

COIMBATORE, September 7, 2012

SSI Technology to remove sugarcane yield barriers

TNAU training on unique system to enhance water productivity in cane

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.

KARUR, September 7, 2012

Dairy farmers sweep the podium

: Dairy farmers who supply milk to Aavin in Karur made the district proud, notching up a 1-2-3 podium finish in getting the maximum incentive offered to milk producers' cooperative society members in Tiruchi Union. Tiruchi District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union comprises Tiruchi, Karur, Perambalur and Ariyalur district.

P. Saravanan of Vathagoundanpudur Milk Producers' Cooperative Society secured the maximum incentive of Rs.40,755 for selling milk to Aavin in the union. Chief Minister Jayalalithaa felicitated Mr. Saravanan after handing over the incentive cheque to him recently.

Aavin offers cash incentive to members of cooperative societies and unions that are being run profitably on the lines of dividend and that varies with every union.

Tiruchi Union sanctioned 50 paise as incentive for the year 2010-11 for every litre supplied by the dairy farmers to Aavin in the four districts. The union has 710 milk producers' cooperative societies in its fold.

"Previously I was supplying milk produced in my dairy farm to private buyers. But they used to fix the purchase price arbitrarily causing instability. When I found Aavin a reliable buyer I started supplying to Aavin, and now I sell up to 400 litres a day to them," points out Mr. Saravanan.

Remaining with Aavin meant a lot to him and others like him, as they get free veterinary assistance at their doorstep every week, besides regular supply of cattle feed at subsidised price.

For Karur district it was a year to remember as following Mr. Saravanan, R. Kalyani of Chinna Sengal Melathottam was the runner-up in garnering incentives while S. Srinivaan of Ayyaneri society completed the podium sweep.

TIRUPUR, September 7, 2012

GAIL increases compensation to farmers

Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has announced a higher compensation to farmers in seven districts of the state on whose land through which it would be laying underground pipeline to take liquefied natural gas from Kochi to Bangalore.

“The revised scale has been fixed as per the directions of the State Government by which each farmer will now be getting a compensation equivalent to 13 per cent of the ‘new guideline value’ of the land utilised for laying pipeline plus an amount to offset the cost of crops displaced, if any, to facilitate digging of earth,” S. Angamuthu, senior manager of GAIL, told *The Hindu* .

Earlier, the farmers were offered compensation of only 10 per cent of the old guideline value plus the amount for the crops removed. The GAIL had yet again clarified that it would be exercising only ‘Right of Use’ of land for laying pipelines not any permanent acquisition of land meaning that farming activities would get disturbed only for a brief period when laying works were under way.

Later on Thursday, the GAIL officials had an interaction with the farmers in the presence of Collector M. Mathivanan to allay the fears that the gas pipeline project could affect the livelihood opportunities of agrarian community.

P.M. Eswaramoorthy, a coconut grower from Palladam, whose land being among the plots selected for laying pipelines, said that the farmers in the region would not be allowing any pipeline to be laid on farm lands and they were not interested in any scale of compensation.

He was of the opinion that GAIL should reconsider the alignment of pipeline through farm lands instead should chose the alternative routes alongside highways as done in project stretch passing through Kerala to save the farming community from plunging into distress.

Mr. Angamuthu clarified that only a minimum stretch of 12 km from Vallarpadam terminal to Kalamassery (both in Kochi) passes alongside highways out of the total 200 km long gas pipeline to be laid within Kerala borders.

A section of farmers asked the Collector to stop the laying of gas pipelines because a case in connection was pending before Madras High Court. GAIL officials issued a clarification that it was a case regarding the modalities of a public hearing held in the issue not on the alignment of the pipeline or its laying.

COIMBATORE, September 7, 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 ended 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).

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

SALEM, September 7, 2012

Turmeric farmers asked to adopt disease prevention measures

With incidence of diseases in some patches of turmeric fields reported in the district, farmers have been asked to adopt preventive management practices to control diseases in the tuberisation stage itself.

Commercial crop

Scientists at Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Sandhiyur, B. Geetha, P.S. Kavitha and programme coordinator S. Manickam said that turmeric is an important commercial spice crop grown in the district.

But during rainy season and heavy wind flow, the leaves get damaged leading to poor rhizome development which in turn affects the productivity and profitability of turmeric growers.

Since the infection has started now, farmers were asked to take preventive measures.

Rhizome rot is a major devastating disease in turmeric with a yield reduction of about 40 to 60 per cent.

Fungus

The disease, caused by fungus *pythium*, spreads through affected rhizomes and infested soil. Hence disease-free rhizomes have to be selected and planted in an area that has good drainage system.

Scientists have asked farmers to treat the seed rhizomes with copper oxy chloride (25 gram per litre) before sowing.

Another disease is the leaf spot that appears as brown spots on the upper surface of the young leaves, caused by fungus *Colletotrichum capsici*.

The affected leaves eventually dry up and the rhizome development is also poor, scientists added.

The disease can be controlled by foliar spraying of Carbendazim 200 gram per acre or Mancozeb 400 gram per acre or Copper oxy chloride 500 gram per acre.

While preparing the solution, the sticky solution, teepol (1ml per 1 litre of spray solution) should be mixed and sprayed, they added.

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THANJAVUR, September 7, 2012

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



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.

VANIYAMBADI, September 7, 2012

Farmers hopeful of more yield in transplanted red gram cultivation

1,500 kg to 2,000 kg per hectare expected under this new method



A land with neat rows of transplanted red gram plants at Alangayam block.

A number of farmers in Alangayam block are expecting increased yield of red grams after they took up transplanted red gram cultivation this year under National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) for 2012-2013.

“We have a target of bringing 596 hectares of land under the transplanted red gram cultivation in 20 blocks across the district. It is a technology from the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics in Hyderabad. In this, the seeds are raised in a nursery and then transplanted into the field,” Joint Director of Agriculture, Vellore K. Tamilselvan said.

In the traditional method of sowing, four kg of seeds were required per acre but only half kg seeds were required per acre in transplanted red gram cultivation, he added.

“We have given the farmers new variety of seeds — LRG-41 — this year along with several inputs such as micro nutrient mixture, bio-fertilisers, chemical fertilizers and DAP for spraying under the integrated nutrition management,” he mentioned.

A subsidy of Rs. 15,000 per hectare was given for farmers taking up the transplanted red gram cultivation. A total of Rs. 89.4 lakh has been allotted for this year, Mr. Tamilselvan noted.

“The advantages of the transplanted red gram cultivation are that it requires less seeds, has assured irrigation and plant population maintenance. In normal sowing, there is thick population of seeds and the plants compete with each other due to lack of maintaining the space between rows. This leads to reduction in yield. In transplantation, we can maintain the population of plants as there should be a row-to-row distance of six feet by one foot. As a result, the number of branches and flowers will increase giving better plant production,” he explained.

They expect 1,500 kg to 2,000 kg yield per hectare under the transplantation method, he said, adding, “In the normal sowing method, the yield is 750 kg per hectare.”

Rathnam, a farmer at Vellakuttai in Alangayam block, who had taken up the transplanted red gram cultivation, said, “The seedlings were raised in the nursery for about 20 days. It is two months since I transplanted the seedlings in the field. Lesser seeds were used and there is good growth of the plants as we are maintaining proper distance for each row of the crop. I am expecting a good yield.”

Thirty hectares of land in Alangayam block such as in Vellakuttai, Vallipattu, Kalenthira, Valayampattu, Madanancheri, Nimmiyampattu, Alangayam, 102 Reddiyur and Narasingapuram have come under transplanted red gram cultivation.

In fact, officials said the growth of the branches was one-and-a-half times more for a crop of the same age in the transplanted method of cultivation than the traditional method.

Shamsher Singh, National Consultant of National Food Security Mission, (Farm Machinery), Government of India, who reviewed the pulses production programmes on Wednesday, asked the officials of the Agriculture Department to explain the transplanted red gram cultivation to other farmers and hold demonstrations for them. This could be promoted among other farmers as it required less seeds and gave more yield, he mentioned.

BIDAR, September 7, 2012

Farmers form co-op. society

Farmers from Halbarga and surrounding villages have formed a cooperative society that will help them buy farm inputs and sell their produce for remunerative prices.

S.A. Patil, chairman, Karnataka Agriculture Mission, laid the foundation stone for the Farmers' Service Centre at Halbarga village in Bhalki taluk on Wednesday. The centre is promoted by Jai Kisan Multipurpose Cooperative, Halbarga.

IJAPUR, September 7, 2012

Minister flayed for not meeting farmers on fast

Janata Dal (Secular) State general secretary Basangouda Patil Yatnal has criticised district in-charge Minister S.K. Bellubbi for not hearing grievances of agitating farmers at Hirepadasalagi Jackwell.

He was addressing farmers on hunger strike at Hirepadasalagi Jackwell in Jamkhandi taluk of Bagalkot district on Thursday.

The farmers, led by Congress MLA from Bableshtar M.B. Patil, have been on relay hunger strike for the past five days demanding that the government implement tank-filling work expeditiously in the district.

After meeting the farmers, Mr. Yatnal said that Mr. Bellubbi has not shown any interest in meeting the farmers hunger strike.

Recalling his days of agitation for irrigation projects, he said that when he had resorted to a similar hunger strike, the then Deputy Chief Minister late M.P. Prakash met him as representative of the government and assured him of meeting the demand.

“Today’s Minister lack such courtesy and concern for agitations which is unfortunate,” he remarked.

Stating that Mr. Bellubbi announced at Teacher’s Day programme that Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar would be coming to the district on September 16 to inaugurate the tank-filling work, Mr. Yatnal said that the Minister could have passed on the information to the agitating farmers .

He said that Mr. Bellubbi, who was in-charge Minister, should have reviewed the work to fill tanks at least once in two months.

Meanwhile, the dharna entered the fifth day as residents of nearby villages, mainly women members and leaders of various parties, joined the protest and extended their support to it.

Hunger strike at Hirepadasalagi enters the fifth day on Thursday

KOLHAPUR, September 7, 2012

Farmers to oppose sugar quota order

Sugarcane producers and members of the co-operative sugar mills have decided to oppose the State Government's Director of Sugar Vijay Singhal's reported order denying subsidised sugar to the farmers, who are members of the respective mills. Sugarcane growers are legitimate members of the mills and are entitled to get sugar at a subsidised rate every month, the farmers said. Raju Shetty, MP and chief of Swabhimani Shetakari Sanghatana has reacted strongly to the reported order and threatened of a massive agitation if it was not revoked.— Correspondent

ALAPPUZHA, September 7, 2012

Seeds procured for pancha season

The pancha cultivation will begin in a total of 26,000 hectares of paddy fields in the district this financial year, said a release quoting the principal agricultural officer.

Subsidy

Seeds for the pancha cultivation are ready and 2,300 tonnes of seed procured from Kerala State Seeds Development Authority, Karnataka State Seeds Development Corporation and National Seeds Corporation will be made available to paddy farmers, the officer said.

Farmers should pay the entire amount and procure the seeds. A total of Rs.4,000 will be given as subsidy for production materials including seeds for one hectare.

The subsidy amount will be paid through the farmers' bank accounts through e-payment. Farmers will also be entitled to a discount of Rs.5 per kg of seed bought from Kerala State Seeds Development Authority under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) project and other discounts from the district panchayat's project. Farmers should contact the respective Krishibhavan for subsidy.

KALPETTA, September 7, 2012

Youth League seeks subsidy for cattle feed

The Youth League district committee has sought government intervention to arrest the spiralling price of cattle feed.

The present alarming situation could adversely affect close to 50,000 dairy farmers in the district. Any further increase in the price of cattle feed would worsen the situation driving the farmers away from the sector, claimed the committee in a press release here. The government should provide subsidy to farmers for cattle feeds.

Youth League district unit president Yahyakhhan Thalakkal presided.

KASARAGOD, September 7, 2012

Farmers to be trained in organic farming: Minister



Healthy option: Agriculture Minister K.P. Mohanan laying the foundation stone for the State's first organic farm school in Kasaragod on Thursday.

The government has decided to train farmers in organic farming practices, Agriculture Minister K.P. Mohanan has said.

He was laying the foundation stone for the first organic farm school in the State here on Thursday.

The farmers had switched over to costly chemical pesticides and fertilizers to earn quick money and, in the process, had departed from the traditional cultivation methods.

A high-level team would visit Sikkim to learn the lessons from the north-eastern State, which had completely switched over to organic farming.

The function was presided over by district panchayat president P.P. Shyamala Devi. Kasaragod Municipal Chairman T.E. Abdulla and senior CPCRI scientist C. Thampan addressed the function held at the district merchants bhavan here.

KATTAPPANA, September 7, 2012

Plan to promote terrace cultivation

The Agriculture Department will promote terrace cultivation of vegetables in Thodupuzha as part of an integrated plan.

Thodupuzha has already made great strides in terrace cultivation thanks to the support of residential associations and non-governmental governmental organisations (NGOs).

The seeds of tomato, chilly, brinjal, ladies' finger, small beans and red spinach, vegetables found suitable for terrace cultivation, will be distributed to household units through the Krishi Bhavan, said a senior official of the Agriculture Department. Each seed packet, costing Rs. 80, will be given to household units on a subsidy rate of Rs. 20.

Good response

Recently, vegetables distributed to houses for promoting horticulture drew good response from residents.

In the first phase, kits and bags for growing seeds will be given to 1,430 houses. The department will promote terrace cultivation in residential areas and in the high ranges, where vast land is available for cultivation, the official said.

Farmers will be advised on how to take care and maintain the vegetable garden.

The cultivation will ensure quality vegetables are readily available, every housetop has a green cover during the summer season, and family income is not spent on buying highly priced vegetables.

“In terrace cultivation, pest attacks are less and additional time is not needed for weed control,” said the official. Vegetable seeds packets will be distributed to those who register their name with the Krishi Bhavan in Thodupuzha.

The Agriculture Department plans to promote terrace cultivation in other towns also.

KOCHI, September 7, 2012

Milk sale up by 10 p.c.

The Ernakulam region of Milma registered a sale of milk and milk products worth Rs.15 crore during the 10-day Onam festival season. There was 10 per cent increase in sale of milk compared to that of previous year.

About 40 lakh litres of milk was sold during the period. The sale of curd recorded 21 per cent rise, while that of ghee and ice-cream went up by 25 per cent. The region sold 50,000 litres of ice-cream a month, the highest in the category among the Milma regions in the State, according to a statement issued here.

NAMAKKAL, September 7, 2012

Egg rate shoots up to Rs. 3.45

Highest egg rates	
June 18	- Rs. 3.22
June 21	- Rs. 3.24
June 23	- Rs. 3.26
June 25	- Rs. 3.28
June 28	- Rs. 3.33
August 28	- Rs. 3.34
August 29	- Rs. 3.40
September 6	- Rs. 3.45

The National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC), Namakkal Zone, on Thursday increased the wholesale price of egg at a new record high price of Rs. 3.45 and officially increased the packing and handling charges for traders from 20 paise per egg to 25 paise.

Namakkal Zone Chairman of the NECC P. Selvaraj made these announcements in an emergency meeting for farmers' that was held here on Thursday.

On August 28, the wholesale price touched a new record high price of Rs. 3.34 and was increased by six paise the following day to Rs. 3.40.

This price was maintained for eight days before it was increased by five paise to Rs. 3.45 on September 6.

Wholesale price

This increase has taken wholesale price of the commodity up by 73 paise (up by 27 per cent) since the committee fixed the minimum guarantee price of egg for the year 2012 at Rs. 2.72, on July 21.

The decision to increase the packing and handling charges by five paise was taken amidst mixed responses from various farmers' bodies.

While some farmers suggested that the deduction should remain at 20 paise, few others felt that it could be increased to 25 paise.

Roll back

A few farmers urged the NECC to roll back to its age old practise of selling eggs to the traders at the NECC's board rate, without deducting the packing and handling charges. The Chairman also said that the decision to fix the rate of egg on a daily basis would continue for a few more days.

PERAMBALUR, September 7, 2012

Crop loan mela tomorrow

A crop loan mela will be held at the Panchayat Union office at Veppanthattai on September 8.

According to a release from District Collector Darez Ahmed, the district administration, The Tiruchi District Central Co-operative Bank and the primary agricultural co-operative banks have joined hands to organise this camp where the farmers will be able to get interest free crop loan.

TIRUPUR, September 7, 2012

Cotton load gutted



A van carrying cotton load was gutted in an accidental fire near Palladam.

Police sources said the incident happened on Wednesday evening when the van accidentally came in contact with an overhead electricity cable. The loss was estimated around Rs. 5 lakh, sources added. — Staff Reporter




Fri, 07 Sep 2012

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather  Cloudy Rain: 0 Humidity: 84 Wind: normal	Friday, Sep 7 Max 35.4° Min 25.2° Sunrise: 05:57 Sunset: 06:15 Barometer: 1009	Tomorrow's Forecast  Rainy Max 34° Min 27°
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Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday Sep 9	Monday Sep 10	Tuesday Sep 11	Wednesday Sep 12	Thursday Sep 13
				
31° 26° Rainy	31° 27° Rainy	29° 26° Rainy	31° 26° Rainy	31° 26° Rainy

Airport Weather

Chennai

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs Sunrise: 6:35
Humidity: 84% Sunset: 18:03
Wind: Normal Barometer: 1009

Monsoon splashes into drought-hit states

India's monsoon has splashed back into life, lifting the threat of prolonged drought in the major rice and sugar producer with a second consecutive week of heavier-than-normal rains that could revive yields of summer crops and enable early winter planting.

The rains, vital for the 55 per cent of India's farmland without irrigation, were a hefty 31 per cent above average in the past week, the weather office said on Thursday.

Three-quarters of the way into the season the rains are still 10 per cent short of normal, but the drought's severity has declined as rainfall picked up during the last fortnight in west and south India, where output of cereals and pulses had been threatened.

The revival has allowed the government to hold off further crisis action and it has postponed to next week a planned summit on the drought - the second such meeting this year.

"The monsoon scenario has improved as most of the drought-hit areas of south and western regions received heavy splash in last week," said a senior official of the India Meteorological Department, who did not want to be named.

India, with a huge land mass that contains nearly all climates and soil types, last faced widespread drought in 2009 when the June-to-September monsoon rains were 22 per cent below average and it had to import sugar, pushing global prices to 30-year highs.

The weather office earlier this month officially declared the rains to be deficient - below 90 per cent of long-term averages and a drought in layman's terms. It is the second drought in four years.

The government has had to take steps to cut irrigation costs and increase fodder supplies for livestock farmers as lack of rains hit animal feed. The drought is also expected to cut output of

pulses and trigger higher imports of a cheap source of protein in a country with some half a billion poor people.

Although agriculture experts said the revival is unlikely to erase damage caused by poor rainfall in the first half of the June-to-September rainy season, it could improve yield prospects for summer planted crops such as rice, cane, soybeans and cotton.

It should also help sowing of winter crops such as wheat and rapeseed and is filling up depleted reservoirs, easing a potential drinking water shortage.

"Late monsoon revival will mitigate drinking water problems in rain-fed areas and improve soil moisture before the rabi (winter) sowing," said Y.K. Alagh, chairman of the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA).

Water resources in main reservoirs have shown progressive improvement, equalling a 10-year average level in the previous two weeks, also easing concerns about major shortages of hydro-electric power in Asia's third-largest economy.

In the previous week, rainfall across the country was 6 per cent above average, as the monsoon revived in rice, cane and soybean areas of the country.

The weather official said the monsoon would remain in an active phase in most parts of northwest and central parts with no sign of any withdrawal from the desert state of Rajasthan, where the four-month-long rainy season usually starts its retreat.



Incessant rain makes apple harvesting difficult

MANALI: The prolonged rainy season has brought difficulties for orchardists in upper Kullu, where [apple harvesting](#) has just begun but rains are making plucking of fruit difficult.

An apple grower in [Burua village](#), [Roshan Lal](#) said his fruits have ripened and need harvesting but he is not finding enough time to spend in the orchard. "The sky remains overcast and it rains every day. We barely get a couple of hours to harvest the apple crop," he said.

The orchardists are finding it difficult to coax the labourers to work in orchards. "We hire labourers for the entire apple season. Now, if they have no work to do because of rain, we still have to pay them for the whole day," complained another grower Chuni Negi.

Apple season in the lower belt of Kullu is almost over, while in upper areas it would last till the end of this month. Lack of proper sunlight has made apple plants prone to premature falling of leaves, scab and fungal diseases.

August rally, September rains may see monsoon lose its deficit tag

New Delhi/Pune: Spurred by late rally and predictions of good showers till September 10, the monsoon on Thursday emerged out of the "deficit" category with the over all shortfall at 9% of the long period average (LPA). This means that over all rainfall currently is more than 90% of the [LPA](#) for the season.

If the current rain pattern holds, the monsoon season can end with rainfall beating the deficit categorization. After August recorded close to 100% LPA rainfall, fears of [El Nino](#) impacting September rains are receding and the [Indian Meteorological Department](#) (IMD) is finally upbeat about this year's monsoon. There are no signs of withdrawal of the southwest monsoon yet as good monsoon conditions prevail in the northwest and the central parts of the country. "The withdrawal won't happen quickly and may be delayed by a week," an official from the IMD's weather forecasting section said.

Officials say that with good rain expected over most parts of the country over the next week or so, the overall deficiency at the end of the season should not be more than 10%.

"We predicted 96% LPA rain for August with an error margin of 9%. The month's rains came as a relief. There were expectations of the September rain being affected by El Nino conditions. These conditions are yet to develop in a way that they would affect the southwest monsoon," said [IMD](#) director general [L S Rathore](#).

With the El Nino threat failing to materialize, September is also expected to see better rain than earlier anticipated, Rathore said.

Between August 30 and September 5, the country recorded 63.8 mm rainfall, which was 31% in excess of the normal of 48.9 mm for the week.

The damage done to sowing of coarse grains in June-July is not likely to be undone, but rice sowing is almost at par. The current rains should be beneficial to the standing crop as well although the regional distribution of rainfall will count as much as the cumulative precipitation.

With heavy showers in Rajasthan over the past week, northwest India is no longer the driest part of the country. Its shortfall till Tuesday was just 14%, marginally ahead of east and northeast India which are facing a deficiency of 15%.

Saurashtra and Kutch remain the driest regions with a deficiency of 65%, followed by Punjab with a deficiency of 56%. Gujarat and the Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi region are deficient by 42% each.

"The normal date of the start of monsoon withdrawal is September 1 and by September 15, the monsoon should have withdrawn from parts of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat," said a Metofficial.

Till September 7, heavy, widespread rain is expected over the west coast, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Rajasthan, Gujarat, interior Maharashtra, Karnataka, central India, western Himalayan region, north-eastern states, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Punjab and Delhi.

IIPR celebrates Foundation Day

KANPUR: The Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR) celebrated its 20th Foundation Day here on Wednesday. Director, IIT-Kanpur, Sanjay Govind Dhande was the chief guest for the occasion. Director, Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, Probir Kumar Ghosh was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, SG Dhande said that in comparison to year 1950, the production of crops has increased by five times but still people are suffering from malnutrition. He expressed his concern over the declining availability of pulses for each individual. Prof Dhande also suggested that the fertilisers should be used with constraints. He also expressed concern over the bad affects of rising pollution levels over the fields.

He added that if the hybrid quality of seeds and production techniques are made available to the farmers, the production of the crops are likely to go up by 30%. He urged the scientists present, to work in the direction of benefitting the farmers.

PK Ghosh expressed concern over the difficulties the farmers are facing in getting the high quality of seeds and advanced production techniques. He said that if the farmers are made a part of the various research based programmes and the same research is applied in their fields they will surely good results.

Director, [IIPR](#), [N Nadarajan](#), while delivering his address spoke about the various activities going on in the institute. He also highlighted the achievements of the institute and added that the various projects going on pulses under national programmes have remained successful.

He said that a training and communication centre has been set up at IIPR, which would be benefitting farmers. On this occasion, four new publications including Resource Conservation Technology and Pulse Based Cropping System, Genes Technology For Pulses Improvement, Techniques In Plant Biotechnology and Advances In Pulses Genomics Research were released.

During the function, Aditya Pratap was awarded the Best Scientist Award 2012. [Lallan Yadav](#) was awarded the Best Worker in Technical Category. Also, Rajendra Singh and Samar Singh

was awarded the Best Worker award in the Administrative and Assistant Categories. Vote of thanks was proposed by Sanjeev Gupta.

Scientists of IIPR develop new varieties of pulses

KANPUR: Scientists at the Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR) have successfully developed new high-yielding and hardier varieties of pigeon pea (Arhar), chickpea (Chana) and mung bean, as well as a hybrid variety of pigeon pea that is said to be the most remarkable achievement for the institute.

Named as IPH 09-5 (hybrid), this cytoplasmic genetic male sterility ([CGMS](#)) based early duration pigeon pea hybrid developed at [IIPR](#) has been identified suited for eastern Uttar Pradesh, [Bihar](#), Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam. The most important characteristic of this hybrid pigeon-pea variety is that it exhibits 33% yield superiority over the best existing variety. Also, it is resistant to Fusarium wilt and sterility mosaic diseases. Moreover, the seed is also more attractive in colour, shape and size, the scientists claim.

IIPR scientists have also developed IPA 203, a long-duration pigeon pea variety that showed yield superiority by 11.2% over pigeon pea varieties like MA 6. This pigeon pea variety matures in 246 days and the seed is larger, darker in colour, with 23.02% protein content. The variety is resistant to sterility mosaic disease, tolerant to Phytophthora stem blight and resistant to most of the variants of Fusarium wilt. It has been identified for eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam.

Dr [N Nadarajan](#), director, IIPR, highlighted these traits of the new varieties of pigeon pea, chickpea and mungbean developed by the institute during its Foundation Day function. He apprised the scientists present that two other early varieties of mungbean with maturity period of 45-46 days have also been developed at IIPR. These two varieties of mung bean are suited for any cropping system.

Further, scientists at the institute have also identified heat tolerant varieties of chickpea and lentil that will be shortly available for cultivation. Notably, IIPR has also developed an online

"Pulsexpert" system for the benefit of farmers and agriculturalists to identify diseases in the pulse crops and their remedies.

CSA celebrates Foundation Day of farmers' council

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.

THE  NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

Cauvery row: TN wants Karnataka to release 2 TMC of water per day

By Express News Service - NEW DELHI:

07th September 2012 09:22 AM

Tamil Nadu has pleaded with the apex court that pending a decision on the Cauvery River Authority (CRA) meeting, it should direct Karnataka to release at least 2 TMC of water per day from its reservoirs so that farmers in Tamil Nadu could commence Samba cultivation.

Tamil Nadu filed its reply on Thursday to the rejoinder affidavit filed by Karnataka on September 3, wherein the latter had reiterated its stand that Tamil Nadu is not entitled to any share of waters and that it is under no obligation to release water till the end of December.

Tamil Nadu stated that the direction for release of water, pending resolution of the distress formula by the CRA, is absolutely necessary to enable its farmers to commence Samba crop cultivation by opening the Mettur Reservoir and make up for the short-fall at least partially.

Otherwise, it would jeopardise agricultural operations in the state. Karnataka has stated in their letter dated September 1, this year that the CRA meeting be convened at the end of September.

But Samba cultivation, which has already been delayed, should at least commence by the middle of September, for which supply from Mettur reservoir has to be ensured, Tamil Nadu felt.

Hence to take decisions regarding making up the short-fall at least partially, pending the meeting of CRA, which has now been scheduled for September 19 this year at 5 pm in New Delhi, the apex court may please direct Karnataka government to release at least two TMC of water per day from its reservoirs, the Tamil Nadu said.

THE HINDU Business Line

Rain, slack buying dampen mustard



Our Correspondent

Indore, Sept. 6:

Bearish sentiment continued in mustard oil and seeds on weak global cues and sluggish demand in the physical

market. Besides poor demand, strong buying support in soya oil and heavy rain in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

during the last few days have also dampened trading,. Mustard oil prices in Indore mandis have declined by Rs 6 to

Rs 822 for 10 kg in the last one week. In Rajasthan, while it ruled stable in Kota at Rs 825, in Ganga Nagar it was

quoted at Rs 828 (down Rs 2 from last week). In Jaipur also, mustard oil was ruling Rs 5 down to Rs 835, while in

Gujarat, it was at Rs 815 (down Rs 5 from last week). A few weeks ago, mustard oil had shot up to as high as Rs 855.

Despite the current sluggish trend, bearish sentiment in mustard oil in near future appears unlikely, given rise in

demand during the winter season and depleting domestic stocks, said Vijay Kumar Jain, a Jawad-based trader.

Weak demand has also dragged mustard seeds prices in the physical market, with its price in Indore mandis at Rs

4,400-4,500 a quintal, down Rs 100 compared with its prices last week. Similarly, in Neemuch mandi also, mustard

seeds were ruling low at Rs 4,000-4,100 (down Rs 100). Weak demand from crushers has also dragged down plant

deliveries for Jaipur line to Rs 4,420-4,440 (Rs 4,585).

On the NCDEX, mustard seeds slipped by Rs 100 a quintal in the past one week with September and October

contracts closing at Rs 4,351 and Rs 4,450 a quintal respectively.

Arrival was recorded at 65,000 bags including 5,000 bags in Madhya Pradesh, 6,000 bags in Uttar Pradesh, 35,000

bags in Rajasthan, 7,000 bags in Punjab/Haryana, 4,000 bags in Gujarat and 8,000 bags elsewhere in the country.

Low export enquiries drag jeera futures



Rajkot, Sept 6:

After witnessing short covering in morning session, jeera futures prices continued to decline due to lower demand

from exporters, while it remained unchanged in spot on Thursday.

At Unjha mandi of Gujarat, jeera was quoted at Rs 2,360-2,460/20 kg, NCDEX quality raw quoted at Rs 2,675-2,825.

Arrival stood at 3,500-4,000 bags. In Rajkot APMC, jeera prices stood at Rs 2,450-2,670/20 kg. About 250-300 bags

arrived in Rajkot.

According to sources, persistent selling by hedgers in the futures market against their physical stocks might incite

strong selling in jeera futures in the near term.

Moreover, poor export demand of domestic jeera in the near term due to fresh supplies from Syria and Turkey lead to

some selling in both spot and futures market.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), jeera October contract declined by Rs 72.50 to Rs

14,255/quintal with an open interest of 26,466 lots. November contract moved down by Rs 82.50 to Rs 14,625 with an

open interest of 5,673 lots.

According to trade, rain in the top producing state of Gujarat, raising the prospects of better sowing, was also a

reason for the down trend.

PTI reports from New Delhi: Jeera common and jeera best quality increased by Rs 100 each to Rs 15,100-15,200

and Rs 18,300-18,800, respectively.

Traders said that buying support from stockists on hopes that export demand may pick up against restricted arrivals

from producing regions, mainly pushed up turmeric and jeera prices in the wholesale market here

Buyers prefer Warangal turmeric to Erode



Erode, Sept 6:

Buyers' preference for turmeric from Warangal in Andhra Pradesh to the one grown in and around Erode, led to

further fall in the spice's prices on Thursday.

"The price is low in all the turmeric markets, prices decreased by Rs 150 a quintal on Thursday in Erode markets due

to want of demand from North India.

Some traders, however, bought first grade turmeric from Warangal for a lower price. R.K.V. Ravishankar, President,

Erode Turmeric Merchants Association, said that traders are stocking them. They are expecting fresh orders from

September 15. Arrivals in the four markets have started increasing. On Thursday, out of 3,790 bags that came up for

sale, 2,421 were sold. Some farmers demanded Rs 9,000 a quintal. Farmers said that they have more than 25 lakh bags

of turmeric stock. With just 90 trading days to go this year, such huge stocks can not be sold.

They said if the price

increases by Rs 1,000 more for a quintal they will bring more quantity for sale.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,419-6,664, the root

variety at Rs 3,399-5,960.

Salem hybrid Crop

The finger variety sold at Rs 6,014-6,884, the root variety Rs 5,711-6,290. Of 1,438 bags 285 were bought off.

At the Regulated Marketing Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,536-6,929, the root variety at Rs 5,369-

6,288. Of 884 bags that arrived, 759 offers were accepted. At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger

variety fetched Rs 5,309- 6,666.

The root variety was quoted at Rs 5,100-6,199. All the 1,228 bags of turmeric kept for sale were sold.