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“Agro products have high export potential”

Staff Reporter

Farmers urged to utilise services of TNAU



Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Dr. P. Murugesha Boopathi, at the inauguration of the two-day workshop on export of agro products on Monday.—Photo: T. Singaravelou

There are various agro-based products available in India, and many of them have the potential to fetch high prices in foreign countries, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, P. Murugesha Boopathi said on Monday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the two-day training programme on export of agro products here on Monday, Mr. Boopathi said it was possible to get a higher profit margin on these products if the middle men are cut out.

He also advised farmers to utilise forecasting and other services available at the TNAU so that they know what crops to grow in the following year to maximise their profits, he said.

At the two-day workshop, 78 Middle and Small Scale Industries involved in the agriculture and processed food industries were given training in various facets needed to export their products. They were also given tips on foreign trade policy and other measures they should take to export to various countries.

The training was organised by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, Director of FIEO Southern Region, Unnikrishnan, told *The Hindu* .

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Government urged to propagate traditional variety of paddy seeds

Special Correspondent



Going green:G.Nammazhvar, organic farming expert, giving away traditional paddy seeds to a woman at the 'save our rice festival' at Athirangam village near Thiruthuraipoondi on Sunday.

Organic farming expert G.Nammazhvar has appealed to the government to take steps to protect, preserve and propagate traditional variety of paddy seeds.

He was speaking at the 'save our rice festival' organised by Consumer Research Education Action Training and Empowerment (CREATE) at Athirangam village near Thiruthuraipoondi on Sunday. Organic farming is the only way to protect the health of people and the environment. "We have lost our traditional seeds and we are now purchasing the seeds from multinational companies. This is unfortunate," he said. He advised farmers to stop application of pesticides and use natural products like neem cakes to keep pests away.

Mr.Nammazhvar distributed traditional variety of paddy seeds at Rs 2 per kilo to nearly 2,000 farmers, farm labourers and farm women at the festival. Mullakara Rethnagar, former minister of Kerala, said two per cent cess could be collected on agricultural products by the Central government and the amount could be used for the welfare of farmers. He said that it was unfortunate that farmers commit suicide in an agricultural country like India.

CREATE has been organising the 'save our rice festival' since 2005-06. Paddy seeds supplied to farmers on the occasion have resistance against drought, flood and cyclone. They can be raised in dry lands and sea shore. Issues like traditional paddy cultivation, impact of conversion of cultivable lands into housing sites, and marketing of organic rice and other agriculture

produce, were discussed at the festival. Representatives from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), State Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, and farmers clubs participated in the festival.

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Mettur level

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 79.50 feet on Monday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 1,434 cusecs and the discharge, 1,168 cusecs.

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New import policy favours areca growers, says CAMPCO chief

Correspondent

The steep fall in areca prices in the market is due to the rush for sale, said Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative president Konkodi Padmanabha.

Addressing presspersons here on Monday, Mr. Padmanabha said the fall of arecanut prices had been attributed to the new import policy. But according to a letter by Anup K. Pujari, Director-General of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Public Notice (PN) No.112 issued on May 5, 2012, the import policy was actually aimed at helping areca growers and the duty-paid imports were not affected by the PN. It only concerns duty-free imports of areca on the basis of advanced authorisation, he said.

Areca trading co-operative societies such as CAMPCO, Totgars Sales Society, Taluk Marketing Society of Sirsi, MAMCOS Shimoga were in good condition and they would try to maintain the rate of white areca between Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 15,000 but growers should remember that rates would rise if the demand goes up, he said.

CAMPCO had purchased 1,353 quintals of arecanut as on May 19 in Sirsi market and it was a good sign that even the private areca traders were participating in tender, he said. When asked why areca prices were falling in Sirsi compared to Mangalore, the TSS president, Shantaram Hegde, said the quantity of red areca was more than white areca in Sirsi than the Mangalore market.

Mr. Padmanabha said the issue of ban on gutka was in Supreme Court but the areca business did not depend on gutka alone. There was a growing demand for using areca for different purposes, he said. MAMCOS vice-president Narasimha Nayak, Kadamba Marketing Society president Shambulinga Hegde, and V.S. Sonde were present.

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- *'Areca trading co-operative societies are in good condition'*
 - *CAMPCO has bought 1,353 quintals of arecanut as on May 19 in Sirsi, he says*
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KOTTAYAM, May 29, 2012

'Paddy procurement to be streamlined'

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Anoop Jacob has said that various problems have affected paddy procurement in the State and the existing system was not bereft of problems that hindered its efficiency.

Participating in a meet-the-press programme at the Kottayam Press Club on Monday, Mr. Jacob said that the procurement system was dogged by various difficulties.

The current system only allows handing over the responsibility for procurement to Supplyco (Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation) on an annual basis. The short term system makes it difficult to attain the expected levels of efficiency. In addition, sufficient preparation is not ensured by the Supplyco in the current system. A study will soon be held to ascertain the fallout of handing over the process entirely to the SupplyCo on a permanent basis. The problems are compounded with the shortage of assisting staff being provided by the Agriculture Department for the procurement process. The lack of an efficient transportation system also makes it difficult to complement the effectiveness of the harvesting stage through the combine harvesters, he said.

Mr. Jacob also said that the Supplyco has not been receiving sufficient funds that are required for market intervention. This has led to the shortage of essential goods at outlets of the Civil Supplies Department. While the State Budget has allocated Rs. 50 crore for the purpose, it is estimated that a minimum amount of Rs. 100 crore must be made available for intervening efficiently.

“I have appraised the government of the existing problem. However, I am not of the opinion that there is neglect in the issue by the Finance Department,” he said.

He also pointed out that it was difficult to constantly monitor the system of price fixing of food items at restaurants.

PATHANAMTHITTA, May 29, 2012

Farmers to get procurement dues

The State government is taking steps to disburse arrears of Rs.10.63 crore to farmers in Upper Kuttanad for the paddy procured from them two months ago, Revenue Minister Adoor Prakash has said.

The Minister said the State government had procured paddy worth Rs.11.56 crore from the district during the just-concluded harvest season.

The Civil Supplies Corporation had procured 77,110 quintal of paddy from Pathanamthitta district, that included the Upper Kuttanad villages of Peringara, Kadapra, Niranom, Nedumpram, Kuttoor, and parts Thiruvalla municipality, worth Rs.11.56 crore at a rate of Rs.15 a kilogram this year.

The corporation had disbursed only Rs.1.26 crore to farmers as on March 19.

SANGAREDDY, May 29, 2012

Input subsidy yet to be released to farmers

Though the government is making huge claims about promoting horticulture, in reality it is giving step motherly treatment to it.

The State government has failed to release input subsidy to farmers.

Majority of farmers in the district experienced crop loss as the drought conditions have prevailed in the district and all the 46 mandals were declared drought hit.

Though the district administration has recommended for input subsidy to these farmers, it is yet to be released so far.

According to sources, the authorities have identified that crop was lost by more than 2,900 farmers in 11 mandals in about 2,300 hectares. The crops that were lost include tomato, onion, turmeric, vegetables and flowers.

Horticulture farmers from Jinnaram, Kangti, Regode, Kondapur, Kalher, Narayanakhed, Andol, Hathnoora, Narsapur and Sangareddy mandals were hit badly and it was identified by the officials that the crop loss was more than 50 per cent.

The officials have recommended extending a financial assistance of Rs. 6,000 per hectare.

Jinnaram mandal has recorded a highest loss in 720 hectares followed by 695 hectares in Regod mandal.

“We are expecting the release of amount under input subsidy shortly,” said T. Sekhar, Additional Director, Horticulture.



Tue, 29 May 2012

weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Tuesday, May 29

Max Min

42.9° | 28.9°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 44%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 6:35

Sunset: 18:03

Barometer: 1004

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy






Wednesday, May 30

Max Min

39° | 30°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday May 31	Friday Jun 1	Saturday Jun 2	Sunday Jun 3	Monday Jun 4
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40° 30°	39° 30°	40° 30°	40° 30°	40° 30°
Rainy	Rainy	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

28 MAY, 2012, 04.49PM IST, PTI

Edible oils rise on fresh mills buying, global cues

NEW DELHI: Edible oil prices rose up to Rs 100 per quintal on the oils and oilseeds market today on fresh buying by vanapsati millers amid a firming global trend.

However, non-edible oils continued to move in a narrow range on lack of worthwhile activity and settled around previous levels.

Trading sentiment turned better after palm oil climbed in global markets on speculation that demand may rise ahead of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan and as Greek opinion polls showed voters backing parties that support the European Union's bailout.

Meanwhile, palm oil for the August-delivery contract advanced 0.9 per cent to USD 1,006 a metric tonne on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange, the highest since May 16.

In the national capital, groundnut mill delivery oil (Gujarat) rose by Rs 100 to Rs 11,500 per quintal.

Mustard expeller oil prices moved up by Rs 50 to Rs 7,850 per quintal and mustard pakki and kachi ghani oils traded higher by Rs 10 each to Rs 1,155-1,295 and Rs 1,310-1,410 per tin.

Cottonseed mill delivery oil (Haryana) oil edged up by Rs 50 to Rs 6,350 per quintal.

Tracking a firming global trend, soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) and soyabean degum (Kandla) oils rose by Rs 50 each to Rs 7,850 and Rs 7,400, while crude palm oil (ex-kandla) traded higher by the same margin to Rs 7,350 per quintal, respectively.

Palmolein (RBD) and Palmolein (kandla) oils enquired higher by Rs 50 each to Rs 8,050 and Rs 7,700 per quintal, respectively.

28 MAY, 2012, 04.58PM IST, PTI

Gram, its dal rise on retailers demand

NEW DELHI: Gram and its dal prices rose by Rs 50 per quintal in an otherwise steady wholesale pulses market today on pick-up in retailers demand.

However, other pulses moved in a narrow range in scattered deals and settled around previous levels.

Marketmen said pick-up in retailers demand mainly helped gram and its dal prices to go up.

In the national capital, gram, gramdal local and best quality were up by Rs 50 each to Rs 4,150-4,900, Rs 4,700-4,800 and Rs 4,750-4,850 per quintal, respectively.

The following are today's pulses rates per quintal: Urad 3,265-3,865, Urad Chilka (local) 4,265-4,565, best 4,700-5,200, Dhoya 5,240-5,340, Moong 3,600-4,600, Dal Moong Chilka local 4,350-4,750, Moong Dhoya local 4,900-5,000 and best quality 5,600-5,700.

Masoor small 3,475-3,775, bold 3,625-3,875, Dal Masoor local 4,425-4,525, best quality 4,500-4,600, Malka local 4,300-4,350, best 4,500-4,600, Moth 2,700-3,100, Arhar 3,450-3,750, Dal Arhar Dara 4,850-5,050.

Gram 4,150-4,900, Gram Dal (local) 4,700-4,800, best quality 4,750-4,850, Besan (35 kg) Shakti bhog 1,920, Rajdhani 1,920, Rajmah Chitra 7,100-8,400, Kabli Gram small 4,650-8,150, dabra 2,700-2,800, imported 4,700-5,100; Lobia 4,600-5,200, Peas white 2,850-2,900 and green 3,000-3,100. PTI SUN KPS DKR 05281532 NNNN

28 MAY, 2012, 04.31PM IST, PTI

Gur prices up on paucity of stocks

NEW DELHI: The wholesale gur (Jaggery) prices surged by Rs.50 per quintal in the national capital today following availability of tight stocks on restricted arrivals from manufacturing areas.

Muzaffarnagar and Muradnagar gur market also witnessed a rise up to Rs.100 per quintal on paucity of stocks.

Marketmen said tight stocks following restricted arrivals from producing areas, mainly pushed up gur prices. In Delhi, gur pedi and dhayya priced quoted higher by Rs.50 each to Rs.3,250-3,300 and Rs.3,300-3,350 per quintal, respectively. At Muzaffarnagar, gur chakku prices enquired higher by Rs.50 at Rs.2,700-2,850 instead of Rs.2,650-2,850 per quintal. Turning to Muradnagar, there also prices of gur pedi and dhayya remained in keen demand due to paucity of stocks, ended at Rs.2,925-2,950 and Rs.3,000-3,050 as compared to last close of Rs.2,850-2,900 and Rs.2,900-2,950 per quintal respectively. The following are today's quotations per quintal: Gur chakku 3,150-3,250, pedi 3,250-3,300, dhayya 3,300- 3,350 and shakkar 3,300-3,400.

Business Standard

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

Govt to boost hiring of agri machinery in 12th Plan

To get outlay of Rs 20,000-25,000 cr proposal for subsidised loans, too

Anindita Dey / Mumbai May 29, 2012, 0:57 IST

The government has decided on a comprehensive push for mechanisation of agriculture, by setting up machinery hiring centres in every village in the 12th Plan period.

These machinery is to be leased for harvest with support from states and the Centre (in

either a 10:90 or 20:80 proportion). The entire mission is expected to get an outlay of Rs 20,000-25,000 crore, sources said.

According to senior official sources, this will be part of a new technological mission on agricultural extension. Officials said the machinery would also be provided for off-season usage, like tractors for transportation. Only a few private companies were engaged in manufacture of agricultural machinery and these were quite expensive for the average farmer to procure during harvest. A gram panchayat or some well-to-do farmers might procure these for harvest, but everybody could not reap the benefit. Officials also hope this measure would prod private manufacturers to bring down prices.

The selection of machinery for a region would be based on the cropping pattern. For example, machines for rice plantation in rice growing regions, cotton pickers for western and parts for southern India, soil levellers across the country, among others. Besides, the technology part of the mission will involve importing it for various machinery from foreign countries, by buying the patents. After that, the government proposes to give these franchises to Indian manufacturers to start mass production. Technology will be primarily imported from America, Brazil, China and Australia, where there is large-scale mechanisation in agriculture.

Besides, the Union ministry of agriculture proposes to extend subsidised loans at four per cent for mechanisation. The proposal, being worked on, aims at encouraging farmers to create assets by purchasing machines. At present, loans at a subsidised four per cent are only available for crop-related inputs like seeds and farming.

The government is putting more emphasis on creation of assets in agriculture. Sources said while agriculture remains the mainstay for the Indian economy, mechanisation is weak and restricted to big farmers.

On the other hand, India has a big contribution in the global food and agriculture market, exporting and importing foodgrain and cash crops on a large scale.

At the same time, many uncertain factors affect agriculture and sale of equipment in India, such as the monsoon, government-declared support prices for crops, commodity prices, crop production expenses (costs) and the credit policy.

Sugar prices decline on higher output

Muted demand in the spot market also pulled prices lower

Press Trust of India / New Delhi May 28, 2012, 13:47 IST



Amid ample stocks and subdued demand in spot markets, sugar futures fell by Rs 13 to Rs 2,825 per quintal today as speculators indulged in reducing their positions.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for delivery in June fell by Rs 13, or 0.46%, to Rs 2,825 per quintal, with an open interest of 25,910 lots.

The July contract shed Rs 7, or 0.25%, to Rs 2,836 per quintal, with an open interest of 15,120 lots.

Analysts said fall in sugar futures prices was mostly owing to reducing of positions by speculators on ample stocks following industry's upward revision in the output to 25.8 million tonnes against its earlier estimate of 24.5 million tonnes.

Besides, fall in demand at spot markets also put pressure on sugar futures here, they said.

IGC lowers world wheat output for 2012-13 to 671 mn tonne

Forecast down on adverse weather conditions in Europe, Russia, Morocco

Press Trust of India / New Delhi May 28, 2012, 14:04 IST

The International Grains Council (IGC) further lowered its global wheat production forecast for 2012-13 today to 671 million tonnes due to adverse weather conditions in Europe, Russia and Morocco.

In April, the London-based organisation had pegged the global wheat output at 676 million tonne for 2012-13. The revised forecast is lower than 695 million tonne output 2011-12.

"Global crop prospects for 2012-13 remained mostly favourable during May, but adverse conditions lowered harvest expectations in the EU, Russia and Morocco, contributing to a 5 million tonne cut in the world production forecast, to 671 million tonne," IGC has said in its latest

Grains Report.

World wheat consumption forecast has also been lowered to 681 million tonne in 2012-13 from 688 million tonne last year, it said.

China, with more than 100-million tonne output, is the world's largest wheat producer. India is the world's second-biggest producer and is estimated to harvest 90.23 million tonne in 2011-12, as per the government data.

According to the IGC report, global trade in wheat is expected to see a dip by 7.4 million tonne to 136 million tonne, from record 143 million tonne in 2011-12.

The export surplus wheat is expected to be lower in Europe and Argentina, but increased production and reduced competition will likely boost sales by the US, the report said.

The carryover stocks at the end of 2012-13 are seen lower by 15 million tonne than last time year, at 191 million tonne.

With respect to global maize production, the global body has, however, raised production estimates by more than 5% to a record 913 million tonne in 2012-13. Last year, production had stood at 866 million tonne.

Compared to 2011-12, the availability of maize world over is expected to be more comfortable and maize could replace some wheat in livestock feed ratio

Mentha oil declines 3% on profit-booking

Subdued spot demand also pulled prices down

Press Trust of India / New Delhi May 28, 2012, 13:52 IST

Mentha oil prices fell by Rs 39 to Rs 1,259.40 per kg in futures trade today as traders indulged in profit-booking, driven by subdued spot demand.

In addition, reports of higher arrivals from the fresh crop and higher production estimates also weighed on the prices.

At the MCX, mentha oil for delivery in May fell by Rs 39, or 3%, to Rs 1,259.40 per kg, with a business volume of 224 lots.

The June contract drifted by Rs 31.90, or 2.46%, to Rs 1,261 per kg, with a business turnover of 662 lots.

The fall in mentha oil prices at futures trade was mostly due to profit-booking by speculators following weak trend at spot market on subdued demand, traders said.

THE HINDU Business Line

Sugar sours on lower orders from stockists

Our Correspondent



Mumbai, May 28:

Sugar prices fell further by Rs 5 a quintal on Monday due to eased demand in the end of the month.

Naka and Mill tender rates ruled steady but undertone remained weak as producers were under selling pressure due to less-than-expected lifting by traders. Volume was routine.

Domestic sugar futures also was bearish adding fuel to weak sentiment of the market said stockist.

A Vashi-based wholesaler said as mills have to complete 46 lakh tonnes of free sale quarterly quota for April – June in time. Two months have already passed and as per rough trade estimate producers are under heavy pressure of stock due to higher production and slower lifting by stockists. At the market level, need-based retail shopkeepers' demand and absence of bulk consumers' demand mounted sufficient inventory stocks hence stockist keep away from big deal. Supply is ample in the market while demand is need-based.

Sugar prices in Uttar Pradesh and in southern States are ruling at par with Maharashtra . Under selling pressure last week, prices lost by Rs 60-80 a quintal at mill level. As the Vashi market currently has stocks of about 90-100 truckloads (each of 100 bags), arrivals and local despatches remained routine.

At Vashi market, physical arrivals were 53- 54 truck loads and despatches were about 50–52 truck loads. On Saturday, 15-16 mills offered tenders and sold about 46,000–48,000 bags in the range of Rs 2,780-2,840 (Rs 2,780-2,840) for S-grade and Rs 2,850-2,930 (Rs 2,850-2,930) for M-grade.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates: S-grade Rs 2,926-2,976 (Rs 2,930-2,981) and M-grade Rs 2,996-3,141 (Rs 3,000-3,141). **Naka delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 2,880 -2,910 (Rs 2,880-2,910) and M-grade Rs 2,970-3,040 (Rs 2,970-3,040).

Limited offtake ahead of monsoon dampens turmeric



Erode, May 28:

The prices of the finger and root varieties of turmeric have decreased sharply.

“Only few orders were received from North India and also they prefer quality turmeric. But for the past few days no fine first variety turmeric has been arriving for sale. So the traders have

quoted decreased price of Rs 200 a quintal for finger variety and Rs 400 for root variety, purchasing the same. The fine varieties were kept in godowns by the farmers, decided to bring them when the prices improved,” said Mr R.K.B. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association. He said the prices in other main markets such as Nizamabad and Sangli, and also in the turmeric futures have decreased more than Rs 300 a quintal, which reflected here. The traders quoted low price for the commodity. Further, the purchase by stockists has decreased, as only one or two stockists are buying the turmeric now. The exporters those who received orders exclusively for quality turmeric are buying limited quality stock. The traders said soon the southwest monsoon will start, so there will be no chance for increase in turmeric price. They said they will not get orders during the monsoon period, so they are now buying very limited quantity. On Monday, 14,850 bags arrived for sale, but only 55 per cent of the stocks were sold. **Salem Crop:** The finger variety was sold at Rs 3,784-4,119 a quintal, root variety Rs 3,281-3,711. Out of arrival of 2,938 bags, 1,028 bags were sold. At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,219-3,689, root variety Rs 3,069-3,479. Of the 1,654 bags kept for sales, 1,439 were sold.

Local purchases fail to buoy cotton



Rajkot, May 28:

Cotton was unchanged on Monday even as buying by mills rose. Higher demand for yarn prompted mills to buy more, said a broker here. However, export demand was nominal. Arrivals increased a little.

In Gujarat, the new A-grade S-6 variety traded at Rs 32,500-32,800 a candy and B-grade at Rs 32,000-32,400. The new V-797 was offered at Rs 25,500-26,500 a candy. About 15,000-16,000 bales of 170 kg each arrived in the State, while 50,000-55,000 bales arrived in the rest of the country.

Kapas or raw cotton sold at Rs 775-780 for a maund of 20 kg here and at Rs 800-805 for delivery at Kadi.

In Maharashtra, the A-grade low micronaire (29 mm) variety quoted at Rs 31,500-32,000 a candy and the high micronaire at Rs 32,300-32,700. In Madhya Pradesh, the former quoted at Rs 31,500-32,000 and the latter at Rs 32,300-32,700 a candy.

The fibre traded steady to weak in North India, where 3,200 bales arrived, as sales rose amid normal demand.

The J-34 RG quoted at Rs 3,550-3,590 a quintal in Punjab, at Rs 3,470-3,480 in Haryana and at Rs 3,460-3,470 in Rajasthan.

The yarn export registrations stood at 62.881 million kg in April, down 11.88 per cent from 71.36 million kg in the same period last year, according to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade's data.

Pepper bounces back

G. K. Nair



Kochi, May 28:

The pepper market on Monday bounced back after high volatility on good buying support and limited availability. All active contracts moved up significantly.

The market opened on a declining note and touched the lowest price of the day in the afternoon and then moved up sharply just one hour before the closing June shot up by Rs 1,215 a quintal from the lowest price of the day. Then it declined and closed much above the previous day's closing. July also moved up in tandem.

'Tug of war'

The high volatility because of the "tug of war" between the operators was reflected on the turnover which showed a good circular trading. In fact, 77 per cent (3,232 tonnes) of trading took place in June while it was only 21 per cent in July. June open interest showed 127 tonnes of additional purchase, market sources told *Business Line*.

There was good buying interest both on the exchange platform and in the physical pepper market. Bull operators were ready to buy more at the higher levels, they said.

About 32 tonnes of fresh pepper arrived and 35 tonnes were traded today. Exporters, importers, domestic dealers all covered at prices at Rs 382 a kg for pepper from the plains, while Wayanadan material was sold at Rs 385-386 a kg. High range pepper fetched Rs 389-392 a kg.

Meanwhile, Kodagu pepper was reportedly being offered at Rs 390 a kg delivered anywhere in India. Chikamgalur and Sakleshpur material was also being offered at Rs 385-387 a kg delivered anywhere in India.

June contract on the NCDEX increased by Rs 665 a quintal to the last traded price of Rs 40,415 a quintal. July and August prices went up by Rs 610 and Rs 455 respectively to the LTP of Rs 40,865 and Rs 41,225 a quintal.

Turnover

Total turnover increased by 1,069 tonnes to 4,188 tonnes. Total open interest went up by 238 tonnes to 6,160 tonnes.

June open interest increased by 127 tonnes to 4,160 tonnes while that of July went up by 116 tonnes to 1,844 tonnes. However, August open interest declined by 5 tonnes to 145 tonnes.

Spot prices on good buying support amid limited availability and in tandem with the futures market trend increased by Rs 400 a quintal to close at Rs 38,200 (ungarbled) and Rs39,700 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$7,600 a tonne (c&f) Europe and \$7,900 a tonne (c&f) for the US. The rise in futures market prices coupled with strengthening of the rupee against the dollar pushed up the parity significantly, they said.

Vietnam was today reportedly slightly easier. Prices quoted were black pepper 500 GL at Rs 6,200 a tonne and 550 GL at \$6,500 a tonne (both fob).

Weak demand pulls rice down



Karnal, May 28:

The rice market witnessed a mixed trend on Monday with buying being lacklustre. The Pusa-1121 and Sharbati rice varieties witnessed a downtrend, while all other aromatic and non-basmati varieties managed to maintain their previous levels.

Mr Amit Chandna, Proprietor, Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told *Business Line* that weak export demand and tepid domestic demand pulled rice down. There is no bulk buying in the market, while retail traders are buying only limited quantities as there is too much volatility in the market, he said.

The market may rule around current levels for the next few days and may witness some alteration in the first week of June, said Mr Amit.

In the physical market, after ruling firm for almost one week, the prices of Pusa-1121 (steam) eased by Rs 200 and quoted at Rs 5,600 a quintal while Pusa-1121 (sela) sold at Rs 4,550 a quintal, Rs 150 down from the previous level. Pure basmati (raw) quoted at Rs 5,500 a quintal while pure basmati (sela) sold at Rs 5,000 a quintal.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Tibar sold at Rs 3,600-3,800, Dubar at Rs 2,900-3,000, and Mongra at Rs 2,200-2,400 a quintal.

Duplicate basmati went for Rs 4,300 a quintal, PR-14 (steam) Rs 2,400-2,600, and Sugandha (steam) Rs 3,700 a quintal.

The prices of Sharbati (steam) and Sharbati (sela) went down by Rs 50 each and sold at Rs 3,450 and Rs 3,350-3,400 a quintal, respectively.

PR varieties remained unchanged. Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,000-2,120 a quintal, Permal (sela) at Rs 2,080 a quintal, PR-11 (sela) at Rs 2,300-2,430, and PR-11 (raw) at Rs 2,475 a quintal.

Buoyant trend at Coonoor tea auction

P.S. Sundar



A view of tea estates in Coonoor.

Coonoor, May 28:

For the third consecutive week, buoyancy prevailed at Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions here this weekend with as much as 95 per cent of the year's lowest volume of 8.75 lakh kg offered for Sale No: 21 being sold at Rs 3 a kg more.

Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped the CTC market at Rs 162 a kg. Hittakkal Estate and Vigneshwar Estate got Rs 159 each and Blue Monte speciality Rs 150. In all, 138 marks got Rs 100 and more.

Orthodox market

Among orthodox teas from corporate sector, Chamraj got Rs 235, Curzon Rs 185, Havukal Rs 180, Highfield Estate Rs 170, Kairbetta Rs 167, Tiger Hill clonal Rs 162 and Coarsely Rs 160. In all, 34 marks got Rs 100 and more.

“Whole leaf orthodox got up to Rs 2-5 a kg more. High-priced CTC leaf was dearer by Rs 2-3, better mediums Rs 1-3 and plainers as much as Rs 5-10. Primary orthodox dust, however, lost Rs 5-10. High-priced CTC dusts eased Rs 2-3, but plainers gained Rs 1-2”, an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

Exports

On the export front, Pakistan bought selectively in a wide range Rs 72-91 a kg and the CIS, Rs 66-73.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 63-66 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 95-163 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 76-79 for plain dusts and Rs 100-162 for brighter liquoring dusts.

Spot rubber improves



Kottayam, May 28:

Domestic rubber prices improved on Monday.

In spot, the market gained strength following a better closing on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

Sheet rubber firmed up to Rs 194 from Rs 193.25 and Rs 193.50 a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi respectively according to traders and the Rubber Board.

The volumes were comparatively better.

The June series improved to Rs 195.50 (194.20), July to Rs 198.50 (197.24), August to Rs 198.15 (197.25) and September to Rs 196.88 (195.01) while the November series closed steady at Rs 200 a kg for RSS 4 on NMCE.

The Key TOCOM rubber futures strengthened tracking the higher oil prices and firm equity markets.

But the gains were limited as investors turned cautious on the European debt crisis and the possibility of a further rise in Yen.

RSS 3 (spot) dropped to Rs 204.67 (207.23) a kg at Bangkok.

June futures increased to ¥268 (Rs 186.62) from ¥264.5 a kg during the day session and then to ¥268.5 (Rs 186.97) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 194 (193.25); RSS-5: 192.50 (192); ungraded: 189 (188); ISNR 20: 193.50 (193) and latex 60 per cent: 127 (125.50).

'Strengthen livestock, dairy sectors to achieve 4% agri growth'

Private dairies doing maximum value addition, Godrej Agrovet ED says

Mumbai, May 28:

India can achieve four per cent growth in the agriculture sector, as envisaged in the 12th Five Year Plan, provided the livestock and dairy sectors are given enough incentives, said Mr Mark Kahn, Executive Director of Godrej Agrovet on Monday.

He was participating in a panel discussion on agriculture growth at the Indian Merchants' Chamber.

Mr Kahn said that currently, policies are heavily tilted in favour of dairies run by the cooperative sector. However, cooperative dairies have been successful in Gujarat and to a certain extent in Maharashtra and Karnataka. "But, in the rest of the country it has been an unmitigated disaster. Policy makers should pay attention to private dairies," he said.

Under the National Dairy Plan, huge sums of money would be handed over to the cooperative dairies, neglecting private sector dairies like Nestle and others. These private dairies are developing the sector very well, as well as undertaking farm extension services, he said.

The National Dairy Development Board has rolled out an ambitious, 15-year-long National Dairy Plan, envisaging an outlay of Rs 17,300 crore.

Private initiative

Mr Kahn pointed that private companies are best suited for developing the sector because they do maximum value addition in milk products, while cooperative sector dairy revenues are still driven by selling milk and they have not diversified their product portfolio.

He said that there was huge potential for growth in the livestock sector, which is almost 25 per cent of the agriculture sector. The sector is already growing at four per cent without any major help from the Centre or the State Governments. The poultry and inland fisheries sectors are also growing at six to eight per cent. There is a need for new investment in these sectors too, he said.

AP Govt asks Mahyco to ensure availability of cottonseeds

Our Bureau



Hyderabad, May 26:

The Andhra Pradesh Government has asked seed firm Mahyco to ensure availability of its cottonseeds for farmers in the ensuing kharif season.

The Minister for Agriculture, Mr Kanna Lakshminarayana, has warned the company of stern action if it failed to meet the demand for seeds. “We have complaints regarding short supply of your seeds,” a senior Government official quoted the Minister as saying.

Mahyco's cottonseeds are popular in districts like Warangal but farmers complained last year that the seeds were in short supply. The Minister asked the officials to set up a control room at the office of Agriculture Commissioner. “It should also house a police officer to ensure quick action on complaints on illegal distribution of seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and on fake seeds,” he said. After witnessing severe drought last year, the State Government is expecting a normal monsoon this year. Meanwhile, the Ministry is gearing up the machinery for *rythu soddasulu* (farmers' awareness campaign). The Chief Minister, Mr N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, will kick off a series of meetings on June 4 in Krishna district. “We will hold the meetings in all the districts barring those where by-polls are scheduled. “We will complete the by-poll districts after polling,” the official said.

Bangla agro-food group to invest Rs 6.80 cr in Tripura

Agartala, May 28:

A Bangladeshi agro-food processing group, Programme for Rural Advancement Nationally (PRAN), will invest taka 10 crore (around Rs 6.80 crore) to set up an agro-food processing unit in Tripura. PRAN has been permitted by the Bangladesh Revenue Board to invest 10 crore Bangladeshi Taka in the State, the Chairman of Tripura Industrial Development Corporation (TIDC), Mr Pabitra Kar said. The TIDC has allotted two acre to PRAN to set up the unit at Bodhjunnagar Industrial Growth Centre area, about 22 km from here, Mr Kar said.

Concern over huge gap in seed production, requirement



Dr P. Subbian

Coimbatore, May 28:

There is a huge gap between seed production and requirement, the Registrar of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Dr P. Subbian, has said.

He was reviewing the status of seed production at TNAU's breeder seed production centres. Dr Subbian said the widening gap between seed production and requirement has compelled the Government to plan for future seed production programmes.

TNAU scientists, agriculture department officials, members of TN Seed Producers Association and other stakeholders participated in the day-long workshop.

Addressing the participants at the annual seed workshop, Dr Subbian said that the total seed requirement in the country was around 48 lakh tonnes, but only 37 per cent of this was being met by the public and private sector, while the rest was managed with farm saved seeds.

In Tamil Nadu, out of a requirement of 2.56 lakh tonnes of seeds, only 24 per cent was met by the supply agencies, resulting in a supply gap of 76 per cent.

“The gap is more in agricultural crops compared to horticultural crops, and therefore the government is keen to maximise quality seed production in the State,” he said.

Hybrid seed

He further added that popularisation and promotion of hybrid seed production was necessary. ‘Four hundred million tonnes of foodgrains is produced in China from 100 million hectares, whereas in India, only 250 million tonnes is produced from 140 million hectares. This is mainly due to the use of hybrids in China,’ he said, adding ‘the Government of India aims to increase the area under hybrid rice cultivation to 25 per cent of all rice-cultivated area by 2015’.

To address the seed production issues, TNAU established a Seed Centre in 2006. In 2011-12, the centre supplied 18.58 tonnes of breeder seed, 55 tonnes of foundation seed, 30 tonnes of certified seed and 92 tonnes of truthfully labelled seed. There is scope for increasing seed production in TNAU Research Stations. Incentives to seed producing scientists in the form of awards to recognise their efforts would help set new targets, Dr Subbian said.