

Today Farm News

12.09.2012 P.M

13.09.2012 A.M

Coming together to help single women, landless women, widows

Prime objective of this programme is to ensure food security

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The prime objective of this collective farming is not only to ensure food security but also to ensure safe food through adoption of natural methods and encourage millet growing in drylands.

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Several programmes

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With the network's support and guidance the women farmer's collectives have gained necessary skills on agriculture, improved their decision making capacities, leadership qualities and thereby enhanced their economic and social status. Almost 90 per cent of the members of

all 13 women farmers' collectives have members consisting of single women, landless women, and widows.

The details of the study were discussed at the Women Farmer's Sangam meetings on how to engage these landless women in agriculture activity with the available unutilized lands.

What criteria?

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"This taught them to make different bio inputs and our network extended financial support of Rs. 10,000 to each farmer's collective as seed money for the purchase of seeds, bio inputs or spending for expenses like ploughing etc.," explains Ms. Ponnuthayee.

Emphasis

One of the emphasis on this collective farming is the importance given to the members making their own manure for the crops.

"We try to stress the importance and efficacy of these natural inputs to our members. The raw materials like cowdung, cow urine, plants and jaggery are all locally available and do not cost much compared to the fertilizers sold at the shops," she explains.

With regards to the division of labour, all the members are equally responsible for each and every activity right from seed sowing, transplanting, weeding, manuring, irrigation, harvesting etc., The allotment of the work would be decided in the weekly meeting during the cultivation period.

All the farm works are shared equally by all members using a revolving system of labour so that all the members are engaged in all types of farm activities.

This collective farming is presently being practised by 15 farmers' groups in eight districts of Toothukudi, Virudhu Nagar, Madurai, Salem, Thiruvannamalai, Vellore, Kancheepuram, and Tiruvallur districts of Tamil Nadu

Family needs

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Apart from that they are also able to harvest a considerable amount of fodder for their livestock while they are involved in weeding work and thus it reduces their time and energy which they usually spend in the search for fodder and greens.

New dark red onion variety for North India

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About 12-15 irrigations, 3.5 lit of stomp per hectare applied three days after transplanting and one hand weeding at 45 days gives better results.

(R. P. Gupta, Director & R. K. Singh, Assistant Director (Hort), NHRDF, Chitegaon Phata, Darna Sangvi post, Nashik, Maharashtra, Email: nhrdf_nsk@sancharnet.in, phones: 02550-237551 and 237816.)

Heavy rain in Cauvery catchment raises hope

The heavy rain in the upper reaches of the Cauvery and its tributary, the Kapila, over the past 48 hours is expected to provide much relief to Karnataka in sharing water with the lower riparian State of Tamil Nadu. On Wednesday, the gross outflow to Tamil Nadu was at the rate of nearly 14,000 cusecs.

Sources in the Department of Water Resources here told *The Hindu* that the combined release from the Krishnarajasagar reservoir across the Cauvery and the Kabini dam across the Kapila was presently over 14,000 cusecs, with the Kabini dam almost filled to the brim resulting in the water release being higher than what had been assured.

As per reports, the rainfall was good in the catchment areas in Kerala and in Kodagu. Karnataka had told the apex court that it would release water as a goodwill gesture although 40 of the revenue taluks in the Cauvery basin were reeling under drought and there was tremendous pressure on the authorities to dam the water for use by the farmers of the region.

The water-level in the Krishnarajasagar reservoir (KRS) in Mandya district on Wednesday was over 110 ft and in terms of the water storage, that height is about nearly a half of the reservoir's capacity. The level in the Kabini dam was 2,282 ft against the full level of 2,284 ft.

Agriculture sector gets lion's share in total credit outlay

The total credit outlay for the priority sectors including agriculture has been increased by Rs. 1,110.80 crore in the district's detailed annual credit plan (ACP) for this fiscal.

The ACP, prepared by the lead bank of the district, Canara Bank, projected a total credit outlay of Rs. 4,394.80 crore, which was 33 per cent (Rs. 1,110.80 crore) higher than the previous year estimate of Rs. 3,284 crore.

Collector V.K. Shanmugam released the plan at the bankers meeting held here on Tuesday evening. Assistant General Manager of Reserve Bank of India M. Vijayakumar received the first copy of it in the presence of Canara Bank Regional Manager Joseph James and Lead District Manager S. Venkataramanan and Mahalir Thittam project officer Renukadevi.

The agriculture sector got the lion's share in the total credit outlay. It had been planned to extend credit to the tune of Rs. 2,342.78 crore, which was 59.75 per cent higher than the previous year's outlay.

The administration increased the credit outlay for the sector in order to promote hi-tech agriculture, cut flower cultivation, bio-tech projects and green house farming. Besides, more credit would be provided for the creation of storage facilities and marketing infrastructure in rural areas.

Minor irrigation activities, farm mechanisation, agri business centres and food processing would be given more importance during this year, officials said.

The non-farm sector would get credit to the tune of Rs. 1,225 crore, while other priority sectors including the services would receive Rs. 827.02 crore.

The bankers had been asked to ensure more credit to the micro, small and medium enterprises in the district, which would help generate more employment opportunities for the people.

The plan envisages liberal credit assistance to women who are forming self-help groups with the objective of savings and thrift and improving their income level by taking up economic activities.

The lead bank had also included a block-wise plan for the effective management of credit outlay.

"A micro credit plan has been prepared for every block in the district. Each bank branch had been given credit target and asked to improve their performance," Mr. Venkataramanan said.

Training in farming and agricultural practices

A team of Agricultural Officers of Goa visited Kisan Vikas Kendra (KVK) and underwent training on System of Rice Intensification (SRI), precision farming, integrated pest management, farm mechanisation and management of nursery.

G. Suresh, Chairman, KVK, Puducherry inaugurated the programme. A. Ramamourti, Coordinator, V. Kumar, P. Rollin Baskar, N. Vijayakumar, H. Jaldr Hussain, V. Baskaran and K.A. Amalopavanilan, all scientists and officials of KVK spoke.

Farmers encouraged to raise second crop

With sufficient storage in Periyar dam and discharge of 400 cusecs of water from it, district administration and department of agriculture has started encouraging farmers in Cumbum valley to raise second crop during Samba/Thaladi season in the double cropping areas of Cumbum valley spreading over 14,500 acres in the district.

To begin with, it has advised farmers to advance cultivation of second crop in the first or second week of October. They could use paddy varieties like CO-43, ADT-39, ADT-45 and other hybrid varieties.

They may raise nurseries of these varieties in their farms using the water discharged from Periyar dam.

These decisions were taken at a special meeting with farmers, public works engineers, agriculture and horticulture officials and leaders of various farmers associations at Uthamapalayam here on Tuesday evening.

With commencement of Samba/Thaladi seasons, farmers could start preparing the field for raising nurseries, said farmers.

The agriculture department officials informed that they have 25.500 tonnes of CO43 seeds, 18.400 tonnes of ADT variety and 11.900 tonnes of ADT 45 variety of paddy seeds with agriculture extension centres. Besides, sufficient stock of hybrid seeds was also available with private seeds sellers. Farmers could raise nurseries adopting System of Rice Intensification method to scale down production costs and get better yield in the second season.

The farmers, who had already raised first crop in Kuruvai season in the double cropping area were advised to use water judiciously to protect the first crop till harvesting.

It was a blessing to farmers, who were highly disgusted over abandoning of first crop, said farmers' representatives.

With abject failure of south west monsoon and poor storage in Periyar dam, paddy cultivation in Cumbum valley had shrunk to 5,150 acres during the 'kuruvai' season.

Farm service centre comes up in Ottapidaram

The Veerapandia Kattabomman Farmers Club (VKFC) has established an agri-service centre in Ottapidaram block to help farmers get adequate fertilizers in time and at fair price, S. Mallusamy, Secretary, VKFC, said on Wednesday.

Recently, the VKFC formed a registered body called Ottapidaram Block Farm Products Producers Federation (Ottapidaram Vattara Vilaiporul Urpathiyalarkal Kootamaippu) which will undertake all agriculture related activities right from soil testing to marketing.

“The VKFC under the financial support of Indian Overseas Bank, Eppodumvendran branch is one of the very active farmers' club in the district. The farmers' club programme is an Institutional Development Initiative of NABARD, through which the relationship between the banker and its rural clients is strengthened by inculcating repayment ethics and also helps in procuring bank loans for farmers”, Mr. Mallusamy said.

A couple of years ago, under the guidance of District Development Manager, NABARD, Tuticorin, M. R. Natarajan, the VKFC implemented an innovative project called Activity Based Groups (ABGs) for maize cultivators. Under this scheme, 500 maize cultivators were brought under one roof and provided credit support, technology transfer, agricultural input supply and collective marketing support for their final produce. M. Narendra, Chairman and Managing Director, IOB, during his visit to the district last Sunday, appreciated the farmers' club role. He formally inaugurated the federation and distributed the first bag of fertilizer.

Fruit of labour



Ever thought of Jhalawar while peeling off a juicy orange? You would not have, for this backward district in Rajasthan is not identified with the citrus fruit which belongs to the mandarin variety. Orange lovers may swear by Nagpur but would not raise a toast to Jhalawar oranges.

Yet, last season when crops failed in Nagpur in Maharashtra, truck loads of oranges went from Jhalawar, bordering Madhya Pradesh, and were sold as “Nagpur oranges” by big contractors and smart vendors at the Nagpur railway station.

Enthused by the success and backed by District Collector Rohit Gupta and NABARD, early this year, the citrus farmers sat with people's representatives in the zila parishad, officials from the district's agriculture and horticulture offices and a Jaipur-based NGO to have several rounds of discussions over preparing a road map for Jhalawar oranges. The result was JAGO or Jhalawar Agro Produce Growers Organisation.

“When productivity is so high and the oranges are as sweet (as the Nagpur variety), Jhalawar oranges, too, deserve their space under the sun. The total area under orange cultivation in Jhalawar is about 18,000 hectare out of which in about 10,000 hectare, the trees are fruit bearing and the rest are in various stages of growth,” says P.K. Jha, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, at Jhalawar. Normally, a tree starts bearing fruits from the fourth year onwards. The productive life of an orange plant is 15 to 20 years.

The search for a brand identity was not a matter of vanity alone as it provided certain advantages in pricing. “A brand ensured recognition and therefore better prices as well,” points out Mr. Jha. “The branding needed equipping the farmers with certain basic training and skill. The ignorance of the farmers here on the scientific processes — orange plucking, grading, waxing and the like — often led to poor market value and the resultant insufficient remuneration,” he observes.

“We expect the initiatives not only to make the Jhalawar brand famous but also to provide good prices for the farmers who are presently compelled to sell their produce to the traders at very low prices,” observes Jagdish Patidar, a leading orange farmer from Dungargaon in Jhalawar.

The brand was launched sometime back after a series of workshops for farmers in post harvest management.

Oranges, at 18.1 tonnes per hectare, grow better in Jhalawar than anywhere in India as the area stands third best in productivity in citrus after Karnataka and Punjab. India is the fourth largest citrus producer country in the world contributing to about 8.60 per cent of production after China (23.5 per cent), Brazil (15.5 per cent) and U.S. (10 per cent). As per the data from National Horticulture Board (2009-10), of the 8,608 metric tonnes of citrus production in India, Rajasthan accounts for about 307 metric tonne which gives it the seventh place.

When you travel next time on National Highway 12 between Jaipur and Jabalpur, which passes through Jhalawar town, you may come across kiosks selling JAGO in convenient packs of 1 kg, 2 kg and 5 kg. A JAGO *grahak* will not any more mistake them for Nagpur oranges!

12th Sep

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For more details contact: Ms. Ponnuthayee, secretary, Tamil Nadu Women's Collective, No. 79, Senbaga Vinayagar Koil Street, Keezha Bazaar, 7th Ward, Vasudevanallur, Sivagiri, Tirunelveli: 627 758. Ph: 94448-32021.

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Universities and mass action



Multipurpose: The super-cheap 'Aakash' tablet computer with the basic touch screen can be used for functions like word processing, web browsing and video conferencing.— photo: R. Ravindran

In his article “Professor, teach thyself”, in *The Hindu* of September 3, 2012, Justice Markandey Katju complains that our tertiary education system does not serve the masses, and that the huge amount of money being spent on higher education in India is not raising the standard of living of the Indian poor.

His point needs to be debated since it raises the issue of what higher education and universities are meant to be, what their roles in society are, whether the money spent on them is misused; and what is meant by the term “standard of living”.

The Bible says man does not live by bread alone. Sage Bartruhari wrote *sahitya sangita kala viheena manushya roopena mrigah charanti* (and let us not forget the rural poor are rich in culture). Anthropology distinguishes us as *homo sapiens* ; thinking, ideas and analysis are human attributes. Universities and other institutions of higher learning are meant precisely for this purpose. They are temples of learning and factories of ideas, thought, dialogues, analysis, research and interpersonal interactions.

Thought leads to action, action produces results and when results reach the public domain, they can be used by policy makers and societies for the public good. Universities are meant to produce thought leaders and to generate and promote culture. Yes, but do they help the standard of living of the masses? Higher learning leads to research and development (R&D) through the application of ideas and feeding manpower to realize these R&D efforts. Let us consider a few examples.

Information Technology (IT): Ten years ago, Professor Kenneth Keniston of MIT delivered the M N Srinivas Memorial Lecture at the National Institute for Advanced Studies in Bangalore. He spoke on "IT for the common man: Lessons from India" (downloadable at < web.mit.edu/kken/Public/PAPERS/IT_for_the_common_man.html>). He shows how Indian professors have used IT for helping ordinary Indians, especially in the weaker sections, meet their fundamental needs and achieve their basic rights.

There are technical requirements for these, and they are, connectivity, computers and software. It is precisely these three requirements that Indian professors have worked on, with success. Ashok Jhunjhunwala of IIT Madras invented the loop connectivity technology to reach and cover "the last mile". It is easily adaptable and improvable so that villages can go on line.

As for computers, Vijay Chandru and associates invented the Simputer, with text speech capabilities in several Indian languages. The tablet "Aakash", recently in the news, is a baby cousin of Simputer. Regarding software, Keniston points out the enormous difficulty faced in India with dozens of languages and scripts, and how Rajeev Sangal of IIIT Hyderabad and colleagues are addressing this problem.

How can IT help the poor, hungry Indian? One example is through the Unique Identification-based Aadhar cards of Nandan Nilekani. It helps assured personal delivery of governmental benefits — money, health care, rations, vote — eliminating the middleman and 'mamool'. It is uniquely Indian in ideas and in end-use, and a great leveller. Don't blame the university or the inventor if it does not work well, blame the government.

Biology and Genetics: In his "An obituary on Caste as a system" (*Econ. Pol. Weekly* , Feb, 2003 ; alas not free on the web), Dr MN Srinivas wrote that the caste system is indeed dying, but will not die without violence and a bloody struggle. And analysis of the DNA of hundreds of Indians from across the country, done at NIBMG, CCMB, MKU, JNU and other centres in India shuts the lid forcefully on the idea of castes and faiths, and shows we are all the same. The work shows who we all are, where we came from, how we peopled the subcontinent and how

we mated and married. What can be a greater contribution to the oneness of India? Masters or masses, we are the same. Differences are not genetic, but cultural and traditional.

Food and Health : Genetics and biology have gone further in India, in the cause of the 'masses'. It may come as a surprise to many that India produces and supplies over 45 per cent of the world's childhood vaccine and at rock-bottom prices. Here is another example of how research in our centres of higher learning has yielded gratifying results. Malaria and TB (diseases of the masses (not of interest to Western pharma companies) are studied with great skill and dedication in India (incidentally, Dr V S Chauhan of ICGEB highlights our need and efforts on TB, on the same page of *The Hindu* where the Katju article appears).

Role of nutritionists

And let us not forget how nutritionists in India have helped win over goitre (iodized salt), night blindness (vitamin A mega doses), infant diarrhoea (zinc addition in ORT) and anaemia (fortified tablet salt) . And it is genetics, this time on grains, using which Indian agriculturists have generated high yielding rice, using marker-assisted cross-breeding, to be cultivated on 5 million acres across India. And Imran Siddiqi has discovered the genes which would help maintain hybrid vigour in plants over generations.

Humanities and social sciences: Where are the M N Srinivases, the A L Basshams, Nilakanta Sastris, Mirza Ghalibs, Tagores, Bharatis, Bhatkhandes, U V Swaminatha Iyers or Bh Krishnamurtis of today? Such gems can be created only from universities. (How many Ramanujans can come out of sheer chance? He too needed a university to be recognised).

And finally, to give it perspective, what India spends each year on all of its education, research and technology is less than a tenth of what the US National Institutes of Health spends the same year on R&D. Give our universities time and money, don't interrupt them or impose on them.

Recall too that the quality spectrum in any field — education, science, languages or law — is a bell-shaped curve. Our idea is not to decay but to help move the bell more to the right. This calls for patience and support. To say "huge funds ploughed into higher education in India are for the benefit of foreign countries and to give you professors higher salaries and fine houses" is churlish. Don't blame them, blame the government. These academics contribute to India and its masses more than those living in cocoons in Lutyens' Delhi. To paraphrase Shakespeare: the judge doth protest too much, methinks.

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Today Farm News

13.09.2012 A.

Farmers succeed in getting water release

reduced from Kabini dam

MYSORE: Tension prevailed at the [Kabini dam](#) site when protesting farmers tried to storm on to the dam embankment. Even there was a wordy duel between the engineers, police and farmers

At one point of time the police were a worried lot when a couple of protesting farmers squatting on the bridge right below the down streams of the dam threatened to jump into the water and re-enact Guruswamy episode when the latter jumped to death protesting the release of water to TN in 2003-04

It may be recalled here that farmers from nearby village had gathered at the dam protesting the Supreme court order to release water to TN from dams in Cauvery basin. Farmers , then protested and threatened to prevent the water release , but then S M [Krishna government](#) took a decision to surreptitiously release water overnight and abide by the apex court judgment .

Next day morning a group of farmers who gathered on the bridge protesting the release threatened to jump into the river if the dam authorities refused to close the crest gates . When the authorities remained stubborn, Guruswamy a farmer all of a sudden jumped in to the water to sacrifice his life. All the hell broke out after this incident with government facing a tough time in dealing with the farmers whose agitation spread statewide.

On Wednesday about 100 farmers led by KRRS general secretary Badgalapura Nagendra at first staged a protest on the bridge and later they gate crashed to move onto the embankment demanding authorities to reduce the water release from the dam . Police were at the receiving

end when the farmers for some time played a hide and seek with the former . Later when they were persuaded to move out of the dam's corridors , they came down and squatted on the bridge where some of them threatened to jump and die. Police had a harrowing time in persuading the farmers to drop the stir, but latter agreed to the police suggestion only when the dam authorities decided to reduce the quantum of release from the dam.

Dam's executive engineer M Mariswamy who was on the sport announced that they will reduce the water release from 13000 cusecs which included 5000 cusecs to power station to 8800 cusecs. However farmers dispersed only when the engineers physically downed the crest gate height to restrict the outflow to 8800 cusesces.

Later speaking to reporters Nagendra said KRRS will not allow the state to release more water to TN when our fields are water starved .

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Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Thursday, Sep 13

Max Min

35.1° | 25.3°

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 05:57

Humidity: 70

Sunset: 06:11

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1009

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Friday, Sep 14

Max Min

33° | 26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday
Sep 15



32° | 27°

Rainy

Sunday
Sep 16



33° | 26°

Rainy

Monday
Sep 17



32° | 27°

Rainy

Tuesday
Sep 18



31° | 27°

Rainy

Wednesday
Sep 19



30° | 27°

Rainy

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Rice exporting firm seeks patent for parboiling unit

The wheat-eating belt of north India likes it raw when it comes to rice.

Even as parboiled rice, that is soaked, steamed and then dried, now accounts for over 90 per cent of rice exports from the country and over 60 per cent consumption in the southern states, north India still needs to develop an appetite for it.

A Karnal-based rice company, Chaman Lal Setia Export, has now filed for patenting a novel technology to make parboiling more water-economical and cost and fuel effective.

It has received a go ahead from the Intellectual Property Rights to scale up the technology after no objections were filed against it.

Though parboiled rice is more nutritious, less prone to insect-pest attacks, has better storage span and less possibility of broken rice, the process could involve huge costs, large quantities of water, effluent treatment plant (ETP) and emission of gases into the environment.

Entailing a cost of Rs 5 to 10 lakh, it could be added to the existing parboiling infrastructure, said Vijay Setia, former president of All India Rice Exporters Association, and company's director. "It also eliminates the need to have an ETP plant, saves 80 per cent water, as drained water is reused for steaming and uses lesser chemicals in boilers.

“Nearly 80 per cent water will be saved, benefiting the depleting water-table of Punjab and Haryana. The process has been validated by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and



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NDRI, Karnal,” Setia said while addressing mediapersons on Tuesday.

Farmers protest at Kabini against water release

Tension prevailed at the Kabini reservoir on Wednesday when farmers and members of Hasiru Sena protested the release of 10,000 cusecs of water from the reservoir.

They stormed the dam site on Beechanahalli bridge facing the reservoir, forcing irrigation officials to reduce the outflow to 5,500 cusecs.

The farmers also entered into a verbal duel with the police and irrigation officials.

Though the department has banned movement of public on the dam, the farmers, enraged that officials were not responding to their demand, sat on a dharna for more than two hours on the bridge.

As farmers started gathering in large numbers, the irrigation officials reduced the discharge to 7,500 cusecs from the two sluice gates of the reservoir.

Not satisfied, the farmers demanded closure of both the gates saying the water level was 2,282 ft as against the maximum of 2,284 ft.

The farmers clarified that they were not against releasing water if the inflow increased and the reservoir's water level rose by 2 ft.

Officials at the dam site claimed that the inflow was 9,300 cusecs and the discharge would not affect the water levels, but the farmers were not convinced.

KRRS state general secretary Nagendra said the government has betrayed the farmers of the region by releasing water to Tamil Nadu.

The farmers called off the stir after the outflow was reduced to 5,500 cusecs.

Before leaving, they deputed four farmers to monitor the outflow around the clock.

It may be recalled that farmer Guruswamy of Beechanahalli had committed suicide by jumping into the river after water was released to Tamil Nadu in 2002.

In KRS, members of Kannada organisations and farmers' association staged a protest against the Supreme Court directions



The farmers clarified that they were not against releasing water if the inflow increased and the reservoir's water level rose by 2 ft. (EPS file pic)

Karnataka releases 9K cusecs of water to TN

Karnataka on Tuesday released over 9,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu from the Kabini reservoir, even as the farming community in the region opposed the move.

Irrigation officials discharged more than 9,000 cusecs to fulfil the assurance made by the State to the Supreme Court. To release the assured 10,000 cusecs of water in eight days, the State would discharge about 7 tmcft of water from the reservoirs in the Cauvery basin.

Confirming water release from Kabini reservoir since noon, the irrigation officials said they had increased the discharge to 9,000 cusecs and the inflow had increased to 13,788 cusecs following heavy rains in Wayand area on Sunday.

Asked whether they would cut the outflow from the reservoir in case the inflow decreased, the officials said they would act as per the government's direction.

The irrigation officials at KRS reservoir said they released 5,326 cusecs of water through canals for drinking purpose and for semi-dry crops based on a decision taken at the Irrigation Consultative Committee meeting. The irrigation canals include V C canal, Varuna, Chikka

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Devaraya, Virija, Devaraya, Right Bank and Left Bank Canals.

Export policy on agri commodities to stay: Pawar



The Government is expected to continue with its export policy on agricultural commodities such as rice, wheat and sugar, the Union Minister for Agriculture Sharad Pawar, said here on Wednesday.

“We are against a switch-on, switch-off policy on exports. The current export policy will continue and I don’t see any problem,” Pawar told reporters.

Reduced rain deficit

Though the revival of monsoon has reduced the rain deficit to around 8 per cent for the season, the output of pulses, coarse cereals and cereals is likely to be affected.

“Production is unlikely to be at last year’s level, but we have enough stocks of rice, wheat and sugar,” he said.

The country has exported over 1.5 million tonnes of wheat, over 4 million tonnes of non-basmati rice and around 3.5 million tonnes of sugar.

The revival of monsoon, which has helped improve soil moisture, should augur well for the forthcoming rabi season.

As of September 10, the rain deficit has declined to 8 per cent and the water level in major reservoirs, except in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Tripura, has improved. “About 71 per cent of the country’s area has received normal rains, while the balance 29 per cent is deficient,” Pawar said, citing Indian Metrological Department data. “There is a significant improvement in kharif sowing in the past few days and the gap in acreage compared with last year now stands reduced to 9 lakh hectares,” Pawar said.

EGoM on drought

In a bid to help drought-affected States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat to implement relief measures, the Empowered Group of Ministers have decided to increase the number of mandals under the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme to 150 from the present 100.

Also, the EGoM has decided to reduce interest rates on rescheduled crop loans to 7 per cent from 12 per cent for this fiscal, Pawar said.

Besides, he said the Centre and State would provide interest subvention of Rs 261 crore under a Nabard scheme to save horticulture crops in drought-affected States.

e-book on turmeric and ginger

Hyderabad, Sept 13:

Kodoth Prabhakaran Nair, an agricultural scientist, has authored an electronic book *The Agronomy and Economy of turmeric and ginger*.

Commissioned by the London-based science publisher Elsevier International, the book traces the history, origin, production, economy, pharmaceutical and nutraceutical benefits of the two spice crops.

“A few years ago the Indian Government had to fight a patent issue on turmeric. The US authorities had taken a decision in favour of India. This issue made headlines globally and drew the world’s attention to Indian turmeric and its invaluable medicinal qualities. This triggered me to write the book,” Prabhakaran Nair told *Business Line* in an e-mail communication.

The 500-page e-book contains 27 chapters.

Olam plans to expand sugarcane crushing capacity



22
22
Years

20
20
Products

65
65
Countries

Olam International is a leading global integrated supply chain manager with a portfolio of 20 agricultural products and food ingredients. Established 22 years ago, we have a direct presence in 65 countries.

Olam has a direct sourcing and processing presence in most major producing countries catering to 11,600 customers across the world. Our global team of 17,000+ has built a leadership position in many of their businesses – including cocoa, coffee, cashew, sesame, rice, cotton and wood products.

The company handled 8.5 million tonnes of products for a sales revenue of S\$15.7 billion in FY 2011. Headquartered in Singapore and listed on the SGX-ST in 2005, Olam currently ranks among the top 40 largest listed companies in Singapore in terms of market capitalisation and is a component stock in the Straits Times Index (STI), MSCI Singapore Free, S&P Agribusiness Index and the DAXglobal Agribusiness Index.

Singapore-based Olam International today said that it is looking to expand the sugarcane crushing capacity a day (TCD) at its refineries in India by 2,000 tonnes to 9,000 tonnes in the next two years.

The company has two sugar refineries in the country with a total capacity of 7,000 TCD.

“India is an attractive market for us. We continue to expand. We plan to increase our total capacity in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to 9,000 TCD in the next two years,” Olam Senior Vice-President and Head of Strategic Investment Shankar Athreya told reporters at an event here.

While the capacity in Maharashtra will be increased to 5,000 TCD from 4,000 TCD, that in Madhya Pradesh will be increased to 4,000 TCD from 3,000 TCD.

Asked about Olam’s expansion plans in other countries, Athreya said: “We have refineries in Indonesia and Brazil. We are looking to set up mills in Africa.”

He also said India’s sugar demand is likely to increase to 32-35 million tonnes by 2020 with the rise in income and consumption.

He also noted that the country could become an importer as the supply-demand gap is expected to widen.

Olam International is a global integrated supply chain manager of farm products and operates in 65 countries.

Amul keen to take over Delhi Milk Scheme

Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd, which owns the Amul brand, has expressed its willingness to acquire the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS).

DMS, under the Ministry of Agriculture, is a loss making entity and has about 5 per cent share in the pouched milk segment in the national Capital.

“We are making a proposal to the Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar to take over the DMS operations,” said Vipul Chaudhary, Chairman, GCMMF.

Chaudhary recently took over as the Chairman of GCMMF. He was speaking after launching Amul’s newest product - Moti, the ultra-high temperature (UHT) treated milk in aseptic poly packs in New Delhi.

Launched in 1959 with an objective to provide milk for Delhi citizens, DMS has been running into losses for the past several years. Industry sources said DMS currently sells around 3 lakh litres in pouches in Delhi. The total market for pouched milk in Delhi is estimated at 50 lakh litres, where Amul sells about 22 lakh litres.

DMS has around 350 to 400 milk vending booths across Delhi and operates dairy plant with a processing capacity of 6 lakh litres per day. The acquisition of DMS will augment Amul’s direct presence in Delhi and also expand its processing capacity.

Delhi is the largest market for Amul, where it has grown its pouched milk sales to around 22 lakh litres per day from around 25,000 litres about six years ago, said R.S.Sodhi, Managing Director, GCMMF.

Amul has a processing capacity of 12 lakh litres per day in Delhi, while it expects to add capacity of another 50 lpd as it is under process of setting up two dairies in Delhi and Rohtak.

DELHI MILK SCHEME

Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India



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RFD हिन्दी में 12 Sep 2012, 22:16:34 IST Wholesome milk to the citizens of Delhi

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Procurement

Delhi Milk Scheme has been mainly procuring raw/fresh milk from the State Dairy Federations of the neighbouring States and some quantity of milk from the Co-operative Societies to augment the supplies.



Coonoor tea auction volume slides

A volume of 11.78 lakh kg has been catalogued for Sale No: 37 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions to be held on Thursday and Friday, reveals an analysis of brokers' listing.

It is about 98,000 kg less than last week's offer but about 46,000 kg more than the offer this time last year,

Of the 11.78 lakh kg on offer, 8.48 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 3.30 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 11.08 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 0.70 lakh kg, orthodox variety. In the leaf counter, only 0.42 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 8.06 lakh kg, CTC. Among the dusts, only 0.28 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 3.02 lakh kg, CTC.

The substantial portion of this volume comprises fresh teas totalling 11.29 lakh kg. Only about 49,000 kg comprises teas which had remained unsold in previous auctions. Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped the CTC market when Mittal Tea Co bought its Broken Pekoe grade for Rs 167 a kg. In the leaf tea auction, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) bought good medium varieties. Tata Global Beverages Ltd and Godfrey Philips India Ltd were selective. Duncans Tea Ltd showed interest on better medium broken. In the dust tea auction, HUL and Tata Global were selective.

Uniform subsidy policy will encourage hybrid rice'

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has called for a more robust procurement policy for hybrid rice so that benefits to farmers are not compromised.

Addressing a panel discussion on 'Hybrid Rice — Prospects and Challenges' at the sixth International Hybrid Rice Symposium held here on Wednesday, Swapan K. Datta, Deputy Director-General (Crop Sciences), ICAR, said that the country needed a uniform subsidy policy for hybrid rice.

Delegates from 32 countries, including China, Thailand and Vietnam, attended the symposium organised by the International Rice Research Institute, ICAR and the Directorate of Rice Research (DRR).

"Hybrid rice can help address India's food security needs. In order to encourage farmers to grow hybrid rice, we need to develop a uniform subsidy module across rice-growing States," Datta said.

B.C. Viraktamath, Project Director, DRR, N.K. Dadlani, Director, National Seed Association of India and experts from Bayer CropScience's seeds business participated in the discussion.

Delhi ban on plastic not to affect dairies

The Delhi Government's ban on use of plastic bags is unlikely to affect milk producers like Amul and Mother Dairy in the National Capital Region.

"We don't think it will have any impact on us, as we use virgin grade plastic of 55 microns for milk packaging," said R.S. Sodhi, Managing Director, Gujarat Co-Operative Milk Marketing Federation, which owns the Amul brand. "Moreover, I don't think milk is covered under the ban," he said.

The Delhi Government on Tuesday decided to ban the manufacture, sale, storage and use of plastic bags.

"We can only comment once we study the Government notification. As of now, we hear from media reports that milk and milk products have been kept out," a Mother Dairy spokesperson said.

"There will be no impact, as there is no ban on poly-packs" said Ekta Gupta, DGM, Marketing and Branding at Gopaljee Dairy Pvt Ltd.

The NCR market is the largest for branded milk in the country, with Mother Dairy alone selling 30 lakh litres a day, followed by Amul at 22 lakh and all other brands such as Delhi Milk

Scheme, Gopaljee and Paras accounting for 8 lakh or so. That translates into an annual value of close to Rs 7,000 crore.

Amul launches 90-day fresh Moti milk pouch

Amul launched UHT treated homogenised milk in aseptic poly-packs under the Moti brand on Wednesday. The milk remains fresh for three months even if stored at room temperature, said R.S. Sodhi, Managing Director, GCMMF.

Amul dedicated the launch of Moti to Verghese Kurien, the Father of India's White Revolution, who passed away recently. Moti will be available in 500-ml pack priced at Rs 20 and in a 200-ml pouch at Rs 9 a pack. Amul Moti will be initially available in Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Chhattisgarh, Sodhi said.

The UHT milk is first heated at 138 degrees and then cooled so that all pathogens are killed. The milk is then packaged in a five-layered special pouch to increase its shelf life to 90 days, Sodhi said.