

## Milking the benefits of dairy farming

This farmer is eager to encourage others to follow him



Family business: 'Working under someone is no fun when I have the potential to offer jobs to others,' says Raghu, the enterprising dairy farmer of Suranahalli in Hassan district.— Photo: Prakash Hassan

"Working under someone is no fun when I have the potential to offer jobs to others," says Raghu (36) of Suranahalli, who is into dairy farming and is content with his earnings.

He owns 65 cows and plans to increase the number to 300 in a year. "The occupation demands hard labour. And, no doubt, it has paid off," he says.

Raghu, who dropped out after completing SSLC, began looking after cows the family owned. "My father had 10 Sindhi cows. He started selling milk when it was priced at Rs. 1.3 a litre. As we have been in this field since then, I preferred continuing dairy farming than taking up any other job," he says.

Earlier, his family used to sell milk to private dairies. "It was a hectic job .... We had to wait till the vehicle arrived and wait for the payment. Moreover, we had no bargaining power. These factors forced us to look for customers on our own," he says.

Last year, Mr. Raghu bought more cows, including Holstein Friesian and Jersey varieties. “We are producing over 800 litres of milk a day since a year. We sell 400 litres a day to a sweet shop in Mysore and the rest is used for making khova as there is a huge demand for it. Five litres of milk is needed to make 1 kg of khova. We sell the khova also to the Mysore sweet shop,” he says.

He invested nearly Rs. 9 lakh to set up the khova-making unit. His elder brother, Madhusudan, who has worked as civil engineer in private companies, including in South Africa, has joined hands with Mr. Raghu. “Both of us are now working together to develop our dairy farm. Recently, we visited farmers in north Karnataka and Maharashtra who are into dairy farming in a big way. We returned with ideas to improve our farm,” Mr. Raghu says.

### **Big plans**

“We will soon install a chilling unit and start selling milk in packets just as the Karnataka Milk Federation does. This is our dream...,” he says.

Mr. Raghu, however, is facing problems in finding labour. “Our family members are enough to work in the present set up. As we expand, we need more workers. We are finding it difficult to find people,” he says.

He says, in all, his family has invested nearly Rs. 85 lakh in dairy farming.

Mr. Raghu, who is reluctant to disclose the profit, says he has good earnings. He is also eager to encourage others to follow him.

### **Food Minister meets Manmohan for review of foodgrains procurement policy**

Union Food & Consumer Affairs Minister K.V. Thomas met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday and sought a review of the open-ended foodgrains procurement policy.

He also discussed the Rangarajan Panel recommendations on decontrol of sugar industry, the National Food Security Bill, which has been referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee, and the proposed panel within the Consumer Affairs Department on FDI in multi-brand retail.

The government has already procured about 82 million tonnes of food grains this year against 55 million tonnes purchased from farmers last year.

While the government cannot refuse the arrival of grains at procurement centres for the Central pool, with limitations on storage and an escalating subsidy bill, there is a move to put a cap on food grains procurement for the public distribution system (PDS). The food subsidy bill is estimated at about Rs. 97,000 crore.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has offloaded three million tonnes of wheat in the open market. A proposal for offloading another seven million tonnes will come up in the next meeting of the Cabinet. At the same time about 1.5 million tonnes of wheat has been exported out of the 2 million tonnes for which permission had been given. Food stock on October 1 was 71 million tonnes.

The Minister also apprised the Prime Minister about the inter-ministerial panel set up for interacting with States and traders on issues that may arise after the implementation of FDI in multi-brand retail. The Consumer Affairs Department is the nodal Ministry, with the Minister as the chairman.

“I met the Prime Minister and apprised him of the panel on trade reforms. I briefed him on the finalisation of the members list and terms of reference of the committee,” Mr. Thomas later told journalists. The committee will hold its first meeting this month when it will discuss the setting up of sub-committees, among other issues.

The Ministry will formulate its views on the recommendations of the Rangarajan panel in two months. While the panel recommended total decontrol of sugar, it suggested doing away with the free-sale quota norm and the 10 per cent levy for PDS. The government could purchase its requirement for PDS from the open market, said the panel chaired by C. Rangarajan, who heads the Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council.

The Minister later met Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar and sought his views on the issues at hand.

## State to purchase discoloured paddy, wet cotton

Chief Minister promises relief to flood-affected farmers



OFFERING SOLACE: Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy interacting with farmers at Dammamet mandal in Khammam district on Tuesday.— Photo: G.N.Rao

Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy on Tuesday gave an assurance to the worried flood-affected farmers that all necessary steps would be taken to buy discoloured paddy and wet cotton, even while he faced protests at some places for cancelling his visit.

Mr. Kiran Reddy undertook a day-long whirlwind tour of the affected areas, partly on helicopter, followed by visits to villages in Khammam, West Godavari and East Godavari districts where he interacted with the distressed farmers. His visit was delayed by two hours as he had to stay put in Shamshabad airport owing to bad weather in Gannavaram airport.

After going through a photo exhibition of the havoc caused by cyclone 'Nilam' and then the low pressure at Gannavaram airport, he told media persons that a high powered committee would be constituted to find a permanent solution to prevent floods along Budameru, the cause of destruction on the outskirts of Vijayawada city. He said orders have been issued to officials to enumerate accurately the damage caused to crops and houses by heavy rains.

The Chief Minister then took off to Dhammapeta in Khammam district. Highlighting the point that Khammam was the worst affected next only to East Godavari, he promised all possible help to the farmers.

Having realised that discoloured paddy and wet cotton were two problems bothering the farmers across all the affected districts, he promised to take up the issue with the Centre, specifically, apart from Food Corporation of India and Cotton Corporation of India.

When he saw sand-cast maize field at Ganeshpadu near Dhammapeta, he told the farmers that the government would leave no stone unturned in coming to their rescue. He disbursed ex gratia of Rs.1.50 lakh each to the families of two tribal women who lost their lives in a flood-related incident.

Before his next halt at Tadepalligudem, the Chief Minister had to face some rough weather en route, as victims of floods caused by faulty Nandamuru Aqueduct on Yarra Kalva protested the cancellation of his visit to Nandamuru village. A large number of farmers from Tadepalligudem and Nidadavole Assembly constituencies were waiting at the aquaduct for six hours to meet the Chief Minister to air their grievances, but were disappointed when he could not make it.

At Tuni in East Godavari district, Mr. Kiran Reddy asked opposition parties not to politicise natural calamities and instead come up with constructive suggestions that could help the government in extending best possible relief to the affected people. In a brief interaction with media persons at Visakhapatnam airport, he said standing crop on about eight lakh acres was damaged by the rains.

### **U.P. sugar mills sale probe**

The Akhilesh Yadav government on Tuesday decided to hand over the inquiry into alleged financial irregularities worth several hundred crores in the sale of 21 State-owned sugar mills to the Lokayukta.

### **State urged to assess crop loss in Telangana**

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) has demanded that the State government order for a comprehensive crop loss assessment in Telangana districts since the focus of its relief measures appears to be on Coastal Andhra region.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, TRS MLA K.T. Rama Rao stated that farmers at several places in Telangana districts had suffered crop damage in the heavy rains following Nilam cyclone.

### **NBA to help KSBB tackle invasive species**

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is working on developing a national-level framework to deal with invasive species that are posing a threat to local communities of flora and fauna.

The authority, meanwhile, has asked the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) to prepare a State-level list and management plan to tackle the problem, NBA chairman Balakrishna Pisupati has said.

Talking to *The Hindu* on his arrival here on Tuesday to oversee the preparations for the National Biodiversity Congress in December, he said the NBA would support the KSBB with technical and financial assistance to manage the threat posed by invasive species.

“Invasive species pose the most serious threat to biodiversity after habitat destruction. According to the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), three trillion dollars are spent on an average every year to manage invasive species. The economic loss caused by this problem is so huge,” he said.

Earlier, addressing the media, Dr. Balakrishna said Kerala could mentor other States in biodiversity management. “By establishing biodiversity management committees in all local bodies and taking up the preparation of panchayat biodiversity registers, it has proved to be a role model for the rest of the country.”

The BMCs, he felt, should have a prominent role in conservation, sustainable utilisation of biological resources and negotiations on access and benefit sharing arising from the use of biological resources.

Asked about the conflict of interests arising out of the recommendations of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), he said the level of participation of local communities was important in resolving the issue. “The government has initiated a review of the WGEEP report. We will wait for the review to come out,” he said when pressed for his comments.

Dr. Balakrishna said the National Biodiversity Congress to be held here in December would try to bring all the stakeholders in biodiversity network onto a common platform.

“It will be an attempt to showcase India’s biodiversity assets to the world. The event will be a game changer for the State Biodiversity Board,” he said.

KSBB chairman Oommen V. Oommen and member secretary K.P. Laladhas were present.

### Livestock distribution scheme breeds success

Population of their offspring expected to touch one-lakh mark



Scheme	Physical		Financial (Rs. in crore)	
	Target	Achievement	Allocation	Expenditure
<b>Goats/Sheep</b>	1,50,000	1,14,039	198	142
<b>Milch Cows</b>	12,000	9,238	44	30

*Photo: Special Arrangement*

With State Animal Husbandry authorities having completed the free distribution of about 8.5 lakh goats/sheep as part of their flagship scheme, the population of their offspring is expected to touch one-lakh mark soon.

At present, around 80,000 kids/lambs have born. As on March 31, the figure was a mere 9,341. As of now, nearly 30,000 animals are pregnant, according to an official.

The increase of nearly 70,000 in a matter of seven months has been attributed to two factors. One, the scheme, though launched in mid-September last year, could take off only a couple of

months later in view of the enforcement of the model code of conduct for the local bodies' polls.

Two, goats/sheep procured under the scheme are, on an average, six to eight month old and the average reproduction age of the animals is 15 months. This is why there is a spurt in birth now.

As regards mortality rate, the official says it is around three to four per cent, well within the norms of five per cent. Unlike similar schemes implemented in the past, the aspect that made a difference to the ongoing scheme is the government's insistence on post-purchase follow up, which includes vaccination and de-worming.

A few days ago, across the State, health camps were held, covering 8.5 lakh goats/sheep and nearly 20,000 milch cows, which were given under another government scheme.

As against this year's target of 1.5 lakhs for the goats/sheep scheme and 12,000 for cows, the authorities have distributed 1.14 lakh goats/sheep and 9,240 cows. On an average, the cows are contributing 50,000 litres of milk a day to the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation (Aavin).

Considering the difficulties that the animals procured at the time of northeast monsoon, they have decided not to go in for procurement till the monsoon is over. Essentially meant for the poor, the schemes target women. In the case of goats/sheep, the beneficiary should be a landless person while, for the other scheme, landholding of up to one acre is allowed as this will help production of green fodder in the beneficiary's land. Each beneficiary can get four goats/sheep or one milch cow. No person can be covered under the two schemes.

The official adds that the guidelines for the two schemes stipulate that 30 per cent of the beneficiaries should be from the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. The data on the profile of the beneficiaries indicate around 40 per cent of the beneficiaries belonging to the SC/STs, a reflection of the social reality that large sections of the community still form a huge chunk of the economically weaker sections of society in the State.



## **Symposium on radioactive waste management**

Sri Krishna College of Technology will host a national symposium on “Emerging Trends in Radioactive Waste Management” here on November 7.

According to a release, the symposium will be inaugurated by K. Balu, Director (Retd.), Waste Management Group, Department of Atomic Energy, Chennai. He will give an overview of radioactive wastes.

P.M. Satya Sai, Deputy General Manager, Waste Management Plants Commissioning, Nuclear Recycle Board, Kalpakkam, will speak on radioactive waste management – minimisation of volume and activity for disposal.

Experts from Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project and Bharathiar University, besides other organisations, will handle sessions.

## **'Red chilli price to decline marginally'**

The Domestic and Export Intelligence Cell of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has asked farmers to take sowing decision on chillies since the price is expected to rule around Rs. 50 a kg in March-April 2013.

According to a release, the price was forecast based on the analysis done on the price of chillies that prevailed in the Virudhunagar regulated market. In Tamil Nadu, chillies are raised in nurseries or directly sown during October-November and harvested during February-March. Peak arrivals are during April-May. Harvest has started in Madhya Pradesh and about 70 lakh bags are expected to reach Guntur market.

Tamil Nadu produces 58 per cent of chillies under rain-fed condition. It is preferable to store dried chilli in cold storage to retain colour. If cold storage is used, the product can be stored for eight to 10 months.

## **Opportunities aplenty in food processing sector**

Opportunities are open for entrepreneurs to set up food processing units and cold storage units, the ancillary feature of the food processing sector. With the launch of this livelihood generating

programme, any farmer or entrepreneur could utilise the opportunity supported by subsidies offered by Central and State governments.

District food processing mission committee comprising 12 members under the chairmanship of the Collector has been constituted to carry forward the benefits of the scheme to the likeminded entrepreneurs, according to P. Murugavel, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Agriculture Business.

The scheme was launched under the National Mission on Food Processing during the 12th Five Year Plan. By means of food processing, the factor of wastage in food in the post harvest management could be eliminated and hence farmers could enhance farm productivity for an assured income.

Cold chain facilities could be set up with 50 percent subsidy. Since Tuticorin is pioneering in seafood processing, entrepreneurs could come forward to establish cold chain facilities. Under the facility, meat products and dairy products could also be processed.

As for food processing units for agriculture and horticulture products, 25 percent subsidy would be provided, he said.

The entrepreneurs could tap the potential of this sector with adequate infrastructure with machineries. The entrepreneurs would also be imparted with the required training to comply with standards in terms of food safety for domestic and international market, he added.

### **Agriculturists' grievances meeting**

An agriculturists' grievances redressal meeting would be conducted by the Nilgiris Collector Archana Patnaik at the Collectorate here on November 16 10.30 a.m., according to a press release issued here on Tuesday by the Deputy Director of Horticulture A.J. Jagadeeshkumar.

### **Maize growers demand compensation for crop loss**

Farmers, under the banner of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene on Tuesday staged a dharna in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office here urging the district administration to make a proper assessment of the maize crop loss and give a certificate to each farmer mentioning the exact loss suffered in the heavy rain that occurred last week in the district.

Chinna Samudra Shekarnaika, leader, said that the district administration proposed to assess crop-loss through the old 'Anevaru' system which was outdated. The Revenue Department could get the losses assessed through village accountants and staff of the Agriculture Department. The district administration could certify the quantum of loss so that maize growers could seek adequate compensation from the government, he said.

Shekaranayk, leader, took exception to the remarks of the Joint Director of the Agriculture Department that maize growers could get 50 per cent yield. He said the entire crop had been destroyed. He criticised the district administration for proposing to compensate farmers with Rs. 2,000 per acre, although each farmer had suffered a loss of not less than Rs. 10,000 an acre, being the cost of seeds, fertilizer and labour.

Baramappa, L.H. Arun Kumar, Chennabasappa, Mallashettyhalli Basavarajappa, and others participated.

### **Bidar growers demand fair price for sugarcane**

Members of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha staged a "rasta rook" across the district on Tuesday criticising the government for not fixing a fair price for sugarcane.

#### **Roads blocked**

The farmers blocked roads leading to sugar factories in Bidar, Aurad, Bhalki, Basavakalyan and Humnabad.

They shouted slogans against the State government and sugar factory managements for not paying arrears from last year and failing to announce the price for this year.

#### **'Pass order'**

They demanded that the government pass an order instructing factories to pay Rs. 3,000 a tonne of sugarcane. They urged the factories to abide by such orders.

They objected to the State government issuing district-specific orders.

“The government recently issued an order fixing the price of sugarcane at Rs. 2,400 a tonne for growers in Mandya. Why can it not issue orders that apply to every district?” Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha leader Vishwanath Patil Koutha said.

He dismissed factories’ claims of making losses as “misleading”.

“When sugar was selling at Rs. 1,800 a quintal, sugar factories were paying growers Rs. 1,000 per tonne of sugarcane supplied. But they are not ready to pay Rs. 3,000 when sugar is selling at Rs. 3,600 a quintal,” Mr. Koutha said. Leaders of farmers such as Prabhurao Patil, Mallikarjun Swamy, Srimant Biradar, Chandrashekar Jamkhandi, Satish Nannure, Siddappa Sanmani, Sumant Gramle, Nagaiah Swamy, Dhoolappa Sooralli, and Veeresh Shambhu were present.

### **Water to be released for paddy cultivation**

District Collector P.M. Ali Asgar Pasha has said that water from Mangalam Dam will be released for taking up the second crop of paddy cultivation in the ayacut areas of the reservoir from Wednesday.

Initially, the water will be released for one week to start the cultivation. The water was being released on demand by the local MLA, M. Chandran, and the Padasekhara Samities of Alathur taluk, the Collector said.

### **Farmers seek compensation for crop lost last year**

Farmers from Adilabad, Bela, Jainad, Tamsi and Talamadugu mandals on Tuesday exposed the negligent attitude of officials of the Agriculture Department in the release of compensation for their lost crops in kharif 2011.

An estimated 1,000 farmers from these mandals gathered at the office of the Joint Director of Agriculture (JDA) with their passbooks to get the issue of delay in release of compensation settled.

Though the State government had released about Rs.191 crore towards input subsidy for farmers who lost their crops in the excessive rainfall in monsoon last year, the Agriculture Department failed to disburse the money to over 50 per cent of the farmers. It has been

maintaining that the money has been transferred to the respective banks who have to credit it into accounts.

The patience of the farmers was put to test as they were made to run from pillar to post for the last one year. Vexed with the situation, they descended upon the office of JDA where officials made efforts to make fresh lists of old and new claims.

Meanwhile, it has been learnt that banks began releasing input subsidy money into a few accounts following pressure from farmers. Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna and farmer leader B. Goverdhan Reddy who had accompanied the farmers to meet JDA Rose Leela wanted Collector A. Ashok to convene a meeting with bankers.

### **Chilli farmers temporarily suspend their agitation**

Chilli farmers have temporarily suspended their agitation at the office of the National Insurance Company (NIC) following an appeal made by Collector S. Suresh Kumar and MPs — Rayapati Sambasiva Rao and Modugula Venugopala Reddy.

The farmers were seeking settlement of the claim for the crop destroyed in fire in three cold storages last year.

The farmers were asked to suspend their agitation keeping in view non-availability of local officials of the NIC, who could present their case, because of the circumstances created by 'Nilam'.

During negotiations with the MPs and the Collector held at the latter's office, farmers' JAC leaders — Muppalla Nageswara Rao and Rama Rao — complained that the NIC had been trying to dishonour the claim on frivolous grounds more than a year after fire raged through Sai Surya, Nandini, and Vengamamba cold storages in quick succession, and that was what forced them to lay a siege to the NIC office for the second time in four months.

Responding to the farmers' grievance, Mr. Rayapati Sambasiva Rao spoke to NIC Chairman and Managing Director N.S.R. Chandra Prasad over phone, but could not elicit a positive response.

The farmers then agreed to the MP's suggestion to submit a memorandum to Finance Minister P. Chidambaram tentatively on November 23 or 24 and to put off their agitation till then.

The farmers also resolved to initiate criminal proceedings against top officials of the NIC on the charge of cheating.

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## Help rain-hit farmers, TDP urges government

A team of Telugu Desam leaders tour the worst-affected areas



STOCK-TAKING:TDP team visiting the rain-affected farms at Paruchur in Prakasam district on Tuesday.— PHOTO: KOMMURI SRINIVAS

The opposition Telugu Desam Party on Tuesday urged the Congress government to come to the rescue of the farmers who lost their crops to the cyclonic storm 'Nilam'.

A team of TDP leaders, led by Telugu Rythu State president K. Balaramakrishnamurthy, former TDP Minister K.E. Prabakhar, and legislator B. Durga Prasad, extensively toured the worst-affected Nagulapupadu and Parchur mandals and consoled the farmers, who lost their crops to heavy rain under the influence of the 'Nilam' cyclone.

Mr. Prabakhar and Mr. Durga Prasad urged Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy to immediately direct the officials to visit farms and provide a compensation of Rs. 15,000 per acre to those who lost their crops.

The government should arrange for supply of subsidised Bengalgram seed within 15 days so that they could begin the Rabi cultivation, they said.

Mr. Krishnamurthy criticised State Ministers M. Mahidhar Reddy and S. Sailajanath for not visiting the farmers in distress and console them. It was unfortunate that the Congress government was indifferent to the plight of peasants and busy politicking, he added.

### **Destroyed crop**

Showing the fully destroyed cotton crop which was at the boll formation stage, a farmer, B. Venkata Rayudu in Koniki village, said the rain had come at an inopportune time when they were getting ready for plucking cotton.

A group of farm women, who were trying to salvage a month-old chilli crop in Rasapudi village, urged TDP leaders to impress upon the government to provide them liberal financial aid.

“We have spent about Rs. 30,000 per acre and on the verge of losing the entire crop now because of untimely rain,” said B. Varalakshmi who had grown cotton in 1-1/2 acres in Rasapudi village.

The government should come to our rescue of farmers by providing compensation for the crop loss and subsidised seed to take up Bengalgram cultivation afresh during the Rabi,” said another woman Subbamma.

A farmer, V. Anjaneyulu, who was frantically draining out rainwater stagnating in his field at Kalakunta village, told the TDP delegation to take up their issue.

“No Minister or Congress MLA or officials had turned up to see our fields damaged by the untimely rain,” lamented another farmer P. Vasantha Rao.

The authorities had not yet released the input subsidy sanctioned for the crop loss in 2011, complained yet another farmer T. Krishnamurthi.

### **High-level bridge**

A group of farmers sought high-level bridge at Maddiralapadu as the present low-level causeway disrupted vehicular traffic between Ongole and Chirala at times of natural calamities.

The farmers also complained that water entered their fields due to unscientific designing of canals to take water to fields from the Obulreddy Gundalakamma reservoir.



## State laying emphasis on organic farming: Naveen

separate agency to be set up for certification of organic farming

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here on Tuesday said organic seed banks would be opened across the State as part of laying emphasis on promoting organic farming.

Addressing the biennial convention of organic farmers, Mr. Patnaik said organic farming associations would be promoted while a separate agency would be set up for certification of organic products.

“The consumption of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are significantly low in Odisha compared to the national average. The farmers in Odisha have traditionally been the custodian of rice genetic diversity.

Traditional farming is still in practice in the inland non-irrigated pockets of the State. This has placed Odisha in an advantageous position to resort to Organic Farming Practices as the lands are virgin and less-contaminated,” he said.

Chief Minister said the State too has a large area under forests from where the wild harvests could be collected as organic products.

“A range of organic products like cotton, turmeric, ginger, pulses, niger and scented varieties of rice are being regularly exported. The Kandhamal Turmeric is already a brand name all over the world,” Mr. Patnaik observed.

Referring to a recent study conducted by industry-body Assocham, Chief Minister said the State has an export potential of Rs.600 crore from organic farming produce in next five years. The study reports further reveals that organic farming can create 80 lakh additional jobs both in-farm and non-farm sectors.

The State has formulated a progressive agriculture policy in 2008 under which special focus have been given to organic farming.

“The Odisha State Seeds and Organic Product Certification Agency has recently been accredited as the Certifying Body for the organic product and it is one of the State owned

agencies to have such an accreditation. Our policy also has a resolution to include organic farming in the syllabus at school-level. It will also be introduced as a compulsory subject at both degree and post-graduate level in the State agriculture university,” Chief Minister pointed out. “Farmers are being encouraged to use more bio-fertilizers. Subsidy to the tune of 50 to 75 per cent is being provided for use of bio-fertilizers.

The concerted efforts of the State government and keenness by organic farmer would certainly lead to a very healthy growth of organic farming in our State,” Mr. Patnaik hoped.

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## Campaign, exhibition to empower farmers



A campaign held in Tirupur on Tuesday.– Photo: M. Balaji

The Department of Agriculture on Tuesday conducted a district-level pre-season campaign and a mini exhibition to prepare the farmers for the rabi season.

As part of the training, experts from various research institutions explained latest cultivation techniques and transplantation methods to the farmers planning to raise maize, paddy, sunflower, sugarcane and pulses, among others during the season.

Joint Director of Agriculture Mohammed Kalimullah Sherif told reporters that it was expected to bring almost 1,00,000 hectares under agriculture crops during the season ending March 2013.

On display were modern devices that could help the farmers plough and remove weeds.

This apart, processes involved in mulberry cultivation and raising of horticulture crops too were explained.

Earlier, Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment M.S.M. Anandan inaugurated the campaign in the presence of District Collector G. Govindaraj; District Panchayat chairman M. Shanmugam; Joint Director of Agriculture M.K.Sherif; Deputy Director of Agriculture P. Santhanakrishnan; Agriculture Officer Vasanthamani; and District Revenue Officer R. Gajalakshmi; among others.

## Seminar postponed

Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University has postponed the proposed national seminar on 'Futuristic Agricultural Extension for Livelihood Improvement and Sustainable Development' to be held from November 8 to 11 at the campus, a press release said.

## State to purchase discoloured paddy



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When he saw sand-cast maize field at Ganeshpadu near Dhammapeta, he told the farmers that the government would leave no stone unturned in coming to their rescue.

He disbursed ex gratia of Rs.1.50 lakh each to the families of two tribal women who lost their lives in a flood-related incident.

Before his next halt at Tadepalligudem, the Chief Minister had to face some rough weather en route, as victims of floods caused by faulty Nandamuru Aqueduct on Yarra Kalva protested the cancellation of his visit to Nandamuru village. A large number of farmers from Tadepalligudem and Nidadavole Assembly constituencies were waiting at the aquaduct for six hours to meet the Chief Minister to air their grievances, but were disappointed when he could not make it.

At Tuni in East Godavari district, Mr. Kiran Reddy asked opposition parties not to politicise natural calamities and instead come up with constructive suggestions that could help the government in extending best possible relief to the affected people. In a brief interaction with media persons at Visakhapatnam airport, he said standing crop on about eight lakh acres was damaged by the rains.

### An invitation to Indian farmers



An Indian farmer at work.Photo:AP

Argentina has invited farmers from India to purchase land there and cultivate it.

Argentinian Ambassador Ernesto C. Alvarez, who met Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda in New Delhi on Monday, suggested that India and Argentina could be partners in farming.

“Farmers from India could purchase land in the La Pampa area of Argentina, which is quite economical. They could cultivate it and bring back the produce. The Government of Argentina will help in the matter of irrigation, energy, credit and it would also be tax free,” Alvarez told Hooda at the meeting, a spokesman of the Haryana government said here Monday.

“Farmers for this purpose can form a cooperative unit. They can visit Argentina and see the land,” the ambassador said.IANS

### Kiran re-assures flood-hit farmers



Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy has assured farmers who have suffered losses in the untimely rains following Nilam cyclone that the State government would come to their rescue in every possible measure, including tenant farmers who will get input subsidy. – **The Hindu**

## Weather

Chennai

### Chennai - INDIA

#### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Nov 7

Max Min

32.7° | 24.8°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 84

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 05:40

Barometer: 1012

#### Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Thursday, Nov 8

Max Min

33° | 25°

#### Extended Forecast for a week

Friday Nov 9	Saturday Nov 10	Sunday Nov 11	Monday Nov 12	Tuesday Nov 13
32°   25° Cloudy	32°   25° Overcast	32°   25° Overcast	32°   25° Overcast	32°   25° Overcast

#### Airport Weather

Delhi

Delhi

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 06:37

Humidity: 83

Sunset: 05:31

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1015



# THE HINDU Business Line

TODAY FARM NEWS

06.11.2012 P.M

07.11.2012 A.M

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

## Pepper moves up

Pepper market moved up on buying interest on Tuesday. Consequently, all the active contracts increased from the previous day's closing.

The market was highly volatile today. Nov opened at Rs 42,555 a quintal and moved up sharply in the opening session to 43,800 a quintal up by Rs1,245 from the opening price and thereafter dropped sharply in the beginning of the forenoon session and touched the lowest price of Rs 42,490 a quintal down by Rs1,310 and traded with high volatility in the remaining sessions. Recovered in the concluding minutes and closed at Rs 42,620 a quintal. Dec contract also behaved also similarly, market sources said.

A total of 567 tonnes of pepper have been marked for early delivery under the staggered delivery system. There was liquidation of 307 tonnes of Nov besides some additional buying.

Arrivals from the primary markets were slackened and nine tonnes of farm grade pepper came and that were traded at Rs 400, 405, 410 and 415 a kg.

Alleged technical problems in the warehouses said to have compelled depositors of pepper to move the cargo to warehouses at far away places. Some in the trade alleged that it was a tactic aimed at discouraging deposits, market sources told *Business Line*.

According to the trade validity of 1,473 tonnes would expire on Dec 5 while validity of 4,200 tonnes would expire on Jan 5, 2013.



Nov contract on the NCDEX increased by Rs 190 to the last traded price (LTP) of Rs 42,725 a quintal. Dec and Feb went up by Rs 340 and 350 respectively to the LTP of Rs 42,645 and Rs 37,900 a quintal.

### Turnover

Total turnover decreased by 330 tonnes to close at 2,304 tonnes. Total open interest also fell by 422 tonnes to 8,501 tonnes.

Nov open interest dropped by 874 tonnes to close at 2,651 tonnes while that of Dec and Feb rose by 423 tonnes and 7 tonnes respectively to close at 4,967 tonnes and 755 tonnes.

Spot prices remained unchanged at Rs40,000 (ungarbled) and Rs41,500 (garbled) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$8,100 a tonne (c&f) for Europe and \$8,400 a tonne (c&f) for USA at both Nov and Dec prices.

### Wheat seen firm till FCI releases stocks



Low stocks and domestic demand pushed up dura wheat and flour on Tuesday.

Wheat prices may continue to rule firm until the Food Corporation of India releases stocks, said commodity expert Radhey Sham. Small flour mills are finding the going tough because of the shortage, he added.

Continuing the uptrend seen over the weekend, dara wheat prices rose by Rs 20 to Rs 1,540-1,550 a quintal, while flour traded at Rs 1,730 a quintal, Rs 30 up.

In the physical market, around 50 tonnes of dara variety arrived from Uttar Pradesh, which were directly offloaded at the mills. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,540-1,545 a quintal, while delivery at the *chakki* was Rs 1,550 a quintal.

On the other hand, desi wheat varieties ruled unchanged despite slack trading and at Rs 2,050-2,200 a quintal.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, wheat for November delivery increased by Rs 17 and traded at Rs 1,592 a quintal after touching a high at Rs 1,600 a quintal earlier in the day. December contracts was up Re 1 to Rs 1,583 a quintal. Spot wheat on the exchange traded at Rs 1,550 a quintal.

### Flour Prices

An increase in demand pushed flour prices further up by Rs 30 at Rs 1,730 a quintal. Flour prices may increase further later this week, said market sources. *Chokar* improved by Rs 15 and sold at Rs 1,300 for a quintal.

### Wheat exports

MMTC Ltd has issued a global tender to export 50,000 tonnes of wheat between December 10 and 31.

### Higher supplies pull down sugar



Sugar at the Vashi wholesale market remained bearish on Tuesday on higher supplies. Prices in the physical market dropped by Rs 4-10 a quintal tracking weakness at the *naka* level, where higher selling by resellers pulled down prices by Rs 10-20. Mill tender rates declined by Rs 10-30 on higher selling. Prices in other producing centres were also low.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association Secretary Mukesh Kuwadia said Lower demand after Navaratri-Dussehra and need-based buying by stockists, who have sufficient stocks, kept volumes low. Prices are expected to decline further, as the Union Government has declared 40 lakh tonnes of free-sale quota for October and November.

Prices in other producing centres such as Uttar Pradesh are ruling on par with those in Maharashtra. A weak world market has made exports difficult. Domestic demand is less than expected and offtake from neighbouring States is low.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, December futures was up to Rs 3,331 (Rs 3,321), January to Rs 3,347 (Rs 3,342) and February to Rs 3,374 (Rs 3,342).

In the Vashi spot market, 68-70 truckloads (each of 100 bags) arrived and 64-65 truckloads were locally despatched. On Monday evening, 18-20 mills offered tenders and sold about 58,000-60,000 bags (each of a quintal) to local traders at Rs 3,340-3,390 (Rs 3,360-3,400) for S-grade and at Rs 3,430-3,500 (Rs 3,450-3,530) for M-grade.

**Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates:** S-grade Rs 3,472-3,552 (Rs 3,476-3,552) and M-grade Rs 3,532-3,701 (Rs 3,542-3,711).

**Naka delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 3,420-3,450 (Rs 3,440-3,460) and M-grade Rs 3,500-3,625 (Rs 3,500-3,630).

### Spot turmeric firm on N. India demand



Demand from North India pushed up spot turmeric by Rs 150-300 on Tuesday. The fine hybrid variety was up Rs 700 a quintal.

“Exporters quoted higher, as they have received orders from North India. All the 200 bags of the fine hybrid variety were sold,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said prices may increase further, as demand is likely to persist. Sales in other centres have decreased and many North Indian traders are placing orders at Erode. Farmers are bringing more than 5,000 bags a day. On Tuesday, 4,900 bags arrived for sale, of which 70 per cent stocks was sold.

The spice increased by Rs 150-300 a quintal in the four markets here. Stockists purchased a tenth of the arrivals.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,111-5,889 a quintal, the root variety at Rs 4,016-5,109 a quintal.

**Salem hybrid crop:** The finger variety fetched Rs 5,399-7,019 a quintal, the root variety Rs 4,611-5,400 a quintal. Of the 1,263 bags that arrived, 60 per cent was sold.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,419-5,789 a quintal, the root variety at Rs 4,209-5,429 a quintal. Of the 796 bags that arrived, 760 were sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,091-6,089 a quintal, the root variety at Rs 4,487-5,459 a quintal. All the 926 bags kept for sale were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,507-6,139 a quintal, the root variety Rs 4,410-5,275 a quintal. All the 365 bags kept for sale were sold.

### **Groundnut oil's loss is cottonseed oil's gain**

Lower demand pulled down groundnut oil in the wholesale market, while cottonseed oil increased on festival demand on Tuesday.

A Rajkot-based retailer said, “People are buying more cottonseed oil, as it is cheaper than groundnut oil. Moreover, the price of groundnut oil has fluctuated greatly over the last two to three months.”

Loose groundnut oil loose was down Rs 10 to Rs 1,145-1,150 for 10 kg and a 15-kg *telia* tin down Rs 14 to Rs 1,760-1,761. A new 15-kg tin was Rs 1,960-1,965. About 100-120 tonnes of groundnut oil were traded in Saurashtra’s mills.

While 20,000 bags of groundnuts arrived in Rajkot and quoted at Rs 950-1,150 for 20 kg, around 1,650 bags arrived in Jamnagar and quoted at Rs 900-1,150, and around 35,000 bags arrived in Gondal and were offered at Rs 900-1,145.

Though crushing of nuts has risen in the past few days, retail demand has dropped, said an oil miller in Gondal. Prices may dip further, as brand-makers and stockists have reduced purchases, he added. Cottonseed oil (wash) was up Rs 7 to Rs 677-680 for 10 kg and a new 15-kg cottonseed-oil tin increased by Rs 10 to Rs 1,1170-1,180.

### Higher prices affect coconut oil offtake



Coconut oil prices in Kerala and Tamil Nadu dropped this week, as demand shifted to other cheaper edible oils.

According to Cochin Oil Merchants Association Vice-President Prakash B.Rao, most industrial buyers are purchasing more palm kernel oil due to the huge price gap compared with coconut oil.

He said that palm oil and palm kernel oil are ruling at Rs 58 a kg and Rs 52 a kg against last week's Rs 61 and Rs 54 respectively.

Besides, bulk imports of crude palm oil from Malaysia and news of lower export duty in that country have also led to a price fall in coconut oil. Prices may decline further in the short term, he said.

Coconut oil in Kerala is ruling at Rs 60 a kg (Rs 62) and Rs 58 in Tamil Nadu (Rs 60). Copra stood at Rs 4,200 a quintal in Kerala (Rs 4,300) and at Rs 4,100 in Tamil Nadu (Rs 4,200).

Thalath Mahamood, former President of the Association, said that absence of local demand and lower prices of other edible oils have dented market sentiment in Kerala. Traders have no hopes of demand rising during Diwali. Moreover, there has been a selling pressure in Tamil Nadu due to change in weather, he said.

Bharat N. Khona, former Board Member of the Association, said prices may go down further due to lower prices of substitute oils. North Indian buyers are also reluctant to purchase coconut oil at such high prices, he said.

### **CACP for no hike in copra MSP**

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended to the government to keep the minimum support price (MSP) of copra unchanged for 2013 in view of stagnant acreage under the crop and sluggish prices.

For 2012, the Centre has fixed MSP of milling copra at Rs 5,100 per quintal and ball copra at Rs 5,350 per quintal.

"The CACP has proposed freezing of the copra support price for the 2013 season at current year's level," a senior Agriculture Ministry official told PTI.

The reason given was that domestic prices are ruling below the MSP level and area under the crop has remained stagnant for the last several years.

It has proposed that the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) to continue its price support operations of copra in 2013 season.

CACP, that advises the government on pricing policy for major farm produce, has already submitted its proposal on copra MSP to the Agriculture Ministry, which will further move a Cabinet note after inter-ministerial consultations.

At Kozhikode, ball copra rates had fallen below the MSP level last month and are ruling at Rs 5400 per quintal on Tuesday.

The area under the crop is little over 19 lakh hectares, while the production is around 14,745 million nuts.

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are major coconut producing states in the country. The crop is also grown in Assam, Maharashtra, Orissa, West Bengal, Goa, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

India is one of the three largest producers of coconut in the world along with Indonesia and Philippines.

### **Tea output rises to 690.31 mn kg in first half of FY13**

The country's tea production rose marginally to 690.31 million kg in the first half of this fiscal on the back of increased production in North India, latest Tea Board data said.

The country had produced 688.67 million kg of tea in the April-September period of 2011-12 fiscal.

Tea production in North India, which comprises the major tea growing regions of Assam and West Bengal, rose by 1 per cent to 562.67 million kg in April-September of 2012-13 fiscal compared to 559.82 million kg in the year-ago period.

Output of the brew, however, declined marginally to 127.64 million kg from 128.85 million kg in the reviewed period.

Tea production rose to 152.59 million kg in August 2012 from 143.08 million kg in August 2011, while, the output increased to 149.25 million kg in September 2012 from 148.39 million kg in September 2011.

India is the fourth largest exporter of the brew globally after Kenya, China and Sri Lanka.

Tea is grown in 15 states in the country in 5.79 lakh hectares, which accounts for 16 per cent of the total area under the brew in the world.

### **Groundnut oil consuming Gujaratis shift to cottonseed oil and palmolein**

The oil consumption pattern of India in general and Gujarat in particular have drastically changed over the last decade as consumers shift their preferences on the back of unavailability of edible oils of choice and price volatility, an expert said.

With increased availability of cottonseed oil and palmolein, Gujarat has gradually shifted to these oils as groundnut oil availability dips due to lower groundnut crushing, according to Raju Choksi, Vice-President (Agro-Commodities), Anil Nutrients, a subsidiary of the Rs 650 crore agro and food processor Anil Ltd.

Historically, groundnut oil has been the preferred edible oil for Gujarati people, but this is changing as groundnut crushing dips in the state due to lower availability of groundnut kernels, he told Business Line here.

Compared to rest of the country, Gujarat has the highest per capita edible oil consumption, at about 20 kg per capita.

“Usage of groundnut kernels has changed over the last few years. Kernels are now exported in large quantities due to robust demand and attractive prices in the international markets. Direct consumption of kernels in domestic market is rising rapidly.

Both these factors have led to diminished availability of kernels for oil crushing industry leading to lower supply and higher groundnut oil prices, he said.

Annual consumption of edible oil in Gujarat is around 8-9 lakh tonnes, with cottonseed and palmolein oil having a major share of the market now, while groundnut now has around 15-18% share. Apart from availability, price is also an important factor, as cottonseed oil is about 30-40% cheaper than groundnut oil, Mr Choksi added.



The total area under oilseed cultivation in India is estimated to increase from 22 lakh hectare in 2001-02 to 30 lakh hectare in 2015-16, while average yield is likely to increase from 90 kg per ha to 100 kg per ha during the period. The total oilseed production is likely to increase to 50 lakh metric tons, according to the May 2012 report of the Asso-Com Grain Conference.

With an increase of 10 lakh ha in cultivated area, there will be an increase of only 2.9 lakh tons of oil supply. This would mean the domestic oil availability by 2015-16 will increase only by about 12.5 lakh tonnes, to 85 lakh tonnes, as against the projected consumption of 210 lakh tonnes.

The per capita consumption of edible oil in India is at 12.7 kg. Low consuming states in central and east India, at 7 to 9 kg per head, are likely to catch up with western and northern Indians who consume 15-16 kg per capita. The import of India may, therefore, phenomenally rise to 125 lakh tons per annum, thus further shifting consumption patterns.

# Business Standard

TODAY FARM NEWS

07.11.2012 A.M

## Govt to take a call on sugar decontrol report by Dec

The panel had recommended scrapping of major government controls on the sugar sector

Press Trust of India / New Delhi November 06, 2012, 17:46 IST

The government is considering the Rangarajan Committee report on sugar decontrol and will take a decision on removing some of the curbs on the sector by next month, Food Minister K V Thomas said today.

Sugar is a regulated sector in the country. Last month, the Rangarajan Committee had released a report recommending scrapping of major government controls on the sugar sector.

"The PMO has sent us the report on sugar decontrol. The Food Ministry is studying it and we will take a view on some recommendations by December," Thomas told reporters here.

There are few suggestions which are to be consulted with other ministries, he said.

Barring two key regulations with respect to fixing sugarcane price and sharing of 70% revenue by sugar firms with farmers, the Rangarajan Committee's report has suggested giving freedom to mills to sell sugar in the open market and having a stable export and import policy.

It has recommended removal of obligation on part of mills to supply 10% of sugar at cheaper rate to the government to meet the ration shops demand.

In the long term, it has recommended doing away with the cane area reservation and minimum distance criteria for setting up sugar mills besides suggesting removal of controls

on by-products like molasses.

The Rangarajan panel is not the first committee set up by the government to study reforms in the sugar industry. Recommendations of the Tuteja Committee and Thorat Committee have not yet been implemented.

In reply to a query on offloading additional wheat in the open market, Thomas said, "About three million tonne has been released and we have sent a Cabinet proposal on releasing additional 7 million tonne for this fiscal."

### **Food ministry hastens action on sugar decontrol**

**Under the release order mechanism, the govt determines the extent of sugar that each mill in the country can sell in the open market**

**BS Reporter / New Delhi November 7, 2012, 0:50 IST**

The food ministry is hopeful that at least two major recommendations of the Rangarajan panel on sugar decontrol, on abolition of levy sugar and the release order mechanism for mills, would be implemented in the next two months.

"We don't want the recommendations to meet the same fate as the other reports on sugar sector decontrol and have started internal discussions to expedite the implementation of some part of the report," a senior ministry official said.

Food Minister K V Thomas on Tuesday met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar to discuss how the recommendations could be implemented at the earliest. The department of food and consumer affairs has received the recommendations from the Prime Minister's Office.

"There are seven-eight recommendations and all of them cannot be implemented in one go because many involve discussion with state governments like the revenue-sharing arrangement between mills and farmers for a Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) and the distance criteria between mills. But some of the suggestions can be done right away and abolishing the levy sugar mechanism and release order is among these," said the official.

Under the levy mechanism, all sugar mills must sell a certain percentage of annual output to the government at rate set by the latter, much below the market price. The government, in turn, distributes this through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Under the release order mechanism, the government determines the extent of sugar that each mill in the country can sell in the open market.

"We've called a meeting of sugar directorates and commissioners in January to discuss the Rangarajan proposals and would like to discuss these with state governments as well," said Thomas.

C Rangarajan, who chaired this panel, heads the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. Their report suggested a revenue-sharing model for determining the price of sugarcane, along with dispensing with the levy sugar and distance criteria for mills. It said states wishing to provide sugar under the PDS should buy it from the open market through a competitive bidding process and themselves fix the price at which they want to sell this through ration shops.



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

TODAY FARM NEWS

07.11.2012 A.M

## Florine first woman farmer to win Rachana award

MANGALORE: Florine Pinto from Perne in Bantwal taluk is all set to become the first woman farmer to receive the Rachana awards in the agriculturist category of the year. A progressive agriculturist, Florine will join Hilda Rayappan (woman of the year), Walter D'Souza (entrepreneur of the year), Oscar G Concessao (professional of the year), and [Mark Denis D'Souza](#) (NRI entrepreneur of the year) in receiving the awards in respective categories. A panel of 15 members from Catholic community selected the awardees for Rachana, a [forum](#) of Catholic businessmen, professionals and entrepreneurs. What makes Florine's selection special is that she is the first woman selected to receive the award in the category.

Roy Castelino, president of Rachana told reporters that Hilda, founder of Prajna Counselling Centre, has been selected for her contribution in the field of social service for over three decades. Florine has carved a niche for herself by taking up cultivation of high yielding crops such as paddy, coconut, arecanut, pepper and other tropical crops, making her one of a kind. Walter is an importer of raw cashew nuts and leading exporter of cashew kernels and shell liquid from India. Oscar Concessao who has masters in B.Arch from [University of Oklahoma](#), USA, is one of the few doctorates in modern architecture. Mark's Fortuna Engineering Works is one of the leading companies in the Gulf providing employment to locals there. Major General (Retd) Ian Cardoza, chairman, rehabilitation, ministry of social justice and empowerment, will be the chief guest at the awards distribution ceremony that will be held at [Milagres Jubilee Hall](#) here on November 25. Most Rev Aloysius Paul D'Souza, bishop of Mangalore, will preside over. Roy said the award consists a citation, and a memento.

## Off-season rain set to hit paddy yield

RANCHI: Continuous rain for the last five days has come as a rude shock for farmers of [Jharkhand](#) who were already passing through a very bad phase due poor cropping and delayed

monsoon. Rain has badly damaged the standing [paddy](#) crops which were to be harvested within few days.

Sources in state [agriculture department](#) said that due to delayed monsoon most of the farmers were able to cultivate paddy on around 50-60 per cent of their plot. "In many cases cropping was less than 30 per cent due to delay in monsoon. To add to the misery there has been heavy rains at almost every place in the state in the last five days. It will be too early to calculate the exact loss but we fear that this rain will damage at least 15-20 per cent of the standing crop in the fields," said a source.

Regional director of India Meteorological Department GK Mohanty too said that the heavy rains in the last few days will have adverse impact on standing paddy crop, especially those which were to be harvested within next few days. "This rain will damage the standing crop," he said.

Talking on effect of the rain on vegetable he said that it will depend on stage of growth. "If the plant has just germinated then it will have more harmful effect," said Mohanty.

There is also some good news as the cyclonic formation over Jharkhand has weakened and it is expected that sky will become clear by Thursday in most places. Rain is very common in last week of October and first week of November in Orissa, [Andhra Pradesh](#) and Jharkhand due to cyclonic formation. This year too we have received rain but since today the trough has weakened and there was partly cloudy sky in many places. We expect that weather will become normal by Thursday," said Mohanty.

### Cutworms destroy paddy fields

ITANAGAR: Paddy farmers in Daring circle of West Siang district are incurring huge losses as a typical type of climbing [cutworms](#) (*Mythimna separate*) are largely destroying rice crops ready for harvest in the region.

A team of scientists from Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Basar, which recently inspected various rice fields in the circle revealed that climbing cutworms have mostly infested Deko, Pabin and Khamti varieties of the crop. The same menace is also observed in rice fields of Tapo, Dali, Rilul, Chisi and Pading villages. The team sounded alarm for the rice growers of

the area to take precautionary measures on various varieties of rice like Khamti and others to avoid further infestation.

### Govt plans dedicated power feeder for agricultural sector

PATNA: The state government has started working on a dedicated feeder to supply power to agriculture sector for making its rainbow revolution a success.

The government, under its rainbow revolution plans, is to install 968 new feeders of 11KV each with 55,925km of distribution line and 1.46 lakh transformers to primarily supply power to 19 lakh pumping sets in the next 10 years.

It has selected Patna district for the pilot project. 'The GPS survey of the district would show the locations where guarding for transmission line crossing the roads and habitation areas is required. The existing and the proposed 11KV line shall be duly marked on survey maps," said an official.

The government has projected year-wise requirement of estimated funds for the feeder segregation. The total estimated amount for 12th and 13th five-year plan is around Rs 8,370.44 crore. The government has already projected its year-wise power requirements for agriculture sector for the next 10 years. By 2016-17, the state would require 1478MW power exclusively for agriculture sector.

Only 5.83% of the total power supply to the state is used in agriculture sector in Bihar, compared to 38% in Haryana, the highest in India. Presently, the rural feeders are of mixed nature, supplying to agriculture as well as domestic/other rural loads and making it difficult to supply quality power for agriculture purpose due to grim power scenario. Hence, a dedicated feeder is necessary for the success of rainbow revolution in Bihar, an official said.

To cater to the needs of state agriculture sector, the government plans separate rural feeder for agriculture and non-agriculture consumption. The main objective is to provide assured and quality power supply for agriculture purposes for specified period through dedicated agriculture feeders and supply to the other rural loads in the remaining period on rotation basis, said an energy department document.

States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have dedicated feeders for agriculture. A team of officers had visited Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra recently to study the power supply system for agriculture sectors in those states.

A recent [Planning Commission](#) document on 'Faster, Sustainable and more Inclusion Growth: An Approach to the 12th Five-Year Plan' states, "The separation of agricultural feeders in the country will enable villages to get 24x7 three-phased power for domestic uses, schools, hospitals and village industries."

### **Banaras Hindu University to collaborate with French agricultural institutes**

VARANASI: [Banaras Hindu University](#) (BHU) may soon have educational collaboration with France regarding initiation of international courses, dual degree programmes in agriculture, internship opportunities and mobility of students of the two nations.

Jean Christophe Ygrie, [BRECI](#), Indian network coordinator, France's agricultural education and head of a delegation of academicians and members from ministry of agriculture, food, fisheries, rural affairs and special planning, republic of France, said there is ample scope for exchange programmes between the two nations.

The delegation is on visit to Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS), BHU. "We already have had conducted such programmes in GB Pant University, Uttarakhand. In last 7 to 8 years, around 70 students of France have visited India for one or other educational programme in agriculture education. Very recently, two students of an agricultural institute of France were trained under DC Rai at department of animal husbandry, BHU," he said.

He said that in France, not many people depend on agriculture like India. "We produce around 10,000 varieties of cheese, cream, butter, milk and other products. Wheat is major crop. Apple, apricot, sunflower are also grown and we lay more emphasis on water management. India produces good amount of rice and mangoes and varieties of crops, fruits, vegetables depending upon the season and the climate of the place. The climatic conditions and farming methods of both the countries are different. Both the nations have good agricultural knowledge related to



farming, farming methods, reducing the use of pesticides, organic farming to give to each other once the collaborations are made," he added further.

DC Rai of animal husbandry and dairy department said that some planning under dairy farming, crop farming, agro business have been chalked out in the meetings. If the discussions materialise, there are chances of various education exchange programmes, internships for students of France in India and students of India in France, launching of various dual degree programmes and designing of technical training for students of both the countries.

Professional from top five agricultural universities of France were present. The delegates also visited dairy farms, agriculture farms and various departments of IAS, BHU. They were served a few dairy products and herbal 'kulfi' prepared in the animal husbandry department of the university. The team will stay in BHU till Wednesday.