

## Poultry training

The State Poultry Breeding and Training Centre, Hesaraghatta, will conduct a six-day poultry training programme from November 16. For details, contact the centre at Hessarghatta. Call Ph: 28466093.

## NBA embarks on economic valuation of ecosystem goods

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is working on an ambitious project to estimate the economic value of biodiversity goods in the country.

NBA Chairman Balakrishna Pisupati told *The Hindu* recently that the project is designed to support the development of a mechanism for Access to biological resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS), a key element of the Convention on Biological Resources (CBD). The pilot project covering agricultural, forest, and wetland ecosystems is being implemented in Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat, Dr. Pisupati said. The project is expected to come up with a simplified methodology for economic valuation of ecosystem goods over the next few months. "We are currently looking at biodiversity goods only because the inclusion of services would make it complicated," he says.

"At the global level, we are stuck with a strange situation on the use of biological resources. The user does not know the value of the product while the provider is equally ignorant of the value of the material. A negotiation between the two is something like fighting in the dark. Some countries have come up milestone benefits that stagger payments over the product development phase to cover risks. But it may not work everywhere. Our effort is to take up economic valuation of ecosystem goods as a fundamental element of ABS," he explains.

Dr. Pisupati says it is time for countries like India to look at the impact of development and biodiversity conservation on each other in a much more holistic and long-term manner. "We need to look at Access and Benefit Sharing and biodiversity offset programmes. All of these are

important interventions.... It is important to understand the economic potential of biodiversity, without which much of the conservation argument will be questioned. The economic valuation argument is not good enough on its own merit because there will be people who will say that it is an attempt to privatise all biodiversity goods and services. The intention is to understand the potential so that appropriate interventions can be evolved.”

### **GM crops**

Referring to the raging debate on genetically modified (GM) crops in India, Dr. Pisupati, who holds a PhD in Genetics with specialisation in Plant Biotechnology, says, “The issue is not whether we are for it or against it. It is how much we are prepared to assess the safety of whatever is being developed. We need to have protocols for safety assessment appropriately put in place and monitoring has to happen over a longer period.”

India still followed a two-track approach, with the scientific community and activists sticking to their rigid positions on GM crop trials. “The biggest concern is that we are losing time firefighting,” he says.

# HindustanTimes

TODAY FARM NEWS

14.11.2012 A.M

## Weather

Chennai

### Chennai - INDIA

#### Today's Weather



Sunny

Wednesday, Nov 14

Max Min

30.2° | 21.2°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 65

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:07

Sunset: 05:39

Barometer: 1012

#### Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Nov 15

Max Min

31° | 23°

#### Extended Forecast for a week

Friday Nov 16	Saturday Nov 17	Sunday Nov 18	Monday Nov 19	Tuesday Nov 20
31°   23° Cloudy	33°   25° Overcast	33°   25° Overcast	33°   25° Overcast	33°   25° Overcast

#### Airport Weather

Delhi

Delhi

Rain: 0

Humidity: 72

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:43

Sunset: 05:27

Barometer: 1016



# THE HINDU Business Line

TODAY FARM NEWS

13.11.2012 P.M

14.11.2012 A.M

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

## Ceres to help India develop better rice varieties



Ceres Inc plans to use the \$3.5-million grant from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop high-yielding and stress-tolerant traits in rice in Asia including India.

The USAID recently extended an additional grant of \$3.5 million that will extend Ceres' trait work in rice for four more years. Researchers at the Nasdaq-listed biotech firm will focus specifically on combining its best high-yield and stress-tolerance genes into stacks, which can amplify the benefits of individual traits, a statement said.

Roger Pennell, Vice-President of Trait Development at Ceres, said that one of the most important aspects of the USAID grant is to help build the expertise and capacity within India to ensure further development of biotech traits and develop a commercial plan to promote sustainable agricultural production and greater food security.

“Domestic rice yields in India are insufficient to reliably feed the growing population, especially under drought conditions and on soils with depleted nitrogen or high amounts of salt contamination. Our trait work here offers a new opportunity to not only help increase yields in one of the most widely cultivated crops in the world, but also to help return low quality cropland to productivity,” said Pennell.

Ceres will also continue to collaborate with a local Indian seed company to cross the best traits and trait stacks into commercial rice types adapted to the subcontinent.

Work under the grant will begin at Ceres’ facility in Thousand Oaks, California, and through a partner in China. Evaluations of parental breeding lines are now underway in India.

Subject to regulatory approval, field evaluations of the first commercial hybrids with the Ceres traits could begin as early as mid-2013, the statement said.

Since 2009, Ceres has worked with USAID under a \$3 million grant to increase rice yields, especially under stress conditions and on poor soils.

### **Maize prices were mixed last week: USGC**

Maize showed a mixed trend during last week and the grain prices on pan India average were down by 1.5 per cent at Rs 12,066 per tonne compared to the week before, but were higher than last year by 16.3 per cent, according to US Grains Council (USGC).

“Maize prices on pan India average were down by 1.5 percent to Rs 12,066 per tonne, but were higher than last year by 16.3 percent. Harvest has been delayed and is lagging behind, which will delay the rabi sowing. Rains in south India continue and may have affected rice crops in some of the coastal areas, but no major damage to maize crop has been reported,” USGC India Representative Amit Sachdev said.

Corn prices did show a mixed trend and in some places prices did come down like in Andhra Pradesh prices were down by 1.32 per cent at Rs 11,653 per tonne, Gujarat by 0.59 per cent at Rs 12,709 per tonne, Karnataka by 6.46 per cent at Rs 12,134 per tonne. In Maharashtra, it was down by 0.34 per cent at Rs 11,490 per tonne and Rajasthan by 1.37 per cent at Rs 12,394 per tonne.

While in Madhya Pradesh prices were up by 1.19 per cent at Rs 11,739 per tonne, Tamil Nadu up by 5.41 per cent at Rs 13,300 per tonne and Uttar Pradesh up by 2.43 per cent at Rs 12,600 per tonne.

The trend was upward both on NCDEX for future as well as in Spot prices. On NCDEX November contract up by 5.18 per cent at Rs 13,590 per tonne, December up by 4.45 per cent at Rs 13,820 per tonne, January up 4.46 per cent at Rs 14,260 per tonne, February up 4.86 per cent at Rs 14,660 per tonne.

In Spot prices in Nizamabad were up by 2.31 per cent at Rs 13,035 per tonne, Davangere up 1.53 per cent at Rs 13,930 per tonne, Karimnagar up 1.43 per cent at Rs 13,075 per tonne and Sangli up 0.63 per cent at Rs 13,787 per tonne.

In the US, the maize prices remained more or less stable.

Meanwhile in other coarse cereals, prices of sorghum and barley were firm while pearl millet weakened.

Sorghum prices moved up by 14.3 per cent to Rs 15,159 per tonne, while barley were up by 4.7 per cent during last week at Rs 11,960 per tonne.

However, pearl millet prices moved down by 0.7 per cent to Rs 12,653 per tonne.

**Festival mood slows cotton arrivals, demand**



Cotton price remained unchanged on limited buying support and slow arrivals on Monday.

According to market sources, most of the buyers and sellers are in a holiday mood for the Diwali festivals. New S-6 cotton traded at Rs Rs 33,500-34,000 for a candy in Gujarat, A grade S-6 cotton traded at Rs 33,500-33,800 and B grade cotton at Rs 33,300-33,500.

Prices of V 797 offered at Rs 28,500-29,000 a candy. About 17,000-18,000 bales of cotton arrived in Gujarat as against 28,000-29,000 bales last week.

New 30+ MM cotton traded at Rs 33,600-34,000 in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

In Maharashtra, A grade cotton low micronaire quoted at Rs 33,000-33,300 and A grade high micronaire cotton 29+ MM quoted at 33,300-33,800. According to cotton traders, demand and arrivals both are slow as market is in festival mood. Market will be closed for a week and be regular from next Monday. Ginners also closed their unit for one week.

This year (2012-13), the total production of cotton is estimated to be around 354.25 lakh bales, according to the Cotton Association of India. This year the area under cotton is expected to be around three per cent lower compared to last year.





# THE TIMES OF INDIA

TODAY FARM NEWS

14.11.2012 A.M

## Govt delay to name price panel crushing cane farmers

LUCKNOW: Delay by Uttar Pradesh government in making announcement for state advisory price for cane has made sugarcane farmers a harried lot. Forced to make distress sales of their produce in order to recover costs, the farmers are now selling sugarcane stocks for anything between Rs 200 and Rs 220 per quintal to make ends meet.

Though the cane crushing season begins usually in the first week of October, the state government, till late October, was still in talks with farmers and sugar mill owners to reach consensus over what the SAP should be, for the crushing season of 2012-13. After two sets of stake-holders' meetings, one led by [UP's Cane Commissioner](#) and another by chief secretary Jawed Usmani, however, a formal announcement of SAP for the season is awaited.

At present, UP is home to over 50 lakh sugarcane farmers, a large majority of whom fall in the marginal and small farmers' category. With government yet to announce their decision on SAP, most farmers have been hit, forcing them to sell their produce to jaggery and khandsari units or other middlemen in an attempt to recover costs. "Farmers have been forced to sell their produce at low rates because they need money for Diwali as well as to begin sowing wheat crop for the next season. With the state government dragging its feet on the decision and the sugar mills not starting production till now, farmers are being forced to sell their produce at anything between Rs 200 and Rs 220, well below their input costs," said Sudhir Panwar of the Kisan Jagriti Manch. Panwar also said SAP should be fixed at Rs 300 per quintal or more in order for it to be beneficial for the farmers.

Earlier this week, chief minister [Akhilesh Yadav](#) promised during a visit to Meerut that government would soon announce formally SAP for cane. The chief minister also assured affected farmers that sugar mills would start production from November 25. Muzaffarnagar-based farmer Ved Pal Sharma alleged the state government was favouring the sugar mill because of which announcement of SAP was delayed. He said: "Why else has the



announcement not been made, even though the last meeting of the price fixation committee was held on October 31? It is in the favour of sugar mills to delay crushing because it increases the recovery of sugar by 0.25% as a result of a delay of one month."

Apart from raising concerns over fixation of SAP for cane, Panwar also said farmers were impacted doubly because on one hand the state government has delayed the announcement of SAP. On the other hand, the Centre has also failed to announce the minimum support price of wheat. "Farmers in the entire country are in a fix over the MSP of wheat for the session 2013. Central government has not announced MSP for wheat even as it has announced the support prices for other Rabi crops. Since wheat is sown during October and November and harvested in April and May, this uncertainty over MSP of wheat has caused hesitation among farmers about sowing wheat," Panwar added.

### Beans, pumpkin seeds for glowing skin



*New research shows that what you eat has a very powerful effect on how you look.*

Eating the right kind of food can make your skin look radiant. A lot of research has found that certain nutrients make you look more attractive. So, here goes the list of 'cool' foods for your 'hot' looks.

**Pumpkin seeds:** Pumpkin seeds have lots of vitamin E, a powerful antioxidant that helps slow down skin ageing, and those omega-3 fatty acids that keep your skin smooth and your hair shiny. Pumpkin seeds are packed with zinc. Studies also have shown them to reduce the appearance of acne and other skin problems.

**Oranges:** Want to look like [Jennifer Aniston](#)? Then have your regular share of [oranges](#). Vitamin C is a powerful antioxidant that mops up free radicals, such as those produced by overexposure to the sun, that lead to the premature ageing of skin. It also contains bioflavonoid, which promotes stronger collagen in the skin. The more collagen you have in your skin, the firmer and more elastic it will be.

**Beans:** Being high in protein, [beans](#) should be a regular feature in your diet. They are also very lean. Beans also provide the fatty acids your nails need to stay strong and prevent splitting.

[Eggs](#) are also excellent source of protein. Having them regularly will give you your regular dose of protein.

**Green tea :** For nothing, the Chinese people boast of lovely skin. Green tea hydrates you. It is loaded with antioxidants that have been shown to protect skin from sun damage; and it has an active ingredient that promotes a healthy metabolism. So instead of having cups of coffee, switch over to green tea. And see the difference.

**Tomatoes:** [Tomatoes](#) are full of fiber and vitamin A, which aids in the development of skin cells and the maintenance of skin cell health. A vitamin A deficiency can lead to dry skin. And tomatoes have lots of lycopene, which studies have shown helps protect the skin from UV stress.