

## **Plea to clear silt in Kattalai high-level channel to aid tail-end farmers**

*To irrigate 15,000 acres in Karur, 7,000 acres in Tiruchi*

Silt accumulated in the Kattalai High-Level Channel need to be cleared to ensure that tail-end farmers in Karur and Tiruchi districts get water when it is available, farmers voiced at the grievances day meet here on Friday.

Cauvery Delta Farmers Welfare Association deputy secretary Kavandampatti R. Subramanian pointed out that the KHLC runs from Mayanur in Karur district to Thayanur in Tiruchi district, a distance of around 60 km.

The channel irrigates hundred of acres in the Chief Minister Jayalalithaa's constituency, Srirangam, in Tiruchi district.

Over the years, the channel has got silted up and that prevents water let into the channel from Mayanur where it branches off the Cauvery from reaching the tail-end areas, forcing the farmers in those regions to suffer for want of water.

Around 15,000 acres in Karur district and another 7,000 acres in Tiruchi district would stand to gain if the KHLC was cleared of silt and renovated by replacing the damaged shutters and sluices wherever necessary, Mr. Subramanian demanded.

Adverting to the issue of compensation for drought-affected farmers, Mr. Subramanian said that the departments of revenue,

agriculture, and horticulture must coordinate assessment work to help farmers get prompt and just relief.

The officials must announce the schedule for survey of damage so that farmers could represent their case effectively.

Noting that there was primary difference between assessing the damage in banana and paddy crops, Mr. Subramani wanted the officials to have an understanding of the problems involved in arriving at the loss suffered by the farmers. Raising banana crop over one acre involves an expenditure of Rs.1 lakh and that should be kept in mind, he said.

Other farmers, including Esanatham Selvaraj and Thangavel, demanded assured three-phase power supply for agricultural operations and claimed farmers were kept in the dark as to when power would be supplied.

"We need at least six-hour session of assured three-phase power supply during days and nights," they demanded. They countered the Tangedco officials' contention that three-hour supply was being maintained at present.

Collector S. Jayandhi, Joint Director of Agriculture M. Deivendran, and Joint Registrar of Cooperatives M. Santhanam participated .

## **Farmers' association wants free power scheme scrapped**

The United Farmers' Association of Tamil Nadu has appealed to Chief Minister Jayalalithaa to withdraw free power scheme for agriculture as it has led to indiscriminate exploitation of groundwater.

In a statement here, association president C. Vyapurai, while welcoming the announcement for desalination plants to meet the drinking water needs of Chennai city, wondered what would happen to the State in future if the present situation were to continue.

“Is it possible to extend the same facility to villages that are facing serious water shortage,” he asked.

He pointed out that Tamil Nadu was not a desert and even when monsoons had failed and famine had struck the State, “there was never a hue and cry for drinking water at any point of time.” He lamented that the rivers had all dried up and even in the Cauvery delta it was only *karuvel* trees that were able to grow.

Using the electric motors, water was tapped from a depth of 500 ft. to 1,000 ft. “Apart from the selfishness and ignorance of mankind to the impending peril, administrations without proper perspective had contributed to the current situation of serious water scarcity even in rural areas,” he alleged.

He said Tamil Nadu should take a bold decision and withdraw free power scheme for agricultural pumpsets. Besides, it should implement a “crop pattern” system.

“It is because of the permission to sink wells and borewells indiscriminately and exploit groundwater using free power that crop pattern had been totally disturbed,” he said.

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- *Free power supply blamed for overexploitation of groundwater*
  - *‘Water is now being drawn from a depth of 1000 feet’*
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# 'Will provide scholarships to farmers' children'

*I have received phenomenal support everywhere:  
Yeddyurappa*



*Consultation:Karnataka Janata Paksha president B.S. Yeddyurappa having a word with the KJP candidate, Vimalabai Deshmukh during an election meeting in Muddebihal taluk in Bijapur district on Sunday.*

: The former Chief Minister and Karnataka Janata Paksha (KJP) president B.S. Yeddyurappa has said that if voted to power, his party will grant scholarships for the children of farmers for pursuing medical and engineering courses.

Addressing an election meeting here on Sunday, he said that being son of a farmer, he understood their problems. "It was with this concern that, when I was Chief Minister, I launched schemes such as giving bicycles and the 'Bhagyalakshmi' scheme to help the children of poor farmers," he said.

In his nearly 30-minute-long speech, he listed out the welfare programmes he launched during his tenure and urged the people to vote his party to power for extending more such benefits.

Interestingly, throughout his speech, he did not criticise any party or person, but only tried to highlight works he launched during his tenure as Chief Minister.

Claiming that it was the people and his party activists who were the party's high command, Mr. Yeddyurappa said that the KJP had no high command system like the Congress or the BJP.

Mr. Yeddyurappa said that since the people have lost faith in national parties, they have decided to vote for the regional parties such as the KJP.

Party candidate from Muddebihal Vimalabai Deshmukh, who quit the Janata Dal (Secular) and joined the KJP, was present.

Mr. Yeddyurappa also campaigned for the KJP's Nagathan constituency candidate Vithal Katakadonda.

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- *Yeddyurappa says he launched many schemes for farmers' children during his tenure as CM*
  - *'People are the KJP's high command'*
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## **Call to include farm sector in MGNREGS**

A district planning committee meeting, chaired by district panchayat president K.V. Sasi here on Saturday, urged the Union government to reconsider its decision to exclude the agriculture sector from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Such a move would adversely affect agrarian districts such as Wayanad, the meeting said. It decided to submit a memorandum to the State government over the issue.

It directed the local administrative bodies to upload their projects during the current fiscal and spill-over projects of previous fiscal online before May 31 for the approval of the committee. It directed

the local bodies to set up separate autorickshaw stands in major towns as per the direction of the Supreme Court.

The meeting decided to install a colour television in the newly renovated park near the civil station here.

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## **Drought forces farmers to sell cattle**



Farmers sell over 300 cattle- most of them oxen- to slaughterhouses owing to severe drought conditions in Anantapur region.

# Rain and gale dash mango farmers' hopes

*Heaps of fruit lay scattered in many orchards in Krishna district*



Workers collecting damaged mangoes in an orchard at Keertirayanigudem in Krishna district on Sunday. (Right) A woman showing the damaged fruits. - PHOTO: V. RAJU

Farmers have expected a 'windfall' and consumers are eagerly waiting for the 'king of fruit' to enter the market.

But, Saturday's rain and gale dashed the hopes of one and all. Farmers, however, were the worst-hit.

The early morning activity in the mango orchards in the Central and Western Krishna district on Sunday reflected the extent of damage nature had caused to the farmers. In one orchard after the other, farmers were seen collecting the fruit that dropped under the impact of the sudden rain and gale.

"Our dreams have been shattered," said the farmers. Heaps of damaged fruit were lying scattered under the trees in the orchards at Mylavaram, A. Konduru, Gampalagudem, Tiruvuru, Vissannapeta, and other mandals in the district.

In many orchards, workers piled up the damaged fruit that included varieties such as 'banginapally', 'chinna rasalu', 'pedda rasalu', and 'totapuri', and shifted the stock to the local markets.

In some orchards, many trees were uprooted causing heavy loss to the farmers.

“I invested Rs.50,000 on pesticide, wages, and other purposes. We have expected a bumper yield. But nature has left only tears for us,” said a farmer G. Madhava Rao.

Another farmer V. Ramanaiah said the damaged fruit would fetch very low price in the market.

Ten workers were needed to collect the damaged fruit from five acres of orchards. They had to be paid Rs.150 to Rs.200 per head per day.

Proceeds from the sale of damaged fruit would not be sufficient to meet labour and transport charges, he said.

“We planned to pluck the fruit in the first week of May, as they will be ripe by then. Fruit that naturally ripe on trees will be sweet and are good for health. People prefer to consume such fruits, as they are free of chemicals. The heavy gale damaged the ripe fruit causing severe loss,” said Mr. Ramanaiah.

Farmers dumped the damaged fruit on the roadside at Velvadam, Pata Naguluru, Keertirayanigudem, and other villages.

Horticulture officials are estimating the crop loss in the district.

## **‘BJP, Congress have neglected poor, farmers’**

*CPI(M) launches campaign for the May 5 polls in Gulbarga*

Politburo member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) M.A. Baby launched the party’s campaign for the May 5 Assembly polls in Gulbarga district by criticising the Union government for its failure to protect the interests of the poor.



He was speaking at V.K. Salagar village in the Gulbarga Rural segment, where State Secretariat member and president of the Karnataka Pranta Raita Sangha Maruti Manpade is contesting on the party ticket. Mr. Baby said the economic policies pursued by the UPA government had ruined the lives of the poor and the working class in the country.



*CPI(M) Politburo member M.A. Baby addressing a press conference in Gulbarga on Sunday.— Photo: Arun Kulkarni*

He accused the BJP government in the State of “being steeped in corruption”. They have neglected the poor and the farming community, he added.

Earlier, addressing a press conference here on Sunday, Mr. Baby said that leftist parties were contesting in 30 segments.

The CPI(M) will field 16 candidates, the CPI will field eight, and the Forward Bloc will field 6, he said.

Besides this, the left parties have extended support to likeminded parties, such as the Lok Satta and Sarvodaya Party in 60 other constituencies in the State.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Manpade expressed confidence of winning the elections. The series of agitations launched by the CPI(M) and the KPRS, to protect the interests of red gram growers, and similar movements, are sure to help the party’s chances in the elections, he added.

# **Training programmes on agriculture allied activities**

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) has organised two free one-day training programmes for farmers and those who are interested in taking up agriculture related activities.

Interested persons should enrol for the programme in the Kendra in person or over phone at 04286-266345, 266244 or 266650 at the latest by 5 p.m. on the eve of the programme.

A programme on management of dairy cow and pregnant animals during the summer has been organised at the Kendra from 9 a.m. on Tuesday. Participants will be trained on breeds of cows, breeding and food management, managing the cows in summer, care for pregnant cows, protecting the cow and calf from diseases and vaccination.

Another training programme on new varieties of fish culture will be held on Thursday. Participants will be trained on the types of carp fish, maintaining feed and water in which the fish is reared, breeding and how to build artificial tanks to rear fish and maintain it.

The programme includes theory classes and visits to model farms where good management practices are followed.

## **Share experience to overcome challenges in agriculture**

*M.S. Swaminathan inaugurates farm school at Pasupathikoil*

Every farmer should become a scientist by learning from his experience and finding out methods to meet the challenges in

agriculture. For this to happen, farmers should share their field experiences among themselves, observed M.S. Swaminathan, agricultural scientist, here on Sunday.



*Joint effort: M.S. Swaminathan, founder, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, presenting certificate to Kalaivani Rajendran at Pasupathikoil near Thanjavur on Sunday.— Photo: B. Velankanni Raj*

Inaugurating a farm school established by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation with financial assistance from Indian Overseas Bank at Pasupathikoil near Thanjavur, Dr. Swaminathan advocated a 'land-to-land' approach in which farmers can share their field experiences and contribute to food production. The farm school is aimed at providing a platform for farmers to share their experience.

Stressing the importance of practical knowledge, Dr. Swaminathan said that 'an ounce of practice is worth tonnes of theory.'

The Cauvery delta is facing many challenges such as water scarcity, climate change, and global warming. Farmers are taking to water efficient cultivation methods such as System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method and drip irrigation. The idea is to find out how more production can be achieved for every drop of water.

He advised farmers of Cauvery delta to take to cultivation of millets along with paddy and called for joint efforts by farmers, scientists, bankers, traders and officials for increasing food production in the country.

He appreciated the Indian Overseas Bank for providing financial assistance for establishing the farm school at Pasupathikoil. The institution is based on the principles of learning by doing. It will impart a sense of grassroots realism to the capacity building programmes.

Raghu Vatsa Chari, Chief Regional Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, said that taking the suggestion made by M.S. Swaminathan for creation of farm schools, Indian Overseas Bank has given Rs. 25 lakhs for establishing farm schools in five places in the country.

Two schools have been allotted for Tamil Nadu one at Kannivadi in Dindigul district and another at Pasupathikoil.

## **Study identifies constraints on crop productivity**

The Department of Agriculture is analysing the constraints causing productivity gap in different major crops in the district as part of its on-going action plan 2012-13.

Studies suggests that the major constraints affecting the crop productivity are poor soil health, lack of efficient irrigation facility and water reach to tail-end areas and low degree of farm mechanization and inadequate extension.

In paddy cultivation, non adoption of green manure and grain legumes preceding rice in kharif and indiscriminate use of nitrogenous fertilizers and top dressing of complex fertilizers containing phosphorous apart from improper nursery management, micro-nutrient deficiency, low plant population and over-aged seedlings, among others, were contributing to low paddy production.

In pulses, non adoption of seed rate and location specific high yielding varieties and non adoption of seed treatment and proper plant protection management were the reasons for poor production

levels. Failure in application of phosphorous fertilizers and micro-irrigation systems has also contributed to poor crop performance.

In oil seeds cultivation poor mechanization and management of stem and bud necrosis, non adoption of micro-irrigation systems and non-usage of quality seed, seed treatment and low usage of gypsum are the main constraints.

The agriculture officers as part of measures to boost productivity levels suggested several interventions at village and mandal levels including using of green manure, reclamation of problematic soils and soil correction of micro-nutrient deficiencies. Some of the strategies recommended including capacity enhancement for farmers on specific nutrient requirement for paddy, training farmers on over-aged seedlings management, supplying of paddy transplanting machines on subsidy, imparting training on weed and integrated pest management.

In-charge Joint Director Agriculture D.Kurma Rao told The Hindu that the constraints were being identified for low agriculture production and strategies worked out to tackle them. Farmers are also being educated on adoption of healthy agricultural practices through the farmers field schools and also on the steps that should be taken to tackle productivity gaps and neutralise decline in crop production.

## **Team to assess crop damage in Theni**

: A special monitoring team comprising forest, horticultural and agricultural officials will be formed to assess crop damaged by wild animals, according to Collector K.S. Palanisamy.

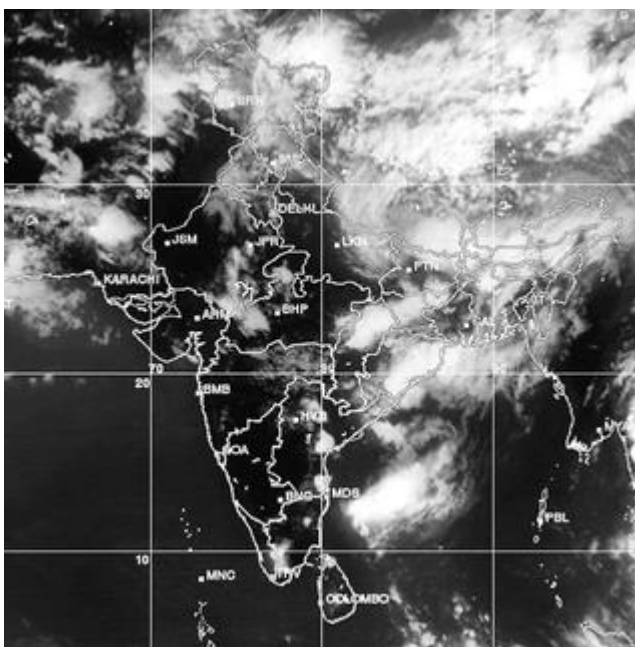
He presided over an agriculturists' grievances day meeting here on Friday.

The committee would visit the villages near the reserve forests, monitor the movement of animals and assess the crop damage. It would find a solution to the problem after a consultation with the community. Earlier, farmers from Thevaram and Bodi complained that wild animals often destroyed standing crops and posed a threat to lives of people living at a village near the reserve forest.

An assistant director of agriculture will be appointed in the Agamalai hill in Bodi block to guide farmers in raising horticulture crops. A farmers' festival will be conducted on April 30 in the hill to propagate the latest technologies to farmers.

To an appeal, the collector advised public works officials to desilt Chettikulam tank immediately to improve the storage level and ensure water for raising single crop.

## Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on April 21st.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	40	23	0	26
New Delhi (Sfd)	38	21	0	22
Chandigarh	37	21	0	26
Hissar	39	17	0	40

Bhuntar	29	10	0	133
Shimla	23	13	0	108
Jammu	36	19	0	34
Srinagar	22	9	0	140
Amritsar	37	17	0	5
Patiala	38	19	0	23
Jaipur	38	22	0	7
Udaipur	35	21	0	7
Allahabad	40	24	0	11
Lucknow	37	21	0	1
Varanasi	38	22	0	7
Dehradun	34	18	0	18
Agartala	35	20	1	67
Ahmedabad	38	22	tr	6
Bangalore	35	23	0	22
Bhubaneshwar	38	20	9	11
Bhopal	34	18	31	52
Chennai	37	26	0	32
Guwahati	31	19	10	58
Hyderabad	39	26	0	42
Kolkata	35	23	0	13
Mumbai	33	25	0	0
Nagpur	41	21	0	16
Patna	26	21	9	10
Pune	35	20	0	3
Thiruvananthapuram	35	26	0	105
Imphal	32	16	1	95
Shillong	23	11	16	54

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (tr-trace) and total rainfall in mm since 1st March.

## RAIN AT MANY PLACES

**RAINFALL:** Rain/thundershowers have occurred at most places over Jammu and Kashmir, at many places over Uttarakhand, at few places over Himachal Pradesh and east Uttar Pradesh and at isolated places over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm are: HARYANA: Nilokheri 1, HAIMACHAL PRADESH: Mandi, Kangra and Dharamsala 1 each, JAMMU AND KASHMIR: Poonch 5, Pahalgam and Kupwara 2 each and Srinagar, Quazigund, Bhaderwah, Kukarnag, Gulmarg and Awantipur 1 each, EAST UTTAR PRADESH: Kaiserganj 5, Dudhi 4, Gorakhpur, Bansgaon and Maharajgang 3 each, Churk, Basti, Tarabganj and Nighasan 2

each and Ghazipur, Lalganj, Chandauli and Hata 1 each,  
UTTARAKHAND: Pithoragarh 2 and Mukteshwar and Pantnagar 1  
each.

**MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES:** The maximum temperatures fell appreciably in east Uttar Pradesh, fell in Jammu and Kashmir, west Rajasthan, west Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and changed little elsewhere. They were above normal in Punjab, largely below normal in east Uttar Pradesh, appreciably below normal in Jammu and Kashmir and west Uttar Pradesh, below normal in Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and normal in rest of the region. The highest maximum temperature in the region was 42.8°C recorded at New Delhi (Palam).

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 23rd April 2013:** Rain/thundershowers may occur at many places over Jammu and Kashmir during next 24 hours and at one or two places thereafter. Rain/thundershowers may occur at a few places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and east Uttar Pradesh during next 24 hours and at one or two places subsequent 24 hours. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during next 24 hours and mainly dry weather thereafter.

**WARNING:** Thunder squall may occur at one or two places over Jammu division of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during next 24 hours.

**FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 23rd April 2013:** Generally cloudy sky. Light rain/thunderstorm may occur intermittently.



## **Water level**

Water level in Periyar dam was 112.40 feet on Sunday with an inflow of 100 cusecs and discharge of 100 cusecs. Permissible level is 136 feet. In Vaigai dam, the water level was 43.47 feet as against the total permissible level of 71 feet. Inflow was nil and discharge was 2,060 cusecs.

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Sunday stood at 66.55 feet (permissible level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 103.89 cusecs and 394.75 cusecs was discharged from the dam. The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 84.99 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 11 cusecs and 5 cusecs was discharged.

### **Kanyakumari**

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 13.80 feet. It was 25.65 feet in Perunchani, 3.15 feet in Chittar 1, 3.25 feet in Chittar 11 and 0.60 feet in Poigai dam.

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## Weather

### Chennai - INDIA

#### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

**Monday, Apr 22**

**Max Min**

31° | 27°

**Rain:** 0

**Sunrise:** 05:52

**Humidity:** 66

**Sunset:** 06:22

**Wind:** normal

**Barometer:** 1010

#### Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

**Tuesday, Apr 23**

**Max Min**

35° | 27°

#### Extended Forecast for a week

<b>Wednesday Apr 24</b>	<b>Thursday Apr 25</b>	<b>Friday Apr 26</b>	<b>Saturday Apr 27</b>	<b>Sunday Apr 28</b>
36°   26°	36°   27°	36°   27°	35°   27°	36°   27°
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Overcast	Overcast

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## Rain or no rain, vegetables prices on the rise

By Harshita Ashok | ENS - BANGALORE

22nd April 2013 07:51 AM



With decreasing production of vegetables, there is a constant rise in their prices, which is definitely hurting many Bangaloreans. | EPS

Untimely rains and dry spells across the state have caused vegetable prices to double in the past few days. A balanced diet with fresh vegetables and fruits has become a distant dream to many middle class and working class families. Dry wells and shortage of water has led to the decrease in the production of vegetables and hence the hike in prices.

Sarala P, resident of Sanjaynagar says, "The sudden increase in prices has caused a lot of problems for me. I make sure I buy only necessary amount of vegetables on a daily basis so that nothing goes to waste." It has become increasingly difficult for middle-class to maintain monthly budgets with the hike in prices.

A vendor from a local market when asked about the effect of price hike on customers said that, "There is not much of a difference in the number of customers as vegetables are necessary for everyday meals, but regular customers buy lesser quantity compared to before because of high prices".

According to D K Gowda, general manager, Hopcoms, said that, "There is a decrease in the production of vegetables due to no rains and dry bore wells. In some places, because of unexpected rains crops failed. Increase in temperature inhibits pollination of peas, beans and other vegetables which has resulted in no yields." He expects the prices to drop soon. Since there is shortage of supply and high demand, there is a sudden shoot up prices.

"The supply of vegetables has gone down drastically because of shortage of water in agricultural lands, no rains and dry bore wells. Increase in temperature has also caused the decrease in production." Said an official from Russel market. Prices of fruits have not been affected to a high extent as the mango supply has increased which compensates for other fruits.

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## **Business Standard**<sup>beta</sup>

# Wheat exports feasible as global prices firming up: FCI

**Global wheat prices fell sharply in the last one month but have started firming up now**



Amid demands from traders to cut floor price of government wheat for exports, Food Corporation of India (FCI) today said global price of the grain is firming up and it is still feasible to undertake shipments.

Last month, the Centre had allowed export of additional 5 million tonnes (MT) wheat (of 2011-12 crop) from its godowns via private trade to ease storage burden. The export allocation was to be done via bidding process with floor price set at \$274 per tonne (Rs 14,840) plus 12.5 per cent of local taxes.

"Traders are demanding reduction in the floor price. But currently, our wheat is sold at \$304-306 per tonne, while Australia and the US wheat at \$260 and 270 a tonne. Why our wheat is purchased above Rs 300 level? It is still feasible," FCI Chairman and Managing Director Amar Singh told PTI.

He noted that the global wheat prices fell sharply in the last one month but have started firming up now. "If international prices remain firm above \$300 a tonne, it is feasible to export," he said.

The FCI has floated a tender for empanelment of traders for export of 5 MT of wheat. These empanelled traders will then participate in the FCI wheat tender to be issued next week, he added.

"We will issue tender for sale of wheat (2011-12 crop) to private exporters next week. We will sell wheat to the highest bidder among the empanelled traders," Singh said.

When asked what if it receives poor response to the tender, the FCI chief said, "We have 40 lakh tonnes of wheat from the 2011-12 crop. If exports do not happen, we can supply each month 7-8 lakh tonnes of wheat through PDS

and clear it."

In a recent report, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) had emphasised that India will have to explore measures for improving the viability of exports of FCI wheat given the historically unprecedented pressure of massive grain stocks and lack of sufficient storage space.

The report had also warned that expected foodgrains stocks of 90 MT by June 1 on higher procurement would pose an unprecedented storage crisis for the government. The current storage is estimated at around 71 MT.

Wheat production is expected to surpass last year's record of 93.90 MT in 2012-13 crop year (July- June).

## Market pulse for agro commodities : Mangal Keshav

**Spot rates of jeera were steady & quoted around '125-'26 per kg at Unjha market, as per trade reports.**

Arrivals of chilli crop were steady at 0.75-0.8lakh bags while trades too were steady due to demand from local buyers & stockist. Spot rates were down & quoted at '53-'58 per kg, based on crop quality.

Arrivals of jeera crop declined to ~30,000 bags & the same were traded at auctions held at Unjha market. Spot rates were steady & quoted around '125-'26 per kg at Unjha market, as per trade reports.

Spot rates of pepper garbled increased to '360 per kg and that of un-garbled was up at '345 per kg while arrivals declined to 37 tons from which 35 tons were sold at auctions held at Kochi market, as per IPSTA.

Arrivals of turmeric crop at mandis of Erode increased to 8,000-8,500 bags while spot rates were down & quoted at '54-'57 per kg, as per trade reports.

Nizamabad and Sangli markets were closed due to local festivals.

Average price of small cardamom declined to '613 per kg while maximum price offered was up at '939 per kg, as per spice board.

Total inflow of small cardamom crop increased to 101.7 tons & the same were sold at KCPMC auction held at Thekkady.

Arrivals of Soya bean crop eased slightly to about 0.5-0.6lakh bags at MP market & about 1,500 bag at mandis of Indore while arrivals declined to 10,000 bags at Rajasthan & ~20,000 bags across mandis of Maharashtra, as per local traders.

Spot rates of soya bean crop offered by planters were down at '39.5-'40 per kg while rates across major mandis declined to '38-'39 per kg, as per local traders.

Guar seed arrivals increased to 19,054 quintals, while the average of the closing spot rates were down at '9,300.7 per quintal.

Inflow of mustard seed crop declined to 175,066 quintals, while average of closing spot rates were down at '3,078.8 per quintal, as per agriculture marketing board of Rajasthan.

Total arrivals of mustard seed crop declined to about 4lakh bags across major trading center while spot rates were up & quoted at '34-'37 per kg based on quality & location, as per market reports.

Mentha oil futures recovered from its weekly low to close higher by more than 2% for the day, supported by buying/ short-covering at lower levels while spot rates too were up by '15-'20 per kg. Average daily supply has declined to ~90-100 drums.

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## **Natural rubber output may rise marginally**

**Kottayam, April 21:** Natural rubber production in the country in 2012-13 is provisionally estimated at 9.12 lakh tonnes, with a slight increase of 0.9 per cent compared with the 4.8 per cent increase in 2011-12, said Ms Sheela Thomas, Chairman, Rubber Board, while recently delivering the presidential address at the 171st meeting of the Rubber Board in Guwahati.

Last fiscal, monthly rubber production was lower in April and May 2012 and January-March 2013, owing to adverse weather conditions.

Consumption in 2012-13 is provisionally estimated at 9.71 lakh tonnes, an increase of 0.8 per cent compared with 1.8 per cent in 2011-12.

### **TYRE SECTOR FLAT**

Natural rubber consumption in tyre sector was flat with a negligible growth of 0.01 per cent, whereas in non-tyre sector, it increased by 2.3 per cent.

Import and export of rubber amounted to 2,16,642 tonnes and 30,353 tonnes respectively in 2012-13. Export of branded 'Indian natural rubber' amounted to 17,813 tonnes, 59 per cent of the total during 2012-13.

Production and consumption of rubber in 2013-14 are projected at 9.6 and 10.2 lakh tonnes respectively with a deficit of 60,000 tonnes.

However, there will not be any shortage of NR in the domestic market in 2013-14, as the estimated opening stock of NR in April is 2.66 lakh tonnes and the rubber consuming industry has



entitlement to import more than 1 lakh tonnes of NR through duty free channels, she informed.

According to the International Study Group, the world production and consumption of NR in 2012 was 11.38 and 10.92 million tonnes (mt) respectively with a surplus of 4.59 lakh tonnes. World production of NR grew only by 3.2 per cent in 2012 compared with the growth of 5.8 per cent in 2011.

## **Seed firms in AP move court on pricing issue**

**Hyderabad, April 21:** The issue of pricing of cottonseed refuses to die.

Cottonseed firms in Andhra Pradesh have filed a petition against the Government's 'arbitrary' decision to fix the price of cottonseed, including the trait value.

If this trend continues, the Seedsmen Association argued, the Bt cottonseed firms will become extinct.

It asked the court to direct the Government to re-fix the maximum sale price of Bt cottonseeds for 2013-14, considering the trait value that is actually being paid by the seed firms.

(A trait value is a fee paid by the seed companies to Mahyco Monsanto Biotech India for using its genetic technology that guards the plants against bollworms. The US-based Monsanto formed a joint venture with Mahyco to market the technology to Indian seed companies by entering into agreements. About 40 firms in India thus gain genetic technology).

## **Seeds act**

The Seedsmen Association has argued that the companies are bound by the contractual obligations to a certain fee to the technology provider.

The association represents about 400 seed companies and dealers. Andhra Pradesh has been insisting on fixing prices of both Bollgard-I and Bollgard-II based seeds since 2008.

It also brought in a Cotton Seeds Act and prepared a draft Seed Bill to further reassert its right on fixing the seed price.

“If such a price, as fixed, does not secure a reasonable return on the capital employed, it violates Article 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution,” the association argued.

(Article (1) (g) refers to the right to practise any profession, occupation, trade or business.)

“Deriving powers from the AP Cotton Seeds Act, they have been arbitrarily fixing the price of the seed without taking into consideration the actual cost of production, including the actual trait value (royalty) paid to the technology provider,” the association contended.

## **Trait value**

The technology provider would issue ‘offer letter’ each year, specifying the trait value to be paid for the year.

The association said the value mentioned in the agreement is binding on the firms that sub-licences the technology.

Currently, the trait value is put at Rs 168.54 for BG-I and Rs 252.81 for BG-II for every packet of Rs 450 gm.

But the Government put the trait value at Rs 50 for BG-I and Rs 90 for BG-II, while deciding the seed price.

This puts the seed companies in a dicey situation.

Despite representations to review its decisions, there was no response as yet, the association argued.

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***Andhra Pradesh has been insisting on fixing prices of both Bollgard-I and Bollgard-II based seeds since 2008.***

## **Downtrend continues in Kochi tea sale**

**Kochi, April 21:** The declining trend continued for the second consecutive week at the Kochi tea auction for almost all varieties of tea.

In sale no: 16 dust category, the quantity on offer in the CTC grades was 11,43,500 kg.

The market for select best clean black well made teas clubbed with good liquoring properties were barely steady. Others were irregular and lower by Rs 2-5 and sometimes more towards the close of the sale.

The offer in the orthodox grades was 9,500 kg. Auctioneers Forbes, Ewart and Figgis said exporters and upcountry buyers absorbed major portion of the offerings.

In the best CTC dusts, PD varieties quoted Rs 115-128; RD grades ruled at Rs 128-155, SRD stood at Rs 130-155 and SFD at Rs 130-157.

Prices in the leaf sale also showed a downward leaning with a mixed trend in the sale of certain grades.

The quantity on offer in the orthodox category was 1.4 lakh kg and the market for best Nilgiri bolder broken, smaller broken whole leaf, fannings was fully firm to dearer. Others were irregular.

Medium bolder broken and smaller broken barely remained steady. Medium whole leaf was irregular and tended to ease and witnessed some withdrawals. Secondary teas were steady to firm and sometimes dearer, while corresponding fannings were steady to dearer.

The quantity on offer in the CTC grades was 80,500 kg and the market for good liquoring teas barely remained steady and tended to ease.

Despite the downward trend in the auction, Jayashree Premium SRD quoted the best prices in the dust category fetching Rs 1,643.

In the leaf grades, Chamraj OP Delight (Green) fetched the best prices of Rs 431 followed by Chamraj Green FOP (S) at Rs 421.

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## Tea prices gather steam in N. India auctions



**Kolkata, April 21:** This week at Sale No. 16 at Kolkata tea auction, the average prices of both orthodox and CTC varieties were much higher than those in last week's Sale No. 15.

According to J Thomas & Company Pvt Ltd., the tea auctioneers, the average price of orthodox was Rs 182.52 (Rs 127.21) a kg and of CTC Rs 154.56 (Rs 139.27).

An estimated 64.92 per cent ( 88.81 per cent) of the orthodox and 68.85 per cent (66.60 per cent) of the CTC offerings were sold.

This week, the total offerings (packages) at the three North Indian auction centres at Kolkata, Guwahati and Siliguri were 1,01,581 compared to 78,794 in the corresponding sale in 2012.

Of this, Kolkata comprised CTC/dust 22,568 (23,802), orthodox 1,732 (4,778) and Darjeeling 1,419 (97).

The corresponding figures for two other centres, handling mainly CTC/dust, were: Guwahati 16,668 (16,105) and Siliguri 59,194 (34,012).

Assam CTCs were irregularly easier, particularly medium sorts.

Selected best Dooars sold well while the remainder was irregularly lower.

Packeteers were quiet. Western India operated actively. There were good enquiries from other internal and local sections.

Well-made, stylish orthodox whole leaf grades were irregular around last levels. Bolder whole leaf grades were firm to dearer.

Brokens and fannings eased in value. Continental exporters operated on the few tippy teas on offer.

The CIS and West Asian shippers operated. Fair interest of local dealers was witnessed.

Darjeeling whole leaf grades with seasonal quality witnessed traditional enquiry from merchant exporters and sold well.

Blenders did not operate. Brokens and fannings were keenly competed for by local dealers.

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# Pepper witnesses mixed trend



**Kochi, Apr 21:** Pepper futures continued to witness volatility last week but activities were limited and showed a mixed trend. The prices were moving up and down during the week as bear operators were trying to pull down while there was good buying support which had kept the market buoyant.

However, spot and futures ended below the previous weekend closing.

Availability of high bulk density pepper was limited. May delivery was trading at below spot prices. Exporters, local arms of multinational companies with multi-origin operations, were covering 550 GL pepper at Rs 345-348 a kg while domestic dealers were buying 575 GL high range pepper at Rs 350-352.

Low bulk density pepper of GL 500 and below were bought at Rs 320-325 from Wayanad and Karnataka under 'H' form, market sources told *Business Line*.

On the exchange, short position holders were buying back.

Selling pressure continued to persist in Karnataka and low bulk density pepper was being moved out at low prices.

Traders from Ernakulam district of Kerala were said to be buying heavily from Idukki for transporting by rail to upcountry markets, they said.

Karnataka was reportedly selling at Rs 325-330 a kg delivered anywhere in India on cash-and-carry basis and transporters were carrying at Rs 10-12 a kg.

May contract on the NCDEX dropped by Rs 245 last week to close at Rs 35,505 a quintal on Saturday.

Total turnover decreased by 607 tonnes to 3,287 tonnes. Total open interest fell by 583 tonnes to 1,175 tonnes.

Spot prices slipped by Rs 200 last week to close at Rs 34,500 (ungarbled) and Rs 36,000 (garbled).

### **Overseas trend**

Vietnam was reportedly steady to firmer.

HCMC exporters raised the rate for FAQ 500 GL from \$5,600 to \$5,700 a tonne (f.o.b.) HCMC last weekend.

The Vietnam Pepper Association (VPA) appears to have advised its members not to sell at lower levels.

Vietnam is going to be the main player in the market to be followed by Indonesia and Brazil.

## **Lower arrivals boost tomatoes**



**Karnal, April 21:** Lower arrivals in the market pushed up tomato prices on Sunday by Rs 300-500 a quintal for the different varieties.

Around 750 crates (a crate is 25 kg) of different varieties of tomatoes arrived at the Karnal vegetable market and were quoted at Rs 1,000-2,500 a quintal.

Around 1,600 crates of Anoop, Himsona, Trishul and Rajasthan varieties were received in Karnal district.

Arrival of new crop from Ladwa belt is expected to start within next 15 days, said Vikas Sachdeva.

Out of total arrivals, about 70 per cent were received from the Rajasthan while just about 30 per cent from local farmers. Out of total arrivals, 20 per cent was of low quality; around 30 per cent medium quality while about 50 per cent was of superior quality.

Prices of superior quality increased by Rs 500 a quintal and quoted at Rs 1,800-2,500; medium quality up by Rs 400 at 1,500-2,000 while low quality was up Rs 300 at Rs 1,000-1,300.

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