

THE HINDU

TODAY FARM NEWS

17.11.2012 A.M

Haryana promoting fish farming

To promote fish farming in Haryana, the State Government has set up a Fish Seed Farm with an investment of Rs. 36 lakh near Ottu Weir in Sirsa district.

The farm is meant to not only fulfil the demand for seeds from fish farmers of Sirsa but also export fish seed to other districts, an official spokesperson said on Friday. During April-August this year, 28.15 lakh fish seeds were prepared by this seed farm, he said.

Farmers and youth in adjoining areas have started considering fish farming as a profitable business, he said.- PTI

Workshop on pest control

The Rubber Board will organise a training programme in diseases and pests of rubber and their control measures, at Rubber Training Institute here on November 26 and 27. The fee for participating in the workshop is Rs.600.

Further details can be obtained by contacting 0481- 2351313 or 2353127.

Produce documents to buy fertilizers

Under Aadhaar-enabled service delivery, farmers in Mysore and Tumkur districts have to produce documents to establish their identity to purchase fertilizers from retail dealers from December 15, 2012.

They have to produce either Aadhaar Card or Kisan Credit Card to buy fertilizers in the two districts.

In move towards rolling out Aadhaar-based cash transfers in the future, the Centre has launched a pilot project in 10 select districts in the country, including Mysore and Tumkur,

Mangalore Chemical and Fertilizers (MCF) Ltd Deputy General Manager Gurunath G. told *The Hindu* on Friday.

MCF is the nodal agency for implementation of the project in Tumkur, while Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) has been assigned the task in Mysore district. MCF, which manufactures a wide range of products, including Urea, Di-ammonium Phosphate and complex fertilizers, is also the state coordinator for mobile based fertilizer monitoring system.

Mysore and Tumkur districts have been selected on account of high percentage penetration of Aadhaar and Kisan Credit cards. Based on the success of the pilot project, the system would be introduced in other districts, Mr. Gurunath said.

To track movement of fertilizers in all districts in the State as well in the country, the Union Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers has directed all wholesale and retail dealers to compulsorily issue acknowledgements for supply of fertilizers from companies as well statements of sale of fertilizers to farmers through mobile or web-enabled system to the National Informatics Centre, Delhi.

He said the objective of the project was to ensure availability of adequate quantity of fertilizers in all districts. The Union Government had planned to design a scheme to transfer fertilizer subsidies directly as cash into the bank account of farmers using Aadhaar numbers.

Farmers' club to sell meat products

For the first time in Tirupur district, a farmer's club is to be formed of agrarian community involved in rearing of goats and sheep in an attempt to promote marketing of meat and meat products through a consortium approach.

The proposed club will be constituted by involving farmers from Arumuthampalayam village under an initiative conceptualised by Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University.

"Formation of the club will be done in association with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)," R. Selvaraj, head of Veterinary University Training and Research Centre under the university, told *The Hindu* here.

As part of the project, it has been planned to set up a modern meat stall in the city to sell the meat and meat products directly to urban customers.

“Such an outlet will thus increase the earnings of farmers as middlemen normally involved in the sale of chevon and mutton will be avoided,” Dr. Selvaraj pointed out.

The formation of the farmer’s club has a plethora of benefits since it could effectively coordinate with the banks and ensure better credit flow among the farmers in Arumuthampalayam village.

Dr. Selvaraj said that to ensure professionalism and give value-addition in the marketing of the meat products, members of the farmer’s club would be trained on ‘portioning,’ ‘dressing,’ and ‘packaging’ of the meat.

He pointed out that expenses for formation and maintenance of the club and for organising meet-the-expert programmes during the first three years would be met by NABARD.

Loans for farmers to buy paddy harvesters

Move to address labour shortage in Ramanathapuram villages



Providing solutions:Collector K. Nanthakumar addressing the farmers’ grievance day meeting in Ramanathapuram on Friday.— Photo: L. Balachandar

The district administration has offered to arrange for bank loans to farmers to buy paddy harvesters if they face shortage of farm workers during the harvest season.

Collector K. Nanthakumar, chairing a farmers’ grievance day meeting here on Friday, said that he would arrange for bank loan, if big farmers wished to buy the machines priced between Rs. 9

lakh and Rs. 16 lakh. The government was offering 50 per cent subsidy to the farmers who buy the machines and the district administration would arrange bank loan for the remainder, provided the farmers pay an initial amount ranging from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. One lakh.

Big farmers could buy the machines and rent it out to small farmers at a nominal rate to address the labour shortage, he suggested. "You can buy the machines in two months," he assured. The Collector was responding to a farmer's grievance that harvesting had become expensive due to shortage of farm workers. Those who own paddy harvesters, mainly in the delta region of Thanjavur, charge heavily while renting out the machines, he said.

Stating that the monsoon was playing truant, a farmer from R.S. Mangalam block pleaded that the district administration make arrangements for getting water from the Vaigai dam to save standing crops. Officials, however, said it was not possible immediately as the water level in the dam stood at 504 mcft against its capacity of 6,800 mcft.

The district's vaigai credit was 2,800 mcft, but water could not be released from the dam now due to poor storage. The ayacuts in Sivaganga district secured water from Periyar credit, the officials clarified.

When farmers pointed out delay in disbursement of loans from commercial banks after they had provisionally sanctioned the loans during 'loan melas' last month, the Collector clarified that the process was time consuming as the banks, being roped in for the first time to grant loans, would sanction loans only after field inspection. "We have completed four blocks and all the 25,000-odd farmers would be sanctioned loans by the end of this month." The farmers would be given bank loans without field inspection from next year, once they were given Kisan Credit Cards, which would be valid for five years, he said.

On shortage of fertilizers, the Collector said that steps had been taken to make available adequate stocks in all the 131 cooperative societies in the district. In the last one month, 4,000 tonnes worth Rs. 7 crore had been sold, he said.

Paddy farmers requested the district administration to provide facilities to dry paddy at the procurement centres, while their counterparts engaged in chilli cultivation, demanded cold storage facilities. In the absence of storage facilities, they were forced to sell their produce to

traders at a low price, they said. “We sell for Rs. 400 (per 10 kg) and the traders, after studying the market fluctuations, sell the same at Rs. 1,100,” a farmer said.

Officials also assured a section of farmers that the administration would take steps for the speedy disbursement of insured amount for their failed crops, when a farmer complained that they had been waiting for the amount for the past three years.

'Samba scheme of no use to most farmers'

The subsidy scheme to promote samba cultivation announced by Chief Minister Jayalalithaa has not been of any use to most of the farmers, the Agriculturists' Wing of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee has alleged.

In a statement here, Puliur R. Nagarajan, vice president of the unit, pointed out that the State government had announced a fertilizer subsidy of Rs.80 crore for samba cultivation.

Accordingly, the subsidy per hectare worked out to Rs.1,100 which would be adjusted when fertilizer is purchased.

However, the Agriculture Department has been insisting that farmers should buy 82.5 kg urea, 130 kg DAP and 50 kg potash simultaneously in order to avail the subsidy.

Similarly, under another plan, Rs.1,125 has been announced as subsidy for purchase of 300 kg complex and 50 kg potash.

Mr. Nagarajan alleged that farmers were forced to buy both items to avail the subsidy.

“Only when we purchase all these items the subsidy amount is deducted from the total purchase price,” he added. What is the difficulty in permitting the farmers to procure these items separately, he wondered.

According to him, many farmers did not utilise this type of subsidy programme because they could not spare Rs.5,000 for purchase of all the fertilizers.

Hence, he is definite that the entire subsidy of Rs.80 crore would not have been utilised by now.

He wondered why officials should insist on purchase of all the items for granting subsidy.

“ Now all we need are only urea and potash. And the subsidy for the same should be given to farmers. In addition, for various agricultural operations, including spraying, Rs.5,000 should be given as subsidy in cash per acre directly to farmers, he pleaded.

Minister promises 'fair compensation' to farmers



Hemavati Left Bank Canal breached on the night of November 11 near Narayanapura in Channarayapatna.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare and in charge of Hassan district Aravind Limbavali has assured a “fair compensation” to farmers who suffered losses due to the breach of the Hemavati Left Bank Canal near Narayanapura in Channarayapatna.

The canal breached on the night of November 11 and the water gushed into large tracts of farmland.

The Minister was speaking at the tri-monthly Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) review meeting here on Friday. He said the government would ensure that farmers got “fair compensation”. Officials had been instructed to assess the loss and submit a detailed report, he added.

Joint Director of Agriculture B. Shivaraj told the Minister that he had visited the affected areas and assessed the crop loss.

“The loss estimation is in the final stages. As many as 155 farmers owning 117 acres of land in all have been affected. Standing paddy crop and coconut palms have been damaged. We are assessing the loss at the rate of 25 quintal of paddy an acre,” he said. The officer said that

farmers would also require assistance to clear the debris collected on their land, restore fertility of the soil and rebuild bunds meant for marking boundaries.

Legislators H.S. Prakash, Patel Shivarm and Rudresh Gowda demanded that the government release compensation in proportion to the loss suffered by farmers.

District Health Officer Shyamala Devi informed the Minister that 64 posts of specialist doctor were vacant in the district.

Mr. Limbavali said the government had made rural service compulsory for fresh medical graduates.

Prolonged dry spell leaves delta farmers in a fix

Centre urged to ensure 40 tmcft water from Karnataka



A few spells of moderate rain in the next few weeks supplemented by supply from the Mettur dam can save the standing samba crop.— Photo: B. Velankanni Raj

With a prolonged dry spell in the past fortnight after the lashing that the Nilam cyclone has inflicted, the delta farmers are once again at the mercy of Rain God.

Only a few spells of moderate rain in the next few weeks supplemented by supply from the Mettur dam can save the standing samba crops in lakhs of acres, asserts Mannargudi S. Ranganathan, general secretary of the Cauvery Delta Farmers' Welfare Association.

Arupathi P. Kalyanam, general secretary, Federation of the Farmers' Associations of Delta Districts, pleads that the Central Government should ensure supply of at least 40 tmcft of water from Karnataka as the delta would require water up to the middle of February.

Mr. Ranganathan wonders “what is the basis for Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CMC) directing Karnataka to release only 4.81 tmcft from November 16 to 30. When the whole world knows the storage of Mettur Dam, what is the need for secrecy regarding the availability of water in Karnataka reservoirs?” Lamenting that even the CMC has not come out with accurate details, he requested it to “make a dash to Karnataka to physically verify the storage before deciding on the quantum of distress sharing.”

Besides, if there is distress sharing, the formula should be transparent, he demands.

Planting is still going on in some parts of the delta “which is quite disturbing as such crops would require water at least for 90 to 95 days.”

Pointing out that the water management for the directly-sown crops and for the transplanted crops are different, he wonders how the authorities are going to provide water to the standing crops in lakhs of acres with Mettur Dam having hardly 26 tmcft. With such a meagre storage, it won't be possible to supply even for a fortnight, he added.

Fully endorsing the view that only a few spells of moderate rain, at least once in 15 days, can save the standing crops, Mr. Kalyanam says that the maximum that the crops would be able to withstand would be 100 mm rainfall in a day. Anything more than that would spell ruin.

He asserts that the attempt to save the crops by applying fertilizers would not be efficacious. Even after that the yield would be 30 per cent to 50 per cent only.

He is of the firm opinion that the CMC, which has directed Karnataka to release 4.81 tmcft for the second half of November as against the monthly prescription of 16.05 tmcft, will not recommend more than five tmcft for December as the Cauvery River Waters Dispute Tribunal has recommended only 10.37 tmcft for the month. For January, the tribunal's prescription itself is only 2.51 tmcft. “Hence, what we would get is a very meagre quantum. So, it is imperative for Tamil Nadu Government to insist on Karnataka making up the shortfall of 52 tmcft”, he contends.

Besides, he demands that the 12-hour three-phase power supply that the State Government promised to farmers should be ensured to save at least 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the crops raised using pumpsets.

Meanwhile, Puliur R. Nagarajan, vice president of the Agriculturists' Wing of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, has urged Karnataka to release water immediately to ensure the riparian rights of the lower State. The contention of Karnataka that it has storage only for drinking purposes cannot be accepted, he observed.

State launches decentralised paddy procurement

Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation to procure paddy directly from farmers



Taking stock: Civil Supplies Minister D. Sridhar Babu inspecting the quality of rice procured under the decentralised procurement scheme in Jammikunta of Karimnagar district on Friday.—

Photo: T. Ajay pal Singh

Buoyed over the successful market intervention of procurement through the SHGs of women by the Civil Supplies Department, the State government on Friday launched an ambitious programme for procurement of paddy and rice through a decentralised system.

Earlier, the paddy procured by the State government was sent to the rice mills and the rice stored in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns and later supplied to the public distribution system (PDS) shops.

Ration card-holders

Now, the A.P. Civil Supplies Corporation will procure paddy directly from farmers, to meet the needs of the Public Distribution System (PDS) to white ration card-holders and social welfare hostels.

The programme was formally launched at the State Warehousing Corporation godown in Jammikunta on Friday by Minister for Civil Supplies D.Sridhar Babu along with Government Whip Arepalli Mohan, Karimnagar MP Ponnamp Prabhakar, Husnabad MLA A. Praveen Reddy, AP Civil Supplies Corporation Managing Director D. Varaprasad, Food Corporation of India General Manager Kalyan Chakravarthy and others.

Mr. Sridhar Babu said that the State requires about 40 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of rice per annum for the PDS scheme. In order to achieve self reliance and economise on transport and godown space, they have decided to procure the required quantity of 40 lakh MT of rice from the farmers directly and distribute to the consumers.

In the first phase, they had chalked out plans to procure about 11 lakh metric tonnes of rice worth Rs.2,530 crore from the seven districts where the decentralised procurement of rice would be launched.

Area-wise statistics

In Karimnagar district, about 2 lakh metric tonnes of rice would be procured and sent to the PDS locally.

Similarly, about 1.7 lakh MT rice would be procured in Nalgonda, 2.69 lakh MT in Guntur, 1.8 lakh MT in Warangal, 40,000 MT rice in Prakasham, 2.3 lakh MT in Nellore and 20,000 MT in Chittoor during this season.

Weather

Chennai

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Saturday, Nov 17

Max Min

30.1° | 19.0°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 88

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:08

Sunset: 05:39

Barometer: 1012

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Sunday, Nov 18

Max Min

31° | 20°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday Nov 19	Tuesday Nov 20	Wednesday Nov 21	Thursday Nov 22	Friday Nov 23
30° 19° Partly Cloudy	33° 25° Overcast	33° 25° Overcast	32° 25° Overcast	32° 25° Overcast

Airport Weather

Delhi

Delhi

Rain: 0

Humidity: 50

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:45

Sunset: 05:26

Barometer: 1017



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Haryana major defaulter of farm loans: Central Bank of India

Farmers in certain places in Haryana are not returning farm loans allegedly at the behest of local politicians, which has led to maximum default cases from the State, a senior official of the Central Bank of India (CBOI) said on Friday.

“Local politicians in districts, including Rewari, Bhiwani and Sirsa, in Haryana are asking farmers not pay bank loans after assuring farmers that their loan will be waived. As a result, loan repayment has been affected,” the Bank’s Zonal Manager (Chandigarh), B Akbaraly, told reporters here.

“Farmers in these areas even dare to say ‘Do whatever you (bank) want to do (for recovery) we will not pay’,” he said.

The bank has maximum loan default and lowest loan recovery in Haryana because of non-payment of farm loan dues.

Out of the bank’s total non-performing assets of Rs 87 crore under the farm loan segment in Chandigarh zone, Haryana has the maximum amount of NPAs at Rs 50 crore.

The bank has doled out agriculture loans of Rs 1,315 crore in its zone, including Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Chandigarh.

Moreover, the farm loan recovery in Haryana is also 60-70 per cent as compared to the bank’s overall recovery of over 80 per cent, he said.

He added that the bank had also not even able to recover loans by selling agricultural land.

“Whenever land is put up for sale for loan recovery, farmers collectively decide not to participate in the auction process,” he said, adding that not a single land of any loan defaulter could be sold so far.

As a result, the bank has now gone slow in advancing fresh farm loan in these areas of Haryana.

Punjab farmers to get subsidy on wheat seeds

The Punjab government is giving a subsidy of Rs 500 per quintal on certified wheat seeds to the farmers of the state.

Subsidised seeds are available at the sale centres of the state’s Agriculture Department, including Punjab Agro, Cooperative Societies, IFFCO, KARIBCO and NSC, an official spokesperson said.

He said the variety of seeds, which would be purchased from private seed producers, including PBW-550, PBW-502, and DBW-17, would be provided to the farmers with a subsidised price of Rs 1,500 per quintal and Rs 600 of per bag containing.

The other varieties, including PBW-621 and PBW-509, would be provided at the Rs 1,550 per quintal and Rs 620 per bag of 40 kg, he added.

Tata Coffee surges 6%; pares gains after hitting record high

Defying an overall weak stock market trend, shares of Tata Coffee on Friday closed with a nearly 6 per cent gain on heavy buying in the counter.

Shares of the company zoomed up by nearly 16 per cent to touch a record high of Rs 1,562.45 on the BSE during the day. It finally settled at Rs 1,427.50, up 5.89 per cent.

On NSE, the scrip ended at Rs 1,402, 4.01 per cent higher from its previous close.

“It looks like a speculative rally. No specific reason...May be Starbucks deal is making speculators drive up the stock,” CNI Research, CMD, Kishor Ostwal, said.

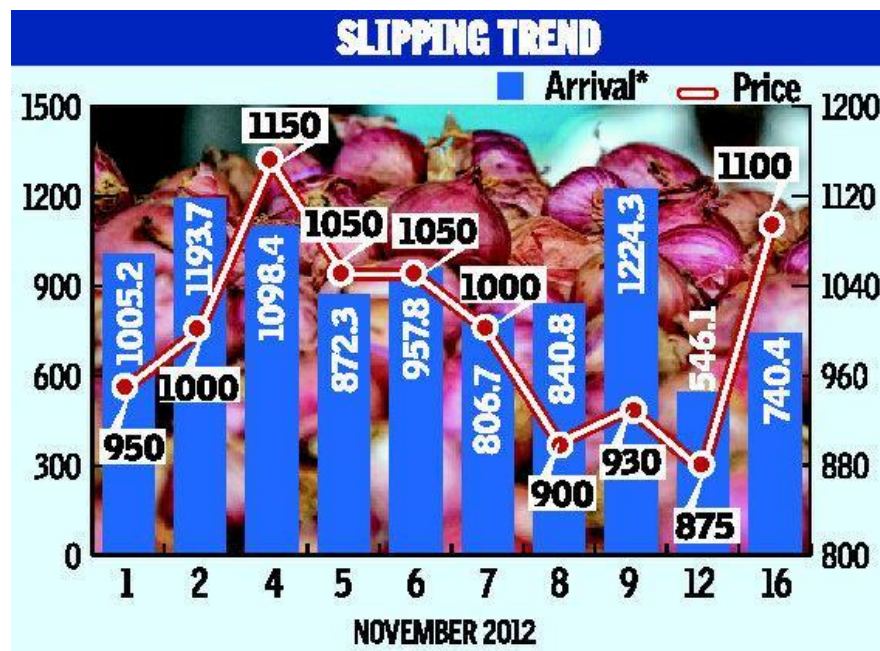
In terms of volume, 12.34 lakh shares of the company, which is the country's largest coffee producer and exporter, changed hands on the BSE, while over 34 lakh scrips were traded on the NSE.

The rally in the counter was in sharp contrast to the overall weak stock market trend where the BSE benchmark Sensex closed 162 points lower at a two-month low of 18,309.37.

Analysts also said some investors may be accumulating the stock after recent good earnings performance. Tata Coffee's consolidated net profit jumped over two-fold to Rs 36.84 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2012.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 17.59 crore for the corresponding period of previous fiscal.

Onion falls on higher arrivals



*Arrivals in tonnes; modal price in Rs/quintal at Pune APMC, Maharashtra

Source: NHRDF

Onion prices have begun to decline with arrivals of the early kharif crop increasing in growing centres in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Good production in Karnataka, too, is putting pressure on prices.

“Besides higher arrivals, demand, both domestic and for exports, has declined, leading to a slipping trend,” said Madan Prakash, Executive Director of Rajathi Group of Companies, that exports agricultural produce.

Prices, however, increased in Pune as it was among the very few markets that functioned in Maharashtra, where most were shut for Diwali and other festivities.

Arrivals in Pune Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) yard were lower compared with the demand.

On Friday, the modal price or the rate at which most trades took place was Rs 1,100 a quintal with over 700 tonnes arriving in the market. The market opened after four days, leading to a higher offtake.

“Demand (otherwise) in the domestic market is low since festivals are over for now. There is not much movement in onion,” said Prakash.

On the other hand, the entry of Pakistan onion in the global market has made things tough for the Indian vegetable. Pakistan onion is available at a competitive price and it has begun gaining ground in countries that had been buying from India so far.

“Export demand is far lower than what it was two to three weeks ago. Pakistan cargoes are finding their way to destinations such as Malaysia,” said Prakash.

In such circumstances, onion prices are likely to decline further with kharif arrivals set to flood markets next week when they begin functioning fully.

Lack of buying drags soyabean oil



Soyabean oil that had soared to Rs 672 for 10 kg on Thursday on strong global cues declined on Friday on weak foreign markets and lack of buying support in the physical market.

Soya refined oil ruled at Rs 665-70 (Rs 672), while soya solvent slipped to Rs 632-36 (Rs 635-38) on lack of buying support.

In resale, soya oil was sold at Rs 665. However, even at this rate, buying support remained weak amid weak foreign demand.

A few days ago also, soya oil was trading low with soya refined being quoted as low as Rs 655-60 for 10 kg, while soy solvent ruled at Rs 622-26. However, rise in buying support couple of days back and strong foreign lifted its price by Rs 10-12 in the past five days. In the futures market, soya oil, however, was mixed. Soya refined November contract on the NBOT closed marginally higher at Rs 682.60 for 10 on improved buying support. On the other hand, soya oil future traded lower on the NCDEX with its November and December contracts closing lower at Rs 692 and Rs 680.90 for 10 kg respectively.

Soyabean ruled steady at Rs 3,170-3,250 a quintal amid arrival of 70,000 bags as majority of mandis in Madhya Pradesh remained closed on Friday as well. Plant deliveries in soybean also declined marginally at Rs 3,231-60 a quintal. Soybean futures also traded lower with November and December contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 3,217 and Rs 3,245 a quintal on weak buying support.

More cut likely in egg prices to boost offtake



Egg prices will see a further cut for the second time in five days at the farm gates as lower consumption and the setting in of the austere Sabarimala season have begun to worry the poultry trade.

The Namakkal zone of the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC), on Thursday, slashed the price of an egg by 15 paise to Rs 3.15.

“We plan to further revise the prices to clear the backlog and boost the offtake,” P. Selvaraj, Chairman, NECC, told *Business Line*.

The fall is surprising since winter is seen as the peak consumption period, particularly in the North. During the Sabarimala season that extends till January 15, consumption of poultry and related products is low in the South.

Poultry industry sources said that the recent ban on Indian eggs by Oman and neighbouring Kerala has resulted in a stock pile-up.

Added to these is the extended closing of schools for Diwali holidays.

“We cannot allow the stocks to build up as eggs are perishable. At one point of time, we may even have to dump them. We do not want to face such a situation and, hence, we are slashing the prices,” said a source.

About two crore eggs are produced in Namakkal and a bulk of 70 lakh eggs are exported to Kerala.

About 70 lakh eggs are consumed in the State, while the rest are supplied to the Tamil Nadu Government for its Noon Meal Scheme.

About 1.5 crore eggs are supplied every week. Children are given eggs twice a week under the scheme.

NECC has maintained the rate of layer birds at Rs 50/kg while the Broiler Coordination Committee has increased the prices of live birds to Rs 54 (Rs 52).

Mills may rush to exhaust sugar sale quota



Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market continuous to rule unchanged on Friday on expectation of ease in supply and demand in the coming days.

The undertone remained weak in the physical market as Diwali is over.

Traders expect more selling from producers as they have to exhaust their free sale quota before the month end. The Government has declared a total of 40 lakh tonnes of non-levy quota for October-November said sources. A wholesaler said that due to continuous supply from mills, arrivals and local dispatches remained routine. Domestic sugar futures prices were firm due to ongoing agitation of farmers for higher cane price in the main producing areas which may lead to delay in crushing and disturb supply chain. Currently, supply is ample in the local market.

Demand from neighbouring states is missing in Maharashtra since long time due to disparity. Prices in other producing states ruled at par with Maharashtra.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, December futures were up by Rs 4 to Rs 3,335 (Rs 3,331); January by Rs 15 to Rs 3,360 (Rs 3,345) and February was higher by Rs 11 to Rs 3,375 (Rs 3,364).

In the Vashi spot market, loading-unloading activities seen higher. Arrivals were higher at 70-72 truck loads (Each of 100 bags) and local dispatches were about 68-70 truck loads.

On Thursday evening 12-13 mills offered tenders and sold about 44,000-45,000 bags (Each of 100 kg) to the local traders in the range of Rs 3,330-3,380 (Rs 3,330-3,380) for S-grade and Rs 3,390-3,510 (Rs 3,400-3,520) for M-grade.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 3,472-Rs 3,551 (Rs 3,472-3,552) and M-grade Rs 3,502-3,721 (Rs 3,512-3,711). **Naka delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 3,411-3,495 (Rs 3,411-3,495) and M-grade Rs 3,425-3,685 (Rs 3,425-3,685).

Pepper falls in circular trading

Pepper market ended in flooring of all the active contracts in circular trading by bear operators who got into the driving seat on Friday.

The manipulation by both the bear and the bull operators has, in fact, made the market “a gambling den,” market sources told *Business Line*.

Caught in between, the genuine hedgers are getting out of the market, they said.

However, 1,092 tonnes of pepper for November have been marked for delivery under the staggered delivery system and “that is a blessing for the genuine hedgers as it would facilitate them to move out of the market,” they said.

Arrivals from the primary markets were thin. Only four tonnes of pepper arrived today and of this, three tonnes were traded. Demand from North India was not forthcoming as the markets there are closed for holidays and are expected to become active only from next Monday.

November contract decreased by Rs 1,410 a quintal to close to Rs 40,025 a quintal. December and February fell by Rs 1,585 and Rs 1,320 respectively to close at Rs 39,190 and Rs 35,255 a quintal.

Turnover

Total turnover increased by 2,862 tonne, nearly 180 per cent, to end at 4,457 tonnes indicating good circular trading to pull the market down.

Total open interest increased by 112 tonnes to close at 8,373 tonnes.

November open interest decreased by 154 tonnes while that of Dec and Feb rose by 245 tonnes and 10 tonnes respectively to close at 6,127 tonnes and 886 tonnes.

In tandem with the futures market trend, spot prices fell by Rs 700 a quintal to close at Rs 38,500 (ungarbled) and Rs 40,000 (MG 1) a quintal. There were no sellers as buyers were quoting low rates in the declining market.

Indian parity in the international market has come down to \$7,500 a tonne (c&f) Europe and \$7,800 a tonne (c&f) for USA, but still it remained much above other origins.

Rice steams up on lower inventories



Low availability of stocks coupled with improved domestic demand pushed a few aromatic and non-basmati rice prices upwards on Friday. Arrivals of the new rice crop have been sluggish in this season so far and that pushed prices upwards because rice mills are left with low carry-

forward stocks this year, said Tara Chand Sharma, proprietor of Tara Chand and sons. Traders expect that the rice prices may increase further in the near future, he added.

Paddy arrivals have also dropped to just around 50,000 bags at the Karnal grain market terminal due to festival days, said Sharma. A very few farmers arrived with their produce from the Uttar Pradesh because of the festivals over the last 4 days, he added. Arrivals may increase in the upcoming days.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) went up by Rs 100 and sold at Rs 5,700-5,800 a quintal while Pusa-1121 (sela) sold at Rs 4,850, Rs 50 up from the previous level. Price of pure basmati (raw) increased by Rs 500 and quoted at Rs 6,500-6,600 while pure basmati (sela) sold at Rs 5,400-5,500, Rs 400 up from the previous level. Duplicate basmati (steam) traded at Rs 4,750-4,800. Prices of PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs 2,500-2,600 while PR-11 (Raw) quoted at Rs 2,500. Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,000-2,200 while Permal (sela) went for Rs 2,200-2,275. Sharbati (steam) went up by Rs 50 and quoted at Rs 3,750 while Sharbati (sela) quoted at Rs 3,400, Rs 100 up from the previous level.

Business Standard

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Wheat acreage shrinks by 18% to 4.96 mn hectares so far

Wheat was sown in 6.03 million hectares till November 16 in the previous rabi season

Press Trust of India / New Delhi November 16, 2012, 19:05 IST

The area sown under wheat shrunk by 18% to 4.96 million hectares so far in this rabi season compared to the previous season, latest data from agriculture ministry said.

Wheat was sown in 6.03 million hectares till November 16 in the previous rabi season.

"Less area under wheat has been reported from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Maharashtra," an official statement said today.

Sowing in rabi (winter) season starts from October, while the harvesting of crops is undertaken during March-April.

The area under coarse cereals like ragi, jowar, bajra, etc has been marginally higher at 3.54 million hectares so far this season compared to 3.53 million hectares during the same period in the last rabi season.

Pulses acreage declined by 17% to 6.35 million hectares compared to 7.61 million hectares in the period under review.

The area under oilseeds was down by 8% to 4.69 million hectares so far this season against 5.08 million hectares in the year-ago period.

The total area under all major rabi crops was lagging by 12% at 19.59 million hectares so far from 22.31million hectare in the year-ago period.

The Agriculture Ministry expects production of 120.5 million tonnes of foodgrains during the rabi (winter) season.

FCI to sell 3 mn tonne wheat in open market to ease prices

The government has surplus stocks in view of record production last year

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Food Corporation of India today said it will sell immediately 3 million tonnes of wheat to bulk consumers in open market in an effort to bring down prices.

Last week, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had approved sale of 6.5 million tonnes of wheat under open market sale scheme (OMSS) through the tender process.

"Out of 6.5 million tonnes of wheat approved for OMSS, FCI will immediately release 3 million tonnes for bulk consumers," Food Corporation of India (FCI) Chairman C Amarsingh told PTI.

A minimum 25,000 tonnes of wheat will be released for smaller states like Himachal Pradesh and a maximum of 1 lakh tonnes of the grain to big states every week, he said.

FCI will issue weekly tenders and the base price will be the MSP and local tax and transportation charges, he added.

"We will release wheat for tender sale as soon as the quota of one lakh tonnes completes. This will improve supply in the market and suppress prices," Amarsingh said.

In June, the CCEA had approved 3.3 million tonnes of wheat under the OMSS. Of which, over 3 million tonnes has already been sold to bulk users.

The government has surplus stocks in view of record production last year.

The stocks of wheat in the central pool stood at 40.58 million tonnes at the end of October 2012.

Besides, due to better support price and good monsoon, the country had harvested a record

93.90 million tonnes of wheat this year.

Inflation declined marginally to 7.45% in October this year.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

TODAY FARM NEWS

17.11.2012 A.M

Rs 21 crore relief for cotton farmers

Yavatmal: After much delay the state government has released Rs 21.18 crore as relief package for cotton growers of the district. Collector [Ashwin Mudgal](#) said, "We received money on Friday and it will be credited to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries from Saturday onwards."

Mudgal said, "The state government had sanctioned a special relief package for cotton and soyabean farmers of the state last year. Though a major share of the package was distributed a sum of Rs 24.77 crore was yet to be paid to some beneficiaries. The issue was raised by the farmers and the peoples' representatives before [Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan](#) in August when he visited flood hit areas of the district. Chavan had assured that the amount would be released immediately. However, even after three months it was not released. Recently Amravati divisional commissioner held a review meeting and released Rs 13.60 crore for the district. But, it was not sufficient to meet the demand and the collector persuaded the matter. Finally an additional sum was released to make Rs 21.18 crore out of the Rs 24.77 crore outstanding amount.

Mudgal said, "The remaining amount of Rs 3.59 crore will be taken from the relief and rehabilitation department soon and credited to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries."

Two centres in Yavamal district

Yavatmal: The Maharashtra State Cotton Growers Co-Operative Marketing Federation has opened two centres - in Yavatmal and Pusad - and decided to start the procurement from Friday. Earlier it had announced to procure cotton before Diwali. However, the cotton farmers of the remaining 14 tehsils are waiting for government centres in their tehsils. Non-availability of suitable premises is cited as the reason for delay in opening procurement centres.

The government has announced the MSP at Rs 3,900 per quintal whereas the private traders have already started buying cotton from Rs 4,100-4,300 per quintal. "How can the farmers sell their cotton to the federation at a rate below the price set by private players?" asked [Ashok Bhutada](#), the farmers' representative.

GMO poses threat to GI tag of crops'

MYSORE: The entering of [Genetic Modified Organism](#) (GMO) crops into the district poses threat to Geographical Indication crops, said [K N Ramachandra](#), convener of Southern Action on Genetic Engineering (Sage).

Delivering a talk on 'GMO-Free Mysore - Why? And How?', Ramachandra said [BT cotton](#) is already grown in HD Kote, Hunsur and Nanjangud. Further, the poison would extend to Mysore, and pollute soil and environment there, he added.

MYSORE'S PRIDE

"People in the three taluks have already seen the havoc created by BT cotton. If GMO spreads across the district, it degrades soil, pollutes environment, and poses a threat to bio-diversity. Mysore has GI tag for four items -- Mysore mallige, Iranagere brinjal, betel leaves and Nanjangud banana. They would be under threat when BT crops enter places where GI tag items are grown," he said.

"Farmers get carried away by GMO seeds. But in reality, hybrid seeds yield more, but they consume more water, expensive to buy, and spoil soil fertility in the long run. They put pressure on natural resources. As the district is facing drought, there is water shortage and it has adversely affected BT cotton growers," he added. "GM crops are even worse. The seeds cannot be regenerated. Only 5-7 companies in the world control seed business. In India, 70% of small farmers contribute to food production," he mentioned.

"Is there any pressure on policy makers in India? Yes, there is pressure on government after BT

cotton was allowed and Bt brinjal proposed for farming. American giant Monsanto, which produces 90% of BT seeds in the world, is wooing politicians to encourage GMO crops in the country," he blamed. Speaking on the global scenario, the convener said Canada, America, China, South Africa, Brazil and Argentina grow them in large quantity. "The intake of GMO food has resulted in health disorders," he added.

Mentioning the disadvantages of GMO, Ramachandra said it snatches farmers' freedom and rights, disturbs bio-diversity, generates poisonous weeds, curtails freedom of scientist, and makes people slaves. "GMO food consumption makes human beings lab rats," he warned.

Lower cholesterol with pumpkin seeds

Halloween and the orange pumpkin go together. But today we look at how the smallest part of the pumpkin, the seed has a lot of health benefits; rather than just being a good 'time pass' while watching your favourite drama show.

Pumpkin as a vegetable is low in cholesterol; hence it is beneficial for your [weight loss](#) diet. But let's eat to the centre of the pumpkin and find out more health benefits of pumpkin seeds.

Pumpkin seeds reduce the chance of prostate [cancer](#). Pumpkin seeds can reduce the progression of benign prostatic hypertrophy (this can lead to cancer) and ease prostate cancer.

Pumpkin seeds have the ability to protect you from [osteoporosis](#) and arthritis. This seed is rich in zinc, whereas osteoporosis is the outcome of low zinc levels.

The chemical component of phytosterols present in pumpkin seeds has the ability to suck out cholesterol from the body. It also puts a plug on cholesterol absorption in the body.

Most of us know that berries are a good source for anti-oxidants, and now you can add pumpkin seeds to the list too. Stop inflammation with pumpkin seeds.

For vegetarians, add pumpkin seeds to your list of foods rich in protein. 100gms of seeds on a daily basis provide 54 percent of the daily requirement in terms of protein.

Most of us pop pills to replenish deficiency of vitamin B-complex, try pumpkin seeds next time. Pumpkin seeds are a good source for vitamin B like thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, vitamin B-6 and folates.

For those who are down in the dumps, pumpkin seeds can help fight through depression. The chemical component L-tryptophan is the secret ingredient to boost your mood.

Did you know that pumpkin seeds can prevent kidney stones? Studies suggest that pumpkin seeds can help prevent certain kidney stone formations like calcium oxalate kidney stone.

Apparently pumpkin seeds also hold the secret to fighting parasites, especially tapeworms.

Pumpkin seeds can also be a good foundation for a beauty treatment. It keeps your skin healthy, glowing and vibrant.

The goodness of coconut water

Coconut water is healthy and delicious. No wonder so many people swear by it.

Coconut water has many health benefits and one of them is losing weight quickly. Yes, you heard that right. Thus 'nut' is packed with anti-aging properties and has the right number of calories to keep you going.

The water inside the green coconuts is ones to be had. One cup of this water has around 46 calories compared to 550 calories that coconut milk has. Coconut water is very hydrating and was given to soldiers during the World War when saline was not obtainable. The water contains

no fat and consists mostly of natural sugars and minerals. Coconut water is very rich in magnesium and potassium, as well as being very high in fibre.

It is so hydrating because of the electrolyte composition, which is very similar to human plasma. Staying hydrated will help you feel full for longer, which in turn will reduce hunger and sugar cravings. This will effectively lead to you eating less, which means your total calorie consumption will go down. Drinking this water will known to flush out toxins which will help you to lose weight faster and also reduce those cravings and hunger pangs.

So, the next time you feel thirsty or feel a hunger/craving pang, go get this nature's pure drink and sip it.