the price rise, the sources said.

### **Ramzan demand**

Exporters, who are yet to start buying for the Ramzan demand, were reluctant to cover following the emergence of an upward trend in the prices. They are estimated to have bought some 15 to 20 tonnes. Ramzan buying is expected to begin from mid-June, sources said.

As the prices were ruling at around Rs 800 a kg arrivals showed an increase probably because of the reopening of the schools after the annual vacation during the first week of June. However, from Friday onwards the quantity registered with the auctioneers fell and, according to market sources, growers/primary market dealers and even the auctioneers have reached an understanding to release the commodity in a regulated manner, lest there is a mismatch between demand and supply.

The current high volatility in the market is not a good sign, Mr P.C. Punnoose, General Manger, CPMC, said.

### **Arrivals**

Arrivals at the Sunday auction stood at 52.2 tonnes and the entire quantity was sold out. The previous Sunday arrivals were at 80 tonnes. The maximum price yesterday was Rs 1,360 a kg while the individual auction average was Rs 867.60 a kg, up by over Rs 100 a kg from Rs 764.25 a kg the previous Sunday, Mr Punnoose said.

Total arrivals during the current season from August 1, 2011 up to May 20 were 17,805 tonnes and the sales at 16,186 tonnes as against 9,975 tonnes of arrivals and 9,721 tonnes of sales in the same period last year.

The weighted average price as on May 20 was Rs 627 a kg as against Rs1,062.24 a kg on the same date last year, according to market sources.

Prices of graded varieties on Monday in Rs a kg: AGEB 1,190 -1,200 ; AGB 825 – 835; AGS 805 - 815 and AGS 1: 785 – 795.

Good colour 8 mm bold cardamom was fetching prices up to Rs 1,300 a kg today, trade sources said. Good volume of 7-8 mm graded variety (October-November produce) was arriving at auctions last week and this phenomenon also aided the price rise, trade sources added.

### Higher sales pull palmolein down

Our Correspondent



Mumbai, May 21:

Palmolein fell by Re 1 for 10 kg on higher sales on Monday despite higher import parity as the rupee weakened further against the dollar. Though demand for ready delivery was up for the oil, weak global financial markets increased sales.

Groundnut oil, soya oil and sunflower oil remained unchanged. Rapeseed oil rose by Rs 3 and cotton oil by Rs 2 for 10 kg tracking firm reports from producing centres.

Volume was thin, but most of the orders were for ready delivery as stockists covered expecting improvement in local demand soon, traders said.

Ruchi sold about 250-300 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 624 and Liberty about 100-150 tonnes at Rs 625 for ready delivery. Liberty quoted soya oil at Rs 700 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 730.

Ruchi quoted soya refined oil at Rs 695 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 730.

**Malaysia's crude palm oil's** June contracts closed at MYR 3,102 (MYR 3,104) and July at MYR 3,102 a tonne.

**The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg):** groundnut oil 1,170 (1,170), soya refined oil 695 (695), sunflower exp. ref. 660 (660), sunflower ref. 720 (720), rapeseed ref. oil 798 (795), rapeseed expeller ref. 768 (765) cotton ref. oil 670 (668) and palmolein 622 (623).

### Cotton wilts on slack demand

Our Correspondent



Rajkot, May 21:

Cotton declined further on Monday on poor domestic and international demand. Moreover, increased selling by farmers also pulled down prices.

Ginners also sold stocks as there was support in sight. Demand weakened due to bleak macro-economic outlook and fewer downstream orders.



In Gujarat, the new A-grade S-6 variety traded at Rs 32,500-33,100 a candy of 356 kg and B-grade at Rs 32,000-32,500. The New V-797 variety was offered at Rs 25,000-25,500 a candy.

In Maharashtra, A-grade low micronaire was quoted at Rs 32,000-32,500 a candy and high micronaire (29 mm) at Rs 32,500-33,000. In Madhya Pradesh, the former quoted at Rs 32,000-32,500 and the latter at Rs 32,500-33,000.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, *kapas'* or raw cotton's April 2013 contract decreased by Rs 21.50 to Rs 963.50 for a *maund* of 20 kg with an open interest of 1,261 lots.

Currently, the price of Indian cotton is slightly higher than the international price. China is not likely to be in the market for some time and the demand is low from other countries too because of the economic crisis in some of the European countries, according to Mr K.N. Viswanathan, Vice-President, Indian Cotton Federation. The domestic yarn market is sluggish compared with last month, and most mills are buying only for a month to a month-and-a-half. Thus, there is no buying pressure from the domestic mills, he said.

Supplies are enough now. However, they may fall short in two or three months when the cotton season comes to an end, said Mr D.K. Nair, Secretary-General, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

### Pepper moves up on buying support

G. K. Nair Kochi, May 21:

The pepper market moved up on Monday on buying support amid tight supply and reports of firmer overseas market. All the active contracts went up. Market opened on a declining note with June touching the lowest price of the day and traded with high volatility. Just before closing, it recovered and moved up to the highest price of the day and then declined and ended above the previous day closing.

#### Extra buying

There was extra buying on the exchange platform. Turnover also showed a moderate increase. The market appeared to be in line with the fundamentals. June was trading above spot prices.

On the spot good quality material was available, matching the demand. Some 31 tonnes of high range and Wayanad pepper arrived. Wayanad pepper from Pulpally and Bathery traded at Rs 380 a kg while high range pepper (Idukki) was sold at Rs 385-387 a kg. June contract on the NCDEX increased by Rs 490 to the last traded price (LTP) of Rs 40,320 a quintal. July and August were up by Rs 375 and Rs 200 respectively to the LTP of Rs 40,930 and Rs 41,070 a quintal.

### **Turnover**

Total turnover increased by 828 tonnes to close at 4,762 tonnes. Total open interest also went up by 399 tonnes to end at 5,301 tonnes showing good extra buying.

June open interest increased by 146 tonnes to 4,294 tonnes while that of July and August went up by 232 tonnes and 17 tonnes respectively to 927 tonnes and 66 tonnes.

### **Spot prices**

Spot prices in tandem with the futures market trend and good buying support rose by Rs 400 a quintal to close at Rs 38,000 (ungarbled) and Rs 39,500 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$7,600 a tonne (c&f) for the Europe and \$7,900 a tonne (c&f) for the US, despite rupee touching the life time low of Rs55 against the dollar.

### **Overseas trend**

According to an overseas report today In Vietnam sellers were either holding back or were offering at higher levels. The Middle East domestic market was also reportedly firm.

Price indications were 500 GL at \$6,350 a tonne (fob) HCMC NSW prompt shipment, 550 GL at \$6,700 a tonne and V Asta at \$7,150 a tonne. White pepper double washed was at \$9,400 a tonne.

## Buoyant trend at Coonoor tea auctions

P.S. Sundar



Coonoor, May 21:

For the second consecutive week, buoyancy prevailed at the Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions here this weekend. Around 98 per cent of the year's second lowest volume of 8.80 lakh kg offered for Sale No: 20 was sold at Rs 3 a kg more.

Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global tea Brokers, topped the CTC market when Vishal Marketing Co bought it for Rs 167 a kg. In all, 113 marks got Rs 100 and more.

Among orthodox teas from corporate sector, Chamraj got Rs 240. Overall, 33 marks got Rs 100 and more.

“Whole leaf orthodox got up to Rs 3 a kg more. High-priced CTC leaf was dearer by Rs 2-4, better mediums Rs 5-7 and plainers Rs 3-5. Orthodox dust market was steady. Generally, strong demand prevailed in CTC dust market and unsold teas were less. High-priced dusts were dearer by Rs 4-6, better mediums Rs 4-7 and plainers Rs 3-5,” an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

On the export front, Pakistan bought selectively in a wide range Rs 75-98 a kg and the CIS Rs 62-79.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 56-60 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 95-163 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 72-75 for plain dusts and Rs 100-161 for brighter liquoring dusts.

### Syngenta to take seedling solution, Tegra, global



New solutions: A worker of Syngenta rolls the media on which paddy seedlings have been grown in a tray before transplantation at the company's trial farm at Vandavasi in Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. (file photo)

New Delhi, May 21:

Syngenta AG proposes to take its made-for-India rice seedling solution — Tegra — global. The company is targeting rice-growing countries such as Bangladesh, China, Indonesia and Guatemala, said Mr Andrew McConville, Head — Corporate Affairs, Asia Pacific.

Tegra was developed by Syngenta for the Indian market and was introduced in States such as Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in 2011. Offered as a service to the farmers, the solution has been deployed in about 5,500 acres so far. In the current year, the company is targeting a five-fold increase in area at 25,000 acres under Tegra, Mr McConville said.

The Tegra package comprises seed, raised seedlings, transplanting, labour for logistics while transplanting, and application of herbicides at the time of transplanting, besides advisory on agronomic practices. Besides enhancing the yields by an average of up to 30 per cent, Tegra also helps farmers overcome labour shortage and rising labour costs.

The paddy seedlings are grown by the company in a special media comprising straw, soil, nutrients and chemicals and are replanted after 15 days with special transplant machinery in the farmers' fields. The media is a Syngenta finding and the company enjoys a patent for it.

“We charge Rs 5,250 a acre for the entire package and this is almost the same as manual transplanting cost incurred by farmers,” said Dr K.C. Ravi, Vice-President, Corporate Affairs, South Asia.

“The adoption rate is increasing in the districts of Nagappatinam, Thiruvapur, Thanjavur, Thiruvannamalai, Vellore, Thiruvallur, Villupuram in Tamil Nadu and in Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh, where it has been introduced,” Dr Ravi said.

The company plans to undertake a pilot in Karnataka this year and introduce the seedling technology in Punjab and Haryana next year. “We are also looking to expand the offering to

Bangladesh sometime during the year covering a small area of 500 acres to begin with,” Mr McConville said.

## Wagh Bakri hikes tea price, wants lower import duty

Virendra Pandit

The screenshot shows the Wagh Bakri website interface. At the top right is the Wagh Bakri logo and 'Tea Group' text. A navigation menu on the left includes links for About Us, Buy Tea, Products, Press Room, Tea Selection, WB Creatives, What's New, Tea & Health, Careers, and Contact Us. Below the menu is a 'Tea Lounge' section featuring a cup of tea. To the right of the cup is a text block: 'Waghbakri tea house is a premium tea house in inception since the year eighteen ninety two. The tea baron, Sir Narandas Desai started the company in Ahemadabad being experienced in the art of blending and tea growing which he learned while owning a tea estate in South Africa. Sir Narandas Desai was praised by Mahatma Gandhi for his commendable work. The generations that followed gave boost to his pioneering efforts and developed the business to its present status of being one of the largest tea houses in India.' Further right is an image of a woman with the text: 'FOR 11 MILLION TEA CUPS A DAY, NOTHING ELSE BUT WAGHBAKRI TEA'. Below this is a login form with 'Username' and 'Password' fields and a 'Get mail!' button. At the bottom left are social media links for Facebook and Twitter, and certification logos for 'lacon' and 'INTERTEK'. At the bottom right is a section titled 'Try the new refreshing range of teas from the House of Wagh Bakri' displaying eight different instant tea premix products: Wagh Bakri Elaichi, Wagh Bakri Ginger, Wagh Bakri Masala, Wagh Bakri Lemon Grass, Wagh Bakri Lemon, Wagh Bakri Pink Grapefruit, Wagh Bakri Lemon, and Wagh Bakri Premium Argon.

Ahmedabad, May 21:

The Wagh Bakri Group, India's third largest tea packager, on Monday increased tea prices by another Rs 12 per kg in various categories, for a second time in five weeks and with immediate effect, and urged the Centre to reduce duty on imported tea to match supply with increasing demand.

On April 16, Wagh Bakri, which sells 2.8 crore kg of tea worth Rs 600 crore per annum, had increased prices by Rs 12 per kg. It markets its brands in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Currently, India produces 98 crore kg of tea annually, of which 18 crore kg, worth Rs 2,500 crore, is exported. "We cannot stop export as we have struggled to develop this market over the last few decades. But we can certainly reduce duty on imports from the existing 100%," Mr Piyush Desai, Chairman and Managing Director, said here.

If the government failed to annul the monopoly of tea garden owners and reduce import duty, prices of tea could touch the Rs 500 per kg mark in the next couple of years, he warned. The government should at least allow partial imports at reduced duty to match demand.

He said global warming and irregular rainfall in the tea-producing areas have resulted in increasing deficit between demand and supply. While the production is rising at 3% annually, consumption is galloping at 5%, he said. In the last three years, tea-makers have raised the price by Rs 30 to 40 per kg annually. This year also, there was a shortfall of five crore kgs in the March supply.

A reduction in import duty, as India did in case of sugar to make it available cheaper, could help the country match demand and supply, he said. South Africa, Indonesia, Kenya and Sri Lanka are among the tea exporters to India where the tea industry's turnover is about Rs 11,000 crore per annum. Mr Desai said India cannot increase tea production as very few areas receive more than 100 inches of rainfall annually and even these areas no longer have much cultivable land available.

Wagh Bakri's factory near Ahmedabad blends one lakh kg of tea daily.

### **Onion output estimated at 15.7 mt in 2011-12: Thomas**

New Delhi, May 21:

Onion production in India is estimated to rise by nearly 2 million tonnes to 15.7 million tonnes in the 2011-12 crop year.

"Production of onion as per estimates made is likely to be of in the order of 15.7 million tonnes during 2011-12 (July-June)," the Food Minister Mr K V Thomas said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

India ranks second in the world in production of onion. Maharashtra and Gujarat are the main producing regions of the kitchen staple.

The output of the bulb in the country was about 13 million tonnes in the 2010-11 crop year.

The country had witnessed serious supply crunch of the bulb in late 2010 and early 2011 when the prices of the important vegetable had rocketed to Rs 80-85 a kg in the retail.

The demand for onion is reported to be more or less stable throughout the year during 2011-12, the minister said. Mr Thomas said the government has permitted export of onion without any Minimum Export Price (MEP) for about three months from May 8 till July 2 this year, after which the situation would be reviewed.

Earlier this month, decision to end fixing a benchmark price below which onion could not be exported, was taken at a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

Due to high export price of onions, India had lost its competitive edge in international crop markets to China and Egypt.

In January this year, the government had lowered MEP of all varieties of onions, except Bangalore Rose onions and Krishnapuram onions to \$150 per tonne.

However, onion traders and onion growers said the decision to do away with export price came "late".

### **Sustainable agriculture: Jain Irrigation to invest \$375 m in Africa**

Mumbai, May 21:

Jain Irrigation Systems will invest \$375 million in Sub-Saharan Africa to build sustainable agriculture and improve small farmers' income.



Solution / Services	Manufacturing Products
Small Farmer, Urban Household, Urban Housing, Community Development, Mining Industry, Plant Tissue Culture, Chemical industry, Sugar factories, Oil & Gas exploration, Optic Fiber Ducting, Advertisement & Signage's, Landscaping, Green Houses, Watershed development, Waste Land Development, Farm Production & Management, Fruit and Vegetable Processing and many more.	Drip Irrigation Systems, Sprinkler Irrigation Systems, Automation Systems, Valves, Water Filters, Fertigation Equipments, Green Houses, Plant Tissue Culture, Nursery Plants and Systems, Bio Fertilizers, Processed Food, Fruit Processing, Onion and Vegetable Dehydration, PVC Pipes and Pipe Fittings, PE Pipes and Pipe Fittings, SWR Pipes and Fittings, Plastic Products, PVC Sheets, PC Sheets, Renewable Energy, Turnkey Project Services, Agricultural and Engineering Consultancy and many more..

**Hon President of India inaugurated the Gandhi Research Foundation at Jain Hills on 25th March 2012.**



Jain Irrigation said this was agreed upon at a symposium 'The new alliance for food security in Africa' in Washington.

Jain Irrigation will partner and collaborate with the Governments of Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Mozambique, Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria in this effort.

### Sugar range-bound on steady demand

Mumbai, May 21:

Sugar prices ruled range-bound on Vashi market on Monday on routine demand–supply.

Producers are selling according to need resulting in an easy supply in local markets. Mr Jagdish Rawal of B. Bhogilal and Co said routine demand and supply and absence of buying support from neighbouring States forced millers to sell their produce in local markets.



In spot and *naka* level, prices were up Rs 5 for fine variety while they were down Rs 5 for fair quality. Mills were selling their produce Rs 5-10 lower according to the need, while fine quality was sold at Rs 5-10 higher according to demand.

Positives for the sugar market are end of the crushing season, festival demand from July and possible decline in cane cultivation area due to shortage of water in Maharashtra.

At Vashi market, arrivals were about 50-51 truck loads and 49-50 truckloads were despatched locally. On Saturday evening, 12-13 mills offered tenders and sold 44,000–45,000 bags at Rs 2,840-2,930 (Rs 2,830-2,930) for S-grade and Rs 2,920-2,990 (Rs 2,930-2,990) for M-grade. **Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates:** S-grade Rs 2,948-3,002 (Rs 2,956-3,002) and M-grade Rs 3,026-3,176 (Rs 3,026-3,171).

***Naka* delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 2,910 -2,950 (Rs 2,900-2,955) and M-grade Rs 3,000-3,070 (Rs 2,980-3,075).

## Cashew market sees subdued activity

G. K. Nair



Kochi, May 21:

The cashew market saw very little business last week. Most processors were either not offering or were asking 10-15 cents higher per pound. The range of offers widened — for W240, from \$4.10 to \$4.20; W320, \$3.65 to \$3.85; W450, \$3.50 to \$3.65; SW320, \$3.55 to \$3.70; splits and butts, at around \$2.70; and pieces, at around \$2.40 per pound (fob).

However, prices in the domestic market were steady at higher levels, with good buying interest especially for broken grades.

### RCN market

The raw cashew nut (RCN) market was also quiet. With the kernel market remaining dull over the last two weeks and continuing logistic problems in Africa, shellers were not keen to make additional purchases.

They prefer to wait until they get some of their earlier purchases and/or make some additional kernel sales, Mr Pankaj N. Sampat, a Mumbai-based dealer, told *Business Line*.

Stray sales (mainly re-sales) of good quality parcels were being done, he said. Prices are more or less unchanged — Benin, from \$1,150 to \$1,225 a tonne; Ivory Coast (IVC), \$1,000 to \$1,075; Senegal/Gambia/Bissau, at around \$1,500 a tonne.

Shipments from Ghana, IVC and Benin so far have been lower than normal. Shipments from Guinea Bissau have not started yet. “We continue to feel processing and kernel availability during May and June, maybe even July, will be lower than normal,” he claimed.

Talking to delegates at the International Nut Council (INC) Congress in Singapore over the last three days, “we find there is tremendous uncertainty in the minds of people about all factors that can affect the market — RCN supply delays, lower kernel yields, European economic situation, currency volatility, concern about demand trends in the last 2-3 quarters, inability to judge future trends, etc.,” Mr Pankaj said. All these are making things difficult for everyone — sheller, kernel trader, kernel processor and packer, and retailer — to take any significant position on the sell or buy side. But the downside will be limited because of tighter kernel availability in May-July coupled with higher cost of RCN replacement. Even if RCN prices come down in the next few weeks, it may not have any major impact on kernel availability in May-July or on kernel prices, because part of the decline will be due to drop in quality and some portion of the decline could be reversed if kernel activity picks up in June-July. A significant decline in kernel prices is possible only if there is a combination of significantly lower RCN prices and a very slow kernel market in June-July, he predicted.

### **Price trend**

“The trade does not expect any big increase in prices either. But we do expect that prices will settle in the current range for the next few months with the faint possibility of crossing the recent highs, if there is strong demand in the next 4-6 weeks. “If there is a sudden and quick improvement in flow of RCN or a big decline in RCN prices, the range could move lower, but there seems to be little chance of that happening,” he said.

“Reasonably stable prices for six months will probably bring back some confidence into the market, making long-term planning possible. In the long term, as discussed at the INC, increasing production and reducing the wastage and inefficiencies in the supply chain (caused mainly due to lack of adequate infrastructure in many of the producing countries) are two areas which need attention. This will provide the much needed consistency of supply, stability in prices and sustainability of growth in the cashew sector,” he added.