

## Multipurpose cultivation vehicle for poor farmers



A Multi-purpose Agricultural machine, to aid farmers, was designed and developed by professor Lakshman Rao and students Fayaz (fourth year B.Tech-EEE), R. Sai (Third year B.Tech-ECE) and Komala (Fourth year C.S.E) of Prakasam Engineering College.

This vehicle can be used for ploughing between tobacco, cotton and chilli plants. The earlier version of Multipurpose Agricultural Vehicle required two labourers, but the newly developed version of this vehicle requires only one person, said Mr. Lakshman Rao.

The vehicle's field level functioning was tested successfully in nearby villages of Prakasam Engineering College, he said. This machine will be very useful for small-time farmers and especially women farm labourers, he observed.

The machine can also be used to sprinkle seeds in the fields. Formalities were under process for applying for a patent right, said the Professor. The vehicle was designed keeping in mind the

financial constraints of a farmer in India, he added. The vehicle does not require any fuel and will cost not more than Rs.5,000, he announced.

Farmers can use the machine to cultivate their land without using tractor or animals, for ploughing in between plants and sprinkle nuts (seeds) and carrying seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, hay measuring up to 50 kilograms.

The students and the professor said that without the encouragement from college management this would not have been possible. They gave special thanks to social scientist Veerabhadra Rao for his valuable suggestions during the design and building stage of the machine.

Sree Ramya Tummala

### **New power connections to 40,000 farmers**

In a Diwali gift to about 40,000 farmers in the shape of new agricultural power connections, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has sanctioned an additional Rs.100 crore for issuing demand notes to agriculturists registered in the waiting list for October-December 2008. The decision will ensure that no financial burden is passed on to farmers.

Mr. Gehlot reviewed the demand and supply situation in the power sector here over the weekend. He said the State government would enhance the subsidy paid for agricultural connections from 30 per cent to 50 per cent, taking the amount up to a total of Rs. 250 crore while ensuring that farmers did not have to pay additional money. Farmers will be required to pay only Rs.2,500 per horsepower for new connections, while the rest of the financial burden will be borne by the public sector power companies. Mr. Gehlot instructed the power distribution companies to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to farmers for six hours a day during the rabi crop season.

### **Regular feedback**

The Chief Minister said the elected representatives would give regular feedback to power companies to make sure that load-shedding, tripping and faults in feeder and transformers did not create difficulties for those engaged in sowing of crops and irrigating agricultural fields. Faulty transformers in villages would be replaced within 72 hours, he added.

Apart from clearing the waiting list for October to December 2008, the pending applications for July to September in that year would also be disposed of by issuing demand notes to applicants within the next 15 days. Mr. Gehlot said the work assigned to power companies under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme would also be completed by next month-end.

### Mass membership drive under farmers protection scheme



Clear agenda:Collector T.Munusamy speaking at a training programme on farmers protection scheme in Nagapattinam.

A mass membership drive under farmers protection scheme is slated to commence here in the district. As a prelude to the drive, a training programme for Village Administrative Officers and Village Assistants was organised here in the district recently.

According to district administration sources, the scheme meant to benefit agriculture and agro-based labourers would receive special focus. Earlier, addressing the training programme, Collector T.Munusamy said that the scheme was of considerable relevance to Nagapattinam, which is predominantly agro-based. Beneficiaries between 18 and 65 years of age and their dependents are entitled to become members under the scheme. Announced in the second quarter of last year, FPS envisages social security coverage for marginal farmers owning not more than 2.5 acres of wetlands or not more than 5 acres of marshlands. The scheme also seeks to cover farm wage labourers/ lessees, and envisages a monthly social security coverage of Rs.1,000 on lines of OAP( old age pension) for beneficiaries over 60 years of age.

Marginal farmers and farm labourers ailing with Tuberculosis, Cancer, HIV, and declared unfit to work are eligible for a monthly support of Rs.1,000 based on medical recommendations. The scheme also provides for wedding assistance of Rs.10,000 and Rs.8,000 for women and men of the members' family.Additionally, death solatium of Rs.1 lakh would be provided in the event of

death due to accident; Rs.1 lakh for major incapacitation and loss of vision due to accidents; Rs.50,000 for partial incapacitation; and Rs.20,000 for severe injuries.

The scheme also provides for an assistance of Rs.10,000 in the case of death due to natural causes, and Rs.2,500 towards cremation assistance. Education assistance ranging from Rs.1,250 to Rs.6,750 at different stages from ITI to Master's qualification is being provided under the scheme. According to sources, the education assistance provided under the scheme is the highest among all education assistance provided by various departments. Special camps are scheduled to be organised from November 14 to November 16, to provide door-to-door awareness on the scheme.

### **Farmers' meet**

The monthly farmers' grievance redressal meeting would be held on November 16 at the Collectorate. According to a press release, farmers can submit their grievances at the meeting in which officers from agriculture department, TANGEDCO, PWD and among others would participate. The specific questions to be raised at the meeting shall be informed to the officials concerned in advance, so that the officers can be instructed to be present.

### **Orders handed over**

Collector Anshul Mishra handed over appointment letters to five persons on humanitarian grounds at the Madurai Aavin. In the recent months, five employees working with the Aavin had died while in service. Based on applications received from the legal heirs/dependents of the deceased employee, the authorities had proposed to recruit them on humanitarian grounds. While four applicants were taken in as junior executive, one person was given orders of posting as an assistant, records clerk respectively.

### **Poultry sector reports loss of Rs. 150 crore in 15 days**

50 percent dip in business after bird flu outbreak

The price of a kg of chicken has come down from around Rs. 70 to Rs. 36.– File photo: Harini Shibaraya

Poultry farmers and traders, who have seen a dip in their business by nearly 50 per cent after the outbreak of the highly pathogenic avian influenza at the Central Poultry Development Organisation (CPDO) at Hesaraghatta, near here, have claimed that the sector has lost at least Rs. 150-crore business in the last fortnight.

The ban imposed by the Kerala government on movement of poultry and poultry products from Karnataka has affected the sector (30 per cent of Kerala's consumption is met by Karnataka's poultry supply).

Also, consumption has declined drastically in some big markets, including Bangalore, resulting in huge losses, industry representatives said on Saturday.

"We cannot continuously feed the chicken in the poultry, as feeding involves cost. Further, if chicken does not arrive in the market with tender meat, the cost further reduces. Either ways, poultry owners are losing money," C.S. Srinivasa, a poultry farmer from Doddaballapur, told *The Hindu*.

Already, he pointed out, the price of a kilogram of chicken had come down from around Rs. 70 to around Rs. 36 while the production cost was around Rs. 64 a kg. According to him, nearly 11 lakh families are dependent on poultry and allied industry in the State, which produces around 40 lakh chickens and 2.3 crore eggs every week.

Meanwhile, K. Nagaraja, president of the Karnataka Poultry Trader's Association, which represents both farmers and traders, said the scare caused by the bird flu outbreak at the CPDO had affected the business badly.

He said: "Consumers now prefer mutton, resulting in a steep hike in its price. Mutton, which used to cost around Rs. 360 a kg, has now crossed Rs. 400 a kg, affecting consumers."

#### **'Sanitisation on'**

Meanwhile, Principal Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Arvind Jannu said sanitisation process on the CPDO premises was nearing completion. "We are monitoring the situation to make sure that the virus is being contained," he said.

Staff Reporter

Seek compensation for cow allegedly killed by tiger

A group of farmers detained forest officials at the Thirunelly forest station here and blocked traffic for hours on the Thirunelly-Mananthavadi road on Sunday, demanding adequate compensation for a cow which had been allegedly killed by a tiger.

The cow, owned by K .P. Thimmappan, a marginal farmer at Pulivalmukku, a village on the fringes of the Begur forest range and the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, was allegedly killed in a tiger attack on Sunday morning. A few forest officials who reached the spot following villagers' protest were detained by the local people, demanding the intervention of top forest personnel in the issue.

### **Compensation norms**

The villagers brought the carcass of the cow to the forest station and demanded a fair compensation for its owner. They said that the cow gave the farmer a good yield and the compensation should be on par with the yield, and not as per the norms set by the Forest Department, as it was his sole means of livelihood.

Some villagers then blockaded the Thirunelly-Mananthavadi highway. The forest officials promised a fair compensation to the owner as per the recommendation of a veterinary surgeon after performing an autopsy.

### **Gehlot's Diwali gift for farmers**

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from 30 per cent to 50 per cent, taking the amount up to a total of Rs.250 crore while ensuring that farmers do not have to pay any additional money.

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The Chief Minister said the elected representatives would give regular feedback to power companies to make sure that load-shedding, tripping and faults in feeder and transformers do not create difficulties for those engaged in sowing of crops and irrigating agricultural fields. Faulty transformers in villages would be replaced within 72 hours, he added. Apart from clearing the waiting list for October to December 2008, the pending applications for July to September in that year would also be disposed of by issuing demand notes to applicants within the next 15 days. Mr. Gehlot said the work assigned to power companies under the Rajiv Gandhi rural electrification scheme would also be completed by next month-end.

The review meeting was informed that electricity was being supplied to the rural areas for six hours a day in four blocks. There is no power cut in the blocks applicable to agricultural consumers, said the representatives of power discoms.

The power situation in the State has improved following the supply of 261MW electricity from the Centre's unallocated quota. Besides, the 110 MW unit at Ramgarh will start production by January and the 250 MW unit at Chhabra by March next year.

Among others, Energy Minister Jitendra Singh, Chief Secretary C. K. Mathew, Energy Secretary Naresh Pal Gangwar and officers of power discoms attended the meeting.

### **Expedite enumeration of crop and structural loss: Minister**

Restoration works within Rs. 5 lakh can be taken up with Collector's consent"

Stock-taking: Minister for Minor Irrigation T.G Venkatesh going round the photo exhibition on flood damage in Guntur on Sunday. Minister for Agriculture Kanna Lakshmi Narayana and Collector S. Suresh Kumar are seen. —Photo: T. Vijaya Kumar

Minister for Minor Irrigation and district in charge T.G. Venkatesh has asked the administration to expedite the enumeration crop and structural damages caused due to the recent spell of heavy rain.

Speaking at a special review meeting held here on Sunday on damage caused by cyclone 'Nilam', the Minister assured that restoration works concerning drains and water tanks within a budget of Rs. 5 lakh could be taken up directly with the consent of the Collector. Work estimates within a budget of Rs.10 lakh should be sent to his department and the same would be cleared within a week, he said.

Mr. Venkatesh also stressed that due care should be taken to incorporate the details of tenant farmers in the enumeration reports. He also urged the Collector to take the support of NGOs in completing houses under the Indiramma scheme, roads and drains, and provide relief to the rain-hit families.

The State government had already announced that input subsidy would be directly transferred to the bank accounts of farmers, he said.

Clarifying a few points raised by TDP MLAs — Prathipati Pulla Rao and K. Sridhar — Minister for Agriculture Kanna Lakshmi Narayana announced that the Chief Minister had given an assurance that damaged cotton would be procured by the Cotton Corporation of India. He also said that details of enumeration of crop and structural damages would be displayed at the Panchayat offices in villages so that necessary clarifications could be carried out at the Panchayat level. Mr. Lakshminarayana also directed district Collector S. Suresh Kumar to convene a special meeting on drains.

T.G.V. Krishna Reddy, MLC, urged the government to take steps to open a cotton procurement centre at Piduguralla market yard. He also wanted the government to clear the air over the releases of water into the NSP Right Canal and provide subsidised seed and farm mechanised tools to farmers.



Nannapaneni Raja Kumari, MLC, wanted the government to announce a special package in view of Deepavali, which was not considered at the meeting.

**'Worst-affected'**

MP J.D. Seelam pointed out that Bapatla mandal was among the worst affected with standing crop of paddy spread over 998 acres getting submerged under a sheet of water. He appealed that special effort be made to restore damaged roads and drains in SC/ST colonies.

Minister for Cooperation Kasu Krishna Reddy spoke.

Earlier, Mr. Suresh Kumar gave a power-point presentation on the damages to agricultural crops and structures based on preliminary reports from various departments. The loss to structural damages was put at Rs.328 crore for the district. In Guntur alone, the structural damages accounted for Rs.50 crore.

The Ministers also went round a photo exhibition organised on the premises of the ZP conference hall.

Commissioner of Labour B. Ramanjaneyulu and Joint Collector N. Yuvaraj were present.

# Hindustan Times

TODAY FARM NEWS

12.11.2012 A.M

## Weather

Chennai

### Chennai - INDIA

#### Today's Weather



Sunny

Monday, Nov 12

Max Min

30.7° | 23.4°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 74

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:06

Sunset: 05:39

Barometer: 1013

#### Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Tuesday, Nov 13

Max Min

31° | 21°

#### Extended Forecast for a week

Wednesday Nov 14	Thursday Nov 15	Friday Nov 16	Saturday Nov 17	Sunday Nov 18
31°   21° Partly Cloudy	33°   25° Overcast	33°   25° Overcast	33°   25° Overcast	33°   25° Overcast

#### Airport Weather

Delhi

Delhi

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 06:41

Humidity: 88

Sunset: 05:28

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1015



# THE HINDU Business Line

TODAY FARM NEWS

11.11.2012 P.M

12.11.2012 A.M

11<sup>th</sup> nov 2012 P.M

## Oman bans poultry imports from India



Oman has banned the import of poultry and poultry products from India for a second time this year following an outbreak of bird flu virus in Karnataka.

The decision was taken following reports that an avian influenza outbreak in Bangalore was confirmed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) last week.

This is the second time in a year that Oman has imposed a ban on poultry products from India after a similar move in March.

According to a report in the Muscat Daily, a senior official in Oman's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF) said the restrictions came into effect this week.

On September 18, Fuad bin Jaafar al Sajwani, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, had announced the lifting of a ban on the import of live birds and poultry products from India.

The earlier ban was imposed in March after OIE had confirmed reports of the spread of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus in a few districts of Odisha, Tripura and Meghalaya.

Karnataka had confirmed last month the detection of avian influenza in turkey and chicken at a farm where the H5N1 virus claimed over 3,600 turkeys.

### Farm costs panel moots 10% import duty on pulses



The Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP) has suggested 10 per cent import duty on pulses to encourage domestic production. It has also recommended opening up of pulses exports to create a neutral trade policy.

Currently, there is no duty on import of pulses, while exports of many pulses are banned. Terming the restrictive exports and duty-free imports as pro-consumer, CACP in its latest report, 'Price Policy for Rabi Crops', said such a policy was not in the interest of producers.

CACP says that imposing 10 per cent duty on imports would enhance domestic output by bringing more irrigated areas under pulses. Indirectly, such a move would result in saving on fertiliser subsidy as pulses are nitrogen fixing and help in stabilising production.

### Largest importer

Further, the levy of import duty would help contain the rising import bill on pulses. India imported pulses worth Rs 8,767 crore or \$1.8 billion in 2011-12, an increase of 16.4 per cent over the previous year. India is the largest producer, importer and consumer of pulses. The country has been importing 2-3 million tonnes every year for the past few years.

The country has prohibited export of pulses till March 2013, but the ban does not apply to *kabuli chana* or chickpea, whose exports were freed back in March 2007.

In addition, the ban on export of pulses does not apply to the overseas annual shipments of 10,000 tonnes of organic pulses and lentils.

India produced 17 million tonnes of pulses in 2011-12. This crop year, kharif output of pulses is projected to decline to 5.26 million tonnes against 6.16 million tonnes last season on account of delayed monsoon hitting output in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

### Tea prices rise at Coonor sale as 97% of offerings get sold

As much as 96.5 per cent of the eight-week low volume of 12.20 lakh kg offered at Sale No: 45 of Coonor Tea Trade Association auctions were sold with prices gaining over Rs 3 a kg

Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped the CTC market at Rs 146 a kg. Vigneshwar Estate Rs 139, Hittakkal Estate Rs 136, Shanthi Supreme Rs 135, Kannavarai Estate Rs 133 and Professor Rs 131. In all, 85 marks got Rs 100 and more.

Among orthodox from corporate sector, Highfield Estate got Rs 204, Chamraj Rs 200, Kairibetta Rs 174, Kodanad Rs 173, Prammas Rs 162, Havukal and Tiger Hill clonal Rs 161. In all, 40 marks got Rs 100 and more.

“Whole leaf orthodox leaf was dearer by Rs 5-10 a kg, while others oscillated up and down Rs 2-4. High-priced CTC leaf gained Rs 2-4, mediums Rs 3-4 and plainers, Rs 3-5. Blacker cleaner plainers gained much more. Primary orthodox dusts gained Rs 4-5 and others, Rs 2-3. High-priced CTC dusts were dearer by Rs 1-2, mediums Rs 2-4 and plainers Rs 1-4”, an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

On the export front, Pakistan bought for Rs 73-94 a kg, the CIS Rs 76-84 and for some European ports for Rs 83-91.

The market will reopen after Diwali holidays on November 15.

### Prices mixed at N. India tea sale



Last week, at Sale No. 44 at the Kolkata tea auction, the price of CTC leaf at Rs 148.27 for one kg was up compared with Rs 143.14 at Sale 42 (there was no Sale 43 due to the Durga Puja holidays) while that of orthodox at Rs 172.69 (Rs 176.24) was lower, according to J. Thomas & Company Pvt Ltd, the tea auctioneers.

A little more than 84 per cent of CTC volumes were sold compared with 76.45 per cent in Sale No. 42 while the corresponding figures for orthodox were 79.45 per cent (71.07 per cent).

Next week, there will be no Sale No. 45 at Kolkata; the next sale will be Sale No. 46.

The total offerings (packages) at Kolkata covering Sale 44 comprised CTC/dust 1,14,825 (1,55,750) and orthodox 24,468 (55,612).

However, the Darjeeling offerings at Kolkata, Sale 45, were 7,326 (7,136). In Guwahati and Siliguri, in Sale 45, the offerings, mainly CTC/dust, were: Guwahati 1,54,218 (1,68,381) and Siliguri 1,10,032 (1,11,835).

Thus, the offerings at the three auction centres comprised Sale No. 44 for CTC/dust and orthodox and Sale 45 for Darjeeling at Kolkata and Sale 45 for CTC/dust at Guwahati and Siliguri and totalled 4,10,869 (4,98,714).

With the season gradually heading for closure, there is a declining trend in offerings.

Liquoring Assam CTC teas met with strong demand and sold at firm to dearer rates following improved enquiry from Hindustan Unilever and active support from Tata Global.

Mediums were firm to occasionally dearer while plainer categories sold at irregular rates.

Better Dooars was firm to occasionally dearer while the remainder sold at around the previous levels.

Western India dealers operated on the liquoring sorts. North India and local sections were active. Exporters operated on the larger brokens and fannings.

Orthodox offerings sold at easier rates. There was good support on tippy and liquoring varieties from Continental buyers. Exporters to the CIS were active.

Darjeeling whole leaf grades saw less enquiry from blenders and sold in line with quality.

Brokens sold readily while fannings were dearer following local and export enquiry.

### **Turmeric growers fix floor price of Rs 10,000 a quintal**



Turmeric prices may rise in the coming weeks, as farmers across the major turmeric producing States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka are coming together to fix their own minimum selling price.

Andhra Pradesh turmeric farmers have joined their counterparts in the other three producing States to fix a minimum selling price of Rs 10,000 a quintal, even as market prices crashed to about Rs 5,000-6,000.

Recently farmers in Tamil Nadu fixed their minimum price of Rs 9,000, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka where the price fixed was Rs 10,000 due to additional transportation costs.



In fact, prices had recently touched a low of Rs 3,000, when the Government came in with a market intervention price of Rs 4,000. Drought conditions, over supply and artificial hoarding by a cartel of traders have led to the collapse of turmeric prices in the last few months, farmers say. In the absence of a minimum support price from the government, the farmers, under the umbrella body of Turmeric Farmers Association of India, have taken this step to fix their respective prices in the four States.

“We will not sell the product for anything less than Rs 10,000, as our cost of production is about Rs 8,700. Current market prices will not cover 60 per cent of our production costs,” P.K. Deivasigamani, President of the association, said.

Turmeric production is about 30- 40 lakh tonnes, which is nearly 80 per cent of the world’s production.

Andhra Pradesh is the biggest producer in the country with a 41 per cent share, followed by Tamil Nadu 21 per cent and Karnataka and Maharashtra with seven per cent each.

The three major turmeric markets are located in Nizamabad (AP), Erode (TN) and Sangli (Maharashtra).

“The Government should come out with a MSP for turmeric, establish a separate board and a research centre for the crop,” he said.

### **Olive oil imports expected to rise by 45% in FY’13**

India’s olive oil imports are expected to rise by 45 per cent to 10,000 tonnes this fiscal on the back of rising consumption in metro cities like Delhi and Hyderabad, a top Indian Olive Association official said.

The country had imported 6,900 tonnes of olive oil, 80 per cent of which is sourced from Spain and Italy, in the 2011-12 fiscal.

“In April-June 2012, olive oil imports were 2,300 tonnes and Indian Olive Association (IOA) is optimistic that total imports during the year would cross 10,000 tonnes,” IOA President V N Dalmia told PTI.



Table olive imports were broadly stable in 2011, but are showing rapid growth in 2012. Imports were 637 tonnes in 2010, 625 tonnes in 2011 but have already touched 616 tonnes during January-August 2012, he added.

On the increasing consumption of olive oil, Dalmia said the main demand is from North India. "Broadly speaking, North India is the largest consumer of olive oil and the split is 50:50 between Delhi and the rest of North India. It is followed by South India where Hyderabad is the biggest consumer followed by Bangalore and Chennai. In West India, Mumbai is the largest consumer," he added.

On the challenges being faced by the industry, Dalmia, who is also the Chairman of Dalmia Continental, said that the main challenge faced by the industry is the outmoded trade standards in use by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

"Despite the passage of four years since the issue was brought to FSSAI's notice, Indian standards have still not been aligned with international standards such as CODEX or those of the EU or the International Olive Council," he said.

That apart, table olive consumption in India is restricted by high import duty rates which, at 44 to 51 per cent, are among the highest in the world despite the fact that there is no domestic production of table olives, he added.

India largely imports olive oil from Spain, Italy and Turkey. There is some import from other olive oil producing nations like Greece, Syria and Tunisia also.

According to industry estimates, in value terms, the size of the olive oil market in India, which is one of the world's largest vegetable oil consumer, is around Rs 180 crore and can grow up to Rs 400 crore by 2013.

The top 3 brands in the domestic market, which together control more than 60 per cent of retail sales, are Leonardo, Figaro and Borges (including Cesar). Some other prominent brands include RS, Bertolli, Del Monte, Fragata, Colavita and Athena.

**Corn exports may fall by over 37% this year: USDA**

India's corn exports are likely to decline by 37.5 per cent to 3 million tonnes this year due to expected fall in production and weak global prices, a report has said.

The country is estimated to have shipped a record 4.8 million tonnes of corn in 2011-12 marketing year (November- October) despite slowdown in export demand and port congestion in the last two months, it said.

“The MY 2012-13 export forecast is lower at three million tonnes on an expected stronger domestic price of corn compared to last year,” the report by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) said.

Indian corn for exports is priced in the range of \$280-290 per tonne on FOB (Free on Board) at major exporting ports, it said.

USDA said that corn prices in the domestic market gained strongly in July on concerns of drought and strong exports.

Prices eased in the first fortnight of August with the recovery of the monsoon, but moved up again with reports of lower acreage and production prospects, it added.

However, prices have remained sluggish since mid-September on the slowdown in export demand.

Currently, spot prices of corn in the major markets range from Rs 11,800 to Rs 14,000 per tonne (\$219—260).

USDA said that domestic prices are likely to ease further as new crop arrival accelerates, which would move below the government's minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 11,750 (\$218) per tonne.

The government agencies may have to intervene in the market to bolster prices through a MSP procurement operation for corn in the upcoming season, it observed.

Due to poor monsoon, the country's corn production is estimated to decline to 20 million tonnes this year, from 21.57 million tonnes in 2011-12.

## Pepper continues to head South on liquidation

Pepper futures witnessed further downward trend last week as activities were limited and the cartels holding over 5,000 tonnes of black pepper were liquidating to get out of the market. All the active contracts fell sharply from mid-last week.

Under the staggered delivery system, 995 tonnes of pepper were marked for delivery in Nov. According to the Secretary, The Cochin Hill Produce Merchants' Association (CHPMA), the NCDEX had stopped deposits of black pepper from Nov 3 onwards up to Nov 7.

The trade has appealed to the Forward Marketing Commission (FMC) to direct the exchange to extend the cutting/maturity date of November contract by five days up to Nov 26.

All active contracts fell sharply last week. Nov, Dec and Feb contracts decreased by Rs 900, Rs 1,440 and Rs 1,230 a quintal to close at Rs 41,735, Rs 40,980 and Rs 36,315 a quintal.

Total turn over increased by 2,800 to close at 15,279 tonnes. Total open interest fell by 835 to 8,103 tonnes.

Spot prices in tandem with the futures market trend fell by Rs 700 a quintal to close at Rs 39,300 (ungarbled) and Rs 40,800 (garbled).

Indian parity in the international market also declined to \$7,900 a tonne (c&f) for Europe and \$8,200 a tonne (c&f) for the US. But, still remained out priced, they said.



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

TODAY FARM NEWS

12.11.2012 A.M

## Tamil Nadu bans poultry feed from Karnataka, farmers irked

KRISHNAGIRI: The [state government](#) on Saturday evening imposed a ban on trucks carrying poultry feed from Karnataka following the recent outbreak of bird flu on turkeys in the neighbouring state.

Accordingly, 52 trucks carrying feed from Karnataka were sent back on Sunday from the specially formed check-post in Jujuvadi area near Hosur on the border.

"The secretary for [animal husbandry](#) had announced the ban on Saturday and we had implemented it immediately," Krishnagiri district collector Pooja Kulkarni said.

Speaking to TOI, Pooja said, "We had started spraying disinfection medicines on all the vehicles that were coming from Karnataka to [Tamil Nadu](#) when the bird flu outbreak issue flared up two weeks ago. Now, we had instructed all our officials in the check posts on Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border near Hosur to send back the poultry feed-laden trucks from Karnataka," Pooja said.

The Krishnagiri district administration had formed a special check-post in Jujuvadi area near Hosur along with other department check-posts on the border.

"All the trucks coming from Karnataka will be inspected and those trucks laden with poultry feed such as corn, ground-nut and soya cakes will be send back. These are the main ingredient and foods for chickens in Tamil Nadu," the collector said.

"The ban will be maintained until the Karnataka government announces that their state is free

from bird flu outbreak," the collector added. According to the check post sources in Jjuvadi, nearly 52 poultry products laden trucks were sent back to Karnataka on Sunday.

Meanwhile, poultry farmers in Namakkal expressed their displeasure over the government's decision. "Not all the poultry feed come from Karnataka. Many of them come from Maharashtra via Karnataka as well," said P Nallathambi, president of the Tamil Nadu Poultry Farmers Association (TNPFA).

"Nearly 3.5 crore of chickens depend on these poultry feed and all the birds will die if the products didn't reach on time. We have only minimum quantity of stocks in our farms and the Tamil Nadu government can allow Maharashtra trucks that are passing through Karnataka to Tamil Nadu," Nallathambi said.

"The government should have consulted us before imposing the ban," he added.