

Rooftop vegetable farming scheme

The Vadakara and Koyilandy municipalities will implement the State government's rooftop vegetable farming promotion project. Under the scheme, interested farmers will be given quality grow bags with a government subsidy of 75 per cent. A unit comprising 25 grow bags will be supplied to farmers at Rs.500. Applications should reach the agriculture officers of these municipalities before Thursday. — Staff Reporter

Six-day 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 Hesaraghatta. Call 28466093 for details.

Dip tea products launched

Located in a remote part of the Nilgiris beyond Manjoor, the Thiashola Tea Estate extending over about 210 hectares which has over the years made a mark on the organic tea front, recently entered the value addition segment in a big way through its dip tea products.

Flavours

At a function organised in Thiashola the estate's dip teas in flavours like, 'English Breakfast', 'Cardamom', 'Masala', 'Lemon', 'Earl Gray', 'White Tea', 'Green Tea' and 'Black Tea' were launched.

Senior Manager P.Radhakrishnan, who received the first packet from the General Manager K.Jagan Thimmiah told *The Hindu* that the estate which is equipped with globally recognised certificates like organic tea issued by the Institute of Marketecology, Switzerland, for both farm and factory operations, Fairtrade by FLO, Germany, and ISO 22000 by the German certifying

agency TUV Nord, exports 90 percent of its products to the European Union countries, Australia, United Kingdom etc.

The product range includes organic black tea, organic green tea, organic speciality tea and silver tips.

With the company according high priority to the maintenance of good employer-employee relations, refrigerators were given to all the members of families residing inside the estate as part of the Fairtrade Programme.

Millet farmers learn new cultivation practices

A delegation of 100 millet farmers from Tirupur district who were taken out on an exposure visit by the Department of Agriculture to research stations and progressive fields in Dharmapuri district, has returned richer with knowledge on advanced cultivation practices.

Deputy Director of Agriculture P. Santanakrishnan, who led the entourage, told reporters that the objective of the expedition was to help the farmers here learn more on the crop and thereby, increase the yield of millet varieties like sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet and minor millets.

“By augmenting the productivity, the department wanted to improve the usage of millets as a food grain, instead of using more as fodder crop, since it is nutritionally rich,” he said.

Interaction

The farmers, during their visit to Dharmapuri, had interactions with scientists at Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Paapparapatti, and also studied cropping patterns as well as latest technologies at progressive farms in various villages. “The 100 farmers are going to implement the lessons learnt from the exposure trip by themselves and also teach the others in the respective blocks,” Mr. Santanakrishnan said.

Apart from taking farmers for field visits to other districts, the department was also distributing seeds, urea, potash, bio-fertilizers, and fungicides free to 2,000 farmers using financial assistance earmarked to the district under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

Dairy farmer drowns

A dairy farm owner drowned at Thalaiyanai near Papanasam on Monday.

The police said G. Lakshmanakumar (32) of T. N. Puthukkudi had come to Thalaiyanai at Papanasam on Monday to offer special prayers and perform rituals after the death of his friend's uncle. As Lakshmanakumar and others were taking bath at Thalaiyanai after the rituals, he was accidentally caught in the swirl and drowned.

Though his friends took him to the Government Hospital at Ambasamudram, the doctors declared that he was brought dead. As friends of Lakshmanakumar took the body from the hospital to T.N. Puthukkudi for funeral, the Vickramasingapuram police contacted the family of Lakshmanakumar and requested them to hand over the body to the police for a post-mortem.

The body was then brought to Ambasamudram Government Hospital again where the post-mortem was performed.

Genomics helping control bacterial infections

Advance research in Genomics has enabled scientists to find new methods to control Bacterial infections, D.N Rao, Head of Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, said here delivering the key note address at the technical session held as a prelude to the 5th A.P State Congress on the premises of Acharya Nagarjuna University here on Wednesday.

Going gets tough for cash crop farmers



The worst-ever power crisis has taken a heavy toll on the joint family of Paladugu Koteswara Rao, an upland farmer from Kota Nagavaram in Buttayagudem mandal of West Godavari district.

The 20-member joint family took up tobacco, sugarcane, and cotton cultivation in 100 acres. The cost of cultivation went up manifold and the family invested heavily on oil engines and generators for exploitation of groundwater to save the standing crop. According to Mr. Koteswara Rao, five generators and eight oil engines were fitted to 15 borewells in their fields for watering the crop. The family invested more than Rs 7 lakh on generators alone each with 30 kv capacity. "We are forced to purchase 20 barrels of diesel costing Rs 2.20 lakh to energise generators during the crop period from nursery to curing in tobacco. When power is supplied for only four hours a day, that too in two spells, daily as against the promised seven hours, what can we do," says Mr. Koteswara Rao. .

The rising labour cost plays is playing its part in pushing up the cultivation cost. The daily wage for each worker has gone up by Rs 20 this year.

Besides, the farmers are forced to bear the transport cost ranging from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 for an autorickshaw. The workers come in autos to the fields in Buttayagudem from as far off places as Jangareddygudem 15 km away. The workers specialised in curing, procured from Guntur and Krishna districts, are demanding Rs. 1 lakh as advance for each baron six months before the crop comes up for curing. "In the case of tobacco the cultivation cost has gone up mainly because of the power problem and soaring labour cost," Mr. Koteswara Rao adds.

Farmers, in desperation, are approaching banks for a higher scale of finance for commercial crops such as mirchi, tobacco, cotton, sugarcane and maize. Led by the Andhra Pradesh Rytu Sangham , a group of farmers locked up the Darbhagudem branch of Bank of India in Jeelugumilli mandal for four days demanding increase in loan limit from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh for tobacco per acre in line with the decision of the District Level Technical Committee (DLTC).

Total Tea Day



It has rained in Munnar the previous night. Driving into the hill station early in the morning, it seems the day struggles to shake off its sluggishness. The mist hovers longer than usual, the narrow, winding streets, normally crowded with tourists, are a bit empty. Surprisingly, there's a flurry of activity at the Tea Museum in Kanan Devan Hills Plantation (KDHP) company's Nallathani Estate. A crowd of animated tourists has lined up to explore the world of tea.

"Look at this sundial," says the guide, leading one group to the entrance, pointing to the granite model, "Even today it gives you the exact time..." He pauses for a moment, staring at the clouded sky where the sun still battles to break through the heavy veil of mist. "Made in 1913 by the Art Industrial School at Nazareth, Tamil Nadu, the sundial is not going to mark time this morning. Let's move on..." he continues seamlessly, much to everyone's amusement.

The history of Munnar is inextricably linked with the story of tea cultivation, with the gardens dating back to the 1870s. In fact, the development of the Kanan Devan Hills by James Finlay & Co with tea as its exclusive crop is a landmark in the history of tea in South India. These British adventurers were also involved in generating hydro-electric power using the Pelton Wheel.

In fact, one of these used in the plant in Kanniamally Estate is on view at the museum. Other interesting exhibits that catch your attention are a rail engine wheel of the Kundale Valley Light Railway that transported men and material between Munnar and Top Station from 1908 to 1924 and an old manual telephone exchange and cranking-type telephones. While the railway was wound up after floods breached the tracks in 1924, the telephone system was still in use till the mid-1980s.

Inside a glass frame are two gold coins, which many visitors walk past without a second glance. The guide tells us that they were part of the currency in circulation inside the estates till the turn of the century; workers were paid in these coins so that they would be utilised within the estates itself.”

Several other rare artefacts and photographs from a forgotten era are on display. A collection of shikar trophies, a 1920 vintage wooden bathtub, a wood-fired cast-iron cooking stove, a battered Remington typewriter in “working condition”, period furniture, illustrated posters from 1901 and 1904 of the Munnar Fower Show and Agricultural Show, respectively, an Iron Age burial urn unearthed at a nearby tea estate, and more.

The museum is beautifully planned, with hands-on activities. There’s a tea tasting demo room where visitors can, with the assistance of an expert, taste a variety of teas. There’s also a mini-CTC and orthodox tea manufacturing unit that takes you through the different aspects of tea processing.

Chacko P. Thomas, managing director, KDHP, talks of future plans. “By April next year, we will have an audio tour of the museum in a few languages. We have some rare footage of Munnar and the tea estates that we will stream on large screens.”

A small hall inside the museum doubles up as a theatre now, where a specially commissioned 30-minute English film tells the story of tea plantations in Munnar. A compact souvenir shop and a tea kiosk complete the package.

The guide is now with a new group. You can hear his commentary as you walk out. It fades out as you walk past the lovely, green estates but the stories linger...

Oman again bans import of eggs, chicken from India

The Sultanate of Oman, the biggest egg-export market for India, has once again passed an official decree banning import of eggs and chicken from India. The order of November 10 is based on a recommendation from the World Organisation for Animal Health after a bird-flu outbreak was confirmed in a government-run turkey farm at Hesaraghatta, Karnataka, in October.

“This is the second time the country is banning eggs from our country this year and this has come as a big blow to poultry farmers. The ban will affect a third of the egg exports from India,” general secretary of the Livestock and Agri Farmers Trade Organisation, and exporter, P.V. Senthil, told *The-Hindu* .

Buyers in Oman referred to the ban imposed by Kerala, soon after the flu was reported, he said. On why it had taken so long for Oman to impose the ban, he said government offices in the Sultanate started functioning only from November 3, after the Bakrid holiday.

“The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries there – which decides on imposing the ban – formed a committee to decide on the ban. On November 7, the committee submitted a report to the Ministry recommending the ban and the official order was passed three days later,” Dr. Senthil added.

Exporters here, however, said that they did not send shipments to that country from October 27, given the bitter experience of consignments being returned on earlier occasions.

R. Kannan, manager of a firm that exports poultry products to many countries including Oman, said that every day, about 25 tonnes of chicken meat from Palladam and 20 lakh eggs from Namakkal were sent to Oman. The country resumed import of Indian poultry products only in the last week of September, after banning these for about five months following bird flu in Bihar earlier this year.

“In about five weeks since the ban was lifted by Oman (on September 23), we exported poultry products worth Rs. 31 crore”, he added.

Dr. Senthil said representations had been made to the Animal Husbandry Department to explain to Oman that eggs from Namakkal were safe for consumption.

Farmers can save and earn more through vermi technology

A group of farmers from different villages were selected and given training



Sought after: There is a good demand for the vermicompost among the locals.— photo: special arrangement

Whatever be the crops, after harvesting the residue left in the field poses a major problem as removing it requires manpower and money.

In some places farmers simply burn the dried leaves, stalk in the field itself as it is an easy option. But over time this practice makes the land barren and kills several beneficial organisms that aid good growth.

Cost reduction

“And today with the cost of fertilizers hitting the roof it will be advisable if farmers can effectively use these wastes to make some sort of manure like vermicompost and put it back to the soil. By doing so expenses can be reduced and soil fertility be upgraded,” says Dr. V. Kantharaju, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gulbarga, Karnataka.

A group of farmers from different villages were selected and given training by the KVK staff on vermi composting methods.

Awareness

The farmers were also made aware on the importance of natural farming through vermicomposting methods and how this could help them cut down expenses in buying fertilizers.

Since this method helped them save some money several farmers willingly took it up.

“Also the income obtained from such activity can be reinvested by the farmer in enhancing his farm resources and infrastructure for higher return. He can go for crop diversification and better income,” says Dr. Kantharaju.

“For farmers, seeing is believing. When they heard about other farmers doing well in this line, they started visiting our KVK office and expressed willingness to try the same.

“Today we have been able to help such farmers in setting up their own small vermicomposting units and manufacture their own inputs,” says Dr. Kantharaju.

Loan

A dryland farmer, Mr. Shivanand in the region who underwent a similar training, started his own unit in small way. In due course, with help from KVK staff, he got a loan of Rs.4 lakh from a local bank.

“I constructed 48 pits from the loan amount and today am able to produce 100 tonnes of compost a year. 50 tonnes was used for my personal use and the remaining sold at Rs.300 per quintal. The worms were also sold for Rs. 300 a kg,” says the enterprising farmer.

Production doubled

Within a year he doubled his production to nearly 200 tonnes. He also started to enrich his compost with neem cake, Trichoderma, Pseudomonas, Rhizobium, and Azospirillum.

The farmer also developed a diversified cropping pattern using the vermicompost from his own unit.

He planted papaya in five acres, musk melon in one acre, and cucumber in some remaining area. With continuous guidance from the expert team who periodically visited him, he earned Rs. 3 lakh from papaya, Rs. 1.5 lakh from water melon, Rs. 1.5 lakh from musk melon, and Rs. 1 lakh from cucumber. He constructed a new home, purchased land worth Rs. 5 lakh from the income.

He has also employed about 10 permanent and temporary labour to look after the daily work in the production unit.

Better revenue

The success of Mr. Shivanand spread like wild fire and several people are visiting his farm to learn how he has been able to succeed in terms of revenue.

Mr. Shivanand has also been conferred several awards.

Readers can get in touch with Dr. V. Kantharaju, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Aland road, Gulbarga: 585 101, Karnataka, email: kvkglb.in@gmail.com and kantharaju74@gmail.com, Phone: 08472 274596, Mobiles: 9448584749 and 9480696315.

Some tips for managing pregnant buffaloes

More than 55 per cent of the total milk production in the country comes from buffalo breeds like murrah, niliravi, bhadavri, jafarabadi, surti, mahsana, nagpuri toda, Godavari, khemundi, pandharpuri etc.

Generally farmers look after lactating animals and tend to ignore pregnant animals. For getting maximum milk production pregnant buffaloes should be given special care before and after calving.

Gestation time

The gestation period is for 10 months and the animal delivers the calf ten days before or after. As calving is a natural process, the animal seldom has difficulty.

Nevertheless, the following practices are advisable for those farmers rearing buffaloes.

A pregnant buffalo should have at least 60 days of dry period before next calving. Also there should be proper drying off to avoid udder trouble in subsequent lactation.

After complete drying off, carry out dry cow therapy and proper feeding. The animals should be fed easily digestible feed in the last two weeks of pregnancy especially green fodder and brans etc.

Provide 2 to 2.5 kg of concentrates, scientifically balanced and fortified with area specific mineral mixture. Housing should be in clean, comfortable shed with optimum space.

Avoid undue stress to the animals and allow reasonable space for movement each day and provide open space. No vaccination during advanced stage of pregnancy should be administered.

Take expert help

Do not interfere with normal parturition unless some problem arises. In case of difficulty during calving call a veterinary doctor. Feed the buffalo warm porridge or bran mash just before and after calving.

Wipe the udder dry before allowing suckling. Wash the hind quarters and udder with warm water to which a little potassium permanganate is added.

If after birth placenta is not expelled within 5-6 hours, contact a veterinarian for help. Do not pull it out or tie weights to it.

Readymade medications recommended by the doctor can be used.

(Rajinder Singh, Sr extension specialist (animal sciences) Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Rohtak and K.S. Dangi, Director General, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Haryana, email: raja.udaybhar@gmail.com, mobile: 09416495904.)

Farmer's bid to immolate himself foiled

A farmer who created a flutter in the Tahsildar's office complex at Puttur by dousing himself with kerosene and allegedly tried to immolate himself was over-powered when he was about to light the match stick, and handed over to the police.

Reports reaching here said, Rambabu (40) of Nandimangalam Dalit colony near Puttur was reportedly upset over the revenue officials recently recovering from his possession about four acres of land which he had been tilling along with his 'own' land located next to it, reportedly ignoring stiff resistance from the department.

While the Revenue Department officials argued that he had no right over the land since it was a 'DKT land', Rambabu insisted that the land must be returned to him since he was tilling it for last eight years. The police registered a case.

Going gets tough for cash crop farmers



The worst-ever power crisis has taken a heavy toll on the joint family of Paladugu Koteswara Rao, an upland farmer from Kota Nagavaram in Buttayagudem mandal of West Godavari district.

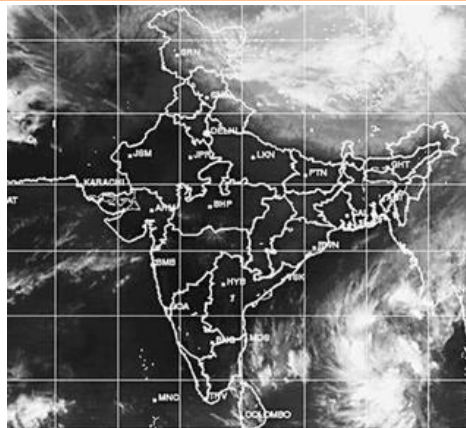
The 20-member joint family took up tobacco, sugarcane, and cotton cultivation in 100 acres. The cost of cultivation went up manifold and the family invested heavily on oil engines and generators for exploitation of groundwater to save the standing crop. According to Mr. Koteswara Rao, five generators and eight oil engines were fitted to 15 borewells in their fields for watering the crop. The family invested more than Rs 7 lakh on generators alone each with 30 kv capacity. "We are forced to purchase 20 barrels of diesel costing Rs 2.20 lakh to energise generators during the crop period from nursery to curing in tobacco. When power is supplied for only four hours a day, that too in two spells, daily as against the promised seven hours, what can we do," says Mr. Koteswara Rao. .

The rising labour cost plays is playing its part in pushing up the cultivation cost. The daily wage for each worker has gone up by Rs 20 this year.

Besides, the farmers are forced to bear the transport cost ranging from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 for an autorickshaw. The workers come in autos to the fields in Buttayagudem from as far off places as Jangareddygudem 15 km away. The workers specialised in curing, procured from Guntur and Krishna districts, are demanding Rs. 1 lakh as advance for each baron six months before the crop comes up for curing. "In the case of tobacco the cultivation cost has gone up mainly because of the power problem and soaring labour cost," Mr. Koteswara Rao adds.

Farmers, in desperation, are approaching banks for a higher scale of finance for commercial crops such as mirchi, tobacco, cotton, sugarcane and maize. Led by the Andhra Pradesh Rytu Sangham , a group of farmers locked up the Darbhagudem branch of Bank of India in Jeelugumilli mandal for four days demanding increase in loan limit from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh for tobacco per acre in line with the decision of the District Level Technical Committee (DLTC).

Weather



The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace) and total rainfall in mm since October 01, 2012.

Dry weather in Andhra Pradesh

CHENNAI: Rainfall occurred at a few places over Lakshadweep. Isolated rainfall occurred over Kerala . Dry weather prevailed over Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

The minimum temperature fell markedly at one or two places over coastal Karnataka, fell appreciably at a few places over Rayalaseema, interior Karnataka, at one or two places over

coastal Andhra Pradesh, north Tamil Nadu, fell at a few places over rest south interior Karnataka, rest Tamil Nadu and changed a little elsewhere over the region.

They were largely below normal at one or two places over north interior Karnataka, appreciably to markedly below normal at many places over Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, interior Karnataka, below normal at a few places over rest north interior Karnataka, rest Tamil Nadu, Telangana, at one or two places over coastal Karnataka and were generally normal over the rest of the region.

Medak recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 11 degree Celsius in the plains of the region.

Forecast (valid till Friday morning): Isolated rain or thundershower may occur over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Mainly dry weather will prevail over Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Weather

Chennai

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Thursday, Nov 15

Max Min

30.3° | 21.7°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 83

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:07

Sunset: 05:39

Barometer: 1010

Tomorrow's Forecast



Overcast

Friday, Nov 16

Max Min

33° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday Nov 17	Sunday Nov 18	Monday Nov 19	Tuesday Nov 20	Wednesday Nov 21
33° 25° Overcast	33° 25° Overcast	33° 25° Overcast	33° 25° Overcast	33° 25° Overcast

Airport Weather

Delhi

Delhi

Rain: 0

Humidity: 82

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:44

Sunset: 05:27

Barometer: 1014



Sugarcane farmers seek higher prices, get bullets

One farmer was injured on Wednesday when police opened fire in Sangli district to control agitating sugarcane growers who, to press for their demand for better prices, were obstructing the transport of the cane and bags of sugar.

The firing took place when farmers clashed with officials of the Sarvodaya sugar factory.

Pravin Patil, who was injured, was shifted to a private hospital. This is the second incident of police firing in two days in Sangli district, the hometown of Maharashtra home minister RR Patil.

Chief minister Prithviraj Chavan has held a meeting with the farmer leaders but nothing emerged out of it.

There were reports of violence from other parts of the state also. In Kolhapur district, farmers attacked a police van.

They burnt an effigy of agriculture minister Sharad Pawar for his reported casteist remark against MP Raju Shetty, who is leading the farmers' agitation on behalf of their organisation Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana, and is now in custody.

Government buses were set on fire in various places and police parties were attacked. Farmers have intensified their agitation by stopping milk collection for two days during Diwali. They have almost sealed all borders of Sangli district.

Chandrakant Nalawade, a farmer, was killed on Monday in police firing. Another agitating farmer was crushed to death by a truck in Pune.

THE HINDU Business Line

TODAY FARM NEWS

14.11.2012 P.M

15.11.2012 A.M

14th nov 2012 P.M

Steady inputs keep poultry feed unchanged



A range-bound trend in the prices of feed ingredients kept poultry feed prices unchanged on Wednesday.

Aditya Mishra, a commodity expert, told *Business Line*, that good demand and steady input cost kept feed products unchanged and may continue to rule around current levels for the next few days.

Feed ingredients have been ruling in a tight range over the last three weeks, said market sources.

Soyameal prices went up marginally by Rs 10 and quoted at Rs 2,960 a quintal. Bajra decreased by Rs 30 at Rs 1,230; maize at Rs 1,440 was Rs 10 down from the previous level, while DCP remained unaltered at Rs 36 a kg.

Rice bran oil ruled flat and quoted Rs 57 a litre, while fish oil was at Rs 65.

Feed Prices

Broiler concentrates feed quoted at Rs 1,885 for a 50-kg bag while broiler starter mash was at Rs 1,430.

“Broiler pre-starter concentrate 30 per cent” sold at Rs 1,625 for a 30-kg bag while layer concentrate quoted at Rs 1,430 for a 50-kg bag.

Pre-lay mash quoted at Rs 1,005 while broiler finisher sold at Rs 1,400 for a 50-kg bag.

Poultry Products

Meanwhile, broiler and chick improved marginally on better demand while egg witnessed a downtrend of on reduced off-take.

Egg fell by 25 paise at Rs 3; broiler Rs 52-53 a kg, Rs 2 up from the previous level.

Similarly, chick went up by Rs 2 at Rs 8-10.

Cane farmers' stir affects sugar trade



Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market ruled almost steady in the start of the new year.

Wholesale sugar brokers continued their old tradition of fixing Naka rates for three continuous days on festival days such as Diwali and New Year.

According to the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, naka rates were fixed at Rs 3,411.25-3,471.25 a quintal for S-grade and Rs 3,425.25-3,660.25 for M-grade.

Fine bold variety M-grade was higher at Rs 3,680.25.

Physical market was closed , hence, there were no arrivals or dispatches.

Jagdish Rawal of B. Bhogilal and co, told *Business Line* that “protest by the Maharashtra’s farmers for higher cane price, which has turned violent in Sangli, Satara and Kolhapur line, has disturbed the routine trade and arrivals–dispatches in the last two-three days.

Demand will ease after Diwali. The Vashi market carries more than 70-80 truckload of stocks.

Mills have to complete sale of 40 lakh tonnes of free sale quota allotted for October and November till month end. On Muhurat day, on the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, sugar December futures closed higher Rs 9 to Rs 3,318; January contracts were up at Rs 3,330. On Tuesday evening very few mills offered tenders at steady range of Rs 3,330.25-3,380.25 for S-grade and Rs 3,400.25-3,500.25 for M-grade. In the Vashi market, spot rates were: S-grade Rs 3,470.25-3,550.25 and M-grade was Rs 3,550.25-3,710.25.

Demand recovery pushes up Malaysia palm oil



Hectic activities were witnessed in edible oils market during Muhurat trading The market was bullish, tracking firm Malaysian palm oil futures that closed higher by more than 100 ringgits a tonne on Wednesday. Malaysian palm oil futures posted the highest daily gain since October 2010, lifted by a slowdown in inventory build-up in Malaysia and a demand recovery for palm oil.

In Mumbai, groundnut oil shot up by Rs 16, soyabean and sunflower oils by Rs 5 each; rapeseed oil by Rs 20; palmolein by Rs 4; cotton ref oil dropped by Rs 8 on ease of supply from producing centres. Malaysia's October palm oil stocks inched up 1.1 per cent to a record 2.51 million tonnes. End of the day Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 512-515 and super palmolein at Rs 570.25 and soya refined oil Rs 665.25. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 513, super palmolein Rs 572, soyabean refined oil Rs 661.25 and sunflower ref oil Rs 721.51. Allana's rate for palmolein was Rs 511 and super palmolein was Rs 565.25 but late evening, it stopped quoting palmolein. In Saurashtra-Rajkot market, groundnut oil *telia* tin was up Rs 50 to Rs 1,840.50 (Rs 1,790) and loose 10 kg increased by Rs 20 to Rs 1,180.50 (Rs 1,160).

On the **National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange**, soyabean ref oil Dec futures were higher at Rs 675.30 (Rs 663.75) and Jan Rs 669.25 (Rs 670.55). Malaysia's CPO Dec futures shot up to MYR 2,395 (2,293), Jan MYR 2,425 (2,324) and Feb settled at MYR 2,461 (MYR 2,366) a tonne. Muhurat spot rates at the **Bombay Commodity Exchange** (Rs/10 kg): Groundnut oil 1,171.25; soya ref oil 665.25; sunflower exp ref 670.25; sunflower ref. 730.25; rapeseed ref oil 850.25; rapeseed exp ref 820.25; cotton ref. oil 675.25 and palmolein was 511.15.

Milk prices head south as private dairies stop buying



The virtual exit of private dairies from procurement this year has led to a drop in milk prices by up to 15 per cent, mainly in the southern and western parts of the country.

Even in the North, where the peak flush season is set to begin with the onset of winter (when buffaloes start giving more milk), the outlook is bearish.

Excess stocks

The main factor behind the fall in milk prices is the huge stocks of skimmed milk powder (SMP) with private dairies, coupled with dwindling realisation from export of casein.

This has led to a situation where private dairies are no longer keen to buy more milk and farmers are pouring in their entire surplus to co-operative dairies. The latter, in turn, have responded by reducing their procurement prices.

“Private dairies have stopped collecting milk this year,” said sources at Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), whose procurement touched an all-time high of 54.8 lakh litres a day during the first week of November. KMF’s average daily procurement stands at 53 lakh litres, about 20 per cent more than last year.

In Andhra Pradesh, the co-operatives have sought the Government permission to reduce prices. In Maharashtra, the private dairies have cut the procurement price by Re 1 , while co-operatives are under pressure to reduce.

In North, the dairies are currently paying Rs 380-400 for every kg of fat against Rs 450 last year.

Smp exports

R.S. Sodhi, Managing Director, Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation, however, claimed that the worst was over and prices were unlikely to fall further. The pick-up in pace of SMP exports on rising demand and prices should help boost milk prices, he added.

SMP exports, since June this year, have stood at 17,000 tonnes. In September, the Government had estimated SMP stocks at 1.12 lakh tonnes. The industry has requested the Government to consider increasing the incentive for exports from 5 per cent to 10 per cent under the Vishesh Krishi and Gramin Upaj Yojana to facilitate export of accumulated stock. “We expect SMP exports to be between 10 and 12,000 tonnes every month going forward,” Sodhi said.

The export prices of SMP are turning attractive to quality producers, say, in the range of Rs 150-160 a kg, R.G. Chandramogan, CMD of Hatsun Agro, said. Besides, the appreciating dollar is an advantage, he added.

Spot rubber rules flat

Spot rubber finished unchanged on Wednesday. According to observers the trading activities were extremely low and the market remained neutral amidst scattered transactions. There were no fresh factors to trigger a positive trend in the commodity but it managed to sustain at the prevailing levels in the absence of quantity sellers either from dealers or growers.

Sheet rubber closed steady at Rs. 172.00 a kg according to traders. The grade slipped to Rs. 171.50 (172.00) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi as quoted by the Rubber Board.

In futures, the November series improved to Rs. 171.80 (171.10), December to Rs.173.15 (172.45), January to Rs.175.70 (175.01) and February to Rs. 178.39 (177.35) per kg while the March and April series remained inactive on National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).

RSS 3 (spot) slipped to Rs.161.00 (161.22) a kg at Bangkok. The November futures increased to ₹ 233.5 (Rs.160.53) from ₹ 231.8 during the day session and then to ₹ 236.4 (Rs.162.53) per kg in the night session on Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 172 (172); RSS-5: 168 (168); ungraded: 163 (163); ISNR 20: 159 (159) and latex 60 per cent: 108 (108).

Higher volume on offer at Coonoor tea auction

A volume of 13.08 lakh kg has been catalogued for Sale No: 46 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions to be held on Thursday and Friday when the market reopens after Diwali holidays, reveals our analysis of brokers' listing.

It is as much as 1.18 lakh kg more than last week's offer but as much as 3.85 lakh kg less than the offer this time last year.

Of the 13.08 lakh kg on offer, 9.27 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 3.81 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 12.27 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 0.81 lakh kg, orthodox variety. The proportion of orthodox teas continues to be low in both the leaf and dust grades. In the leaf counter, only 0.49 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 8.78 lakh kg, CTC. Among the dusts, only 0.32 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 3.49 lakh kg, CTC.

Fresh tea accounts for 12.47 lakh kg while about 61,000 kg comprises teas which had remained unsold in previous auctions. Last week, quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs

74-77 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 95-125 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 80-82 for plain dusts and Rs 100-138 for brighter liquoring dusts.

In the leaf tea auction, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) bought good medium varieties. Duncans Tea Ltd showed interest on good medium broken. Tata Global Beverages Ltd and Godfrey Philips India Ltd were selective. There was good demand from exporters for medium and plainer varieties. Internal buyers were less active.

In the dust tea auction, HUL and Tata Global bought good medium varieties. Indcoserve showed interest on medium smaller grades. Exporters preferred medium and plainer varieties. Internal buyers were fairly active.

There was good demand for brighter liquoring teas from upcountry buyers.

Business Standard

TODAY FARM NEWS

15.11.2012 A.M

China turns to machines as farmers seek fresh fields

CHINA-AGRICULTURE-MECHANISATION-ANALYSIS:China turns to machines as farmers seek fresh fields

Reuters / China November 14, 2012, 2:42 IST

China needs to replace millions of workers who have quit farms for cities, but even its vast state power might not be able to transform the countryside into a network of big industrial farms capable of feeding its growing economy.

Pulling together small plots of land to make larger operations and introducing modern mechanical techniques would help boost productivity, vital if China's agricultural sector is to meet soaring domestic food demand.

But efforts to modernise the sector are struggling to gain traction because many farmers are suspicious about giving up their land, and even for some mechanised farms, there are too few workers.

Guaranteeing food security is a major tenet of the ruling Communist Party. The country is self-sufficient in rice and wheat, but is struggling to meet corn demand and has long given up trying to satisfy soy demand. It is the world's biggest importer of soybeans, and a major buyer of corn.

It has increased grains output for nine straight years and aims to add 50 million tonnes per year by 2020 to the record 571.21 million tonnes of grain harvested in 2011.

"It now needs the government to come out and manage the land of those who give consent, and improve economies of scale," said Fu Xuejun, a manager at the Baoquanling farm, owned by the Beidahuang Group, a huge state-owned farming conglomerate in Heilongjiang in northeast China.

Some say China should give up its fixation with self-sufficiency and take advantage of growing grains trade internationally.

"China used to emphasise self-sufficiency because the international environment was not favourable," said Li Guoxiang, researcher with the Rural Development Institute of the China Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). "Food security should have two aims - one is domestic production and the other is the ability to buy overseas."

LURE OF THE CITIES

The challenge of reviving the farming sector is daunting at a time when both the rural population and available agricultural land are shrinking.

The number of rural workers has been falling for years because of a low birth rate, an ageing population and most importantly the lure of China's fast-growing cities.

Between 1982 and 2010, when China's overall population rose by a third, the number of registered rural residents fell to around 710 million from 790 million, Reuters calculations based on census data show.

The real rural population is likely to be lower though, because many of 260 million migrants working in cities are registered in their home villages.

Millions of hectares per year of farming land are being lost to urban and industrial development. China's 2011-2015 plan for the farm sector allocates at least 104 million hectares for crops, an area the size of Egypt, compared with 120 million hectares in the previous plan. The main problem is persuading farmers not to abandon their plots.

Some land is simply lying fallow, as farmers find better pay elsewhere but still prefer not to give up their land.

"There is a lot of talk about urbanisation and urban expansion encroaching on agricultural land but I often argue that non-farm wages are more relevant to whether land gets kept in production," said Bryan Lohmar, an agricultural economist and China director of the U.S. Grains Council. "A lot of land is left fallow because nobody wants to farm it."

Reflecting those wage gaps, 69-year old corn grower Li Huamin said he could earn as much from leasing out his land as from planting.

His 36-year-old son plans to abandon the plot near the state-owned farm of Suibin, a few miles from the Russian border, and open a restaurant.

"Young people aren't willing to be farmers anymore and leave to work or study in the cities - more than half have gone already," he said.

AGGREGATION

More than half of China's ploughing, planting and harvesting is carried out by machines, compared with a third a decade ago, but the biggest challenge lies in aggregating farms to develop economies of scale.

Li of CASS said studies have shown only 13-15 percent of small farmers have agreed to aggregate their land or transfer it to commercial farmers.

"The government simply can't go too fast and transfer land too quickly because of the impact on rural social stability," Li said.

Often, if a group of farmers sell, local governments use the land for more profitable industrial uses, and some farmers are reluctant to give up their land.

"Many think that if they transfer their land they won't be allowed to go back, so there are plots that are just empty because the farmers have gone to the cities but don't dare to lease out their land," said Li.

Heilongjiang became the country's largest grain producer in 2011 when yields rose 11 percent from 2010 as farmers deployed bigger and better machinery for threshing and ploughing.

Beijing wants to lift that to 65-70 percent by 2020, but the increased use of machines in most farms was a reaction to rising labour costs, not a drive to meet government targets.

"The core issue is, who will plant for us and ensure food security in future following urbanisation and industrialisation?" said Zong Jinyao, an official in charge of mechanisation of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Haryana paddy arrival on higher note

Around 180 mandis or purchase centres have been made functional for the procurement of paddy

Vikas Sharma / Chandigarh November 14, 2012, 15:17 IST

Paddy arrival momentum in Haryana this year has been on higher note compared to last year ,because of more arrival of 'A' grade variety compared to basmati.

As per state government officials till now 43.91 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has so far arrived in various Mandis of Haryana .This is around 19% more arrivals compared to corresponding period of last year. Last year the arrival stood at 36.86 lakh metric tonnes in the corresponding period.

The officials say more arrival of Paddy(Grade A) than basmati and more paddy arrival from UP and Punjab in Haryana terminal markets has resulted in higher arrival of paddy in Haryana terminal markets this year.

The state agriculture officials in Haryana are revising the paddy acreage figures in Haryana this year. As per state agriculture officials the revised estimates for paddy acreage reflects area has increased compared to earlier estimates. As against an earlier estimate of 10.82 lakh hectares, the officials said acreage figures would be revised upwards, with area likely to cross 11.50 lakh hectares. The paddy area in Haryana last year stood at 12.35 lakh hectares.

Officials also said the rice yield this year is expected to better the previous year figure. "As against yield of 30.44 quintal/hectare last year, rice yield this year would be around 31.50 lakh hectare."

Around 180 mandis or purchase centres have been made functional for the procurement of paddy , in Haryana which would be done by six procurement agencies.

The six procurement agencies, are Food and Supplies Department, HAFED, FCI, Haryana Warehousing Corporation, Haryana Agro Industries Corporation and CONFED.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

TODAY FARM NEWS

15.11.2012 A.M

Reclamation of agricultural land halted by flying squad

PANAJI: The flying squad stopped [reclamation of agricultural land](#) which is being used to broaden a road leading from Bhatlem to Taleigao after receiving an oral complaint on Monday. The work had commenced a few days ago and at least 400m of the stretch of the road has been levelled for tarring in the future. "The debris had been dumped by the roadside in a phased manner several months ago," a resident said.

A crane started leveling the debris, adding almost ten more metres on both sides. "The breadth of the road is about 13-15m, including four metres of the tarred portion," the resident added.

"We have halted the work but no information is available as to who is carrying it out," a source from the flying squad said. [PWD](#) sources have denied undertaking the leveling work. "We are trying to find out which party is responsible for it," a flying squad source said.