THE HINDU

Published: May 23, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 23, 2012 05:10 IST

Karnataka clocks impressive growth in fish production

Special Correspondent

Clocking a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 11.48 per cent in 2004-05 and 2010-11, Karnataka has emerged as the leading coastal State with the highest growth in fish production, according to a research and analysis released by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

Goa, on the other hand has registered a negative growth rate of fish production as the fish production has slipped from 9.9 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 to 94,000 tonnes now because of over-exploitation of fishery resources, highlights the ASSOCHAM analysis.

With about five lakh tonnes of annual fish production, Karnataka accounts for almost 6 per cent of the overall fish production in the country, which is estimated at about 91 lakh tonnes, according to ASSOCHAM study released on Monday. Besides, in value terms the fisheries sector in Karnataka was worth about Rs. 4,000 crore, it said.

With over 300 km of coastline and almost six lakh hectares of inland waters, Karnataka has huge scope for further growth and investments in fisheries sector. Nearly eight lakh fishermen were involved in fishing business across Karnataka.

Among the leading coastal States, Andhra Pradesh ranks second in terms of growth in fish production with a CAGR of about 8 per cent and with over 13.5 lakh tonnes of fish production annually. The State accounts for over 16 per cent of the country's fish production.

West Bengal (4.85 per cent), Tamil Nadu (4.47 per cent), Gujarat (3.37 per cent) and Odisha (3.25 per cent) are the other leading fish producing States in the country, which recorded fish production growth rate between 3 and 4 per cent during 2004-05 and 2009-10.

Kerala recorded least growth rate of fish production during this period as the fish production had come down from about 8.66 lakh tonnes in 2008-09 to the current level of about 6.82 lakh tonnes, said ASSOCHAM.

Published: May 23, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 23, 2012 05:18 IST

Seeds for all farmers at subsidised rates

Staff Correspondent

The Department of Agriculture has launched a programme to distribute seeds at subsidised rates to all the farmers in Dharwad district for sowing on upto two hectares (ha).

In a release, Ganesh Naik, Joint Director, Agriculture, stated that under this special programme, farmers could buy all varieties of seeds at subsidised prices. Those interested in purchasing seeds under the scheme would have to compulsorily submit the permit coupons and a valid identity card containing a photograph. Multiple varieties of seeds could be purchased . Priority would be given to the farmers belonging to backward communities, minority communities, those with disabilities and women. Seeds used for kharif sowing alone would be distributed. The farmers would have to take a receipt on purchase of the seeds and document them.

Some of the seeds at subsidised rates are as follows: paddy – Rs. 9.5 a kg; hybrid paddy – Rs. 70; hybrid jowar – Rs. 23.5; ragi – Rs. 11; maize – Rs. 21; hybrid maize – Rs. 32.5; black gram – Rs. 45; green gram – Rs. 40; toor – Rs. 32.5; sunflower – Rs. 80 and groundnut – Rs. 12, the release said.

Published: May 23, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 23, 2012 07:52 IST

Farmers call for district-level agricultural plan

R. Krishna Kumar

The aim is to avoid repercussions of glut in production and also decline in farm income

A glut in production of any crop is generally attributed to lack of adequate information to farmers about the demand-supply equation.— PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM

Farmers in Mysore have mooted the idea of a district agricultural plan coupled with an information dissemination system related to cropping pattern to avoid the repercussions of glut in production and also decline in farm income.

Prices of crops such as sugarcane, cotton and turmeric which are cultivated in the region apart from a majority of horticultural crops plummet whenever there is a glut in production.

The proposed district agricultural plan and the information dissemination system are expected to help farmers to opt for other crops as a safety net in case of overproduction of any crop.

Vivek Cariappa, an organic farmer from H.D. Kote, told *The Hindu* that a glut in production of any crop was seen as fallout of lack of adequate information about the demand-supply equation. Hence a section of farmers were of the opinion that they should have advance information about the area under different crops, the projected demand for the year and the expected price, he said, and added that sugarcane farmers' plight was a case in point.

Sugarcane cultivation

A view concurred by Kurubur Shanthakumar, president of the Karnataka State Sugarcane Growers Association. He said a majority of farmers blindly opt for sugarcane cultivation without knowing about the crisis in the industry. The excess supply would add to farmers' predicament as the prices dip, and it was the industry which thrives, according to Mr. Shanthakumar who argued in favour of creating a network to disseminate market information to farmers on a real time basis.

“While the demand for sugar in the country has been estimated at 22 million tonnes, the production is 33 million tonnes. Naturally, the prices are bound to crash. Hence the government should lift the ban on exports during such a situation so that farmers can benefit,” Mr. Shanthakumar said. He pointed out that middlemen buy sugar when the prices were low and make profit when there was a periodical review of items under the Open General Licence (OGL) and ban on exports were lifted.

He said sugar and other commercial crops should be permanently brought under OGL instead of periodically reviewing the list of crops under it so that farmers could benefit from the buoyancy in international prices.

The Cotton Advisory Board gets all the data regarding cotton cultivation from the States and gives a notification to the Centre whether to allow exports or not. But the same information was not available to farmers to decide whether they should cultivate cotton or opt for another crop, Mr. Cariappa said.

“The present mechanism in which farmers do not get information on the cropping pattern and the projected demand helps industries as it ensures them a steady supply of raw materials at an affordable rate. The situation is similar with most crops, including tobacco,” Mr. Cariappa said, and called for formulating district-level agricultural plan and implementing it.

Realisation

There is a growing realisation among farmers that theirs is the only profession wherein good performance — in terms of increased productivity — is not rewarded, but results in price crash, pushing them into the path of debt and ruin, according to Mr. Cariappa.

“Take any profession and one finds excellence being rewarded. Whereas farmers pay the price and are forced to commit suicide in the event of a bumper harvest as supply overshoots demand and the prices crash,” he added.

- *‘The plan should be coupled with an information dissemination system’*
- *‘Sugar and other commercial crops should be permanently brought under Open General Licence’*

Published: May 23, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 23, 2012 05:10 IST

NABARD draws flak for its order on re-opening loans of farmers

Correspondent

The ex-chairman of the Kolhapur District Central Co-operative Bank (KDCC) P.G. Shinde, on Monday crticised the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for asking the KDCC Bank to prepare a list of farmers against whose names there were outstanding loans four years after they had borrowed them. NABARD has reportedly asked the cooperative bank to prepare a list of names of farmers who did not repay the crop loans after the Centre announced waiver of loans. Some of them had outstanding loan far in excess of the amount eligible for waiver as per the norms laid down by the Centre.

Mr. Shinde said the Centre's did not mention any specific amount to be waived and farmers did not know about the loan waiver before the announcement. NABARD's directive to the bank to prepare a list of farmers whose loans had been written off in violation of the norms laid down by the Centre was unfair. The KDCC bank's order to the rural co-operative credit societies to re-open the loan accounts was illegal because the accounts of these societies had been audited and no objections were raised at the time of auditing.

Mr. Shinde, who was the chairman of the KDCC Bank in 2008, said: “Loans were sanctioned as per the farmers' requirements and loans were waived as per an order. Hence NABARD's disclosure is ill-founded and we are approaching the appropriate court against the NABARD,” said Mr. Shinde.

Published: May 23, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: May 23, 2012 05:20 IST

Soya cultivation may go up this kharif season

Staff Reporter

Quality check:Soyabean being stocked at a solvent plant in Adilabad.-PHOTO: BY ARRANGEMENT

The AP Seeds on Tuesday started the sale of soyabean seeds in Adilabad as cultivation of this crop is expected to double in the ensuing kharif season. The commencement of sale also launches a new formula designed by the government to curb smuggling of subsidised seeds.

According to Adilabad Joint Director of Agriculture, K. Janardhan Rao, farmers need to purchase the required quantity of soyabean seeds by making payment in full. The subsidy money will be deposited in their bank accounts after verification of use of the seeds to be done by Agriculture Department officials.Mr. Janardhan Rao said the Department needed to ensure proper use of seeds in order to meet the increased demand for it this season. We have put an indent for over 82,000 quintals of seeds but have been allotted about 53,000 quintals. If the new scheme for checking smuggling of the seeds works well, the allotted quantity should be sufficient for farmers in the district, he added.

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hindustantimes

Wed,23 May 2012

weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather

Clear

Wednesday, May 23

Max	Min
41.8º	28.8º

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs
Humidity: 75%
Wind: Normal
Sunrise: 6:35
Sunset: 18:03
Barometer: 1004

Tomorrow's Forecast

Cloudy

Thursday, May 24

Max	Min
39º	30º

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29
39º | 30º	39º | 30º	40º | 30º	40º | 30º	40º | 30º
Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Partly Cloudy

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

22 MAY, 2012, 11.17AM IST, REUTERS

Wheat futures extend losses on higher supply

NEW DELHI: Wheat futures prices today fell further by Rs 8 per quintal as speculators trimmed their positions following higher on record output.

However, expectations of higher exports limited the losses.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, wheat for delivery in June traded Rs 8, or 0.68 per cent, lower at Rs 1,164 per quintal, with an open interest of 22,100 lots.

Similarly, wheat for delivery in July shed Rs 7, or 0.59 per cent, to Rs 1,184 per quintal, with an open interest of 12,300 lots.

Analysts said the fall in wheat prices at futures trade was due to off-loading of positions by speculators on higher supplies from record output but hopes of higher exports of grain, restricted the losses.

Business Standard

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

Pepper prices rise globally spurt may not hold

George Joseph / Kochi May 23, 2012, 0:46 IST

Global black pepper prices rose sharply in the past week due to speculative trading in the futures market. The rise in India tempted other countries like Indonesia and Vietnam to raise prices this week by $100 a tonne. But, according to market experts, the global mart is poised for a fall in prices next month onwards, thanks to poor offtake from the euro zone and the expected bumper crop in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

According to a leading dealer here, European buyers are awaiting the new crop from Indonesia. The current upward price movement is based purely on speculation.

India raised its overseas tag to $7,400 a tonne, while Vietnam and Indonesia offer $6,900 and Brazil offers $6,750-6,800 a tonne. According to reports from Indonesia, output this season would be higher at 30,000-35,000 tonnes. The normal crop size is 22,000-25,000 tonnes.

Likewise, Sri Lanka will also have a bumper crop of 15,000 tonnes, keeping the global supply of pepper in the latter half of this year intact. Sri Lanka offers high quality pepper at $6,500 a tonne. So, a majority of buyers from Europe are waiting for the season in Indonesia and Sri Lanka to end.

Leading exporters said there is good resistance from importers, especially from the euro zone, due to the continuing economic turmoil. Importers are postponing buying and are awaiting a fall in prices. Demand from West Asia is also low, as they had bought substantial quantities during January-March.

According to reports, Vietnam still has a stock of around 70,000 tonnes and there is no reason for any supply shortage.

Dull crushing market awaits soybean stock release

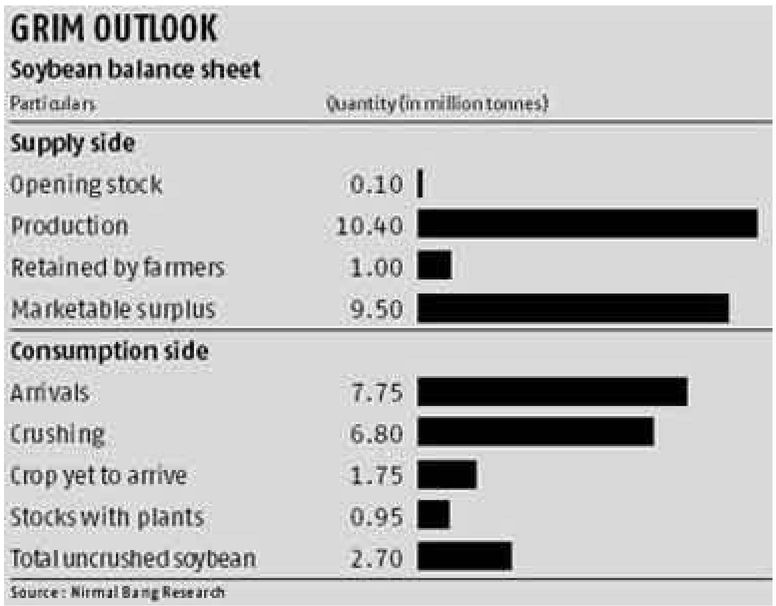
About 2.5 mt likely to come in future, but even this may not depress prices enough to make oil extraction worthwhile

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai May 23, 2012, 0:44 IST

Nearly 2.5 million tonnes (mt) of soybean output is set to be released for crushing in the next two months, to mills currently operating at just 35-40 per cent of installed capacity.

Oil extraction units are currently avoiding building stocks of soybean, due to negative parity — every kg of oil produced on crushing the seed would mean, at present prices, a loss of up to Rs 1 in the domestic market.

The apex trade body in the edible oils sector, the Central Organization for Oil Industry & Trade (COOIT), says 23.5 per cent of last year's soybean output is currently with farmers, stockists and oil extraction units. COOIT estimated soybean output at 10.6 million tonnes during the last season. Soybean is a kharif crop, sown with the first monsoon showers, for harvesting in September.



The sudden release of such a large quantity in the next two months is, however, unlikely to bring the price down, say analysts. For one, India is a huge edible oil importer; 55 per cent of the country's demand is met through import from Indonesia, Malaysia and Argentina. Hence, release of the said quantity for crushing during June–July period is unlikely to create a supply glut for domestic consumers.

Two, the sowing area is expected to be a bit lower this season in the US and Brazil, the world's two major producers. According to the US department of agriculture, the planted area in the US for 2012 is estimated at 73.9 million acres, one per cent lower than last year. And, crop forecasters estimate Brazil's soybean crop falling to 66.7 mt this year from the 68 mt forecast in February, due to drought.

"Although the soybean heldover quantity is fairly large, it would be released in the market in a gradual manner over two months," said Rajesh Agrawal, spokesperson of the Indore-based The Soybean Processors Association of India.

He says farmers and stockists would release the heldover quantity only when the price of soybean declines or that of soy oil rises. In either situation, the parity would turn positive, to fetch some profit margin for oil extraction units. Data compiled by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) showed the seed price up 38 per cent to Rs 31,000 a tonne on May 18 from an average of Rs 22,495 a tonne in 2011. In Indore, the mandi auction price was in a range of Rs 3,300–3,400 a quintal. For plant delivery, it moved in a range of Rs 3,440-3,475 a quintal. Soymeal price (Kandla) was quoted at Rs 29,500 a tonne yesterday as compared to Rs 30,000–30,200 a tonne in the previous weak.

"Why would one buy soybean at this price to incur a loss?" asked Mehta. While exporters are pushing for oilmeal shipments to take advantage of the record depreciation in the rupee , importers are avoiding fresh purchase orders in anticipation of a recovery in the currency, which may help a price decline.

Falling Re : Robusta coffee prices up 25%

Exporters rush to encash benefits of a weak currency by booking profits low output estimates add to flare

Mahesh Kulkarni / Bangalore May 23, 2012, 0:41 IST

A sharp fall in the rupee has increased exporters' interest in coffee, causing an unusual increase in prices in recent days at major markets in South India. This has also created a shortage in the domestic market. Robusta coffee output is estimated to be 8.5 per cent lower this year.

Prices of robusta cherry (naturally dried beans) have gone up 25 per cent since December-January and are currently at Rs 3,250 a bag (each bag = 50 kg). The variety was traded at Rs 2,600 a bag in December-January.

Robusta parchment (washed coffee beans) is up 23 per cent to Rs 6,800 a bag, against Rs 5,500 a bag in January. Robusta parchment is in demand from exporters, who are looking to book profits due to the depreciating rupee.

"This year, we have seen a decline in the production of robusta, as the crop did not get sufficient rain last year. Also, there is huge demand from exporters, as 95 per cent of robusta parchment produced in India is exported. Already, in the past five months, we have seen export of 12,336 tonnes as against the production of about 25,000 tonnes annually," said Marvin Rodrigues, chairman, Karnataka Planters' Association (KPA).

For 2011-12, KPA estimates the production of robusta at 190,000 tonnes, a drop of 8.5 per cent over 2010-11, when it was 207,860 tonnes. However, the Coffee Board is yet to announce official harvest data for the year.

"Robusta is largely grown by small and medium growers. As the crop is short this year, growers are holding on to their stocks in anticipation of much higher prices at a later stage. The shortage would be more visible by September-October," said Ramesh Rajah, president, Coffee Exporters' Association of India.

According to him, the surge in the prices of coffee in Indian markets was way above that of international prices. Robusta prices have increased 11 per cent in the international markets to touch $2,100 a tonne in May, compared to $1,900 a tonne in February. However, compared to December levels, the prices are lower by 12.5 per cent.

However, prices of arabica parchment are still lower by 21.4 per cent at Rs 8,250 a bag, compared to Rs 10,500 in January. "The drop in arabica prices could be attributed to a bumper crop in Brazil, which has started coming to the market. The Indian crop for the year 2011-12 is also higher by about 10 per cent," Rajah added. The Coffee Board has pegged post-monsoon arabica production at 103,725 tonnes, compared to 94,000 tonnes last year.

Jeera weakens on increased arrivals

Weak export demand also pulled the spice lower

Press Trust of India / New Delhi May 22, 2012, 13:48 IST

Jeera futures prices today weakened by Rs 35 to Rs 13,435 per quintal on increased arrivals from producing belts amid weak export demand.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, jeera for delivery in June declined by

Rs 35, or 0.26%, to Rs 13,435 per quintal, with an open interest of 17,895 lots.

The July contract lost Rs 32.50, or 0.23%, to Rs 13,815 per quintal in 11,115 lots.

Market analysts said increased arrivals from producing belts against subdued export demand, mainly helped jeera prices to trade lower at futures trade.

THE HINDU Business Line

Tapioca prices crash in Erode

Erode, May 22:

The price of tapioca has fallen sharply in Erode district.

Tapioca is one of the important commercial crops for farmers, which can be grown by using limited water. Now in Erode district only 15,000 acres are under tapioca cultivation. It is now selling only at Rs 2,000-3,000 a tonne, against Rs 9,000 a tonne in the corresponding period last year.

“We never experienced such a steep dip in tapioca price. Already due to various reasons the yield has gone down to 10-12 tonnes per acre. The recent price decrease has hit the farmers hard,” said Mr C. Nallasamy a leading farmer from Arachalure.

He said only one big firm in Erode district was buying tapioca from the farmers to convert it to starch.

"After import permit was granted to the starch and modified starch by the Union Government, huge quantities are coming from Vietnam, Thailand and other countries, causing a decline in domestic prices of tapioca," said Mr Nallasamy.

He said if the Government increases the import duty, the price of tapioca will go up, especially in the Erode area.

One of the starch manufacturers said the starch converted from tapioca is sold to drug manufacturers, paper industry and textile industry.

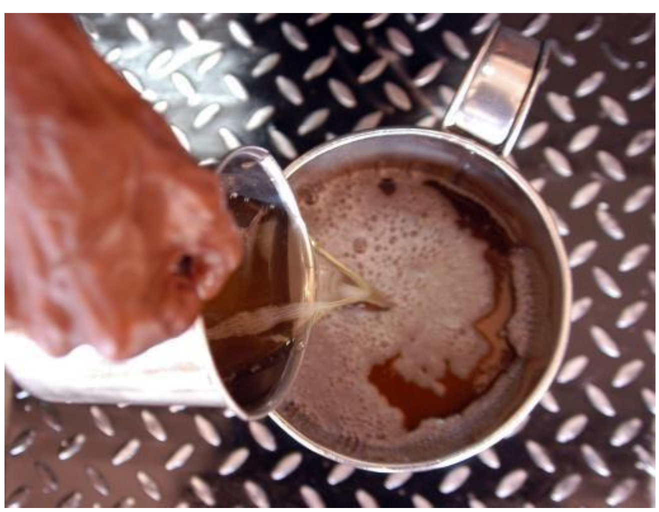
Starch is also used in food articles. He said due to labour shortage they could not produce more. He said they are giving reasonable price for the crop, but due to import they have to provide competitive price. He also confessed that the marketing of starch has decreased due to its import.

He said, "We could not modernise the starch industry due to paucity of labour. The peeling of tapioca skin from the tuber could not be done for want of labour. So we crush the tuber with the skin and bleach the starch to white colour to attract the buyers".

Farmers said such bleaching was injurious to health. They said if the price touched more than Rs 5,000 they will cultivate more tapioca and the land under cultivation could touch 20,000 acres.

The farmers also said there was no proper marketing centre for tapioca in Erode district. A marketing centre can fetch them at least Rs 4,000 a tonne, they added.

Coconut oil remains weak



Kochi, May 22:

A sudden spurt in arrival from Tamil Nadu resulted in decline of coconut oil prices in Kerala market this week. The price has come down to Rs 60 per kg against last week price of Rs 61 per kg.

Mr Prakash B.Rao, Vice President of the Coconut Oil Merchant Association (COMA) said that excess supply over demand had the impact on price. The market could not find support despite buying from corporates because of increase in supply.

He said buyers are mainly concentrating in Tamil Nadu markets because of lower prices compared to Kerala. The prices of coconut oil in Tamil Nadu market ruled Rs 58 per kg.

It is estimated that around 300-400 tonnes are still arriving in Tamil Nadu market from various southern states.

The tanker movements had also witnessed normalcy as the availability of tankers are on the increase. Around 100 tonnes of coconut oil are being transported to North Indian markets on a daily basis from southern states.

The copra prices stood at Rs 3,700 per quintal in Tamil Nadu and Rs 4,000 per quintal in Kerala market, he said.

Mr Bharat N.Khona, former Board Member, COMA also attributed good arrivals coupled with low demand for the decline in prices.

The prices quoted this week are attractive as far as corporates are concerned. In spite of the prices being attractive compared to other edible oils, corporates are not fully active in the market, he added.

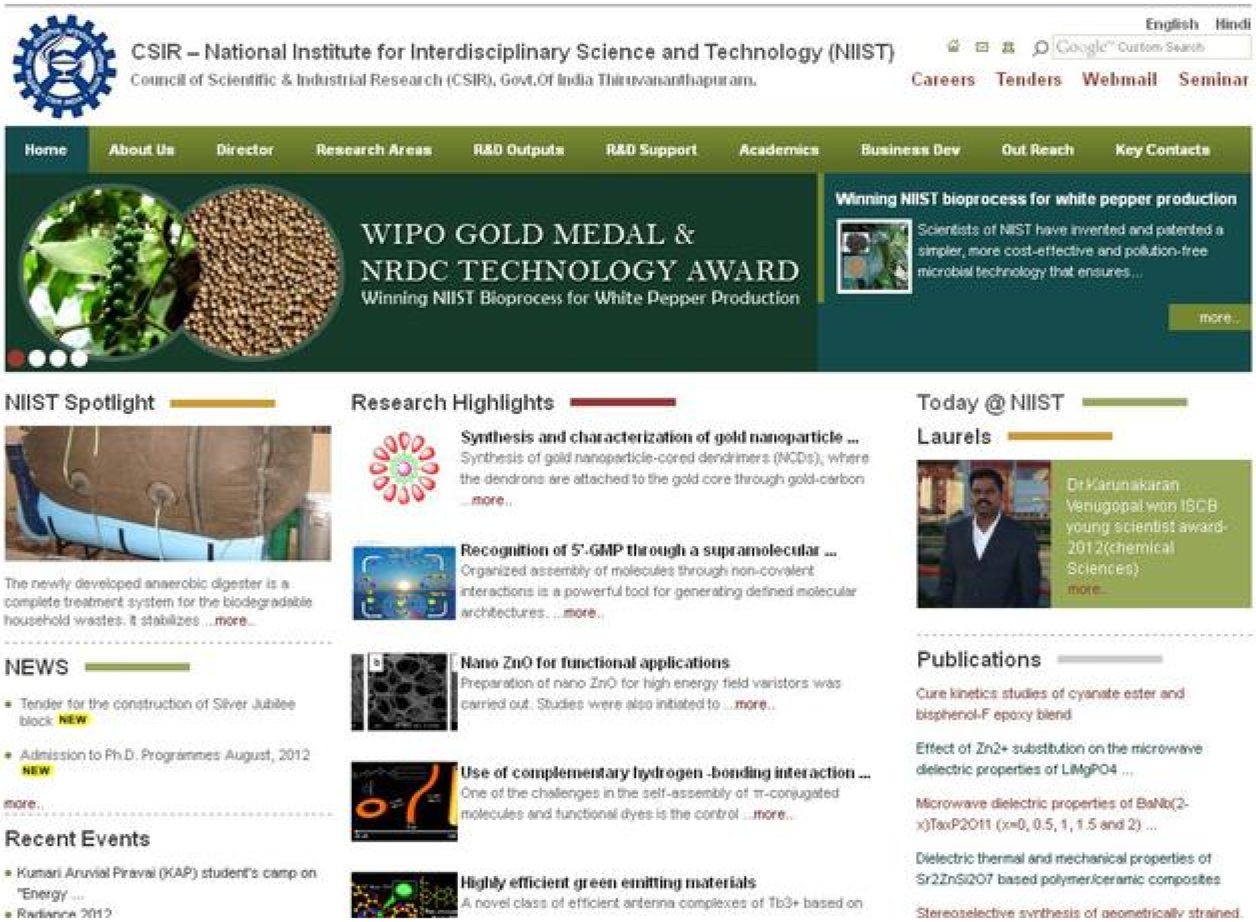
The prices of edible oil such as palm oil and palm kernel oil, which are a close substitute of coconut oil, are still on the higher side.

However, the price of palm oil dropped to Rs 66 per kg this week against last week price of Rs 68 per kg, while the prices of palm kernel oil remained at the same level of Rs 74 per kg quoted last week.

According to Mr Thalath Mahamood, President, COMA, the prices are likely to decline further unless the government intervenes in the market.

CSIR centre develops new process for extracting coir fibre

Vinson Kurian



Thiruvananthapuram, May 22:

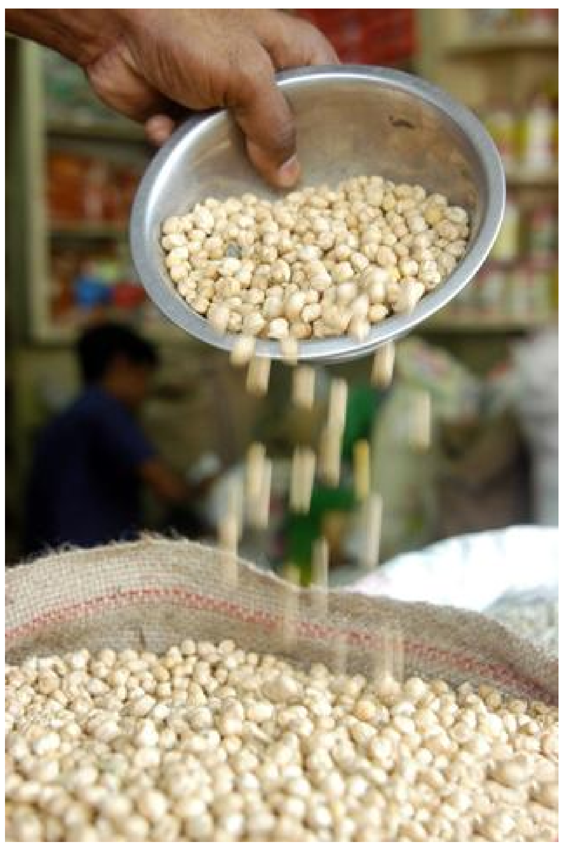
National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) here has developed a new bio-extraction process for producing quality coir fibre.NIIST is a constituent laboratory of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).This relatively clean and microbiological process converts biodegradable components in the husk to soluble compounds and ultimately to biogas, a spokesman said.The process completes in a month and yields more than 50,000 litres of biogas out of 1,000 husks.Coir pith generated at the end of fibre extraction is free of contaminants. It can be used as a mulching agent and for soil conditioning and bio-filter applications.

The smooth surface of the fibre provides better properties in yarn making as per test data, the spokesman said.The laboratory has tested this bioprocess up to a scale of 500 husk batch capacity at its premises and is now ready to go for field demonstration.Collection and use of byproducts, biogas and coir pith are rendered easy in the process, the spokesman added.This compares ‘well' with the current process for extracting the fibre from fresh coconut husks after a natural decaying process called ‘retting.'The husk retting is carried out by immersing coconut husks in lakes, rivers and ponds for a period ranging from six months to one year.Materials of the husk which bind fibres together get degraded and fibres loosened, the spokesman explained.

POLLUTION THREAT

However, this leads to extensive pollution of water bodies, methane and sulphide emissions.Conventional retting has also reportedly led to destruction of higher aquatic life including fisheries from lack of oxygen and water pollution.This has led to a scarcity of quality fibre for the manufacture of coir products. Fibre extraction through mechanical route is a partial solution with minimal pollution.

Weak futures, profit booking pound chana



Indore, May 22:

Decline in chana future and profit booking at higher rate dragged down chana prices in Indore mandis with prices of chana (kanta) in the spot declining to Rs 4250-75 a quintal (down Rs 50).

Chana (desi) also declined to Rs 4150-75 a quintal (Rs 4225), while chana (mausmi) ruled at Rs 4500-Rs 4000 and chana (annagiri) at Rs 4100-Rs 4400 a quintal.

With speculators ruling the roost in the future market, chana prices in local mandis had gone up to as high as Rs 4425 a quintal.

However, on account of profit booking at the higher rate as well as rise in selling pressure in the futures, pushed the buyers away from the the physical market, leading to decline in chana prices by about Rs 150-75 a quintal in the past few days, said a chana trader Mr Prakash Vora.

Chana dal on the other hand ruled stable on subdued buying support with chana dal (average) being quoted at Rs 5175-Rs 5200 a quintal, chana dal (medium) ruled at Rs 5275-Rs 5300 a quintal, while chana dal (bold) was quoted at Rs 5425-50 a quintal.

On the other hand dollar chana which for the past few days had either been ruling stable on low, gained on fresh buying support both in the container as well as in the domestic market.

In the container, dollar chana gained Rs 150 on renewed buying support from the export market with prices of dollar chana (42/44 count) being quoted at 8300 a quintal, while dollar chana 44/46 count ruled at Rs 8200, 46/48 count at Rs 8100, while dollar chana 58/60 count ruled at Rs 7100 a quintal.

In local mandis also dollar chana gained Rs 150-Rs 200 with its prices being quoted at Rs 6500-Rs 7500 a quintal. Arrival remained weak at 2500-3000 bags.

Weak arrival and higher demand lifted tur by Rs 100 a quintal with tur (Maharashtra) being quoted at Rs 3850 a quintal (Rs 3750), while tur (Nimari) remained steady at Rs 300-Rs 3200 a quintal.

Tur dal however, remained unchanged with tur dal (full) being quoted at Rs 5500-Rs 5600, tur dal (sawa no.) atRs 4900-Rs 5000, while tur marka ruled at Rs 6300 a quintal.

Spot rubber rules flat despite strong global cues

Kottayam, May 22:

Rubber prices finished almost unchanged on Tuesday. The market remained under pressure following a weak closing on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

But it managed to sustain at the prevailing levels on supply concerns amidst a better closing in the international markets.

Sheet rubber closed steady at Rs 194 a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi according to traders and the Rubber Board. The trend was partially mixed.

RSS 4 weakened at its June series to Rs 193.82 (194.43), July to Rs 197.15 (197.93), August to Rs 197.12 (197.60) and September to Rs 196.10 (196.90) a kg on NMCE.

The Tokyo rubber futures rose above the immediate resistance of ¥280, extending the gains into a second straight session on news that Thailand would import rubber to honour overseas contracts.

But the gains were limited as investors turned cautious at higher levels amidst mounting concerns over euro zone debt crisis.

RSS 3 (spot) increased to Rs 205.85 (203.04) a kg at Bangkok.

May futures improved further to ¥283 (Rs 196.62) from ¥280 a kg during the day session and to ¥283.6 (Rs 197.06) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg):

RSS-4: 194 (194); RSS-5: 192.50 (192.50); ungraded: 189 (189); ISNR 20: 193 (193) and latex 60 per cent: 125 (124).

Karnataka tops in fish production, reveals study

Our Bureau

Kerala, Goa lose the race due to over-exploitation of fishery resources

Chennai, May 22:

Karnataka has registered the highest growth in fish production among the coastal States in the country.

According to an independent study conducted by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham), Karnataka posted a compounded annual growth rate of about 11.5 per cent in the last five years.

It produced five lakh tonnes of fish last year (Rs 4,000 crore in value terms), and accounted for 6 per cent of overall fish production in the country estimated at 91 lakh tonnes.

With a 300-km coastline and six lakh hectares of inland waters, it has huge scope for further growth in investments in fisheries sector, says the study.

Andhra Pradesh, with 8 per cent growth, ranks second in terms of growth in fish production, followed by West Bengal (4.9 per cent), Tamil Nadu (4.5 per cent) and Odisha (3.25 per cent).

According to the study, Kerala and Goa have recorded a fall in fish production, mostly due to over-exploitation of fishery resources, highlights the study.

There has been a spectacular growth in marine fisheries sector due to well developed harvest and post harvest infrastructure and demand for seafood both in the domestic and export markets.

However, there are not many large-scale processing units in the country. Majority of the units are small scale, proprietary, partnership firms and fishermen co-operatives, the study points out.

rravikumar@thehindu.co.in

Centre gives Rs 5 cr seed money for IIPM at Jorhat

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Tasting success: Students from IIPM tasting tea at their Centre for Tea Tasting and Marketing (TTM) in Bangalore on Tuesday. — G.R.N. Somashekar

Bangalore, May 22:

The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry is planning to set up its second Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM) at Jorhat, Assam.

The Union Government's Development of North East Region (DoNER) has given a seed money of Rs 5 crore for setting up the institute and the balance with matching grant is expected from Tea Board and other commodity boards.

The Government of Assam has offered 10 acres at Jorhat for setting up the institute, which would disseminate agri-plantation business management education, research and capacity development programmes for the region.

According to Dr. V.G. Dhanakumar, Director, IIPM-Bangalore, “Currently, the IIPM-Bangalore is managing the extension centre, in a 2,060-square feet facility, catering to the needs of north eastern region.”

“Currently, only short-term training programmes are being offered to tea estates located in north eastern States with faculty strength of six to seven,” he added.

A full-fledged campus will be ready in two years' time. For setting up institute, a budgetary grant is expected in the 12th Plan, he further added.

Dr Dhanakumar said IIPM's convocation will be held on May 26 at its campus in Bangalore.

IIPM-Bangalore has commissioned the Centre for Tea Tasting and Marketing (TTM). Currently, the institute is offering a 45-day short courses with student strength of 10 per batch. The courses are targeted at students, plantations and trade.

Coffee Entrepreneur

IIPM-Bangalore is also setting up ‘Coffee Entrepreneur Centre' sponsored by the Coffee Board.

Dr Dhanakumar said the centre when functional will offer one-month courses in ‘How to make different coffees' and ‘How to start coffee businesses.

“Since domestic coffee consumption has caught on and is moving to non-traditional coffee drinking areas, Coffee Board is planning to create awareness to increase employability in the sector,” he added.

Coffee Board has given a grant of Rs 30 lakh and the centre will be ready in three months. Student intake at the centre will be 20 students per batch.

Tobacco sales dip 18.42% in Karnataka

Anil Urs

Bangalore, May 22:

Tobacco Board has sold 18.42 per cent lower Karnataka crop at 104.29 million kg in the crop year 2011-12.

According to Mr K.N. Vishakantaiah, regional manager, Tobacco Board, there was a decrease in crop sales because it had fixed the state crop size lower at 100 million kg and had enforced strict regulation to cut down area under tobacco. It had also imposed steep fine/penalty on excess grown crop.

The auctions in Karnataka ended on April 11.

This year (2011-12), farmers received similar rates as last year at an average of Rs 92.69 a kg. Last year (2010-11), the grower received Rs 92.30 a kg.

Of the total quantity marketed, bright grades comprised 22.14 million kg and were traded at an average price of Rs 119.21 a kg. Medium grades comprised 52.22 million kg and were traded at an average price of Rs 101.24 a kg. Low grades of 29.92 million kg, sold at an average price of Rs 58.14 a kg.

Following are platform-wise auction details, as on Tuesday: H.D.Kote-1 (platform number): 9.17 million kg, average price Rs 90.79 a kg, Hunsur-2 6.75 million kg, Rs 90.48 a kg, Hunsur-3 8.50 million kg, Rs 88.99 a kg, Hunsur-64 6.39 million kg, Rs 95.83 a kg, Periyapatna-4 11.58 million kg, Rs 96.68 a kg, Periyapatna-5 11.45 million kg, Rs 96.54 a kg, Periyapatna-6 10.78 million kg, Rs 95.85 a kg, Kampalapura-61 10.75 million kg, Rs 95.53 a kg, Kampalapura-62 8.94 million kg, Rs 91.91 a kg, Ramanathpura-7 11.02 million kg, Rs 86.85 a kg, Ramanathpura-63 8.91 million kg, Rs 88.22 a kg.-

Bihar Govt allocates funds for grain storage

PTI
Patna, May 22:

The Bihar Government on Tuesday sanctioned Rs 1,366.70 crore for the first year (2012-13) under its ambitious agriculture roadmap for storage of foodgrains, organic farming, green fertiliser and horticulture.

A decision to this effect was taken by the State Cabinet presided over by the Chief Minister, Mr Nitish Kumar, here.

K'taka, AP record highest fish production growth rate, says Assocham

Our Bureau
Mumbai, May 22:

Karnataka has emerged as the leading coastal state with highest growth of fish production, clocking a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 11.48 per cent during 2004-05 and 2010-11, according to industry body ASSOCHAM.

With about five lakh tonnes of annual fish production, Karnataka accounts for almost six per cent of overall fish production in India, which is currently estimated at about 91 lakh tonnes according to The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). Besides, in value terms the fisheries sector in Karnataka is worth about Rs 4,000 crore.

With over 300 km of coastline and almost six lakh hectares of inland waters, Karnataka has huge scope for further growth and investments in fisheries sector. Besides, about eight lakh fishermen are involved in fishing business across Karnataka, said the industry body.

Amid leading coastal states in India, Andhra Pradesh ranks second in terms of growth in fish production with a CAGR of about eight per cent. With over 13.5 lakh tonnes of fish production annually, the state accounts for over 16 per cent of country's total fish production. AP ranks first in terms of fish production.

West Bengal (4.85 per cent), Tamil Nadu (4.47 per cent), Gujarat (3.37 per cent) and Odisha (3.25 per cent) are the other leading fish producing states in India which recorded fish production growth rate between three and four per cent during 2004-05 and 2009-10.

Kerala recorded least growth rate of fish production between the aforesaid period as the fish production has come down from about 8.66 lakh tonnes in 2008-09 to the current level of about 6.82 lakh tonnes, said ASSOCHAM.

Besides, growth of fish production in Maharashtra (0.86%) was also below one per cent as the fish production has fallen from about 5.96 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 to an estimated 5.82 lakh tonnes.

Goa has registered a negative growth rate of fish production of about minus 33 per cent as the fish production has slipped from a whopping 9.9 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 to the current level of just about 94,000 tonnes mostly due to over-exploitation of fishery resources, highlights the ASSOCHAM analysis.

Of the non-coastal states, Haryana has recorded a staggering 14.7 per cent growth rate of fish production followed by Chattisgarh (11.29 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (7.05 per cent), said ASSOCHAM.

Fish production in India is rising at a CAGR of about five per cent and is likely to cross 104 lakh tonnes by 2015. In terms of value, exports of fish from India are likely to reach Rs 16,000 crore by 2015 from the current level of about Rs 13,500 crore.

Captured fish accounts for about 70 per cent of India's total fish production annually, while aquaculture accounts for about 30 per cent.

India is the second largest fish producer in the world after China and accounts for nearly six per cent of global fish production of about 180 million tonnes, said ASSOCHAM.