

Two new paddy varieties developed

They grow in saline soil, say scientists



Machilipatnam Agricultural Research Station scientists T. Anuradha and K. Nagendra Rao displaying new paddy seed varieties MCM - 100 and 101 on their fields. Photo : T. Appala Naidu

Two scientists of Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University Research Station (ARS) here have developed two paddy seed varieties, MCM 100 and MCM 101, which can grow in saline soil. The 12-year research of the experts in developing these seed varieties has revived the hopes of farmers having saline soils.

In 2011, Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad, tagged MCM-101, a rabi season seed, as the second best variety among the 33 paddy seed varieties developed by the other scientists in India, ARS Principal Scientist T. Anuradha told *The Hindu* . As a part of testing for the second

consecutive year, the seed with 125-day duration (MCM-101 variety) was sown in five locations in Andhra Pradesh in saline fields.

“We noticed that the fine quality variety withstood the ‘blast’ disease and reported better quality yield than MTU-1010, a leading rabi seed variety in Andhra Pradesh”, said Ms. Anuradha. The kharif seed MCM-100 was tested in ten locations including West Godavari, Krishna and East Godavari, in 2012 kharif. When compared with the leading MTU kharif variety seed, the MCM-100 yield was five per cent higher.

“About 6,075 kg. yield per hectare was recorded from this variety as against 5,850 kg. for MTU variety. The average yield of our seed in all the ten locations was 5,539 kg. as against 5,269 kg. of MTU,” said Ms. Anuradha. The crop duration was 140-145 days.

“The response from the farmers, who are growing and tested the mini kits of the seed, is the real certification for our work and a Himalayan achievement,” said scientist K. Nagendra Rao, another scientist in the research on ‘Development of Saline Tolerant Rice Varieties for Coastal Andhra Pradesh’.

The MCM-100 and 101 seed varieties are exclusive seeds those were developed for saline soil, which is in large extent in the State and is not suitable to grow with the existing paddy varieties.

“The scientists aimed at developing seeds meant for saline soils, but these two varieties will also give yield much

higher than present leading varieties – MTU 1061 and BPT 5201 – if farmers grow in normal soils,” claims the scientist duo.

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- *Rabi seed MCM-101 is one of the best among 33 Indian seed varieties, according to scientists*
 - *‘The two seed varieties, MCM 100 and MCM 101, give much more yield than existing varieties’*
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Farmers want crop relief delinked from insurance



A farmer spells out his problems to the Central team at Managudi in Nagapattinam on Wednesday— Photo: B. Velankanni Raj

A team from the Centre on Wednesday inspected the slew of measures initiated by the State government to mitigate drought conditions in Nagapattinam district.

Making a strong case for tangible drought relief from the Centre, farmers who met the team at Manakudi, called for delinking crop relief from crop insurance, wanted the compensation amount for drought-affected fields to be raised.

The State government's relief amount of Rs.15,000 per acre was inclusive of the crop insurance claims of farmers. Urging the team to concede the State's demand of Rs.19,665 crore towards drought relief, farmers pegged the production loss in the delta region at 19.50 lakh tonnes. According to Kaveri V.Danapalan, general secretary, Cauvery Delta Farmers Protection Association, the production loss worked out to Rs.2,827 crore and Rs.950 crore revenue loss for its five lakh farmers. Further, the loss of wage days for farm labourers amounted to Rs.18 crore a day.

Samandam of the Tamil Nadu Vivasaya Thozhilalar Sangam, Thalainayar, called for uniform compensation even for lands that were left uncultivated. Farmers had left their lands fallow solely because of their inability to borrow due to water scarcity and imminent crop failure. For all practical reasons, the farmers should be considered eligible for compensation deeming their loss as crop loss, he said.

Focussing on water conservation, Somu Elango, a progressive farmer from Thalainayar, indicated that about 64.5 tmc water was lost annually as run-off into the sea. Conserving this water required desilting of channels and rivers, strengthening of embankments and setting up of ponds. Funds had to be directed towards strengthening community assets towards water conservation. He also wanted the debt of farmers written off.

Among the first stops the team made was at a field where sorghum was being cultivated under the fodder feed

scheme at Panangudi. The scheme provides for subsidised cultivation of sorghum by drought-hit farmers and simultaneously increases fodder availability for lactating cattle, distributed under the free livestock scheme.

K.Manoharan, Director-in-charge, Directorate of Tobacco, said a report would be submitted to the government in two days.

The team led by Manash Choudhury, Deputy Advisor, Agricultural Division, Planning Commission included V.Srikanth, Deputy Director, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance; C.J.Jose, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Power; R.Sundramurthi, Superintending Engineer, Cauvery and Southern Rivers Organisation, Coimbatore.

Special Correspondent adds from Pudukottai

The team visited Nakudi and Gopalamuthiram villages in Aranthangi taluk in Pudukottai district. District Collector C. Manoharan and other officials explained the gravity of the situation to the team members. T. Sengodan, CPI district secretary, in his petition said the entire district was reeling under severe drought and the team should take more time to take stock of the situation. Representatives of various farmers associations submitted a memorandum to the team demanding early allotment of drought relief and hike in compensation.

Crop of ideas to create model silk farmer

A farmer in a panchayat will be expected to inspire others to involve in promotion of sericulture



Sericulture farmers and reelers participating in an auction at the Government cocoon market in Dharmapuri.— Photo: Special Arrangement

: Creating a silk farmer in each village of the State is the latest attempt by the State government to promote sericulture.

Chief Minister Jayalalithaa on Wednesday informed the Assembly that her government would launch a scheme ‘Sericulture Farmer in each Panchayat’. It would be launched in 300 villages, where sericulture was not in practice. Each identified farmer would be a model, who is expected to inspire other farmers in the village to take up sericulture, she said.

A senior official from the Sericulture Department said that identifying farmers in the 300 villages has already begun. A ‘lead farmer’ would be identified and his field would be a demonstration plot, where other farmers could visit. They would be encouraged to replicate it on their land.

The scheme would increase silk production in the State and reduce dependency on imported silk. The State was expected to achieve self-sufficiency through the scheme. Except Chennai district, all the other districts in the State have been included for identifying a lead farmer, the officer said.

Percolation ponds

Apart from launching the scheme, the Chief Minister also announced the creation of 50 percolation ponds in the government silk farms across the State. The ponds would be created with technical assistance from the State Agricultural Engineering department and it would be implemented under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

New silk reeling units

In an attempt to improve the quality of silk yarn produced, the Chief Minister announced allocation of Rs 80 lakh for buying new state-of-the-art machinery.

The new silk multi-end reeling machines would be procured for the eight silk weaving units functioning in the State. With the new machinery, the department aims at producing international quality silk yarn, said the officials.

The Chief Minister also announced the allocation of Rs. 2 crore for additional classrooms and hostels in the Tamil Nadu Silk Development Training Institute functioning in Hosur.

With the launching of 'Sericulture Farmer in each Panchayat', a need will arise to increase the classroom and hostel facilities in the Training Centre.

Farmers want crop relief delinked from insurance

A team from the Centre on Wednesday inspected the slew of measures initiated by the State government to mitigate drought conditions in Nagapattinam district

Farmers asked to sell groundnut on harvest

The Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has asked farmers to sell groundnut on harvest.

The econometric analysis and market surveys of April-May 2013 will get a price between Rs. 5,800 and Rs. 6,150 a quintal of groundnut kernel at the regulated market in Thindivanam in Villupuram.

It will be between Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 6,200 for confectionery purpose. There will be marginal increase in price during the next two months, according to a release.

For details, contact 0422-2431405 / 2450812.

Farmers rue as Central team skips Cuddalore

District administration blamed for not providing proper input

Was it the unrest in the aftermath of the violence in Cuddalore district following the arrest of PMK leaders or was it the failure of the agricultural officials in the district to provide proper inputs on the prevailing drought situation. Whatever the reason may be, the fact remains that the Central team, assessing crop damage in the State, has skipped Cuddalore.

In the district, large swathe of fertile land are lying barren in the tail-end delta region, comprising Chidambaram and Kattumannarkoil blocks.

“The indifferent attitude of the officials, bordering apathy, has hurt the farmers, more than the drought,” says K.Vijayakumar, president of the Sethiathope Anicut Paasana Vivasayigal Sangam. The local officials had lost sight of the fact that the crop prospect of the Veeranam tank ayacutdars was very much linked to the Cauvery water situation. Except those cultivable lands lying close to these sources, those in the tail end areas were parched by the drought. But the officials did not seem to have taken these aspects into reckoning, he charged. With acute power shortage, even lifting of the sub-surface water has become a rarity which has drastically cut into crop production.

A farmer would have to spend Rs 22,970 for raising paddy in an acre, whereas the State government's compensation package was only Rs 15,000 an acre. Even this amount could not be realized by many farmers owing to the stifling conditions laid down by the banks. For overcoming the drought situation, the State government had sought Rs 19,665 crore from the Centre (following which the Central team has undertaken the visit), but as things stand, it is not clear whether the drought-hit farmers of Cuddalore district would be entitled to get any monetary support, he said.

V.Kannan, vice-president of the Cauvery Delta Farmers' Welfare Association, said the Central team skipping Cuddalore district was highly condemnable. The district was prone to drought, floods and other natural disasters such as cyclone, storm and tsunami. The drought situation had not only affected the staple crops like paddy but also commercial crops such as sugarcane, banana and groundnut. The condition was so bad that it has even made the drought-tolerant casuarinas trees to wither. But by skirting Cuddalore district, the Central team had denied an opportunity to the Cuddalore farmers to directly share their grievances.

K.Venkatesan of the Federation of the Cuddalore District Farmers' Association is of the view that the Central team might have ignored the district based on the feedback given by the local officials who must have been misguided by the arrival of paddy and other crops in the market committees where even farmers from Ariyalur and

Perambalur brought in their produce. Only a fair assessment on drought damages at the field level and direct interaction with the farmers would give a real picture of the farmers' plight.

When contacted, District Collector R.Kirlosh Kumar said there was no specific reason for the Central team not visiting Cuddalore. "The district was not in the schedule of the team's visit."

Farmers demand title deeds

Tension prevailed for some time in front of the collectorate at Painavu here after agitators under the banner of High Range Protection Council blocked the entrance of the collectorate on Wednesday.

The agitation was organised to demand the distribution of condition-free title deeds to all farmers in the district. The agitators entered into a heated argument with a senior police officer who, they alleged, insulted a leader of the council.

The agitators also blocked traffic on the Thodupuzha-Kattappana road. Later, senior police officials assured them of taking action against the police officer. Hundreds of people participated in the collectorate blockade.

Farmers protest interest on loans

Farmers staged A dharna at the Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank branch at Thondur in Pulivendula constituency on Wednesday alleging that the bank officials were forcibly collecting interest on loans granted to them. TDP leader R. Ramgopal Reddy led the protest.
— Special Correspondent

Click and cultivate: Internet shows the way



Timely advice:Field officers taking a digital picture of a farmers field to upload on portal and address his query.-Photo : Special Arrangement

One of the important reasons for the low level of agricultural knowledge dissemination from lab to land is lack of availability of appropriate extension technologies currently.

Given the problems that extension workers and researchers face in facilitating direct contact with farmers due to physical distances involved and the lack of transportation needed for their mobility, application of

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) offers good solutions for the problem.

Pilot basis

An attempt was made to evolve an effective model called 'e-Velanmai' ('Velanmai' is a Tamil word meaning agriculture) for dissemination of agricultural information from a multidisciplinary team of scientists from the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) directly to farmers on a pilot basis in selected areas of the State.

The model aimed to provide timely and appropriate technical advice to farmers on a need basis and was conceived and pilot tested by Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Principal Investigator and Associate Professor (Ag. Extension) and it is now being upscaled.

“The project is aimed to facilitate farmers in improving their productivity and standard of living. The overall objective is to provide quality, timely, farm-specific scientific advice with the support of ICT tools and agricultural scientists at the farmer’s doorstep,” says Dr. Karthikeyan. The pilot project was tested in three areas — Palar and Aliyar sub basins (dominated by resource rich plantation growers) of Coimbatore district, and Varahanadhi sub basin (dominated by resource poor vegetable growers) of Villupuram district.

Feasible

The performance of the extension model in these two different scenarios was field tested and validated for its

feasibility and based on the successful results obtained, the World Bank has supported upscaling the model to 26 different areas.

“It is a demand driven, participatory extension approach,” says Dr. Karthikeyan.

It provides appropriate and timely agro advisory services by scientists to registered farmers using the Internet. Interested farmers pay a membership fee (Rs.50-150) based on their farm size to avail the service. The money collected is deposited in a bank account for ensuring self sustainability of the project.

Those availing the service are considered as members and each person is provided a membership card containing his farm details and a record of experts’ visit to his farm, problems observed, and technical advice given.

Giving details as to how the system works, Dr. Karthikeyan explains:

“A farmer makes a call on his mobile and registers his query. A field coordinator goes to the farmer’s field and examines his crop status. In case the farmer needs advice on suitable crop variety, marketing, planting, spacing etc., advice is given on the spot by referring to the TNAU agri portal.

Advice

If the problem relates to pest and diseases and their management, nutritional deficiency, weeds etc., advice is

given based on a digital photo taken by the field coordinator and sent to concerned experts through Internet.

The images are coded using the farmer's name and identity number.

Experts diagnose the problem looking at the photos and offer solutions. These recommendations are downloaded and recorded in the membership card given to the members.

Time taken

The average time taken for getting queries addressed is 1-3 hours. An overwhelming percentage of members feel that they are able to receive timely advice on the same day they raise the query to the field coordinator.

Prior to the introduction of e-Velanmai project, many farmers stated that they had to depend on the shop keepers/dealers in their area for information.

But now they are able to access all information related to agriculture at their farm gate itself.

For further details contact Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Principal Investigator (e-Velanmai), Associate Professor (Agril. Extension), Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore 641003 India, E-mail: karthikeyanextn@yahoo.com, Mobile: 9486324669.

Managing leaf rust in grapevines

Grapevine is one of the most important remunerative fruit crops of India which is widely grown in states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

There are several diseases affecting the crop among which leaf rust is nowadays posing a major threat to its large scale cultivation. Popular and widely grown grape varieties are becoming susceptible to the disease.

Fungal pathogen

Leaf rust disease is caused by a fungal pathogen *Phakopsora euvtis*. Symptoms of the disease initially are brown spots on the upper side of leaves. Corresponding to the spots on the underside of leaves, yellowish-orange mass of powdery spores are formed profusely.

Infection spreads rapidly on the leaves causing them to dry and wither. Thus the disease causes premature defoliation of grapevine during growing season which results in poor shoot growth and ultimately reduces the quality and quantity of fruits.

Heavy infection during harvest time, which often occurs in warm temperature, causes considerable reduction in yield.

Air borne

Grapevine leaf rust can infect the vines all year round but becomes noticeable during the dry season. The disease is spread through air. Spores are also spread through clothing or by illegal plant introductions.

The best method of control is to prevent the onset of the disease by ensuring hygiene requirements before entering the vineyard. Propagation materials must be obtained from reliable sources.

Routine spraying should be done at fortnightly intervals with any of the systemic fungicides like tebuconazole, propiconazole or azoxystrobin at the recommended dosages. Varieties like Cabernet sauvignon, Cabernet franc and Beauty seedless are resistant to rust disease while the widely grown cultivars like Thompson seedless, Sonaka and Tas-A-Ganesh are moderately susceptible.

(Kamala Nayar, Professor, Arthur Jacob, Professor and Head, Instructional Farm, College of Ariculture, Vellayani, email: kmlnayar@yahoo.co.in, phone: 0471-2383573, mobile:9539711267)

Cassava brown streak disease causes havoc in Africa



PHOTO: AFP

New outbreaks and the increased spread of cassava brown streak disease can cause 50 per cent drop in production. Cassava is an important source of food and income for 300 million Africans.

Some male black spiders can eat female spiders

A new study has shown that the tendency of the Black Widow spider to consume a potential mate is also true of some types of male spider. Male spiders of the *Micaria sociabilis* species are more likely to eat the females than be eaten.

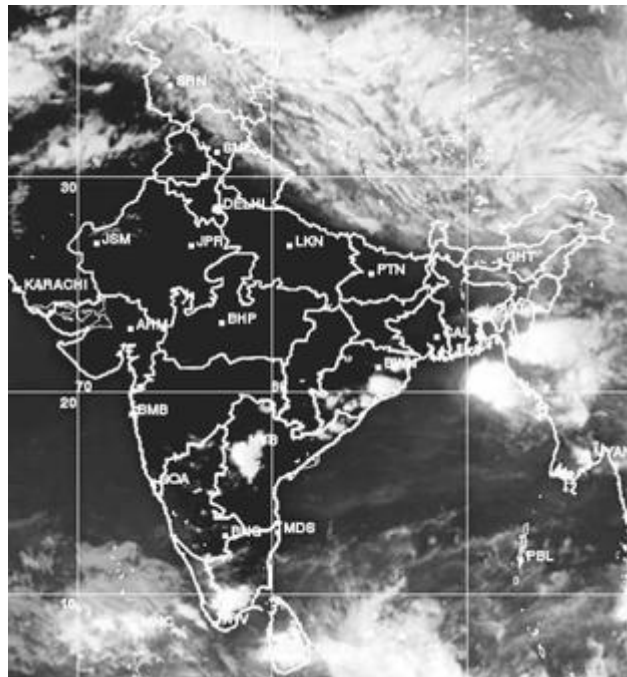
Plants 'talk' to plants to help them grow



Photo: K Bhagya Prakash

Having a neighbourly chat improves seed germination, says a study in *BMC Ecology*. Even when other known means of communication, like contact, chemical and light-mediated signals, are blocked, chilli seeds grow better when grown with basil plants.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on May 8.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	42	26	0	26
New Delhi (Sfd)	41	24	0	22
Chandigarh	39	24	0	26
Hissar	42	20	0	41
Bhuntar	33	11	0	143
Shimla	26	16	0	113
Jammu	38	26	0	36
Srinagar	23	13	0	181
Amritsar	40	21	0	10
Patiala	41	24	0	25
Jaipur	42	26	0	15
Udaipur	41	26	0	15
Allahabad	41	27	0	11
Lucknow	39	23	0	1
Varanasi	38	26	0	21
Dehradun	36	20	0	39
Agartala	27	24	0	326
Ahmedabad	43	27	0	6
Bangalore	35	23	0	39
Bhubaneshwar	37	28	0	67
Bhopal	43	26	0	53
Chennai	37	28	0	32
Guwahati	27	21	35	246
Hyderabad	40	29	0	52
Kolkata	38	29	0	32

Mumbai	34	26	0	0
Nagpur	45	26	0	24
Patna	33	24	0	14
Pune	40	23	0	3
Thiruvananthapuram	32	25	0	170
Imphal	24	18	12	259
Shillong	22	15	4	172

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 FEW PLACES

RAINFALL: Rain/thundershowers have occurred at isolated places over Jammu and Kashmir. Weather was dry over rest of the region.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES: The maximum temperatures rose appreciably in Jammu and Kashmir and changed little elsewhere. They were appreciably above normal in west Rajasthan, above normal in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, east Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and normal in rest of the region. The highest maximum temperature in the region was 44.9°C recorded at Bikaner Airport (Rajasthan).

FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 10th May 2013: Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Uttarakhand on 10th May. Weather would be mainly dry over rest of the region.

**FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD
VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 10th May**

2013: Mainly clear sky.

Water level

: Water level in the Papanasam dam on Wednesday stood at 54.45 feet (the maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 143.50 cusecs and 429.75 cusecs was discharged from the dam. The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 81.73 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 9 cusecs and 50 cusecs was discharged.

Nagercoil

Water level in the Pechipparai dam stood at 14.50 feet, while it was 17.95 feet in Perunchani, 2.95 feet in Chittar 1 and 3.05 feet in Chittar 11.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Thursday, May 9

Max 35° | Min 29°

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 05:45

Humidity: 79

Sunset: 06:25

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1007

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Friday, May 10

Max 35° | Min 27°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday May 11	Sunday May 12	Monday May 13	Tuesday May 14	Wednesday May 15
36° 28°	38° 27°	35° 27°	36° 27°	40° 28°
Partly Cloudy	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Agricultural varsity releases high-yield seeds

RANCHI: After almost a decade, the Jharkhand state seed subcommittee released nine high-yielding varieties of rice, groundnut, soya bean, sugarcane and chickpea crops, following a notification by the Government of India last month. These are resistant

towards major diseases and pests. The release got a final nod from the committee chaired by Arun Kumar Singh, the principal secretary of agriculture and cane development.

M P Pandey, vice-chancellor, [Birsa Agriculture University](#) (BAU), who is a member of the committee said, all these varieties will be notified by the [Central Seed Committee](#) of the Government of India for planned multiplication during coming seasons to ensure that they reach the farmers soon thus enabling them to derive the benefits of enhanced productivity and income through its cultivation. "This will pave the way for a second green revolution in the state because the new variants are not only high yielding but also resistant to diseases and pest, making it profitable for the farmers," he said.

Four of the nine crop varieties that have been released are of rice alone. Of these, Birsa Vikash Sugandha-1 matures in 120 -125 days and is suitable for cultivation under rainfed conditions of Jharkhand. It is a scented variety of grain with a yield potential of 40-45 quintal/ha. The rice is moderately resistant to brown spot, blast diseases and gundhi bug pest.

Birsa Vikash Dhan-203, developed by hybridization between IR-36 and Kalinga-3 variety, matures in 115-

125 days. The variety with long, slender grains and 40-45 quintal/ha yield, is moderately resistant to blast; bacterial leaf blight, brown spot diseases, stem borer and gandhi bug pest.

Birsa Vikash Dhan-111 is a variety that matures in 80-95 days flat though the yield is comparatively lesser. It is estimated to be at 20-25 quintals/ha. It is suitable for direct seeding in uplands under the rainfed conditions of Jharkhand. The grains are long and slender and the variety is resistant to blast and brown spot diseases and gandhi bug and stem borer pests.

Lalat rice variety originally developed by Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar was released for Jharkhand owing to its suitability to soils and climate of this state. This long-grain variety yields 40-45 quintals/ha and matures in 115-120 days.

Pandey said, "While most of the varieties have been developed at BAU, Birsa Safed Soyabean-2, with an estimated production of 25 quintals/ha matures in 105-107 days. This variety has 40% protein and 17% oil content."



Konkan Fruit Festival to be held between May 10-12

The Konkan Fruit Fest, an event promoting the lesser known fruits of Konkan region would be held in South Goa this year between May 10-12.

The festival will be held in Margao town this year, wherein hundreds of exotic fruit varieties would be on sale and display, Minguel Braganza, secretary of the Botanical Society of Goa, told PTI today.

He said that the festival which started in 2003 in Panaji is aimed at promoting the lesser known fruits of

the Konkan region, with a view to improve the long-term food security and preserve the unique fruit biodiversity of the region.

"Without an interest in these fruits, we are likely to lose favourites including sweet mangosteen, red oil palm, citron, kokum and jambul fruit," Braganza said.

The festival provides an opportunity to the common people and youths in Goa to sample popular tropical fruits, local wines, foods and several increasingly rare seasonal fruit varieties, he said.

In the festival the regional farmers can sell these fruits and they are encouraged to maintain their trees for the enjoyment of the future generations, he said.

Braganza said that the festival also features competition for fruits, fruit products, on the spot competition in fruit eating and fruit carving among other things.

DECCAN Chronicle

Central team bears locals' ire



Picture for representational purpose only.

Madurai/Tiruchy: The Central team that arrived here on Tuesday to assess the drought situation was gheraoed by residents in the water-starved suburbs.

Led by small farmers' agri-business consortium managing director Pravesh Sharma, the team members, accompanied by collector Anshul Mishra and revenue officers, took stock of the drought conditions in the city and the suburban areas.

They inspected the dry Vaigai river flowing across the city from the overbridge in Anna Nagar and Kuruvikkaaran causeway. Later, the team visited Othakadai to assess the drinking water scarcity in the region.

The residents picketed the vehicles near the panchayat union office and aired their grievances about the acute shortage of

potable water. The officials also saw the people in the region being supplied water through tankers.

Meanwhile, farmers in some of the delta districts told the Central team, which inspected the various drought relief works on Tuesday in the villages, that all loans availed of by the farmers from cooperative and nationalised banks be waived forthwith.

The Central team, led by Manash Choudhuri, deputy advisor, agriculture division, Planning Commission, which visited the delta districts to assess the extent of damage to agricultural crops and see the drought relief works being undertaken by the district administrations, appreciated the state government and district administrations for having implemented the relief works well.

Fertiliser plant gets go-ahead



Chennai: Holding that the orders of the executive were binding on the local bodies, the Madras high court has set aside a resolution of the Athanur town panchayat cancelling the building plan approval granted to German Trading Corporation for establishing its fertiliser manufacturing unit in Athanur, Namakkal district.

A division bench, comprising acting chief justice R.K. Agrawal and Justice N. Paul Vasanthakumar, said, “Even though a constitutional status to an independent local body has been conferred by the provisions of chapter IX-A of the Constitution, yet the Athanur town panchayat can exercise the power only in accordance with the provisions of TN district municipalities Act.

Though under section 250 of the Act, it had the power to grant or refuse permission, but the same is subject to the other provisions of the Act. One such provision is section 252, which authorises the state government to exercise supervisory power and the order passed therein or direction issued by it is binding on the Athanur town panchayat. Thus, the order passed by the state government and the positive direction given by the director of town panchayats is binding on the Athanur town panchayat.”

The bench allowed the petition filed by German Trading Corporation, by its proprietor R. Velumani of Athanur village.

Senior counsel K. Doraisamy, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the company had obtained necessary permission/no-objection certificate from all the statutory authorities to set up its fertiliser manufacturing unit in Athanur. However, the Athanur town panchayat president refused building plan permission.

The state government cancelled the resolution of the panchayat president and directed the director of town panchayats to issue instructions to the executive officer (EO) of the town panchayat to take action for grant of permission to the company. Accordingly, the EO on April 28, 2010 granted building plan permission to the company with conditions.

Assessment only for drought relief, not crop loss: Panel



Anshul Mishra, who was accompanying the CDT, also told them that the drought relief fund announced by the State would soon be disbursed. / PTI/File

The Central Government would provide relief only to those farmers, who were affected by drought, and not compensation for crop loss, clarified Pravesh Sharma, Team leader of the Central Drought Team (CDT).

As most of the farmers affected by drought demanded for more compensation, Pravesh Sharma Managing Director, Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), leader of the CDT which is on a two-day inspection of southern districts, explained the farmers that the Centre can't provide compensation for crop loss. "But we will definitely provide drought relief to

affected farmers,” he said while interacting with farmers at Maithanpatti village in the presence of Madurai Collector Anshul Mishra.

Anshul Mishra, who was accompanying the CDT, also told them that the drought relief fund announced by the State would soon be disbursed.

At Maithanpatti and Silarpatti villages, the CDT members told that it was important for them to know from the farmers how would they sustain their livelihood in the next four months. To this the farmers replied, “We have to be at the mercy of usurers.”

Pandiammal, a farmer from Maithanpatti, rued, “even for last year’s crop we raised money by pledging our jewels. But due to the drought, no harvest could be done and we have not even got back the amount that we invested.”

When members asked the people what can be an interim solution, farmers suggested that arranging supply of water through some means could mitigate their woes to a considerable extent. “Either the Government should help farmers to sink borewells in their farms or deepening the irrigation tanks,” mooted Ramaswamy, a farmer.

Hope Centre will not fail us like water: Farmers

After water scarcity pinned them down, desperate farmers in Tiruchy district pleaded for compensation to

a Central drought assessment team which was here on Tuesday for inspection.

The farmers claimed that their crops withered due to water scarcity as the borewells too had failed completely.

An assessment team led by Deputy Advisor of Planning Commission Manash Choudhury, who along with the other members of the team including Director of Tobacco Development, K Manoharan, Deputy Director, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Deputy Secretary of Department of Power, C J Jose and Cauvery and Southern rivers organisations Superintendent Engineer R Sundaramurthy visited the farming areas of Vengur, Panayakurichi, Otthakudi and Kovalakudi and conducted a detailed inspection.

While they were assessing the drought situation, the farmers put forth their anguish on the failure of their crops due to lack of water. Out of a total of 211 ha crop cultivation at Vengur, 204 ha was affected due to water scarcity. The farmers explained the damages especially that of the samba cultivation. Subsequently, the team visited the Keezha Mullakudi where the banana plantation had failed and inquired the farmers about their problems.

A farmer, Saravanan whose borewell failed due to shortage of ground water level, told the officials that he had spent several lakhs and dug as many as four borewells but to no avail. "Unfortunately all the four borewells failed," he told the members and showed the withered banana plantation.

In Thanjavur district, another team surveyed the villages in Thanjavur and Tiruvarur districts on Tuesday.

The team first visited the Monnayampatti village near here where a farmer, Karunanidhi, had cultivated green grass under the State Fodder Development Scheme. He told the team that he had to abandon sugarcane farming due to severe drought. He said the level in his bore-well had dropped to 350 feet. He had been selling the green fodder to other farmers at Rs 1.50 per kg. Then the team members on their way to Alakkudi village saw the vast expanse of dry fields.

At Alakkudi, farmers told them that milk yield has also dropped due to lack of proteins for milch animals. Similarly, the weight of goats has also come down due to paucity of fodder.

Industrial parks for 9 districts in 21,000 acres



The chief minister's plan for uniform industrial growth across the state was hailed by leaders of Opposition parties. | EPS

Industrialisation in Tamil Nadu is all set to spread from a few pockets to all parts of the state, as Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa on Tuesday announced mega projects for nine southern districts in a total area of 20,650 acres. The chief minister's plan for uniform industrial growth across the state was hailed by leaders of Opposition parties.

Industrial parks of 2,000 acres each are planned for Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai and Theni districts, while similar facilities in Dindigul and Tirunelveli would be spread over 1,500 acres, Virudhunagar 3,400 acres, Thoothukudi 6,000 acres and Kanyakumari 250 acres. Industries suitable for each district will be set up at these parks, with graphite and other industries at SIPCOT complex in Manamadurai, Sivaganga district, a petrol refinery and manufacturing facilities for chemicals and fertilisers in Ramanathapuram district, engineering, minerals and dry leather industries in Pudukottai and engineering-related and food processing industries in Dindigul district.

Theni and Virudhunagar also get food processing industries, with the latter district also allotted engineering and printing industries, besides infrastructure for cracker and safety matches industries. As for Thoothukudi, marine, ship building and repairing, heavy engineering and chemical industries will be set up, while Tirunelveli becomes a hub for renewal energy where solar energy equipment and household appliances will be manufactured. Kanyakumari will also get marine industries apart from tourism and engineering-related and rubber factories.

The CM also announced concessions for entrepreneurs setting up shop in these industrial parks, including allocation of land at 50 per cent concessional rate, waiver of stamp fee for land registration, increase in investment grant from 1.5% to 2%, establishment of infrastructure facilities and reduction of the minimum investment ceiling from Rs 50 crore to Rs 10 crore for availing concessions on VAT.

Business Standard^{beta}

Cardamom climbs more than 2% on strong demand

Restricted arrivals from producing regions supported the trade



Cardamom futures for June climbed by Rs 17.40, or 2.25%, to Rs 791.50 per kg in 578 lots.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the May contracts shot-up by Rs 14.70, or 1.95%, to Rs 768.10 per kg in 666 lots.

Prices surged as speculators enlarged positions amid strong domestic demand and restricted arrivals from producing regions.

Sugar remains up on seasonal demand

However, higher supplies in the spot markets, capped the gains



Sugar futures for May gained Rs 17, or 0.58%, to Rs 2,945 per quintal in 15,710 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), the June contract edged up by Rs 5, or 0.17%, to Rs 2,961 per quintal in 38,390 lots.

Prices moved up as speculators engaged in creating positions, supported by rising spot markets demand from bulk consumers for the summer season.

However, higher supplies in the spot markets, capped the gains.

Chilli rises more than 1% on spot demand

Limited arrivals from producing belts supported the trade



Chilli futures for July shot up by Rs 84, or 1.47%, to Rs 5,786 per quintal with an open interest of 3635 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), the June contract traded higher by Rs 76, or 1.36%, to Rs 5,644 per quintal in 19,040 lots.

Prices spurted as speculators enlarged positions amid firming spot market trend on good demand and limited arrivals from producing belts.

Govt notifies decision on partial sugar decontrol

Food Ministry has rescinded the control over sugar industry, especially on sugar sale in the open

market and PDS, through Essential Commodities Act and Sugar Control Order



The government has notified the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) decision to remove two key controls on sugar sector.

On April 4, the CCEA had decided to decontrol the sugar sector by giving freedom to mills to sell sugar in the open market and removing their obligation to supply the sweetener at subsidised rates for ration shops.

According to the gazette notification dated May 2, the Food Ministry has rescinded the control over sugar industry, especially on sugar sale in the open market and PDS, through Essential Commodities Act and Sugar Control Order.

As a result, the regulated release mechanism -- under which sugar quantity for open market sale is fixed by the government -- has been abolished with immediate effect.

Besides, mills are freed from mandatory supply of 10% of their production to the government at cheaper rate to meet ration shop demand.

The sugar to be supplied through ration shops will be purchased by the state governments and the Centre will bear the entire subsidy cost, which is estimated to double to Rs 5,300 crore after the decontrol.

Currently, sugar is sold at the retail issue price (RIP) of Rs 13.50 per kg in ration shops. The difference between RIP and the ex-mill price of Rs 32 per kg, which is capped for two years, will be given as subsidy to states.

The other controls on the sugar sector such as pricing, cane reservation area and minimum distance between two mills have been left to the state governments.

Sugar production in India - the world's second biggest producer and largest consumer - is estimated to be 24.5 million tonnes this year, as against the annual demand of 22 million tonnes.

Coriander up more than 1% on spot demand

Restricted arrivals from producing regions supported the trade

Coriander futures for June rose by Rs 74, or 1.16%, to Rs 6,444 per quintal in 4,000 lots.



At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange (NCDEX), the June contract gained Rs 68, or 1.06%, to Rs 6,506 per quintal in 33,260 lots.

Prices moved up as speculators created fresh positions, supported by pick-up in spot market demand amid restricted arrivals from producing regions.

Potato falls 0.7% on higher supply



Potato futures for June declined by Rs 5.50, or 0.56%, to Rs 978 per quintal in 36 lots.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the May contract weakened by Rs 5.60, or 0.54%, to Rs 1,023.30 per quintal in 5 lots.

Prices fell due to subdued spot market demand amid adequate stocks following increased arrivals from producing regions.

THE HINDU Business Line

Sugar rules flat



Mumbai, May 8: Sugar market's indefinite strike against local body tax (LBT) entered on eighth day on Wednesday.

Physical sugar prices at mill level ruled unchanged on Wednesday as most of the wholesale markets of Maharashtra were closed in protest of LBT and slack demand in middle-month.

Heavy short covering by speculators pushed up May futures by Rs 42 till noon.

In the Vashi wholesale market, due to strike there were no arrivals or local dispatches.

On Tuesday evening, 15-16 mills offered tenders and sold 38,000 – 40,000 bags at Rs 2,920-3,000 (Rs 2,920-3,000) for S-grade and Rs 3,000-3,060 (Rs 3,000-3,060) for M-grade. Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Chinchwad's market was closed.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, sugar June futures was higher by Rs 8 to Rs 2,964, July increased by Rs 6 to Rs 3,001 and August by Rs 14 to Rs 3,041 till noon.

Spot rubber steady on low volumes

Kottayam, May 8: Physical rubber prices were almost steady on Wednesday.

The prices managed to sustain at the prevailing levels following a partial recovery in domestic futures and another firm closing in the global trendsetters.

Meanwhile ISNR 20 and latex continued to post moderate gains on low supplies. The trend was mixed.

Sheet rubber closed steady at Rs.167.00 a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi according to traders and the Rubber Board. The volumes remained comparatively low.

The May futures improved to Rs 166.55 (Rs 165.08), June to Rs 166.85 (Rs 164.98), July to Rs 164.79 (Rs 162.93) and August to Rs 163.01 (Rs 161.09) a kg while the September futures remained inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).

RSS 3 (spot) closed firm at Rs 163.54 (Rs 162.45) at Bangkok.

The May futures closed at ¥267.1 (Rs 146.13) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were: RSS-4: 167.00 (167); RSS-5: 163.00 (163.); Ungraded: 157.00 (157); ISNR 20: 157.50 (156.50) and Latex 60%: 106.00 (105.).

Wheat scientists to gather to honour Norman Borlaug legacy

Hyderabad, May 8: In a unique meeting, wheat scientists from across the world will congregate in New Delhi during August to commemorate 50 years of Norman E. Borlaug's contributions to India's Green Revolution and honour his legacy.

Making this possible will be the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The apex agri research body will host the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI) Technical Workshop during August 19-22.

President Pranab Mukherjee will inaugurate the meeting at Vigyan Bhavan on August 19. It will feature some Indian farmers who worked with Borlaug in the 1960s.

“Norman Borlaug made India self-sufficient in wheat production,” said Kannan Vijayaraghavan, Director of Sathguru Management Consultants, South Asia Coordinator for BGRI.

In the 50 years since Borlaug first came to India in 1963, India went from near starvation, producing less than 10 million tonnes of wheat a year, to record production in 2012 of more than 93 mt, he told newsmen on Wednesday.

The BGRI was launched in 2005 by the Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug. Borlaug received the Nobel prize in 1970 for fighting stem rust and developing varieties of semi-dwarfing wheat that saved millions of South Asians from famine. He died in 2009.

The BGRI is chaired by Borlaug’s daughter Jeanie Borlaug Laube.

Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Department for International Development (DFID) in the United Kingdom, the Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat Project, which acts as the secretariat for the BGRI, is managed by Cornell University.

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Basmati acreage seen rising on hopes of higher returns



Rising demand: Basmati exports jumped around 10 per cent to 3.5 million tonnes valued at over Rs 17,000 crore in fiscal 2012-13. (a file photo).

New Delhi, May 8: Basmati acreage is set to increase by at least a tenth this kharif season as expectation of higher returns may prompt farmers in northern States to plant more area under the aromatic rice variety.

“The area under basmati will definitely go up at least by 50-60 per cent over last year...It could be even 100 per cent,” said Anil Mittal, Chairman of KRBL Ltd, which owns the India Gate basmati brand and is the country’s largest exporter.

Basmati prices had almost doubled last year over the previous year on an estimated 30 per cent shortfall in crop size and rising demand from both domestic and overseas markets.

The prices of Pusa 1121, a paddy variety that now accounts for almost 80 per cent of the produce, were quoting around Rs 40,000 a tonne against around Rs 21,000 at the beginning of the harvest season in October last year.

“There should be at least a 10 per cent increase in area, similar to that of last year,” said R. Sundaresan, Executive Director, All-India Rice Exporters Association, striking a conservative note.

acreage

Basmati acreage in 2012-13 stood at 1.85 million hectares, an increase of 32,000 hectares over the previous year.

The transplanting of basmati planting normally starts in July every year, but the nurseries for transplantation are raised during June.

Based on the trend in sales of seeds in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, trade sources see farmers switching over to basmati from the other rice varieties and cotton to some extent eyeing better returns.

“Things are very conducive for an increase in basmati area and the way the seeds are being sold, the acreage is poised to double especially for Pusa 1121 variety,” said Vijay Setia, Director, Chamal Lal Setia Exports Ltd.

Interestingly, seed retailers in Punjab and Haryana are seeing higher demand for super fine rice variety PR 14, which is used for blending with basmati mainly for the Iran market to keep the prices under control, sources said.

Basmati exports jumped around 10 per cent to 3.5 million tonnes valued at over Rs 17,000 crore in fiscal 2012-13 on rise in global demand led by major customers such as Iran and other West Asian nations.

exports

Non-basmati rice shipments during the fiscal registered an increase of 58 per cent at around 6.5 mt against last year's 4.09 mt.

This quantum jump in non-basmati rice shipments was mainly on account of huge demand from African countries, such as Nigeria and Ghana and also from Indonesia.

Castor trade awaits export enquiries



Rajkot, May 8: With a decline in prices and arrivals, traders expect fresh export demand to emerge for castor. Short covering by market participants pulled up the futures.

However, spot castor declined marginally on the back of lower export demand.

On the Rajkot Commodity Exchange (RCX) castor for June was up Rs 29 to Rs 3,482 a quintal while on the

National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) castor June contract increased Rs 24 to Rs 3,339. NCDEX July castor gained Rs 18 to Rs 3,434.

RCX spot castor was down Rs 7.50 to Rs 3,305.

About 70,000-75,000 bags of castor seed arrived in Gujarat and price was quoted Rs 648-660 for 20 kg and 4,300-4,500 bags arrived in Saurashtra and price stood at Rs 635-661 .

Castor oil was traded at Rs 690 for 10 kg.

A Rajkot-based castor trader said, “At present demand for export is slow. Moreover, domestic buying is also limited and as a result castor price has declined since last one week.

On the other hand, arrivals also are sliding to almost 35,000-40,000 bags from 1.25 lakh bags to 80,000-85,000 bags in Gujarat.”

Palm oil set to rise on demand hopes



Mumbai, May 8: Imported palmolein ruled unchanged on third consecutive day while soyabean refined oil lost Rs

5 for 10 kg. But in domestic futures market, soya oil rose by more than Rs 5 tracking firm Malaysian palm oil futures and reduced arrivals in producing centre – Madhya Pradesh. Rapeseed and cotton refined oil declined by Rs 2 and Re 1 each. Groundnut and sunflower oil were steady.

Sentiment was positive on expectation of possible lower palm oil stocks in Malaysia and higher demand may push up price higher, said observer.

In Mumbai, Liberty sold about 1,400-1,500 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 500-504 for delivery up to May. Ruchi sold 350-400 tonnes of soyabean refined oil at Rs 660-662 and then raised price by Rs 2 to Rs 664. It also sold 100-150 tonnes palmolein at Rs 498 for ready and weekly delivery. Importers were quite as their rates were higher, said broker.

Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 500-504, super palmolein Rs 540 and sunflower refined oil Rs 780. Ruchi was quoting palmolein at Rs 508 ex-Patalganga and Rs 498 ex-JNPT, soyabean refined oil Rs 664 and Rs 780 for sunflower refined oil. In Saurashtra – Rajkot, groundnut oil rose by Rs 5 to Rs 1,730 for *telia* tin and Rs 1,125 (Rs 1,120) for loose (10 kg).

Malaysian BMD crude palm oil's June contracts ended higher at MYR 2,283 (MYR 2,258), July at MYR 2,289 (MYR 2,260) and August at MYR 2,286 (MYR 2,256) a tonne.

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg): groundnut oil 1,130 (1,130), soya refined oil 660 (665), sunflower exp. ref. 685 (685), sunflower ref. 765 (765), rapeseed ref. oil 675 (677), rapeseed expeller

ref. 645 (647) cottonseed ref. oil 637 (638) and palmolein 500 (500).

Vikram Global Commodities, Chennai has quoted Malaysian super palmolein at Rs 550 ex-Chennai.

Feed prices may rule unchanged



Karnal, May 8: Prices of feed products are likely to rule around current levels while poultry products may move up on account of low production in coming days, said experts.

Despite a downtrend in the prices of its key ingredients, poultry feed prices remained unchanged this week.

Aditya Mishra, a commodity expert, told *Business Line* that prices of a few ingredients have been falling but it hasn't made any major impact on the cost of production.

Soyameal prices have decreased by almost Rs 1,100 a tonne over the last 10 days.

On Wednesday, Soyameal eased by Rs 100 and sold at Rs 35,950 a tonne.

Bajra went down by Rs 40 to Rs 1,470 a quintal, DCP was at 35 a kg, MBM eased by Re 1 and quoted at Rs 39 a kg while maize dropped by Rs 20 and quoted at Rs 1,350 a quintal.

Mustard de-oiled cake improved by Rs 100 and sold at Rs 14,600 a tonne, DRB dropped by Rs 100 and sold at Rs 9,000 a tonne while rice bran oil ruled flat and was at 51 a kg.

Feed products

Layer concentrate 25 per cent was sold at Rs 1,465 for a 50-kg bag while layer concentrate 35 per cent went for Rs 1,150.

Pre-lay mash quoted at Rs 1,040 while layer grower mash sold at Rs 980 .

Broiler concentrate quoted at Rs 2,000 while Broiler Starter Mash was at Rs 1,520.

Poultry Products

Meanwhile, fall in supply coupled with steady demand pushed up poultry products.

Egg went up by 23 paise and sold at Rs 2.28.

Broiler improved by Rs 5 and quoted at Rs 63-65 a kg, while chick went for Rs 18, Rs 10 up from previous levels.

Short position holders' buying boosts pepper



Kochi, May 8: Pepper prices continued to crawl up on buying back by short position holders and consequently the running contract ended slightly above the previous day's close.

Market continued to remain volatile but with limited activities.

The net open interest showed a decline indicating buying back. But turnover showed an increase, trade sources said.

On the spot, Karnataka pepper was being traded much and the low bulk density material has arrived at the trading centres in almost all the districts of Kerala, market sources told *Business Line*.

On the spot 64 tonnes of fresh pepper arrived and were all traded afloat at an average price of Rs 342 a kg. Of the material arrived and traded, 48 tonnes were from Karnataka.

Exporters, multinational companies with multi-origin operations, units in the Special Economic Zone here and inter-State dealers were reportedly buying.

Pepper having bulk density ranging from 510 GL and 525 GL was being traded at Rs 330-335 a kg while that of 500 GL and below was traded at Rs 320-325 a kg, they said.

May contract on the NCDEX was up Rs 30 to close at Rs 36,320 a quintal.

Total turnover increased by 82 tonnes to close at 129 tonnes.

Total open interest dropped by 45 tonnes to 371 tonnes.

Spot prices remained unchanged on limited activities at Rs 34,200 (ungarbled) and Rs 35,700 (garbled) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$6,800 a tonne (c&f) for May and June shipments.

However, Karnataka pepper was reportedly being traded at lower rates, market sources claimed.

Turmeric loses sheen as orders dry up



Erode, May 8: Spot turmeric prices are on a downward spiral on lack of any fresh orders from North India.

“Almost all the exporters and local traders are waiting for fresh orders every day from North India. Because of the decreasing trend, turmeric growers are reluctant to bring huge stock. Only 3,800 bags of turmeric arrived on Wednesday, the sale was only 55 per cent,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

The buyers expect good quality turmeric, but only medium variety is arriving for sale. So most of the buyers prefer the finger variety and few bags of root variety was sold.

The root variety usually will have good demand during this period at Delhi.

Fortunately, the price in the turmeric futures has increased by Rs 50-100 a quintal on Wednesday. But this has not made an impact among the buyers.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,699-7,411; the root variety Rs 4,399-6,311 a quintal.

Salem Hybrid Crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 5,664-7,909; the root variety Rs 5,374-6,895.

Of the arrival of 955 bags, only 25 per cent stocks were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety ruled at Rs 5,607-7,316; the root variety Rs 5,106-6,827.

Of the 359 bags arrived, 329 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 6,099-7,389 and the root variety Rs 5,690-6,519.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety quoted Rs 6,016-7,506; the root variety Rs 5,839-6,669.

All the 91 bags were traded.

Despite lower crop, rise in pulses unlikely



Indore , May 8: Pulses and pulse seeds continued to trade lower on slack demand and buying support from millers.

Tur

Amid limited demand , tur (Maharashtra) on Wednesday ruled flat at Rs 4,550 a quintal. Similarly, tur (Madhya Pradesh) also ruled stable at Rs 4,000-4,100 .

Notwithstanding lower domestic crop output, tur prices are seen ruling stable for the past sometime, primarily due to weak demand from the millers.

Arrival of imported tur in mandis has also added to stability in tur prices, said Prakash Vora, a local pulse trader adding that any major rise in tur prices appears unlikely unless and until it gets renewed buying support from the millers.

Tur dal (full) in local mandis was at Rs 6,400-6,500 , tur dal (sawa no.) at Rs 5,800-5,900 while tur marka ruled at Rs 7,000.

moong

Sluggish trend also prevailed in moong on weak demand and steady rise in arrival. On Wednesday, moong (bold) prices were quoted at Rs 5,200-5,400 while moong (medium) ruled at Rs 4,900.

Future of moong appears to be bearish as arrival of new summer crop has picked up in local mandis , said a trader.

Moong dal (medium) was being quoted at Rs 6,600-6,700, moong (bold) at Rs 7,300-7,400, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,400-7,500 .

urad

Urad also ruled steady on slack demand with urad (bold) being quoted at Rs 3,450-3,500, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,000-3,200.

Urad dal (medium) was Rs 4,000-4,100, urad dal (bold) at Rs 4,500-4,600, while urad mongar ruled at Rs 5,600-5,900 a quintal respectively.
