

COIMBATORE, September 6, 2012

SSI Technology to remove sugarcane yield barriers



Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University K. Ramasamy taking a look at an exhibition organised as part of a training on ‘SSI – A Unique System to Enhance Water Productivity in Sugarcane’ at the university in Coimbatore recently.

Sustained Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) technology is an integrated package capable of breaking yield barriers in sugarcane. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) will offer solutions to problems in rooting medium and tillering of sugarcane single budded chip, its Vice-Chancellor K. Ramasamy said here recently.

Inaugurating a training on “SSI – An Unique System to Enhance Water Productivity in Sugarcane” at TNAU, organised jointly with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the Vice-Chancellor said the university would address these by

improving and standardising the rooting medium for raising the seedlings, and also increase the tillering capacity through proper synchronisation.

“All 42 sugar factories in Tamil Nadu should make earnest attempts to provide SSI in their respective areas. If all farmers living in an area where a sugar factory is located are prepared to adopt drip irrigation, TNAU will make a proposal to the State Government to extend 50 per cent subsidy to all the farmers. This is on the understanding that the rest of the subsidy will be provided by the sugar factories,” Mr. Ramasamy said.

S. Santhana Bosu, Dean (Agricultural Engineering), TNAU, said that use of SSI would help save nearly 40 per cent of irrigation water.

The training was being provided as part of a project sanctioned to the university by NABARD, to be implemented in 10 districts of the State, covering six sugar factory areas. It included a demonstration project to motivate farmers for large-scale adoption of SSI.

There was a concern that the yield of 100 – 105 tonnes a hectare had stagnated over three decades in Tamil Nadu, and hence SSI was recommended to raise the yield to 250 tonnes.

M.G. Iqbal, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Coimbatore, said the scheme to be implemented by the State Department of Agriculture to promote SSI in the State involved bringing 40 hectares into it with Rs. 25,000 subsidy to be offered for every hectare. For farmers raising Shade Net Nursery, Rs. 1 lakh subsidy with 50 per cent share by the State Government and 50 per cent by the sugar factory, would be provided.

Other resource persons from the Government and university, spoke.

Planting trees can help farmers tide over financial loss

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Thangasamy in his nursery at Pudukkottai. Photo: Special Arrangement

For the last 25 years government farms are running at a loss

Answering the phone with a “hello” is a practice for most people, but not for Mr. Thangasamy.

He prefers to respond with ‘maram’ (tree in tamil) while taking a phone call. The person’s interest in tree growing is so avid that many people and organizations call him “Maram Thangasamy.”

Along the Pudukkottai-Tiruchi highway, the numerous well grown trees owe their existence to this man who dedicatedly planted the saplings. “It was a sort of penance for me. It is a duty for me towards conserving and protecting my living abode,” he says with childlike enthusiasm.

Agriculture and nature must be in a harmony; otherwise it can cause negative effects on farm resources, seems to be his view.

TURNING POINT

It all started with planting 100 teak tree seedlings many years back. Their excellent growth encouraged him to plant mango, cashew, tamarind, neem, sandal, rose wood, red sandal, amla, mahogany etc.

Within 5 years, his farm turned into a thick forest. At present the farmer grows more than 150 species of trees on his 12 acres.

Small plastic tubs filled with water are placed in many places in the farm so that birds can drink from them. The birds serve two purposes. One, they prey on the insects and leave their droppings (along with some seeds) on the soil.

Sometimes a new seedling grows from the droppings. Thus, it contributes to the establishment of new tree species in the farm and increases tree diversity.

“Compared to what the birds have contributed, what I may have planted all these years is very little,” he grins.

He owns another 13-acre farm, where he cultivates a wide range of food crops for his family needs and the surplus for the market.

CROP ROTATION

He has not faced any major pest problem during the last ten years of organic farming of paddy. The crop rotation pattern followed, reduces weed growth considerably.

He feels that weeds come up only if the fields are ploughed. If left unploughed, the growth of weeds is very low and workload gets reduced.

He feels that it is difficult to practise organic farming without cattle and hence he keeps cattle, sheep, turkeys, ducks and chickens. Fodder for the cattle and sheep is grown on the farm itself.

DIFFERENT VARIETIES

Coconut is cultivated along with banana, guava, pomegranate and gourds so that income is generated from three months onwards from gourds, one to four years later from guava, banana and pomegranate and five years onwards from coconut.

He plants trees in long pits of three feet depth and three feet breadth. Crop waste and other plant materials are filled in these pits. When the rains come, not a drop runs off from the pits, thanks to the composting material.

It also prevents water evaporation from the soil by minimizing direct exposure to the sun. Further, this method enriches the soil as micro-organisms proliferate in these conditions and erosion of soil is prevented.

Before the changeover to organic farming, Thangasamy's paddy yield was only 1,300 kg per acre. Now he gets 1,800 kg per acre. But he cultivates only for his family consumption and not for the market.

When both farms are taken into account, his annual income is enough to meet expenses. Fluctuations in income and occasional losses from agricultural crops can only be offset by income from tree crops like teak, rosewood, etc., which he considers a great wealth that he is accumulating for future generations.

SEED FARMS

At present, there are more than 100 seed farms and nursery farms under the maintenance of Tamil Nadu Agriculture and Horticulture Department.

According to him for the last 25 years, these farms are running at a loss. If the losses are calculated they will run to more than Rs. 25 crore. If the government farms continue to run at a loss, no farmer will come forward to plant trees.

“Government should discourage the cultivation of monoculture trees like mango, coconut etc. Considering the drought situation, the State should properly guide the farmers on which trees they should cultivate according to the changing climate conditions.

“It should allow the farmers to cultivate high money value trees like sandal and give proper instructions to the village administrative officers to register them in the record,” says Thangasamy.

Bordeaux mixture to control coconut infestations

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Bordeaux mixture to control coconut infestations

M. Surulirajan

K. Rajappan

Farmers can make their own mixture and use it as and when required for controlling infestation in coconut. Given

below are some simple steps for making the mixture.

Dissolve one kg of powdered copper sulphate in 50 litres of water in a mud pot or plastic bucket.

Dissolve one kg of

lime in 50 litres of water (lime solution).

Pour the copper sulphate solution into the lime solution slowly and slowly stir. To detect presence of more copper dip

a new steel knife into this solution.

Brown coat

If a brownish coat appears on the knife then add more lime solution. Keep repeating the procedure till the brown coat

no longer forms on the knife. Presence of free copper is injurious to plants, hence to test for the excess copper if any,

After preparing the solution it is advisable for farmers to use it immediately as it loses its efficacy with lapse of time.

However, if mixture is to be preserved for the next days add 50 to 100 g sugar or jaggery into the 100 litre solution.

Drenching of diseased coconut palms with one per cent borax solution thrice a year is effective in reducing the

intensity of Thanjavur wilt disease. Drench the pits with one per cent bordeaux mixture before planting coconut

seedlings.

Bordeaux paste consists of the same ingredients as those of bordeaux mixture but it is in the form of a paste.

It is generally made by dissolving 100 gms of copper sulphate and 100 gms of quick lime each in 500 ml of water

separately.

Remove infested tissue

Removal of affected tissues on the coconut stem with a chisel and smearing with warm coal tar or bordeaux paste

over the chiselled portion controls stem bleeding.

If the disease is detected when the central shoot withers, application of 10 per cent bordeaux paste after thorough

cleaning and removal of infected plant parts can reduce further spread.

The treated portion has to be covered with a plastic sheet to prevent washing of the paste during rains.

Spraying one per cent mixture twice a year reduces leaf rot infestation. Spray must be in fine mist form otherwise it

will coalesce and trickle down without sticking properly on the nut surface.

(M. Surulirajan, Asst prof & K. Rajappan, Associate prof, , Coconut Research Station, Veppankulam, Thanjavur,

email: arsvpm@tnau.ac.in, phone: 04373- 260205.)

Farmers oppose handing over of APMC land to private developer

BANGALORE, September 6, 2012



Hundreds of farmers and their families Byatarayanapura MLA Krishna Byre Gowda, on the outskirts of the city, staged a protest on Wednesday against State government's decision to lease out part of 32 acres of land acquired for construction of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) to a private developer.

Assembling at the acquired land, off Bellary Road, under the leadership of Byatarayanapura MLA Krishna Byre Gowda, the farmers raised slogans against the government for its "controversial" decision. The government had decided to lease out 10 acres of land to Sobha Developers on a 60-year lease to build a shopping complex and the developer in turn was to build the APMC yard at a cost of Rs. 105 crore.

Mr. Gowda, who had questioned the government's decision on the floor of the Assembly recently and got an assurance about holding a public debate, said the government went back on its promise. The developer had started construction work by building a compound wall around the acquired land.

He said the land was acquired in 1989 for an APMC yard. The government should have utilised the land for the very same purpose and should not have deviated from it. Even the Supreme Court had clearly stated that the land acquired should be utilised for the specific purpose for which it was acquired, he noted.

BELGAUM, September 6, 2012

Drip-irrigation scheme launched in Belgaum

In what has been described as a timely response during drought in the State, the State Bank of India launched Drip-Irrigation Scheme for sugarcane cultivators on Monday.

According to a release on Wednesday, the scheme was inaugurated by Umesh V. Katti, Minister for Agriculture and Belgaum district in-charge.

The scheme envisages enhancing productivity of sugarcane and thereby boosting the yield per acre.

It was possible to double the yield by adopting scientific measures and farmers could recover their investment in less than two years, the release said.

Mr. Katti, who explained the benefits of drip-irrigation which went a long way in conservation of water, besides saving the cost of fertilizers, improving soil fertility, and engaging less labour, appealed to growers to opt for progressive farming and avail subsidy up to 75 per cent offered by the State government.

He handed over 'loan sanction letters' from the Sankeshwar branch of SBI and lauded the efforts of the bank in promoting progressive farming in the area.

SBI officials held a meeting with representatives of sugar factories in and around the district and asked them to motivate growers to adopt the drip-irrigation scheme, the release said.

COIMBATORE, September 6, 2012

Rain improves storage in reservoirs

The continuing rain in the catchment of the reservoirs in Western Ghats has helped in considerable improvement in the storage in various tanks. The rain has come as a big relief ending the anxiety over water for drinking and irrigation needs, following a disappointing South-West monsoon.

The district recorded a total of 186 mm rainfall and the average rainfall stood at 15.50 mm.

According to reports, rainfall in the district in mm till 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday is as follows:

Pollachi - 5, Chincona - 32, Chinnakallar - 79, Valparai PAP - 39, Valparai taluk office - 31, Sholayar - 44, Parambikulam - 8, Aliyar - 1,

Thirmurthy - 0.5, Makkinampatti - 6.7, Vettaikaranpudur - 2.4, Manacadavu - 8.6, Nallaru - 6, Upper Nirar - 79, Lower Nirar - 42, and Sircarpathy - 2.

Storage in reservoirs in ft are as follows (Full Reservoir Level in brackets): Sholayar - 146.05 (160), Parambikulam - 39.76 (72), Aliyar - 76.40 (120), Thirumurthy - 36.15 (60), and Amaravathy - 49.69 (90).

Foothills

Siruvani reservoir witnessed a rainfall of 38 mm till 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday and the foothills witnessed 19 mm rain. During this week, the reservoir witnessed a highest rain of 68 mm on one day. The tributaries of Siruvani such as Pattiaru and Muthikulam are in full spate.

The storage in Siruvani on Wednesday was almost 21.5 ft as against the FRL of 50 ft. The same level of rainfall for the next 10 to 15 days would help in further improving the storage till the North-East monsoon sets in by mid-October or by November beginning.

During the peak summer, water position almost touched dead storage level forcing the water managers to supplement the Siruvani-fed areas with Pilloor scheme water.

COIMBATORE, September 6, 2012

TNAU: PG admissions begin for open, distance learning courses

Admissions to post-graduate (PG) degree programmes and PG diploma programmes in the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) for 2012-13 have commenced.

PG degree courses in MBA, sugarcane technology, and environmental management, and PG diploma programmes in food biotechnology, bioinformatics, production and quality control in medicinal plants, energy management, food science and processing, eco-friendly pest management, and plant quarantine, are being offered.

Website

Applications can be downloaded from the website www.tnau.ac.in or can be obtained from the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, TNAU, Coimbatore – 641003.

Filled-in applications should reach the Directorate by September 7.

Details

For details, contact 0422-6611229 / 94421-11048 / 94421-11057.

THANJAVUR, September 6, 2012

Farmers make the most of rain, go in for direct sowing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultivation to be carried out using community nurseries and SRI method



Green field: Crop raised under direct sowing at Vandaiyar Iruppu village in Thanjavur district.—

Photo: M. Moorthy

With government giving thrust to direct sowing in Cauvery delta districts as part of the special package for samba, farmers of Thanjavur district have gone for direct sowing at many places utilising the widespread rainfall recorded in the district .

According to agriculture department officials, direct sowing has been carried out on nearly 250 hectares so far in Thiruvaiyaru and Orathanadu areas . “We expect direct sowing of samba on nearly 20,000 hectares out of the total 1, 25,000 hectares planned for the season. In other areas, cultivation would be carried out using community nurseries and System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method,” officials said.

In direct sowing, seeds are sown and allowed to grow in rain water. In Tiruvarur district , farmers have started direct sowing in Tiruvarur and Thiruthuraipoondi areas.

N.Dharumarajan, a farmer who has gone for direct sowing for the first time at Vandayar Iruppu village near Thanjavur, has done so on the basis of advice given by International Rice Research

Institute (IRRI), Philippines. "Instead of manual sowing, I used a multi-cropper for sowing the seeds. The crop has grown well and I hope to reap 50 bags of paddy per acre (60 kilos per bag) than the usual 30 bags," he said.

Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative Ltd (IFFCO) has given water soluble fertilizers to the farmer.

D.Subrmanyam, Regional Manager, IFFCO, said that his concern is popularising use of water soluble fertilizers . The company has adopted Punavasal village in the district and implemented special projects to increase area under green manure and save soil and natural resources.

Green manures such as sun hemp is grown on 50 acres of land under increasing the area under green manure scheme. IFFCO is also implementing a scheme for land reclamation and gypsum is being supplied under the programme. Community-based phospho-sulpho-nitro compost pits are also being created.

TIRUNELVELI, September 6, 2012

Veterinary university to organise exhibition

Here is good news for farmers of this region, who have been hit hard by successive monsoon failure, as the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) is all set to show them an alternative way of augmenting their revenue by conducting a 3-day livestock and fisheries exhibition here from September 8 onwards.

Speaking to reporters here on Wednesday, Dean (In-Charge), Veterinary College and Research Institute, P. S. Rahmathullah, said adoption of newer and appropriate technologies in livestock production had ensured optimum production, reduction of costs of inputs and maximization of profitability even as livestock production practices were being mechanised owing to shrinking rural labour force. To take the identified technologies in livestock and fishery production to the farmers and ensure their early adoption, TANUVAS had started organising regional livestock exhibitions in different parts of the State. The first regional exhibition of such a kind was

organised at Tiruchi during February 2012, which proved to be an instant success with massive participation of the farmers.

“Encouraged by the response, a three-day ‘Tirunelveli Regional Livestock and Fisheries Technology Exhibition’ is to be organised by TANUVAS at ‘Exhibition Grounds’ from September 8 onwards. The exhibition will have more than 70 stalls with technological information on dairy cattle management, sheep and goat rearing, poultry and pig farming, management aspects of rabbit, turkey, guinea fowl, Japanese quail, ducks and fancy breeds of chicken and ornamental fish rearing, shrimp production, feed and fodder production, preparing value added milk and meat products, farm mechanization etc.,” Dr. Rahmathullah said.

There will be charts, pamphlets, booklets, books, CDs, DVDs with specialists in each subject available on hand for offering additional information and clarifying doubts.

Fodder seeds and slips will be available for sale. Live exhibits of different breeds of sheep and goat, poultry, rabbits and fish will also be on display. Stalls for pet animals (dogs, cats etc.) rearing, their feeding practices, vaccination schedule and simple cosmetic surgery will also be put up.

Moreover, information on undergraduate courses, postgraduate diplomas, skill development and self employment courses, all offered by TANUVAS with eligibility conditions, fees, duration etc. will provide the students comprehensive information on these programmes.

On all three days, seminars on different topics of livestock and fish production will be conducted. An exclusive seminar on ‘Poultry Development Scheme’ in non-poultry backward regions of the State will be held on September 10. The seminar topics include infertility management in cattle, fodder production practices, aquaculture, cage culture, food safety, farm waste management and others, which will address the current concerns of the livestock, poultry and fish farmers. A ‘Dog show’ is planned in the afternoon of September 9. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Milk Union, NABARD, insurance companies and a few private entrepreneurs will also put up their stalls. Students of the colleges under the University will participate in cultural programmes every day.

“Hence, livestock and fishery farmers in Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Tuticorin and Virudhunagar districts of the region are invited to visit the unique exhibition organized by TANUVAS. The

admission is free for the exhibition that will be open between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.,” Dr. Rahmathullah informed.

VANIYAMBADI, September 6, 2012

Adopt techniques to conserve rainwater, farmers told

Official reviews pulses production programmes



Shamsher Singh, national consultant of NFSM, (Farm Machinery), inspecting red gram cultivation at Alangayam block on Wednesday.

Farmers have been exhorted to adopt modern machinery, conserve rainwater for agricultural purposes and put in place scientific practices such as testing of soil for nutrients, deficiency in micronutrients and use best variety of seeds, during a review of pulses production programmes by an official of National Food Security Mission (NFSM).

Shamsher Singh, national consultant of NFSM, (Farm Machinery), was here on Wednesday to review the programmes implemented at Madhanur, Alangayam and Jolarpet blocks.

“There are a number of activities to be done for cultivating pulses or even paddy. This includes land preparation, sowing, weeding, irrigation, harvesting, threshing and processing. There are machineries for each of these activities,” he told *The Hindu* after visiting agricultural lands under the Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) in Madhanur and Alangayam blocks.

There are old traditional practices using bullocks-driven implements, he said. “These are labour intensive and expensive. Farmers could use modern machinery. There are about nine to 10 implements recommended in the scheme and most of the machines are available at 50 per cent subsidy. If farmers adopted modern machinery, it would be economical and land preparation would be much better.”

Through interactions at Madhanur and Alangayam blocks, he found that some of the machinery used for sowing, planting and land preparation were not very popular among farmers .

“Traditional way of cultivation is being carried out. This is costly as farmers said that ploughing needs to be done three times for preparing the land. Each ploughing costs Rs. 700, totally amounting to over Rs. 2,000. But, with such machinery, the total cost would be around Rs. 1,000,” he said. Interacting with farmers at Pallikuppam village in Madhanur block, he exhorted them to conserve rainwater. “If there are no artificial sources of irrigation such as borewells and tanks, rainwater could be harvested through simple techniques. Through this, the rain falling in the field would remain there,” he said. Farmers could adopt techniques such as ridge and burrow, harvesting of rainwater and storing in ponds, drip irrigation and mulching to conserve water.

“The government is taking steps to increase production of pulses. There are three major programmes – NFSM pulses, A3P and special thrust on increasing yield of production and increasing areas under special programme of pulses mostly by inter-cropping. Funds to the tune of Rs. 45 crore have been allotted, of which Rs. 23 crore is only for pulses,” he said.

With pulses being a rain-fed crop, Mr. Singh pointed out that it required one or two irrigations. “According to scientists, if there are one or two irrigations, then it will increase production by 20 per cent. We need scientific packages of practices for increasing production such as testing the soil for nutrients, deficiency in micro nutrients and using best variety of seeds available for these areas,” he mentioned.

He also spoke on the need to address problems of insects, pesticides and diseases in crops. At each agricultural land, he asked farmers about their experiences and suggestions for improvement. Some farmers at Pallikuppam spoke about crop damage caused by wild boars.

A. Tamilselvan, Joint Director, Agriculture of Vellore, said red gram has been cultivated on 2,000 hectares in Vellore district under A3P for 2012-2013. Of this, 1,000 hectares were under NFSM (pulses) – 500 hectares in Anaicut block and 500 hectares in Madhanur block. Another 1,000 hectares of land have been taken up under National Agricultural Development Programme – 500 hectares at Jolarpet and 500 hectares at Alangayam blocks.

ALAPPUZHA, September 6, 2012

Farmers to submit petition against seed policy

Farmers under the banner of Kuttanadu Vikasana Samithy (KVS), an NGO, will petition the Chief Minister on Thursday to protest against what they term as 'infringement on the rights of farmers' when government subsidy goes only to those who buy seeds from the State Seed Authority.

Subsidies routed

In a statement here on Wednesday, Fr. Thomas Peeliyanikkal said that the government decision affects the farmers as subsidies are routed through the Agriculture Department and district and grama panchayats, which naturally follow the government order.

The farmers were buying seeds from National Seed Corporation and Karnataka Seed Corporation for the last many years and they are satisfied with the seed's performance. The State Seed Authority was formed only four years ago.

However, there is widespread complaints that their seeds were not of the best quality and that majority of them will not sprout, Fr. Peeliyanikkal alleged.

VIZIANAGARAM, September 6, 2012

Collector announces action plan to save kharif crop in district

'No compromise on power supply to farm pumpsets for seven hours'

Collector M. Veerabrahmaiah has announced an action plan to save kharif crop by utilising the available water in irrigation tanks and projects. He has announced appointment of special teams consisting of revenue, agriculture, Transco, and irrigation officials to strictly implement the plan at mandal, division and district levels.

Reviewing drought conditions in kharif with mandal special officers, tehsildars and other officials on Wednesday, Mr. Veerabrahmaiah said that there would be no compromise on supply of power for seven hours to agriculture pumpsets and asked farmers to send SMS to his mobile if the supply was short of the scheduled hours. Based on the messages he would not hesitate to initiate action against assistant engineers of Transco.

The Collector said that out of 2.31lakh hectares of normal crop area, 1.61 lakh hectares was covered during this kharif. Of which, paddy was being raised in 85,000 ha. Saying that availability of water in all the 10 medium irrigation projects was inadequate, he said that committees were being constituted with officials and water users' associations to utilise the available water economically.

Mr. Veerabrahmaiah asked tehsildars and agriculture officials to ensure power supply for four hours in the morning and three hours in the night to the 25,000 pumpsets.

On weather reports, the Collector said that he noticed dissimilarities in official reports on rainfall and the actual fall registered in mandals. According to official reports, he said that there was no probability to declare more than five mandals drought-hit.

Hence, the officials would submit report on scanty rainfall, crop position, and water availability in tanks by September 25. At present, he said that 28 mandals had recorded normal rainfall, 1 mandal excess, and four mandals scanty rainfall and one mandal recorded near normal rainfall.

Joint Collector P.A. Sobha, Additional Joint Collector M. Rama Rao, RDOs G. Raja Kumari (Vizianagaram) and J. Venkata Rao (Parvathipuram) were present.

MALAPPURAM, September 6, 2012

Vegetable farms give good yield



'Madin' harvest: Snake gourds grown at the vegetable farm of Kalarikkal Mohammed at Vaniyambalam, where the harvest festival of the Madin Academy began.

: The kitchen vegetable farm project implemented by the Madin Academy here entered its final phase with harvesting during the Onam festival. The Madin Academy started the project a few months ago with the objective of ensuring self-sufficiency in vegetables for all homes.

Enthusiastic response

Thousands of homes in Malappuram and neighbouring districts had enthusiastically joined the project after it was launched in June this year by Union Minister of State for Agriculture K.V. Thomas. .

Inaugural harvest

Programme coordinator V. Abdulla and convener Riyaz Saqafi led the inaugural harvest held at the kitchen farm of Kalarikkal Mohammed at Vaniyambalam, near Perinthalmanna.

Madin officials said that the farms in many homes gave a good yield of fresh vegetables such as bitter gourd, snake gourd, ash gourd, ladies' fingers, pumpkin, and peas..

September 6, 2012

Farm query

POONGKAR PADDY VARIETY

Is there any native paddy seed savers with whom I can contact to know about Poongkar paddy variety?

R. Lalithambal

Tamil Nadu

Poongkar paddy variety is best suited to be grown in saline soils along coastal belts. It can be easily cultivated under SRI technology also. You can contact Mr. R. Jayaraman at Kattimedu, Adhirangam, Thiruthuraipoondi, Tiruvarur District, Mobile: 094433 20954.

September 6, 2012

Glimpse into evolution of flowering plants



C.V. Subrahmanyam

For the first time, scientists have proved that a class of genes causes mutation in some flowering plants rendering their flowers sterile, offering a glimpse further back into the evolutionary development of flowers.

Thu, 06 Sep 2012

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Thursday, Sep 6

Max Min

34° | 28°

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 05:57

Humidity: 79

Sunset: 06:16

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1008

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Friday, Sep 7

Max Min

34° | 27°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Sep 8	Sep 9	Sep 10	Sep 11	Sep 12
31° 26°	31° 26°	31° 27°	29° 26°	31° 26°
Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Capital gets country's third super-speciality vet clinic

TNN | Sep 6, 2012, 04.19AM IST

BHUBANESWAR: The chief minister inaugurated a veterinary hospital with ultra-modern facilities, including dialysis and ultrasound, at Orissa [University of Agriculture and Training](#) in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. The super-special hospital for animals is the third such in the country.

The [Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex](#) will provide 24X7 healthcare services to both pets and wild animals, said [OUAT](#) vice chancellor D P Ray. It will serve as the only referral centre for treatment of animals from across the state, he added. "This is the third such veterinary hospital in the whole country where all ultra-modern health care facilities for animals is available. An estimated Rs 7.2 crore grant from the Indian Council of Agriculture Research ([ICAR](#)) has been spent on the construction of the complex," Ray said.

The complex would also help in the education of veterinary students in the university. "As per the Veterinary Council of India's guidelines, each veterinary college must have a teaching clinical complex to help students understand the course better. Besides 20 specialist doctors, the hospital will have junior doctors from the veterinary college to serve in the hospital. The hospital was a necessity in the state as we did not have any super specialty hospital to treat a huge number of wild and pet animals," said former principal of veterinary college S K Ray.

CSA celebrates Foundation Day of farmers' council

TNN | Sep 6, 2012, 05.15AM IST

KANPUR: The Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology celebrated the Foundation Day of Chandrashekhar Krishak Samiti at [Lal Bahadur Shastri](#) auditorium of the varsity here on Wednesday. The Samiti was established on September 5, 1985.

The function was headed by Prof AK Singh, local convener of 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra'. Singh

apprised the farmers present of the agricultural techniques developed by the university. A symposium was also organised on the occasion by the Agriculture department of the university. Those present included director, Research, [CSA, LP Tiwari](#), and associate professor [Naushad Khan](#). While addressing the farmers, director, extension, Dr MP Yadav discussed the changing environmental pattern and the ways to deal with it.

Meanwhile, students of the university also celebrated Teachers' Day on the campus by organising a special programme for their teachers and performing the symbolic act of planting trees on the campus.

Azgaonkar hits out at Cong over horticulture scheme

Sep 6, 2012, 03:59AM IST

MARGAO: Former minister [Manohar 'Babu' Azgaonkar](#) on Wednesday pointed out that the previous Congress-led government's handling of the 'Price control scheme' of the Goa state horticulture corporation was faulty, and appealed to the BJP-led government to take corrective action.

Azgaonkar gave the [Manohar Parrikar](#) government an eight-day ultimatum to remove all roadside gaddas given for self-employment under the scheme as "this was a violation of a Supreme Court order". He warned that if no action was taken, he would lead an agitation with the local vegetable vendors and file a contempt petition in the court.

While addressing mediapersons, a visibly agitated Azgaonkar claimed that 1.40 crore had been spent in providing subsidies for the horticulture scheme. "This scheme has affected our local agriculture production in Goa as farmer cannot compete with the rate at which agricultural products are being sold at these horticulture gaddas. Due to the prevailing scenario, many of the farmers have dumped agriculture as it not financially viable anymore," added Azgaonkar.

When the former minister was asked why he had not raised the issue in the assembly when his government was in power, Azgaonkar claimed he had brought it up on several occasions during their cabinet meeting.

He said that he was made aware of the existing scenario when he visited the markets, and that was why he and his brother Rajendra, the acting president of the 'Vegetable, readymade and cloth vendors association' had submitted a memorandum to the office of the chief minister and horticulture corporation in this regard.

THE HINDU Business Line



World cotton prices unlikely to see a bull run

G. Chandrashekhar

Washington-DC, Sept. 5:

With the South-West monsoon continuing to stay deficient and large parts of the country including agriculturally

important areas of Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra facing various levels of

moisture stress, questions are being raised about the Government's policy response to imminent decline in harvest

size.

Cotton is one such crop that risks adverse policy changes if events of last two years are anything to go by.

For 2012, the planted acreage for cotton, according to the latest report of the Agriculture Ministry's Weather Watch

Group is 111 lakh hectares, slightly lower than 117 lakh hectares a year ago, but up from last five-year average of 106

lakh hectares.

Acreage

But acreage is not the matter of concern. If anything, cotton acreage has been resilient in the face of adverse weather,

demonstrating the growers' confidence about marketability of the crop. It is the size of output and to a lesser extent

quality that's a matter of worry.

With Gujarat, Karnataka and Punjab facing moisture stress, there is a real risk of a decline in cotton output.

Although it may be a little too early to put a precise number on the crop size, it is increasingly clear that output will

be substantially lower than last year's. Some estimates suggest the crop could be about 300 lakh bales on the upper

side and about 280 lakh bales on the lower side.

Cap on Exports

The big worry is whether the Government will impose restrictions on cotton export. Last two years, the market has

seen policymakers succumb to pressure from the domestic mills and clamp controls on raw cotton shipments in the

form of export duty, quantitative ceiling, contract registration, shipment period specification and the like.

What purpose and whose purpose these restrictions served is anybody's guess; but many market participants are now

truly concerned about the Indian Government once again interfering with free markets. Near-whimsical policy

changes of the last two years have already sullied the country's image in the international marketplace. We cannot

anymore afford to repeat wholly avoidable policy changes and uncertainties.

Stability and predictability of policy including export policy is critical. For 2012-13, given the global demand-supply

fundamentals including stocks, world cotton prices are unlikely to see a bull run despite the threat of tightening

supplies. New York cotton prices are fundamentally bearish. The global impact will be felt on domestic cotton prices.

The world market is not in a position to absorb unlimited quantities of Indian cotton.

Without loss of time, the government must make its policy stand clear. Exports will no doubt help support domestic

prices and deliver remunerative returns to growers who have suffered the adverse consequences of bad weather this

season. In any case, cotton imports are allowed free for the domestic users

Volume rises at Coonoor tea auction

Coonoor, Sept. 5:

A volume of 12.77 lakh kg has been catalogued for Sale No: 36 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions to be held on Thursday and Friday, reveals an analysis of brokers' listing.

It is as much as 2.57 lakh kg more than last week's offer and about 80,000 kg more than the offer this time last year,

Of the 12.77 lakh kg on offer, 9.38 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 3.39 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 11.93 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 0.84 lakh kg, orthodox variety. In the leaf counter, only 0.47 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 8.91 lakh kg, CTC. Among the dusts, only 0.37 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 3.02 lakh kg, CTC.

The substantial portion of this volume comprises fresh teas totalling 12.18 lakh kg. Only about 59,000 kg comprises teas which had remained unsold in previous auctions. Last week, in the leaf tea auction, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) bought good medium varieties. Tata Global Beverages Ltd was selective. Duncans Tea Ltd did not operate. In the dust tea auction, HUL was active on good medium varieties. Duncans Tea was selective. Tata Global did not operate.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 6, 2012)

Area under rubber up 3.6% in 2011-12



Our Bureau

New Delhi, Sept. 5:

The area under rubber cultivation has increased by 3.6 per cent in 2011-12 over the previous year.

The annual growth in rubber cultivated area in 2011-12 is comparable to the growth recorded in the last two years at

3.6 per cent and 3.7 per cent, respectively. The tapped area under rubber stands at 4.63 lakh hectares provisionally for

2009-10.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jyotiraditya Scindia, in a written

reply to the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

The decision on planting rubber is mainly influenced by rubber prices, he said. The subsidy plans for new planting

and replanting of rubber during the 12 {+t} {+h} Plan have not yet been finalised.

During the 11 {+t} {+h} Plan, this subsidy stood at 20 per cent of the development cost of raising plantations in

traditional areas of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and 25 per cent of the development costs in non-traditional regions,

including the North East.

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Stockists selling, rain drag pulses



Indore, Sept 5:

Continuous rain in Madhya Pradesh and other pulse growing States has lowered demand for pulses and pulse seeds in the country with stockists showing more interest in selling their stocks.

This has led to decline in prices of pulses and pulse seeds over the past few days. With decline in buying support from stockists and millers, tur (Maharashtra) prices in local mandis have declined to Rs 4,650 a quintal, while tur (Indore) ruled at Rs 4,200.

Tur scene

Last month, tur (Maharashtra) prices soared to Rs 5,100 a quintal on strong buying support. But, thereafter, sporadic rains in Madhya Pradesh and other pulse growing regions in the country have led to decline in its demands. With selling pressure outmanoeuvring demand, tur prices in the past fortnight have come down by Rs 150-200 a quintal.

Moreover, notwithstanding sluggish trend currently, future of tur appears to be bullish, given lower crop output this year. Added to this decline in domestic stock and delay in arrival of new crop may give a push to tur prices in the coming days, said a trader.

Tur dal also traded lower on weak demand with tur dal (full) in local mandis being quoted at Rs 6,400-6,500, tur marka ruled at Rs 7,300 a quintal. As compared with its prices last week, tur dal is down Rs 200 in local mandis.

Moong sector

Moong and its dal ruled stable, even as demand in pulses remained sluggish. Moong new (best quality) ruled at Rs 4,500-4,800, while moong (old) ruled at Rs 4,800 a quintal.

According to Sanjay Bansal, a local pulse trader, moong prices in the coming days will go down further by Rs 200-300 a quintal as arrival picks up after rains. Currently, local mandis are witnessing arrival of moisture laden moong with inferior quality but as weather becomes dry in the coming days, best quality moong will start hitting local mandis, said another trader. Moong dal prices have also declined sharply (almost Rs 200 a quintal down) in the past one week on

poor buying support. On Wednesday, moong dal (medium) ruled at Rs 5,500-5,600 a quintal, moong dal (best) Rs 5,900-6,000, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 6,300-6,600 a quintal.

Stockists continue to build turmeric inventory

Erode, Sept 5:

Division among farmers on not selling turmeric below Rs 9,000 a quintal continued, resulting in the spice's prices coming under pressure. However, stockists continued to build inventories, expecting prices to touch Rs 10,000 a quintal soon.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee on Wednesday, prices decreased by Rs 530 a quintal. But prices increased by Rs 749 a quintal for the fine variety with 30 bags arriving for sales.

Prices gained at the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association, though many farmers came forward to sell at lower prices as they need money for agricultural operations.

Exporters and bulk buyers said that they are expecting fresh orders by the middle of this month and therefore, they are keeping away from buying stocks. But stockists are building inventories hoping that prices will zoom higher.

On Wednesday, 5,750 bags arrived and 1,300 bags were sold. At the Erode Turmeric merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,519-6,769 a quintal; the root variety at Rs 3,399-6,046.

Salem Hybrid Crop

The finger variety was sold at Rs 6,607-7509; root variety Rs 6,009-6,363. Of the total 1,250 bags of turmeric that arrived, there were takers for only 169.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,568-6,541; the root variety Rs 5,369-6,263. Of 863 bags that arrived, 433 were bid.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,611-6,676; the root variety at Rs 6,009-6,363. Of 563 bags 555 got sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,580-7,189. The root variety was quoted at Rs 4,769-6,399 a quintal. All the 253 bags of turmeric were sold.

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Edible oils rule steady on bearish global cues



Mumbai, Sept. 5:

Sentiments ruled steady in the edible oils market on Wednesday on lack of physical demand despite month-beginning and *Ganeshotsav* festival ahead. Activities were thin. As prices quoted by refineries were Rs 10-12 higher, there were no direct volumes with them. Revival in monsoon in main-producing centres and bright prospects of oilseed crops pulled down groundnut oil and rapeseed oil by Rs 10 and Rs 5 for 10-kg each. Cotton refined oil and palmolein ruled unchanged while sunflower and soyabean refined oil edged up by Rs 5 each. Morale was steady with a cautious mood tracking lower closing of Malaysian palm oil futures market.

A broker said lack of demand at local level despite lower rates offered by resellers for palmolein kept activities very limited. On Wednesday, about 100-150 tonnes of palmolein were resale traded in the range of Rs 610-612. Last resale rates were Rs 610-615 while direct refineries quoted Rs 7-8 higher. Revival of monsoon in most producing States has improved the prospects for the rabi crops but not for kharif crop which will support the sentiment ahead, he said. Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 623-624 for Sept. Super palmolein was at Rs 664, soya oil was Rs 785 up to Oct and sunflower refined oil at Rs 805. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 620, super

palmolein Rs 660, soya ref oil Rs 785 and sunflower ref oil Rs 795-800 for Sept-Oct. Allana's rate for palmolein was Rs 618 while Vaibhavi quoted Rs 620. In Saurashtra – Rajkot, groundnut oil ruled steady at Rs 1,930 for *Telia* tin and Rs 1,250 (Rs 1,255) for loose 10 kg. On National Board of Trade – Indore, Soya ref oil Sept futures closed higher at Rs 807 (Rs 805.80) and Oct at Rs 809 (Rs 809.70).

Malaysia's crude palm oil Oct contracts settled at MYR 2,938 (3,010), Nov at MYR 2,990 (3,058) and Dec at MYR 3,033 (3,097) a tonne.

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates were (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil 1,240 (1,250), soya ref oil 780 (775), sunflower exp. ref. 740 (735), sunflower ref. 795 (795), rapeseed ref. oil 885 (890), rapeseed exp ref. 855 (860), cotton ref. oil 770 (770) and palmolein 616 (616).