

## **Paddy MSP announced**

The Government of India has announced minimum support prices (MSP) for paddy and coarse grains for KMS 2012-13, with effect from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013.

A release by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) said the price per quintal for paddy grade 'A' was fixed at Rs. 1,280 and for paddy common it is Rs. 1,250. Other grains were priced at Jowar Hybrid (Rs. 1,500), Jowar Maldani (Rs. 1,520), Bajra (Rs. 1,175) and Ragi (Rs. 1,500).

The A.P. State Civil Supplies Corporation, together with Indira Kranthi Pathakam self-help groups would procure paddy directly from farmers on the MSP rates, while A.P. Marketing Federation would buy coarse grains.

Further information may be had over the phone numbers 80962-22224 and 80969-60103.

## **Strong case for promoting contract farming in horticultural crops**

It seems the time has come for the government to promote contract farming. According to a study which assessed the impact of the National Horticultural Mission (NHM) in the State: "Contract farming in horticultural crops need promotion as there is a lot of scope for the agri-business and corporate sector to enter into the horticulture sector in a big way and therefore the relevant Act needs amendment favouring written and legal contract between the corporate and small farmers."

The major achievement of the NHM in the State has been that 1.82 lakh hectares additional area was brought under horticulture during the 11th Five-Year Plan (2007-2012), said the study titled, 'Impact study of the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in Karnataka', conducted by Parmod Kumar, professor and head, Agriculture Development and Rural Transformation Centre, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore.

The study was conducted in Bijapur, Bagalkot, Bangalore Rural and Tumkur districts by interviewing a mix of small, marginal, SC, ST and women farmers growing grape, pomegranate, flower and aromatic and medicinal plants. “Requirement of a pack house and cold storage was expressed by most of the farmers given the perishable nature of horticultural produce, which are mostly sold by them without processing, except in the case of grapes,” it said.

### **Growth rate up**

“Both area and yield growth rate accelerated after introduction of the NHM in the case of fruits but area growth declined for vegetables, while their yield growth rate accelerated,” says Parmod Kumar. “In the case of commercial flowers and medicinal crops, while area growth increased, yield growth declined.”

The report found that growth in the area and yield declined in case of aromatic crops. Altogether, the NHM seemed to have overall positive effect on the horticultural crops as area growth increased from 0.8 per cent during the period before NHM to 2.7 per cent after the scheme was launched. Similarly, the yield growth turned positive from minus 4.1 per cent per annum.

### **Short on infrastructure**

About 90 per cent of the households under study were not happy with infrastructure and capacity-building initiatives under the NHM. Around 60 per cent of the farmers said the NHM helped increase employment opportunities through expansion of area under horticulture, while the majority of the households said their income increased after shifting to horticultural crops, the study said.

Prof. Kumar said the farmers also called for a special subsidy for shifting their area from field crops to horticultural crops.

### **‘Cultivation down by 17,000 ha; normal coverage still possible’**

Though only one third of the normal paddy area has been covered in the district so far, the district administration exuded confidence that normal coverage for the year is still achievable.

Speaking at the agriculturists' grievances day here on Friday, Collector P.Senthilkumar said against the normal paddy coverage of 25,000 hectares, only 8,710 hectares had been covered so far. Last year, the coverage was 27,400 hectares.

The district had adequate stocks of seeds including ADT 38, ADT 39, and IR 20 that are suitable for samba season.

Besides, 1,351 metric tonnes (MT) of urea, 953 MT of DAP, 845 MT of potash, and 1,122 MT of complex fertilizers were available at the primary agricultural cooperative banks and private outlets.

“Steps have been initiated to get adequate fertilizers through TANFED, Tiruchi.”

According to an official release, he said the normal annual rainfall in the district was 954 mm.

Till the middle of November the district had received only 678 mm. About 962 mm rainfall was recorded last year.

Until now, rainfall under northeast monsoon has been 167 mm less than normal, as during September alone the normal rainfall has been 233 mm.

Mr.Senthilkumar said millets has been raised on 16,760 hectares, pulses on 1,255 hectares, cotton on 8,000 hectares, sugarcane on 8,015 hectares, and oil seeds on 6,150 hectares.

The Collector announced that the farmers who raised new coconut groves would get 50 per cent subsidy per hectare from the Coconut Development Board and the maximum subsidy would be Rs.17, 500.

Those who took part in the meeting included J.Sekar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Murugan, Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Soundararajan, Deputy Director, Horticulture, Thulasi Madhavaraj, Chief Manager, State Bank of India, and Paramasivam, District Co-ordinator, Bank of India.

**'Focus on economic activities with minimum disturbance to ecology'**

Training course on watershed management begins in Udthagamandalam



Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, A. Rajarajan (left) being greeted by the head, CSWCRTI, O.P.S. Khola in Udthagamandalam on Monday. —Photo: M. Sathyamoorthy

A six-day short course on Integrated Watershed Management for Middle Level Officers implementing the Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) and the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) organised by the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CSWCRTI) got under way here on Monday.

Delivering the inaugural address the Dean, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, A. Rajarajan, said that both the Union Planning Commission-funded special area programmes WGDP and the HADP came into being in 1975.

While the former now covered 171 taluks in five states, the latter is being implemented in four districts of the country including the Nilgiris.

In both the programmes the objectives are eco-regeneration and eco-preservation with emphasis on preservation of biodiversity and rejuvenation of the hill ecology.

Stating that HADP played an important role in rural development, he said that focus is on encouraging economic activities with minimum disturbance to the ecology.

The head, CSWCRTI, O.P.S. Khola, who presided, said that in the implementation of both the WGDP and the HADP the stress is now on convergence.

Pointing out that the watershed approach has undergone several changes over the years, he said that emphasis now is on a holistic approach.

Underscoring the need to update skills, he said that in the implementation of schemes equal importance should be given to productivity and marketing. Any activity which is considered beneficial to the farmer should become part of the watershed plan. At the same time sustenance should be ensured.

Pointing out that both the essential resources water and land are dwindling by the day, he said that it has led to the watershed approach being adopted in the implementation of many schemes.

The Principal Scientist, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, A. Nataraj, said that in the 12th Plan considerable importance will be given to watershed development. The sector is expected to get about Rs. 1.75 lakh crore. Equal importance will be given to conservation and productivity.

Senior Scientist and Course Coordinator K. Kannan underlined the importance of mid career training in any field. Twenty-five officers from Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and New Delhi are participating in the training programme.

Scientist K. Rajan proposed a vote of thanks.

### **Farmers to get certified seeds at subsidised rates**

Pulses production, which hit a bad trough in the district during the last financial year, is finally ready to get a booster dose as the Department of Agriculture is set to procure and distribute 116 metric tonnes of improved varieties of seeds to farmers at subsidised rates.

According to official statistics, the area under pulses varieties like green gram, black gram, cow pea, red gram, and Bengal gram came down from 25,261 ha in 2010-11 fiscal to 20,776 ha in 2011-12 financial year.

The initiative now planned of extending attractive incentives to farmers both during procurement and distribution of seeds by utilising funds through convergence of various government-sponsored schemes, is expected to enthuse the farmers to expand the area coverage significantly.

**Select farms**

“We will be procuring the certified seeds directly from select farms by paying farmers 20 per cent above the local market rate (LMR) in the case of certified seeds and 30 per cent above LMR in the case of foundation seeds,” Joint Director of Agriculture Mohammed Kalimullah Sherif told *The Hindu* .

### ***Agriculture department set to procure and distribute 116 metric tonnes of seeds***

#### **Nilam-hit farmers seek support from State**

The Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangam on Monday sought the intervention of the administration for a realistic enumeration of the crop loss due to Nilam cyclone.

Holding withered crops on their hands, a team of APRS led by its District Secretary N.Ranga Rao called on District Collector Anita Rajendra at the collectorate.

They complained that officials at the grassroots level had not conducted field visits properly and left out even genuine cases of farmers who had lost their crops to rain fury.

After extensive visits to farms in the affected areas in Inkollu, Parchur, Yaddanapudi, Nagulapupadu, Martur and Madipaddu, the farmers leaders wanted the administration to provide additional support to tenant farmers who were the worst-hit.

They sought opening of the Cotton Corporation of India purchase centres at Parchur, Martur, Markapur and Yerragondapalem to buy discoloured Cotton.

They sought a compensation of at least Rs.10,000 per acre to the affected farmers. They pressed for enumeration of crop loss by insurance companies early.

They also sought release of Krishna waters from the Nagarjunasagar for farmers in the district to raise irrigated dry crop during Rabi.

#### **Loan from banks: cane growers cry foul**

Sugarcane growers under the jurisdiction of NCS Sugars at Latchaiahpeta in Sitangaram mandal are in agitation mode for justice following notices received by them from court that they

repay the loans taken from State Bank of India and ICICI branches in the past. The total amount is said to be around Rs. 23 crore.

In fact, the poor peasants had not at all availed of the loans from the said banks, said Marrapu Suryanarayana, district secretary of A.P. Rythu Sangham, who led the agitation at the factory premises on Monday. Over 500 sugarcane farmers launched an agitation at the factory premises and gheraoed Chief Executive Officer Anjaneyulu demanding an explanation about the benami loans.

When contacted, Mr. Suryanarayana said that Mr. Anjaneyulu had agreed to have received Rs. 7.5crore from SBI and Rs. 13.5crore from ICICI Bank, Parvathipuram, in the name of farmers. Inspector Srihari Raju was present at the factory at the time of his confession. Mr. Suryanarayana said that he had specific information that the factory received additional loans apart from Rs. 21crore from other banks too. However, he had no information about the number of farmers received notices from banks. There are about 13,000 sugarcane growers under the factory jurisdiction.

### **Relay fast**

Mr. Suryanarayana said that the CEO had acted with the full knowledge of NCS Sugars management. The CEO had agreed to repay the loan amount of Rs. 7.5crore to SBI by next month-end but he gave no assurance on repayment of Rs. 13.5-crore loan availed from ICICI Bank, Mr. Suryanarayana said. The agitating farmers, who observed relay fast on Sunday did not allow crushing and sent back truck loads of sugarcane that arrived at the factory on Monday morning.

Mr. Suryanarayana said that the growers had been demanding besides repayment of benami loans to the banks, increase in the support price from the present Rs. 2,300 per ton to Rs. 3000 and settle the arrears pending for the last season.

## Saplings distributed



Students of Indo English school performing dance to mark the tree plantation programme in Khammam on Monday.— PHOTO: G. N. RAO

In an effort to inculcate environmental consciousness among the children, the management of Indo-English high school has distributed saplings of various fruit bearing trees free of cost to all the VI standard students of their school in collaboration with the forest department here on Monday. Municipal Commissioner B Srinivas gave away one sapling to each student of the sixth class at "Tree Plantation" programme.

## An 'Annapurna' for farmers

As part of the National Agricultural Innovation Project, a model of the interactive information dissemination system (named 'Annapurna') has been established by the Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University in association with a consortium of partners led by Media Lab Asia, New Delhi, National Institute of Rural Development and Mudra Institute of Communication, Ahmedabad, at Somaram village, in Neredcherla mandal.

The model is meant for meeting the information needs of farmers involved in raising paddy crops, dairy activities and fisheries.

It is to undergo a pilot test in the State through the Krishi Vignan Kendras in Nalgonda and Nellore districts for two crop seasons. Somaram is one of the three villages in the district.



On Monday, representatives of the consortium—Dr. G.V. Rama Rao, MD and CEO of Media Lab Asia, Dr. R.R. Hermon of NIRD, Dr. P. Punna Rao of ANGRAU, a scientist from Krishi Vignan Kendra Kampsagar interacted with farmers at Somaram.

Dr. Punna Rao later told press persons that the system would help farmers get information to solve their problems from scientists regarding their crops.

There is a provision for recording farmers' requests and returning calls later.

He said if the system was found effective after successful pilot tests it would be replicated across the State through the Krishi Vignan Kendras.

### **Eco-friendly fertilizer mix for paddy launched**

FACTMIX, a high efficient and eco-friendly fertilizer mixture for paddy, was launched at a function held at the Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) here on Monday.

The fertilizer, a product of Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd (FACT), claimed to be having a balanced N-P-K-Ca-S content, has been field tested by the KAU in 150 acres in Kuttanand, Thrissur and Palakkad. FACTMIX was found to increase yield by 20-36 per cent on a 30 per cent reduced dosage compared to other fertilizers, the KAU sources said.

KAU Vice-Chancellor P. Rajendran described the new product as the result of a strong linkage between FACT and the KAU, two institutions of paramount importance in the agricultural scenario of the State. He called for more such collaboration and farm trials to enhance the productivity of other crops as well.

He said that the KAU, in addition to developing new varieties and technology, intended to strengthen collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, FACT, Kerala Agro Machinery Corporations Ltd (KAMCO), Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Ltd (KAICO) and other such agencies to design, formulate and popularise technologies and implements suitable for hi-tech agriculture and homestead farming.

Students and researchers of Agricultural Engineering would focus on developing devices for small-scale and homestead farming, he said. Dr. Rajendran said that a device suitable to

reduce cost of operation involved in mound making for vegetable cultivation was developed by the Kelappaji College of Agricultural Engineering under the KAU.

The device, easily attachable to a mini tractor, could be used to make mounds/bunds for tapioca, ginger and colocasia.

The Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the specialised training in organic farming conducted for farmers from Odisha at the Central Training Institute of the KAU. The function was presided over by P.K. Chandrasekharan, director (Marketing), FACT.

### **Kalam to launch agriculture fest**

Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam will inaugurate the 15th agriculture festival being organised by the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) at the Chaitanya Pastoral Centre at Thekkom on November 25. The inaugural function will be attended by Ministers K.M. Mani and Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan. Chief Minister Oommen Chandy will inaugurate the valedictory function.

### **Mela showcases versatility of plantain fibre**



P. Ravichamy of NRCB displaying a shirt and a sari made with 40 per cent plantain fibre in Sirsi.

A number of plantain products were on display at the two-day plantain mela held at office of Horticulture Department Sirsi on Saturday and Sunday under the auspices of Western Ghat Task Force, Kadamba Organic and Marketing Trust, and the Department of Horticulture.

P. Ravichamy, Technical Officer of the Natural Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), that works under Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR) of the Union Ministry of Agriculture, displayed a number of products of banana.

The products include chips, crisps, fig (dehydrated banana), flower tokku, wine, juice, jam, squash, stem candy, biscuits, baby food, halwa, fruit bar, fruit pickle and so on. There were other local delicacies and traditional medicines. The people who attended the mela were fascinated by NRCB products such as shirts and saris prepared by 40 per cent fibres of plantain stems. These shirts cost Rs. 400 a piece while the price of saris starts at Rs. 1,200. Onament boxes, baskets, bags and files and papers prepared from the stem fibres of plantain trees were also on display.

For details, call 9443672407 or email [musaravi@yahoo.co.in](mailto:musaravi@yahoo.co.in)

### **'Adopting ICT will increase agricultural output, reduce costs'**



For inclusion: Noted economist Abdul Aziz and Mangalore University's professor Gangadhara Bhatt at a conference on 'Information and communication technologies for agriculture and rural development' in Bangalore on Monday.— Photo: Harini Shivaraya

Noted economist Abdul Aziz said on Monday that adoption of information and communication technology (ICT) as part of modern technological practices, is an ideal solution to tackle the problem of stagnation of agricultural output as it could help increase output without increasing production costs.

Participating at a national conference on 'Information and communication technologies for agriculture and rural development', jointly organised by the Karnataka State Higher Education Council and the Tumkur University in Bangalore, Prof. Aziz said the rural economy had suffered

due to stagnation in agricultural output, decrease in employment and income-generation activities. Besides, the spiralling prices of foodgrains had affected the weaker sections.

“If you try to accelerate capital formation by increasing investments, it may increase agricultural output. But in the present circumstances, such an increase in output will come about only when there is a continuous rise in prices,” he said, while adding, “As you try to get more output through more investments, there is a possibility that this output will come with increasing prices. Hence this may not be an ideal solution.”

### **‘Ideal solution’**

According to him, adoption of modern technology is the ideal solution to increase agricultural output without triggering increase in costs. He made it clear the ICT should be a major component of such modern technological practices.

Necessary information should be given to farmers and farm entrepreneurs at the time of sowing on what to grow, and also at the time of harvesting on where to market and how to market, he suggested.

### **Internet as tool**

In this regard, he called for exploring the option of using the Internet as a tool for effective and swift communication.

Pointing out that a large number of rural families do not have access to modern communication tools, he warned that leaving them out of the information network would lead to further widening of not only economic inequality, but also social inequality.

### **Communication centres**

To tackle this problem, he called for setting up village panchayat-level communication centres and also taking up a programme to impart computer literacy to village people.

Promoting ICT in the agriculture and rural sector would help take the benefits of economic growth to the grassroots, besides increasing the standard of living of the weaker sections, he felt.

## Monitoring crop health

Mangalore University's marine geology professor Gangadhara Bhatt dwelt on how remote sensing techniques could be used for the development of agriculture, including monitoring of crop health.

## Strong case for promoting contract farming in horticultural crops

It seems the time has come for the government to promote contract farming. According to a study which assessed the impact of the National Horticultural Mission (NHM) in the State: "Contract farming in horticultural crops need promotion as there is a lot of scope for the agri-business and corporate sector to enter into the horticulture sector in a big way and therefore the relevant Act needs amendment favouring written and legal contract between the corporate and small farmers."

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## Growth rate up

"Both area and yield growth rate accelerated after introduction of the NHM in the case of fruits but area growth declined for vegetables, while their yield growth rate accelerated," says Parmod Kumar. "In the case of commercial flowers and medicinal crops, while area growth increased, yield growth declined."

The report found that growth in the area and yield declined in case of aromatic crops. Altogether, the NHM seemed to have overall positive effect on the horticultural crops as area growth increased from 0.8 per cent during the period before NHM to 2.7 per cent after the scheme was launched. Similarly, the yield growth turned positive from minus 4.1 per cent per annum.

### **Short on infrastructure**

About 90 per cent of the households under study were not happy with infrastructure and capacity-building initiatives under the NHM. Around 60 per cent of the farmers said the NHM helped increase employment opportunities through expansion of area under horticulture, while the majority of the households said their income increased after shifting to horticultural crops, the study said.

Prof. Kumar said the farmers also called for a special subsidy for shifting their area from field crops to horticultural crops.

### **Farmers face dire prospect of loosing three tonnes per acre**

As samba season enters its crucial phase, farmers are facing the dire prospect of loosing three tonnes of paddy per acre. Samba is estimated to have been raised in more than 9.5 lakh acres as against the normal 12 lakh acres in delta districts of Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, and Thanjavur.

“Now the problem has compounded not just because of poor rains during the past fortnight but also because the dry spell engenders a host of issues,” lament Cauvery V.Dhanapalan, general secretary, Cauvery Delta Farmers’ Protection Association, and Mahadhanapuram V.Rajaram, working president, Cauvery Delta Farmers’ Welfare Association.

Talking to *The Hindu* after touring a number of places in Nagapattinam district on Sunday, they said the fields look parched.

They pointed out that samba season had an ominous start. Mettur water, that was released by the third week of September, 100 days behind schedule, could reach most of the tail end areas only by October.

The end of October saw the Nilam cyclone lashing delta region, inundating standing crops in lakhs of acres.

“Any paddy crop that remains submerged for more than 36 hours becomes nutritionally deficient. Besides, now weeds have mushroomed. We are facing serious problem of insects – ‘kuruthuppoochi’ (stem borer) and ‘ilaisuruttu puzhu’ (leaf folder).

Also, this is the time for tillers to open which determine the yield. But as there is no water for the past more than a fortnight, it is only the mother plant which is left. “Hence we are facing the possibility of losing at least three tonnes of paddy per acre,” they predicted.

Their expectations that there will be considerable rains during the northeast monsoon season of October-December were belied.

“We hoped that the monsoon would take care of minimum 40 days of irrigation and water need not be supplied for so long from Mettur Dam. Situation has become so bad now that at least one tmcft has to be released from Mettur Dam every day within two weeks after Nilam. The Mettur storage won’t last even for a fortnight now.”

They estimate that 50 per cent of the area covered has long-term variety (150 days) and 40 per cent of the area medium term variety (135 days).

Planting is yet to be completed only in five per cent of the total area.

Direct-sowing which normally faces serious weed threat had a providential escape this year initially. “We did not even require 10 persons per acre for removing the weeds. But situation is turning for the worse now.”

“Most of us have drained our fields after the Nilam fearing that the standing crops would be totally submerged if one more spell of heavy rain were to occur during the first week of November. But it has proved totally dry. Quite unusually, we have got to hope for rain only when a depression forms,” they lamented.

Now the standing crops are 60 to 75 days old in several parts. They require water for a minimum of 75-90 days.

All that we can do is to pray the Rain God as Karnataka looks determined not to give us any more water, they added.

### **Farmers to get certified seeds at subsidised rates**

Pulses production, which hit a bad trough in the district during the last financial year, is finally ready to get a booster dose as the Department of Agriculture is set to procure and distribute 116 metric tonnes of improved varieties of seeds to farmers at subsidised rates.

According to official statistics, the area under pulses varieties like green gram, black gram, cow pea, red gram, and Bengal gram came down from 25,261 ha in 2010-11 fiscal to 20,776 ha in 2011-12 financial year.

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#### **Select farms**

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#### ***Agriculture department set to procure and distribute 116 metric tonnes of seeds***

### **Training in weed management**

The Centre of Advanced Faculty Training in Agronomy, Directorate of Crop Management of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Indian Council of Agricultural Research will organise a training on “Sustainable Weed Management Options: Approaches and Applications” here on November 21.

According to a release, the training will be inaugurated by Registrar of the university P. Subbian.



## Potato price unlikely to go up

Since there is very little chance for potato price to increase in the next three months, farmers are asked to sell the Kadaibogam harvested tuber upon harvest.

According to the Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, potato price will hover around Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000 a bag of 45 kg in November 2012.

This is expected to continue till January 2013.

The Kadaibogam potato was sown in September-October.

The harvested potato has started arriving in the market.

The price forecast was made based on the price that prevailed at the Nilgiris Cooperative Marketing Society in Mettupalayam.

This is a major trading centre in India.

Potato is a widely consumed vegetable in Tamil Nadu and grown in Dindigul, the Nilgiris, Krishnagiri, and Erode districts.

## Ban on poultry import relaxed

The ban on import of poultry and poultry products from Karnataka following the outbreak of bird flu has been conditionally lifted from Monday noon. However, the ban on poultry manure will continue.

The restrictions on import of poultry and poultry products from neighbouring States were introduced last month in the wake of an outbreak of bird flu reported from a government-run farm at Hasserghatta, near Bangalore. On November 5, the government had lifted the ban on import of poultry and eggs from Tamil Nadu after the Department of Animal Husbandry confirmed that no case of bird flu had been reported from that State.

A press note issued by the office of the Minister for Animal Husbandry K.P. Mohanan here on Monday said the ban on imports from Karnataka was being conditionally lifted following a high-level meeting to assess the situation. It said the decision was taken after experts had confirmed that bird flu had been contained to the farm and the time frame for transmission of the virus was over.

However, the import of poultry and poultry goods from Karnataka will be governed by certain conditions. Each consignment will have to be certified by the district veterinary officer that it had originated from a place free of bird flu. A copy of the certificate would have to be submitted at the border checkpoint while the driver of the vehicle would have to carry another copy carrying the signature and seal of the officer in charge of the checkpoint.

The ban on import of poultry manure will continue until further orders. Animal Husbandry officials said this precaution was necessary because poultry droppings constituted the highest risk due to the concentration of virus.

Cheap and effective poultry manure is preferred by farmers as a concentrated source of crop nutrients. Being organic, it does not need composting and can be applied directly to the fields from the farm.

“It is known that infected birds shed the virus through their excreta and secretions. In farms where the poultry are reared in cages, there is no chance of the droppings being disinfected by exposure to sunlight. The manure is collected directly from the cage and loaded on to lorries for transport. This adds to the risk factor, calling for additional precautions in the case of manure,” an official said.

# Hindustan Times

TODAY FARM NEWS  
20.11.2012 A.M

## Weather

Chennai

### Chennai - INDIA

#### Today's Weather



Sunny

Tuesday, Nov 20

Max Min

31.3° | 17.2°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 70

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:10

Sunset: 05:39

Barometer: 1011

#### Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Nov 21

Max Min

32° | 19°

#### Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday Nov 22	Friday Nov 23	Saturday Nov 24	Sunday Nov 25	Monday Nov 26
30°   21° Cloudy	33°   25° Overcast	33°   25° Overcast	33°   25° Overcast	32°   25° Overcast

#### Airport Weather

Delhi

Delhi

Rain: 0

Humidity: 59

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:48

Sunset: 05:25

Barometer: 1017



# THE HINDU Business Line

TODAY FARM NEWS

19.11.2012 P.M

20.11.2012 A.M

## UP farmer's body demands 60% hike in sugarcane

Farmer's organisation Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) on Monday demanded a steep hike of about 60 per cent in the price of sugarcane for the current season, which commenced last month, at Rs 400 per quintal.

In the last 2011-12 season (October-September), the Uttar Pradesh government had fixed a State Advisory Price (SAP) of Rs 240-250 per quintal for sugarcane.

The state government has so far not announced the SAP for the 2012-13 season. "Farmers will not accept cane price below Rs 400 a quintal," BKU leader Naresh Tikait said at a farmers meet.

Another BKU leader Rakesh Tikait demanded that the Siwaya toll plaza in the city should be shifted outside the Meerut Municipal Corporation limits and the toll rates should be halved.

## Stockists purchases bolster sugar

Sugar prices in Vashi market were quoted higher on Monday. Though sugar market remained officially closed on Monday following Bandh called given by Federation of Associations of Maharashtra (FAM). In closed market sugar prices were quoted Rs10 – Rs 15 higher in spot. Naka and Mill tender rates were unchanged as mills sold sufficient quantity of sugar on Saturday evening. Sentiment was firm on positive local demand said market sources.

A wholesaler said "Due to Bandh there were no activities and shutters were down. There were very few fresh arrivals from the producing centers in the market but were not unloaded. From Tuesday routine activities will resume. As fewer mills offered tenders on Saturday evening and continuous support of stockiest buying on back of retail demand push sentiment in physical

market. In spot market was up by Rs 10 – Rs 15 a quintal while naka and tender rates were expected Rs5-10 higher. Domestic futures market was range bound with thin volatility”.

He said agitation of farmers for higher cane price in main producing areas is a supporting factor. Despite higher free sale quota mills are not keen to sale at lower rates. Agitation may lead to delay in crushing. Market has witnessed ample supply till now. Demand from neighboring states is missing in Maharashtra since long time forcing Maharashtra’s mills to depend on local markets he said.

Traders are expecting prices in physical market to decline as festivals are over. In World market chances of sugar exports from India are less due to ample supply from other producing nations, with a substantial global surplus forecast for 2012-13.

In world market white sugar March -13 futures closed higher by \$2.60 to \$509.30 and May-13 at \$515.50 a ton on last Friday. On National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange sugar Dec-12 futures was up by Rs7 to Rs 3338 (Rs 3331), January contracts was Rs3354 (Rs 3351) and February was Rs 3374 (Rs 3372). In Vashi spot market loading – unloading activities were standstill due to Bandh.

On Saturday evening 16-18 mills offered tenders and sold about 78,000 - 80,000 bags (Each of 100 kgs) to the local traders in the range of Rs 3,340-3,390 (Rs 3,330-3,380) for S-grade and Rs 3,400 - 3,520 (Rs 3,390 - 3,510) for M-grade. Nominal Spot Sugar prices were S-grade Rs 3,480– Rs 3,565 (Rs 3,472 – Rs 3,551) and M-grade Rs 3,515 - 3,740 (Rs 3,512- 3,721). Naka delivery rates: S-grade Rs 3,430 -3,480 (Rs 3,430 -3,470) and M-grade Rs 3,490-3,670 (Rs 3,480-3,650).

### Rice moves up as mills hold back stocks



Bullish trend continued in the rice market with prices of aromatic and non basmati rice varieties moving up by Rs 25-400 a quintal on Monday.

The uptrend was anticipated because the rice mills have started to hold their stocks and millers are not showing much interest in selling their stocks on current levels, said Tara Chand Sharma, proprietor of Tara Chand and sons. According to market experts, aromatic and non-basmati varieties may hold on to their current levels for the next few days on account of steady domestic demand and low stocks, he added.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) went further up by Rs 100 and sold at Rs 5,800-5,900 a quintal while Pusa-1121 (sela) sold at Rs 4,900 a quintal, Rs 50 up from previous level.

Price of pure basmati (raw) increased by Rs 400 and quoted at Rs 6,900-7,000 while pure basmati (sela) sold at Rs 5,400-5,600 a quintal, Rs 100 up. Duplicate basmati (steam) improved by Rs 100 and traded at Rs 4,850-4,900 a quintal.

Prices of PR-11 (sela) increased by Rs 50 and sold at Rs 2,550-2,650 while PR-11 (Raw) quoted at Rs 2,600 a quintal, Rs 100 up. Permal (raw) improved by Rs 50 and sold at Rs 2,100-2,250 a quintal while Permal (sela) went for Rs 2,200-2,300 a quintal, Rs 25 up.

Sharbati(steam) went up by Rs 50 and quoted at Rs 3,800 while Sharbati (sela) quoted at Rs 3,500 a quintal, Rs 100 up.

#### Paddy Arrivals

About 40 thousand bags of PR variety arrived and went for Rs 1,150-1,225 a quintal, Sharbati arrived with a stock of around 5,000 bags and quoted at Rs 1,750-1,800 a quintal while just around 5 thousand bags of DB variety arrived and sold at Rs 2,400-2,600 a quintal.

About 15,000 bags of Pusa-1121 arrived and quoted at between Rs 2,350-2,600 a quintal, pure basmati paddy arrived with a stock of around 5,000 bags and sold at Rs 3,200-3,300 a quintal.

#### Exports

According to the reports, an Indonesian state procurement body Bulog has signed a deal to purchase 1.2 lakh tonnes of rice from India for delivery this year.

## Cotton rules firm amid demand hopes



Cotton prices remained unchanged in Gujarat and Maharashtra on Monday, due to limited arrivals and normal buying.

Most markets, excepting some in Saurashtra, reopened on Monday after remaining closed for Diwali.

New Sankar-6 cotton traded at Rs 33,600-33,800 a candy in Gujarat, A grade S-6 cotton traded at Rs 33,600-33,800 a candy and B grade cotton at Rs 33,000-33,400 per candy. Prices of V 797 offered at Rs 29,500-30,000 a candy. About 20,000-22,000 bales cotton arrived in Gujarat

New 29+ MM cotton traded at Rs 33,500-33,800 a candy in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

In Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh “old low micronaire cotton” quoted at Rs 32,000-33,000 a candy.

Rajkot-based cotton broker said, “Price was unchanged but sentiment was firm and we are expecting good demand in coming days.”

Both millers and exporters were active in the market. Exporters were buying mainly to fulfil their domestic sales commitments. Spinners were procuring for short-term consumption .

The country’s cotton production for the current year is likely to decline by five per cent from last year’s 37.3 million bales of 170 kg each to 35.4 million bales, according to the estimates released by the cotton Association of India (CAI).

## Turmeric seen losing sheen with new crop arrivals



Traders quoted higher for spot turmeric on Monday because of quality arrivals. However, sales remained poor, as upcountry demand has decreased after Diwali.

“Exporters bought hybrid turmeric for up to Rs 6,309 a quintal, Rs 450 higher than last week. Overall, 7,500 bags arrived, but only 40 per cent of it was sold. Stockists purchased 10 per cent of the stocks,” said Erode Turmeric Merchants Association President R.K.V. Ravishankar.

Prices are likely to fall within a month when the new crop arrives. Traders who have orders from local spices firms are buying a little to fulfil those orders. Demand is low, because not enough new orders are being placed. Farmers said they have been bringing limited quantities for auction, as the prices are low.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,063-5,509, the root variety at Rs 3,709-4,585.

**Salem hybrid crop:** The finger variety was sold at Rs 4,816-6,309, the root variety at Rs 4,339-5,159. Of the 902 bags that arrived, 210 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,139-5,330, the root variety at Rs 4,069-4,907. Of the 625 bags that arrived, 427 were sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,080-5,780, the root variety at Rs 4,116-5,036. Of the 737 bags that arrived, 712 were sold.



At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,779-5,476, the root variety at Rs 3,760-4,812. All the 134 bags kept for sale were sold.

### Global cues, local offtake perks up soya oil

Improved buying and strong global cues have perked up soya oil in *mandis* here by Rs 10 for 10 kg in the past three days. Soya refined on Monday quoted at Rs 675-680 for 10 kg, while soya solvent rose to Rs 645-650 for 10 kg. In the resale market, soya oil fetched Rs 674.

Strong foreign demand has lifted soya oil prices in the past 10 days by about Rs 25 for 10 kg. Soya oil futures traded higher on strong foreign and local demand. Soya refined's November contracts on the National Board of Trade closed higher at Rs 697.60). Similarly, on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), soya oil's November and December contracts closed up at Rs 711.80 and Rs 696.30 respectively. Amid arrival of 2.25 lakh bags, soya seeds ruled firm at Rs 3,170-3,250 a quintal. In *muhurat* trading on Saturday, when local *mandis* opened after Diwali holidays, soyabean fetched Rs 3,131 a quintal. Thereafter, it rose to Rs 3,125-3,232 on strong buying. Plant deliveries of soyabean rose to Rs 3,270-3,320 a quintal on strong demand from crushers. On the NCDEX, soyabean's November and December contracts rose to Rs 3,260 and Rs 3,283 respectively.

### Maize rallies amid good industrial demand



Maize prices rallied on a positive note on Monday. They gained 2 per cent on poor kharif crop arrivals and good industrial demand. A rise in wheat prices also aided the trend.

On the NCDEX, maize for November delivery was up 2.1 per cent at Rs 1,398 a quintal, while the December and January contracts were up 2 per cent each at Rs 1,420 and Rs 1,455.

“Corn was stable and moved up on a pan-India average to Rs 12,229 a tonne, up 1.4 per cent against last week. The prices were, however, higher than last year by 16.9 per cent,” according to a trade source.

In contrast, spot prices went down and at Davangere (Karnataka) maize was quoted at Rs 1,381.25 a quintal.

Globally, also there was no major change in corn prices as the market was waiting for the decision on ethanol waiver, which was not granted.

### **Farmers told to focus on value addition, mixed cropping**

Farmers have been advised to focus on value addition and mixed cropping. Participants at a seminar on ‘development through horticulture’, organised by the Vijaya Rural Development Foundation at Arkula in Dakshina Kannada district, expressed this view.

Inaugurating the programme, M. Premanath Alva, Vice-President of Vijaya Rural Development Foundation, said the welfare of farmers hinges on value addition. Mixed cropping pattern plays a crucial role in the farmers’ development, he said.

A. Jayakumar Shetty, Secretary of Arkula Charitable Trust, said that farmers should study the market while taking cropping decisions.

S. Nagaraja Kedilaya, Assistant General Manager of Vijaya Bank, suggested that farmers consider agriculture as an industry and work in that direction.

Vigneshwara Varmudi, economics professor from Vivekananda College, Puttur, said that farmers should have proper information on market for the commodity they grow, and its production.

H. Hanumanthappa, programme coordinator at Krishi Vijnana Kendra, Mangalore, and M. Sanjeev Naik from the Karnataka Horticulture Department, spoke on the occasion.

More than 40 progressive farmers from Mangalore and Bantwal taluks attended the seminar, said a press release by the foundation here.

### Pepper gains on correction

Pepper market recovered in correction on Monday after being overplayed by bear operators in recent days.

The market opened on a low note and then moved up by Rs 700 to touch the level of Rs 40,300 a quintal in forenoon. Then it traded with high volatility

. The last traded price for November was at Rs 40,150 a quintal. However, the closing price (last half-an-hour average) was at Rs 40,180 a quintal.

There was liquidation, switching over and additional buying as is evident from the rise in open interest.

### Spot trade

On the spot, some seven tonnes of farm grade pepper arrived and of this 5 tonnes were sold. Arrivals appear to have slackened as those who wanted to sell might have liquidated when the prices were ruling high.

Some domestic demand is also expected in coming days for catering to the winter requirement, market sources told *Business Line*.

So far, 1,340 tonnes of pepper has been marked for delivery under staggered delivery system and the bull operators are likely to take the delivery, they said. The outstanding position in December has soared to 6,539 tonnes which, the sources claimed, is “excessive speculative position built up in December.”

November contract on the NCDEX increased by Rs 575 to close at Rs 40,180 a quintal while December and February went up by Rs 405 and Rs 730 respectively to close at Rs 39,150 and Rs 36,370 a quintal.

### Turnover

Total turnover decreased by 1,123 tonnes to close at 3,007 tonnes. Total open interest rose by 161 tonnes to close at 8,529 tonnes indicating additional buying.

November open interest fell by 226 tonnes to 600 tonnes while that of December and February increased by 217 tonnes and 155 tonnes to close at 6,529 tonnes and 1,144 tonnes.

Spot prices in tandem with the futures market trend increased by Rs200 to close at Rs38,200 (ungarbled) and Rs39,700 a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market moved up to \$7,600 a tonne (c&f) Europe and \$7,900 a tonne (c&f) for the US and remained out-priced.

### Bonanza for basmati farmers in Punjab, Haryana as prices soar



Farmers in Punjab and Haryana, who had planted the aromatic basmati varieties this year, are laughing all the way to the bank. Basmati paddy prices have shot up on projections of a lower crop, fetching them 60 per cent higher returns than last year.

Currently, basmati is ruling at an average Rs 2,700 a quintal at mandis in Punjab and Haryana, against Rs 1,600-1,700 a quintal last year. The price band this year ranges from Rs 2,000 to Rs

3,500 a quintal, with the premium, traditional basmati at the top end. Last year, the prices ranged from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,200 a quintal.

“We are happy with the prices this year,” said Gurnam Singh, a farmer in his mid-60s from Ali Majra village, who had come to sell his produce at the Rajpura mandi. Next season, he plans to plant basmati on all his 12 acres, unlike the one acre this year.

Similarly, Paramjit Pal Singh, from Gurditpura Nathiyan near Chandigarh, says he too plans to plant basmati on his entire landholding of eight acres next year. This year, he had planted the variety on five acres that fetched a yield of 15 quintals per acre, the same as last year. Paramjit says his per acre net savings this year stood at Rs 30,000 — almost double last year’s.

### Exports

Basmati arrival is picking up in Punjab mandis even as procurement operations for the kharif marketing season 2012-13 for common variety paddy has entered the last leg. “The average price has shot up from around a level of Rs 2,200 to Rs 2,700 a quintal in the past 10 days,” says Sanjeev Goyal of Ram Kishan & Brothers, a commission agent at the Rajapura mandi. “We expect prices to move up by Rs 100-200 a quintal in the next few days on firm demand,” he adds.

Goyal’s firm had helped farmers sell about 8,000 kattas (50-kg bags) last year. However, given the lower crop this year, they have sold only 2,000 bags so far and hope to sell more in the weeks ahead.

However, Vijay Setia, Executive Director at Chamalal Setia Export Ltd, says the perceived decline in crop size will not affect availability for exports this year.

### Acreage

Citing the satellite survey of the basmati crop area, Setia said the acreage under the Pusa 1121 variety, which forms 70 per cent of the overall area, is the same as it was last year. But traditional basmati and PB-1 varieties have seen a 30 per cent drop in area in Punjab and Haryana.

Setia expects the high-yielding Pusa 1121 variety will help offset the shortfall in production of other varieties.

The overall availability, including the carry-forward inventory of around 1 million tonnes, will be the same as last year, he said.

India exported 3.21 million tonnes, worth Rs 15,450 crore, last year and domestic consumption was 5.5 million tonnes, estimates Setia.

### Spot rubber inches up on global cues

The rubber market turned better on Monday.

Moderate recovery in domestic futures and a better closing in international indices kept the buyers comparatively active in the commodity at lower levels.

Meanwhile, the Key TOCOM rubber futures recovered to a two-week high tracking a jump in oil prices and Yen's decline to a seven-month low.

Sheet rubber improved to Rs 170 (168) a kg, according to traders.

The grade firmed up to Rs 169 (168) a kg at Kottayam and Kochi, as quoted by the Rubber Board.

The December series increased to Rs 174.70 (170.89), January to Rs 176.95 (172.92), February to Rs 179.15 (175.13), March to Rs 180.50 (178.44) and April to Rs 184.20 (179.33), while the May series declined to Rs 178.50 (180.33) a kg on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) closed firm at Rs 165.67 (164.92) a kg at Bangkok.

The November futures increased to ¥238.7 (Rs 161.90) from ¥236.1 a kg during the day session and then to ¥242 (Rs 164.13) from ¥236.1 a kg in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

**Spot rates were (Rs/kg):** RSS-4: 170 (168); RSS-5: 166 (165); ungraded: 161 (160); ISNR 20: 159 (158) and latex 60 per cent: 113 (111.50).

### **Demand perks up tea prices at Kochi auctions**

A good demand perked up prices of almost all varieties of tea at the Kochi tea auction. The quantity on offer in the CTC dust category was 12,34,500 kg – of which 94 per cent was sold out.

The market was fully firm to dearer by Re 1 to Rs 3 especially for clean, black, well-made teas with liquoring properties. As the sale progressed, further appreciation was noticed on grainer varieties following better export enquiry.

Primary grades remained steady, while others were irregular and lower with some withdrawals.

In the best CTC dusts, PD varieties quoted the best prices of Rs 95/103, RD grades stood at Rs 98/108, SRD fetched Rs 100/109 and SFD at Rs 100/120.

The leaf sale also witnessed a good demand and the quantity on offer in the Orthodox grades was 244,500 kg. Others were irregular and tended to ease. Corresponding smaller brokens barely remained steady to tending easier.

The CTC leaf also registered a better demand and the quantity on offer was 120,000 kg. The market opened on a steady note. In the dust category, both Pasuparai SFD and Kallyar SFD quoted the best prices of Rs 125 each followed by Injipara (Prm) RD at Rs 124. In the leaf grades, Chamraj Green Tea FOP (S) fetched the best prices of Rs 312 .

### **Tea prices improve at Coonoor sale**

As much as 96.5 per cent of the 13.08 lakh kg offered at Sale No: 46 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions were sold with prices gaining over Rs 2 a kg.

Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped the CTC market at Rs 152 a kg. Among orthodox teas from corporate sector, Highfield Estate got Rs 215.

“Orthodox leaf was dearer by Rs 2-5 a kg. High-priced CTC leaf oscillated up and down Re 1-2 and others gained up to Rs 2. Primary orthodox dusts gained Rs 2-3 but others lost up to Rs 2. High-priced CTC dusts were dearer by Re 1-2, mediums Rs 2-3 and plainers Re 1-2”, an auctioneer told *Business Line*.

On the export front, Pakistan bought for Rs 78-93 a kg, the CIS Rs 83-92 and for some European ports for Rs 82-88.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 77-78 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 95-125 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 81-83 for plain dusts and Rs 100-135 for brighter liquoring dusts.

### Export, domestic demand lends flavour to cardamom



The cardamom market gained last week on good buying support from both exporters and upcountry buyers at auctions held in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

An estimated 35 tonnes of cardamom were bought by exporters. North Indian dealers and stockists were also active by covering good quantities.

Boycott of auctions for over a month recently during the purchasing period for Diwali by the traders in protest against raising of the minimum bidding rates appears to have exhausted the stocks held by upcountry stockists/dealers/traders, etc. This phenomenon, the trade attributed as the reason for the revival in demand from north Indian states and that has reflected on the market last week, market sources in Kumily and Bodinayakannur told *Business Line*.



## Bullish sentiment

Arrivals also were good. But, of course, nearly 60 per cent of what came at this time of the last season. Last year, it was a bumper crop.

Besides unfavourable weather conditions – the current dry spell following deficient rains during the south-west and north-east monsoon have also created a bullish sentiment in the market. All those in the trade are apprehensive of a sharp fall in the output this year, they said.

At the Sunday auction conducted by the KCPMC, total arrivals stood at 76.7 tonnes and the entire quantity was sold out. The maximum price was at Rs 1,019 a kg. Auction average price increased to Rs 778.74 from around Rs 750 the previous Sunday, P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, said. Good quality material arrived yesterday and hence the bulk fetched Rs 750 a kg, he said. Moderate quantity of 8mm bold green capsules also arrived and it was sold at Rs 1,000 a kg, he said.

## Arrivals

Total arrivals and sales during the current season from Aug 1 to Nov 18 were at 3,624 tonnes and 3,418 tonnes respectively. Where as in the corresponding period last year they were at 6,987 tonnes and 6,592 tonnes respectively, official sources said.

The weighted average price as on Nov 18 stood at around Rs 750 a kg ( Rs 585).

**Prices of graded varieties (Rs/kg):** AGEB 950-960; AGB 735-745; AGS 700-710; and AGS -1: 675-685.

## Sugar output up at 9.84 lakh tonnes till Nov 15



New Delhi, Nov 19 Sugar production in the current 2012-13 season till November 15 stood at 9.84 lakh tonnes.

This is about two lakh tonnes more than the corresponding last year's output of 7.76 lakh tonnes, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said in a statement.

This 27 per cent rise in output is mainly on account of higher production by mills in Karnataka. Majority of the sugar mills in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are yet to begin crushing, which has been delayed over cane pricing issues.

### **Higher output**

About 178 mills across the country have begun crushing as on November 15 against 215 mills during the same time last year. In UP, only three mills have begun crushing against 43 last year. In Maharashtra, 93 mills have started their operations against 95 last year.

However, in Karnataka 49 mills have begun production against 48 in the corresponding period last year. Karnataka mills have so far produced 4.2 lakh tonnes against 2.37 lakh tonnes in the corresponding last year.

ISMA expects 2012-13 sugar output at 24 million tonnes, down 8 per cent over last year's 26 mt. The decline is mainly on account of deficient rains affecting cane acreage in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

### **Prices rule flat at N. India tea auctions**

Last week at Sale No. 46 at the Kolkata tea auction, the average price of both CTC and Orthodox were virtually flat vis-a-vis the previous sale (No. 44, as there was no sale 45), according to J Thomas & Company Pvt Ltd, the tea auctioneers. The average price of Orthodox was Rs 172.61 per kg as compared to Rs 172.69 in the previous sale, while that of CTC was Rs 148.53 (Rs 148.27). An estimated 77.24 per cent (79.45 per cent) of the Orthodox and 87.11 per cent (84.03 per cent) of the CTC offerings were sold.

The total offerings (packages) at the three North Indian auctions centres at Kolkata, Guwahati and Siliguri at 2,74,345 was substantially lower than 5,13,057 in the corresponding sale (No. 46) of the last year. This was due mainly to the substantial drop in the offerings of CTC/Dust in all

the three auction centres. Thus, the offerings of CTC/Dust at Kolkata was 1,21,604 (1,51,620), at Guwahati 66,056 (1,98,078) and Siliguri 40,479 (1,17,974). The Guwahati and Siliguri centres mainly handle CTC/Dust. At Kolkata, the offerings of Orthodox was 38,081 (37,144) and of Darjeeling 8,135 (8,241). Assam CTC teas met with strong demand and sold at firm to dearer rates, particularly cleaner, grainier and liquoring sorts. Bolder brokenes appreciated following improved enquiry from the exporters. Dooars also followed a firm to dearer trend. There was good enquiry from Hindustan Unilever and active support from Tata Global. Western India dealers operated actively on the liquoring sorts. North India and the local sections were also active.

Orthodox offerings met with improved demand and all sorts sold at firm to dearer rates. There was good support on tippy and liquoring varieties from Continental buyers. Exporters to the CIS and West Asia operated. There was good enquiry from Hindustan Unilever.

The limited weight of Darjeeling teas showing seasonal improvement in quality saw strong competition and sold at attractive rates. The remainder sold in line with quality, with the plainer whole leaf grades neglected. Brokenes were firm whilst fannings were dearer owing to improved export enquiry.

# Business Standard

TODAY FARM NEWS

20.11.2012 A.M

## Pepper up 1% as demand picks up

The December delivery gained Rs 10, or 0.03% to Rs 38,755 per quintal

Press Trust of India / New

Delhi November 19, 2012, 14:08 IST



Buoyed by a pick up in spot demand and covering-up of short positions, pepper prices rose by Rs 405 to Rs 40,010 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, November pepper rose by Rs 405, or 1.02%, to Rs 40,010 per quintal, with an open interest of 826 lots.

The December delivery gained Rs 10, or 0.03% to Rs 38,755 per quintal, with an open interest of 6,364 lots.

Marketmen said rising demand in the spot market and covering-up of short positions, helped pepper futures to trade higher.

## Sugar futures up 0.30% on delay in cane crushing

Speculators enlarge their positions driven by reports of delay in cane crushing in key producing states



Sugar futures prices today surged 0.30% to Rs 3,341 per quintal as speculators enlarged their positions driven by reports of delay in cane crushing in key producing states.

However, higher selling by mills following a government directive to mills to sell 4 million tonne of sugar in the open market during October and November, capped the gains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the December contract for sugar gained Rs 10, or 0.30%, to Rs 3,341 per quintal, with an open interest of 28,800 lots.

The November contract gained Rs 9, or 0.27%, to Rs 3,360 per quintal in 11,230 lots.

Market analysts attributed the rise in sugar prices at futures trade fresh positions by speculators supported by reports of a delay in cane crushing in key producing states due to a stand-off between farmers and mills over cane prices.

#### **Rice procurement for 2012-13 picks up**

Around 11.1 million tonne of rice has been procured for the central pool this season, 0.99 million tonne more than the same period last year

**Sanjeeb Mukherjee / New Delhi November 19, 2012, 15:38 IST**

After a slow start, procurement of rice has picked up pace in most parts of the country in the 2012-13 season as farmers have started harvesting their standing crop.

According to senior officials, there was a delay in harvesting of the standing paddy crop in some places as sowing was delayed because of late withdrawal of the southwest monsoon.

According to an official statement, till November 19, 2012, around 11.1 million tonne of rice has been procured for the central pool this season, around 0.99 million tonne more than the same period last year.

Senior officials from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) said that procurement has picked up in Punjab and Haryana after a slow start and also in other major paddy producing states like Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.

Till November 19, in Punjab, state agencies and FCI had purchased around 8.30 million tonne of rice for the central pool, as against 7.63 million tonne during the same period last year.

In Haryana, the government has procured around 2.53 million tonne of rice till November 19, around 31% more than the same period last year.

In Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the government has procured 144,248 tonne and 138,963 tonne of rice.

India annually procures around 35-38 million tonne of rice for the central pool to distribute it at cheap rates for the Public Distribution System (PDS).

In 2012-2013, the government has targeted to procure around 40.1 million tonne of rice for the central pool, around 15% higher than the actual procurement of 2011-2012.

Meanwhile, across India, around 22,000 paddy procurement centres are expected to open during the current marketing year, the maximum 8,500 being in Bihar.

As on November 1, 2012, the government has around 69.6 million tonne of foodgrains in the central pool, including wheat and rice, while the storage space available with it was around 71.4 million tonne, which also included covered area plinth and storages with state governments.



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

TODAY FARM NEWS

20.11.2012 A.M

## Lokayukta probe into Ponty Chadha's sugar mills, mining deals to continue

LUCKNOW: Liquor baron Ponty Chadha's sudden death may not mean end of probe into out-of-turn allotment of contracts to his companies. On one hand, the anomalous disinvestment of 11 sugar mills by the Mayawati government in 2010 - five of which were sold to Chadha - is being probed by UP Lok Ayukta Justice NK Mehrotra and on the other, Chadha's companies featured prominently in the illegal allotment of mining contracts in Budelkhand, for which Mehrotra has already indicted [Bahujan Samaj Party](#) leader and former PWD Minister Naseemuddin Siddiqui.

Speaking to TOI, Mehrotra said: "Ponty Chadha's companies have been named in multiple enquiries conducted by my office. I am examining evidence in the sugar mill scam where Chadha may be the promoter, proprietor or shareholder in some companies. If their involvement is proved, I will call persons involved. Chadha's death will not impact the progress of the sugar mill allotment scam, since core investigation concerns irregularity in the disinvestment process, based on the CAG report."

Earlier, Chadha's companies came under the Lok Ayukta scanner also after RTI activist Ashish Sagar Dixit complained against Mayawati's aide [Naseemuddin Siddiqui](#) for amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Concluding the probe in August, Mehrotra recommended a CBI and [Enforcement Directorate](#) probe against Siddiqui after finding the charges correct.

In his report, though Mehrotra held Siddiqui guilty of 'misusing' his office for issuing mining lease during his tenure in the former BSP government. Apart from handing over lease to benefit six companies of his son Afzal Siddiqui, Chadha's companies were also probed. Mehrotra said:

"Since the probe was against Siddiqui, the investigation report essentially probed the minister's role. Ponty Chadha's companies were also found to have been favoured."

Sources in the government also confirmed the liquor baron's empire extended to businesses well beyond alcohol. On condition of anonymity, officials said in the case of all mining and mineral contracts, Chadha was allowed to fix rates for carting mined ores to various parts of the state. Though this did not cause a loss of revenue to the state exchequer, it did, however, inflate costs for end consumers.

### **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar to address farmers in state, conduct events in Pune**

PUNE: Art of Living founder [Sri Sri Ravi Shankar](#) will conduct 'mahasatsangs', pujas, meditation programmes, knowledge sessions and meetings in the city from November 22 to 25.

The programmes will be part of his 10-day tour, which also includes visits to Nagpur, Akola, Gondia, Parbhani, Osmanabad, Rajewadi, Selu and Lonar.

A statement issued by the Pune unit of the Art of Living foundation said that on November 22, Ravi Shankar would address a 'mahasatsang' at PWD Ground, New Sangvi, at 6 pm. On November 23, a 'Pranayam Dhyaan Shibir' has been organised at 6 am and a 'Mahalaxmi Homa' at 6.30 pm at the same venue. The 'Pranayam Dhyaan Shibir' will be held at the ground at 6 am on November 24 and 25 as well.

Ravi Shankar will also address more than one lakh farmers in the state, apart from talking to over ten thousand 'Yuvacharyas' - volunteers of the youth leadership training programme - who work for the uplift of those in the rural areas. More than 10 lakh people are expected to attend the public gatherings across the state.

Currently, Ravi Shankar is on a 'Diwali special Gujarat tour', addressing lakhs of people from diverse backgrounds. The statement also said that Ravi Shankar recently drew a crowd of more than 1.5 lakh people in [Argentina](#), all of whom were inspired by the tenets of non-violence and the creation of a stress-free world.



The workshops in Maharashtra aim to further Ravi Shankar's efforts in promoting harmony for all. 'Mahasatsangs' and pujas conducted as part of the tour in Pune will be free for all.

Founded in 1981 by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the Art of Living foundation is a not-for-profit, educational and humanitarian NGO engaged in stress-management and service initiatives. The organisation operates in 152 countries.

### Failed crop leads farmer to suicide in Jhajjar

ROHTAK: Unable to cope with crop loss during the kharif season, a young farmer, who was already burdened with debt, committed [suicide](#) by hanging himself in his house in Birohar village of Jhajjar district on Saturday night.

He is survived by his wife four minor children, three of them girls, and a mentally challenged brother. 28-year-old Ramdhan had sowed eight acres of guar crop, besides four acres of cotton crop, but he failed to reap expected produce even as he had taken loan from some villagers to meet the input cost for the crop. Finding himself in deep financial crisis after the crop failure, he was extremely depressed for last few days, said villagers who met the block development and panchayat officer (BDPO) at Matanhail on Monday to seek financial help for the family.

Ram Bir Singh, who is panchayat samiti member from Matanhail block, said though Ramdhan owned only one-and-a-half acres of land, he took eight acres on lease from other farmers to sow guar and cotton. "He decided to shift to guar crop in March this year when the guar seed prices had touched almost Rs 30,000 per quintals. He took land on lease and then sowed guar in the hope of garnering rich dividends due to higher prices. But scarcity of rainfall dashed his hopes and the crop remained weak. He finally got around 1.5 quintals per acres produce, though he had targeted around 10 quintals per acre," Ram Bir stated.

Jhajjar Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) president Anoop Singh, who called on his widow Krishna Devi, said that he had borrowed about Rs 2.5 lakh from some villagers and also had a debt of Rs 50,000 from the Jhajjar Cooperative Bank.

"His wife said that as the lenders had been knocking at their doors for some days, he said he was feeling ashamed of facing them and was in distress," the BKU leader said. Jhajjar deputy commissioner Ajit Joshi, when contacted, said the he would look into the matter.