

Apple growing takes fruit in the city



Chiranjit Parmar, a senior horticulture scientist of Himachal Pradesh, at a farm in Tumkur. — PHOTO BY SHREE PADRE.

MANGALORE, April 19, 2014 - Senior horticultural scientist from Himachal Pradesh Chiranjit Parmar will be back in the city on Saturday to talk on 'apple cultivation experiments in Karnataka, future possibilities'.

Mr. Parmar, a Mandi-based horticultural scientist, who had revealed that apple could be cultivated in Karnataka, had interacted with farmers

here in April last.

This time he would talk to farmers at 'Proline', Inland Avenue, M. G. Road at 10 a.m. on Saturday, said a release. The meet is open to all.

Shree Padre, Executive Editor of Adike Pathrike, a farm monthly, would also participate in it, the release said.

Krishna Shetty, convener of the programme, told *The Hindu* that apple cultivation experiments were going on in the State, including at Uppinangady in Dakshina Kannada, for the past over two years.

A farmer in Tumkur Gangadharamurthy had planted 13 saplings three years ago. Of them a plant bore fruit in April last after two years of planting. This year the farmer has informed that one plant has yielded nine apples now, he said.

Mr. Shetty said that of 18 saplings planted by him at his farm in Uppinangady in 2011 two survived. He planted 12 more saplings in 2012 which survived. Of 50 saplings planted last year six died. Though some plants flowered it did not yield fruit.

A farmer Khalistus D'Souza from Somwarpet, Kodagu district has informed that a saplings in his farm has two apples now.

Mr. Parmar had revealed that the fruit, though traditionally grown in temperate regions, could also be cultivated in Karnataka where the temperatures do not fall below 10 degrees Celsius.

It struck to Mr. Parmar when he visited a place called Batu in the Jawa island of Indonesia along the equator.

The Indonesians get two crops in a year and their average yield is about 65 tonnes per hectare compared to six tonnes to seven tonnes per hectare in Himachal Pradesh.

Mr. Parmar visualised that "a near revolution in apple cultivation" may be possible in Karnataka.

After his Mangalore visit Mr. Parmar would also visit Somwarpet and Tumkur, Mr. Shetty said.

For details call Mr. Shetty over 9448484198.

Parmar will talk to farmers at Proline, Inland Avenue, M. G. Road at 10 a.m. on Saturday

Bleak monsoon this year, says weather forecasting company

NEW DELHI, April 19, 2014 - Predicting a bleak monsoon this year with rainfall below normal at 94 per cent of the long range average, Skymet, a weather forecasting company, has announced that there will be less-than-average rain in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Telangana, besides the regions of Vidharba and Marathwada in Maharashtra and North Karnataka during monsoon.

Explaining the reason behind inadequate rainfall during monsoon, Skymet chief executive officer Jatin Singh said the weakness in monsoon could possibly be attributed to El Nino Southern Oscillation — a phenomenon wherein the Central and East Pacific Ocean warms or cools in turn affecting the monsoon.

However, there is a likelihood of more rain in August. In fact, August is expected to be the best month in terms of rain between June and September.

Pointing out that Skymet analysed data from dynamical climate models of international agencies to forecast monsoon, meteorologist D.R. Sikka said there was a difference between the weather forecast at the India Meteorological Department and Skymet.

“While the IMD relies on dynamic model and statistical model, Skymet studies different models available in different countries, which foreshadow weather and monsoon across the world. So we study their predictions on monsoon in India and then make an assessment in India,” said Mr. Sikka, adding that no forecast is 100 per cent right.

While the weather forecasting has been in the country for a long time, the scientific mechanism started with the setting up of the IMD in the 19th Century.

“Famines occurred when the British were at the helm of affairs in the country. And the beleaguered colonial masters felt the need of the hour was to put in place a scientific mechanism predicting weather. Thus, the IMD was set up in 1875,” said Mr. Sikka.

🔗 ***However, there is a likelihood of more rain in August***

🔗 ***‘Skymet studies models available in various nations; IMD relies on statistical models’***

Water level

The water level in the Papanasam dam on Friday stood at 38.25 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 24.92 cusecs and 106 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam.

The level in the Manimuthar dam stood at 67.74 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 9 cusecs and 200 cusecs of water was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 12.06 feet, 36.80 feet in Perunchani, 2.92 feet in Chittar I, 2.92 feet in Chittar II, 2.20 feet in Poigai and 41.12 feet in Mamabazhathuraiyaru.

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 41.91 feet on Friday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 523 cusecs and the discharge, 6,000 cusecs.

The water level in Periyar dam stood at 109.90 feet on Friday with an inflow of 100 cusecs and a discharge of 100 cusecs. The level in Vaigai dam was 25.89 feet with no inflow and a discharge of 40 cusecs. The combined storage in Periyar credit was 492 mcft.

Emu farmers reach out to meat lovers

VIJAYAWADA, April 19, 2014 - Faced with problems in the sale of Emu meat, the farmers have come up with plans to reach the meat lovers. Under the aegis of the Krishna Emu Products Pvt. Ltd, the farmers have set up a modern slaughterhouse at Kalaturu village in Agiripalli mandal in the district. They invested Rs. 1 crore for the construction a slaughterhouse.

They have successfully come out with ancillary products like oil and vanity bags to expand their industry. Disclosing the details, KEPP Ltd. chairman M.R. Rao Prasad said that they manufactured hair oil, pure oil, soaps, crack creams and fat for the benefit of the customers. "The oil was being used by pharma industry for preparing medicines," he said.

"On a trial basis, we are producing vanity bags at Warangal with Emu leather. Soon we will go for commercial production," he said.

National Research Centre on meat scientist B. M. Naveena said that the Emu meat was low in fat and cholesterol. Emu meat is also low in calories, which helps athletes maintain a healthy body. "It is rich in iron, magnesium and protein. The foodies should recognise the protein content," he said.

Under the aegis of the Krishna Emu Products Pvt. Ltd, the farmers have set up a modern slaughterhouse at Kalaturu village in Agiripalli mandal

'Hypoxia driving away fish'

PANAJI, April 19, 2014 - Excessive use of synthetic fertilisers is increasing the gravity of hypoxia problem in the coastal waters off west coast of the country, which could intensify the process of driving the fish away, cautioned Dr. S.W.A. Naqvi, Director, Goa-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) on Thursday.

Talking to *The Hindu*, the Director of premier ocean research institute lamented that contrary to the high level of interest in this problem globally, in India there is very little awareness on this issue.

"Maybe, partly due to lack of education, partly because we don't reach out to people enough," said the NIO scientist, as he shares the blame for low level of awareness in India over a "major sort of conflict between farmer and fishermen".

The west coast of India is today among the over 400 sites of large-scale hypoxia in the world, he said. Globally, this problem of hypoxia is on a very large scale and is leading to major "dead zones".

The problem, he says, is three-fold: "Changing coastal environment as a fallout of climate change, acidification of water due to absorption of nitrogen; all of which cumulatively leads to de-oxygenisation of coastal waters."

He said that fish production off India's coastline has been hit because of the excessive use of chemical fertilisers with nitrogen and phosphorous, by farmers, thus bringing a global conflict between farming practices and fisheries, closer home.

Uninformed farmers resort to excessive use of such fertilisers in the hope of multiplying their production. The excess nitrogen gets washed off into water bodies and eventually in the sea. These fertilisers serve same purpose, enhancing biological productivity in ocean as they do on land.

As a result, over the years, the coastal soil becomes enriched with nitrogen and encourages growth of various plant species, making even cultivation of certain crops possible in these regions. On the flipside, this produces large amounts of organic carbon, which decomposes, using up all the oxygen in the coastal waters, resulting in large-scale hypoxia, which drives the fish away.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Saturday, Apr 19

Max Min

33° | 26°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 66

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 05:54

Sunset: 06:22

Barometer: 1011

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Sunday, Apr 20

Max Min

34° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday

Apr 21



34° | 25°

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday

Apr 22



30° | 26°

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday

Apr 23



30° | 27°

Overcast

Thursday

Apr 24



30° | 27°

Cloudy

Friday

Apr 25



31° | 27°

Cloudy

DECCAN Chronicle

Ex-minister in soup in egg land



A poultry farm in Namakkal.
(Photo: File/DC archives)

NAMAKKAL: In Namakkal, the land of eggs and chicken, former Union health minister and sitting DMK MP S. Gandhiselvan is in a soup of sorts. Locked in a multi-cornered battle and faced with the anti-incumbency factor, the ex-minister is fighting hard to

hold on to the slippery turf.

The Lok Sabha polls have come at the wrong time for him as the poultry hub is reeling under dismally low egg prices, with egg prices crashing from Rs 4 to about Rs 2 now. "We have been demanding a cold storage facility to preserve eggs when the demand dips, and that Namakkal be declared as a separate poultry zone. No efforts have been taken for this so far," rues Mr N. Illango, secretary of the Poultry Farmers Association.

Added to this is the danger of avian flu elsewhere in India and importing countries immediately imposing a ban on buying eggs from all of India. "Unless Namakkal is declared as a special egg zone, export of eggs cannot be done in a big way," adds Mr Illango. Another key issue haunting the poultry hub which produces 3 lakh eggs a day is the skyrocketing prices of poultry feed.

"We had made several pleas to DMK MP Gandhiselvan when he was Union minister totake steps to supply discarded wheat and maize flour at the Food Corporation of India godowns to poultry owners for making poultry feed, No steps were taken regarding this either," laments a poultry farmer.

The lorry business is also facing a rough patch in this truckers town with truck operators claiming a drastic drop in business.

"Diesel prices are being frequently increased and our operational cost is also soaring, affecting our business badly. The government has to fix lorry tariff on the lines of bus fares," says Mr K. Nallathambi, president of the Namakkal Lorry Owners' Federation.

The former minister is also facing flak for failing to start a government medical college in Namakkal despite holding the health portfolio and for not bringing in more trains to Namakkal.

"He promised a ring road for Namakkal but has not kept his word. Only three trains stop at Namakkal railway station. We need more rail work," says Mr S. Periyasamy, president, Namakkal district chamber of commerce.

The newly-expanded Namakkal municipality lacks even basic infrastructural facilities like drains and proper streetlights, he says.

Besides, local DMK leader K.P.Ramalingam, a key supporter of M.K. Alagiri, is not working for Gandhiselvan who is a Stalin acolyte.

Gandhiselvan's advantage is that he hails from the Vellala Gounder community who are the dominant caste in Namakkal parliamentary constituency, while his main rival, AIADMK's P.R. Sundaram is a Nattu Gounder. The DMK is banking on the support of Gounders, Dalits and Muslims, while the AIADMK is harping on "making Amma the next PM".

The other prominent candidates are DMDK candidate S.K. Vel and G.R. Subramaniam of the Congress.

THE HINDU Business Line

India, China support Philippines' bid to curb rice imports

New Delhi, April 18: India and China have supported the Philippines' request to the World Trade Organisation for continuing its import restrictions on rice in line with its food security needs.

The US, Canada, Australia and Thailand, though, are playing hard ball.

They have said that they were still consulting with the Philippines, a person who attended the recent WTO's council for trade in goods meeting told *Business Line*.

The Philippines has sought the WTO's approval to continue with the quantitative restrictions on rice imports until 2017.

The special treatment for rice that the WTO allowed Philippines expired in June 2012.

"India has been fighting for all developing countries at the WTO to ensure that their rights to food security are not breached. The Philippines' request should be supported by all countries," a Government official told *Business Line*.

India itself is engaged in a tough battle at the WTO for legitimising farm subsidies for its food procurement programme and is keen to support poorer countries seeking special treatment for ensuring food security.

Indonesia and Vietnam, too, have come out in support of their neighbour and together with India and China have urged other countries to conclude consultations with the Philippines early.

Since the Philippines has been continuing with its quantitative restrictions on rice imports despite the special dispensation lapsing in 2012, it can be dragged into dispute by any WTO member country for breaching multilateral rules that ban such restrictions.

Under the quantitative restriction system, the Philippines is allowed to import 350,000 tonne of rice annually under the Minimum Access Volume (MAV).

Imports under the MAV quota are levied a duty of 40 per cent, while imports above the quota are levied a higher import duty of 50 per cent.

The Philippines has argued that the restrictive duties are necessary to protect its local farmers.

Global tea prices to weaken

Coonoor, April 18: Even as tea trade around the globe has taken off for Easter and some auctions did not take place this week due to closure for Good Friday, market observers predict a weak trend for a few more weeks.

This follows a situation of too many teas chasing too few buyers in the global market despite a marginal fall in output compared to last year.

Global indications are that a higher crop is a possibility in April. Kenya has received useful showers on both sides of the Rift, and crop arrival at factories has already shown increase. Malawi, Sri Lanka and Indonesia are cropping more due to favourable rains this week. China and Vietnam are passing through main cropping season. In North India, substantial part of the production is expected to hit the market from this month.

However, absence of matching demand is hitting the market. This week, 14 per cent of Kenya tea remained unsold at Mombasa auction. As much as 48 per cent of Malawi tea remained unsold in Limbe auction due to inadequate demand. Colombo traders were on Easter holiday. In Coonoor auctions, as much as 21 per cent remained unsold.

Sugar rules steady in listless trading

Mumbai, April 18: Sugar prices ruled steady on Friday in the absence of cues from mills in Maharashtra.

On the Vashi wholesale market, activities remained routine with arrivals and offtake being routine. Prices for S-grade dropped by Rs. 10 a quintal.

There were no changes in *n aka* and mill tender rates as producers continued offloading amid slack demand. Futures market was closed for holiday.

Peak summer season and higher consumption of sugar during the period will be the supporting factor for the market and price. Production season will also be ending soon.

Demand from bulk consumers such as soft-drinks and ice-cream makers in the spot market and fall in sugar production led to persistent rise in sweetener prices.

Arrivals at Vashi market were around 60-62 truckloads (of 100 bags each) and the local dispatches were 59- 60 loads.

Prices at mill level ruled steady at Rs. 3,100-3,160 for S-grade and Rs. 3,150-3,330 for M-grade.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs. 3,222-3,380 and M-grade was Rs. 3,350-3,512.

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs. 3,200-3,250 and M-grade Rs. 3,300-3,400.

Punjab wheat growers face double whammy

Unseasonal rain, delay in procurement put them under pressure



Eternal wait A farmer in Punjab's Patiala district checks moisture in his grain lying in the open. Farmers here have been waiting for five days for procurement agencies to pick up their harvest. Kamal Narang

Sangrur, April 18: Wheat growers in Punjab are facing a double whammy. While a fresh spell of unseasonal rain across Punjab and Haryana on Thursday has hit harvest, the delay in procurement of stocks by Government agencies is forcing severe problems for them.

Mounds of grains are lying in the open at mandis or procurement centres.

Arrivals are steadily on the rise as farmers are bringing tractor loads of wheat over the last few days. Farmers waiting for Government agencies such as the Food Corporation of India, PunGrain and MarkFed to lift their produce is a common sight.

Slack lifting

“We have been waiting for the last six days,” said Harnik Singh from Rajgarh village in Patiala district. He had brought wheat to the procurement site at Mohammedpur on the Patiala-Sangrur State highway.

He says there is no respite to farmers like him from around 15 villages till the grain is bagged and the last sack lifted by procurement agencies.

So is the case of Atma Singh – a farmer in his late forties from Chodapur village.

The delay in lifting of stocks is testing his patience, but he has no choice. In fact, a group of farmers even staged a protest on the State highway on Wednesday to draw the Government’s attention. They also even blame the lack of adequate jute bags to pack their produce.

Higher moisture content in the grain is delaying procurement, say officials at the procurement sites. The cloudy weather, coupled with unseasonal showers, has hit the drying process.

Kumar Rahul, General Manager (North), Food Corporation of India, said the procurement process had just begun as arrivals, so far, have been lower.

“Only a few thousand tonnes have been procured so far,” Kumar said adding that process will gain momentum in the days ahead.

Govt agencies

Asked about the delay in mandis such as Mohammedpur, Kumar said State agency PunGrain was responsible for procurement and that he would ask the officials concerned to expedite the process. Besides FCI, five other agencies are involved in the procurement process with each of them allotted different regions.

Kumar said that wheat procurement would be higher than last year on better yield as the growing areas experienced prolonged winter.

The Centre is planning to procure 31million tonnes (mt) of wheat this year against last year’s 25 mt and bulk of this is expected to come from Punjab.

On the contrast...

In neighbouring Nidampur, few kilometres away on the same highway in Sangrur district, the picture is a bit different. Most of the grain brought to the mandi has been bagged with only a smaller quantity lying in the open.

Farmers said there were hardly any concerns about lifting of stocks. However, most of them had faced a drop in yield, by some 10-15 per cent this year, on account of erratic weather which affected the process of grain formation.

Farmers want a better price than the minimum support price of Rs. 1,400 announced by the Government.

"We should get at least Rs. 1,700 a quintal to cover rising costs and make a decent gain," said Jagat Singh Sandhu, a farmer in his sixties from Masani village.

Sandhu who owns some 11 acres says returns have been diminishing and farming is no longer attractive for the younger generation.

"I have already pledged two acres of my land and do not know how to get it back," Sandhu said adding that farming is becoming difficult amidst declining water table and erratic power supply – though it is provided free of cost in Punjab.

Business Standard

India's dependence on imported edible oil to hit new record



India's dependence on imported [edible oil](#) is set to hit new record this year despite increase in oil seed output this year. Increasing direct [consumption](#) of oil seeds including soybean, mustard seed and ground nut reduced their availability for [crushing](#).

Consequently, edible oil production from domestic sources remained lower despite increase in overall seed production. The share of imports in India's total edible

oil consumption is likely to hit 65.3% in the oil year (November - October) 2013-14 as against 61.2% in the previous year, data compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) showed.

India's overall edible oil import is likely to remain at 11.8 million tonnes this year as against 10.7 million tonnes in the previous year. Consequently, India's edible oil [import bill](#) may surpass the benchmark Rs 60,000 crore this year as against Rs 57,500 crore in the previous year.

"Fresh addition in India's existing edible oil consumption comes to around 0.8 - 0.9 million tonnes every year because of increase in population and improvement in lifestyle. At the same time, India's edible oil production from domestic sources remained stagnant at between 7-8 million tonnes for the last many years. Hence, increasing import reliance is a natural phenomenon which will continue until production from domestic sources stepped up," said B V Mehta, Executive Director, Solvent Extractors'

Association (SEA). According to a report by India Ratings, total edible oil production from domestic sources is likely to remain at 7.6 million tonnes in the year 2013-14, marginal increase from the last year's level at 7.5 million tonnes. India's overall import in the first five months (between November 2013 and March 2014) fell marginally by 6% to 4.3 million tonnes from 4.6 million tonnes in the previous year. "Being the crushing of last year's kharif oil seeds on full swing, imports were suppressed. As the year passed by with lean seed crushing season, import would move up," said Pradeep Chowdhry, managing director of Gemini Edibles & Fats India Pvt Ltd, a Hyderabad based subsidiary of Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd. Also, sustained lower price has increased per capita consumption of edible oils especially from rural based rupee denomination consumers (who buy oil based on available money and not based on weight).

Per capita consumption is increasing 2-3% every year. Dorab Mistry, Director of Godrej International, forecast India's per capita edible oil consumption to shot up to 14.43 kgs in 2013-14 from 13.92 kgs in the previous year. Overall, edible oil companies' financial performance is likely to improve in coming quarters on higher topline growth due to increased high sea sales and refinery sales. It may also impact trading operations which may experience a slowdown. With increase in proportion of higher margin refinery sales in the overall sales mix, the overall profitability and margins of companies are set to improve significantly in FY15 from FY14 and FY13 levels, forecast recent report by India Ratings.

The agency expects fully integrated refiners with wider product portfolios to benefit more as compared to players with limited product diversification. Players, whose portfolios include branded products would stand to gain additional margins ends.

Sugar exports: Industry restive over delays in subsidy revision



The sugar industry is complaining about the unexplained delay by the government in revising the [subsidy](#) for export.

In February, to encourage a reduction in the surplus stock, the government said it would subsidise shipments, with the amount to be decided every two months, based on the commodity's price and the exchange rate. For February-March, the rate decided

was Rs 3,300 a tonne; that for April-May was to be announced in the last week of March. However, this has yet to be done.

“The delay is adversely impacting the physical shipment of [exports](#) already contracted,” said Abinash Verma, director-general, Indian [Sugar Mills](#) Association (Isma).

Mills had exported 1.45 million tonnes of both raw and refined sugar in the first half of the current season (the sugar year is October to September). Of this, 350,000 tonnes was shipped in March.

Another 350,000–400,000 tonnes of both raw and refined sugar was expected to be physically shipped in April and May. Up to March 31, mills had produced 1.54 mt of raw sugar, of which 0.85 mt was despatched for export. A further delay in announcing the export incentives could mean India missing the target of two mt this year, said Verma.

Isma says sugar production was 23.15 mt until April 15 in the current season, 4.3 per cent lower than the 24.15 mt by the same time last year. It estimates total production at 23.8 mt this year, compared to 25.1 mt in the previous season. Sugar mills have started gradually shutting down production facility for the current season.

Jaggery prices shoot up, in line with those of sugar



In the past five weeks, [jaggery](#) prices have risen 11 per cent on concerns about low production due to unseasonal rain and hailstorms in major sugar-producing regions, including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Traded at about half the price of sugar a few years ago, jaggery has almost bridged the price gap and is currently being quoted at Rs 1,170/40 kg, or Rs 29.25/kg (chaku variety) in the benchmark wholesale Muzaffarnagar market. In the retail market, however, it is being sold at Rs 33-35 a kg, against Rs 35-36 a kg for sugar.

Since March 15, when most production units stopped operations due to unseasonal rains, jaggery prices have risen 11-12 per cent. "There are several reasons for the rise in jaggery prices. The intermittent and unseasonal rains and hailstorms hit jaggery production in the last six weeks...This reduced jaggery supply to mandis. Also, festival and export demand is coming up," said Arun Khandelwa, president of the Muzaffarnagar-based Federation of Gur Traders.

Jaggery production in India is likely to stand at 8,000,000-8,200,000 tonnes, about 20 per cent lower compared to the previous year. Also, jaggery production costs have risen sharply due to higher cane and labour costs.

Farmers have shifted a large amount of high-quality cane (about 10 per cent) to jaggery units so that these fetch 5-10 per cent premium to the standard price fixed by sugar mills. While sugar mills pay Rs 260 a quintal for high-quality cane, jaggery units pay at least Rs 280 a quintal, depending on the quantity and recovery of [molasses](#) from the cane. Consequently, the cost of jaggery production has risen. Khandelwal said for the supply of cane to jaggery units, farmers received cash payments upfront, while in the case of sugar mills, payments were uncertain.

On Thursday, jaggery (regular variety) prices stood at Rs 38-42 a kg in Kolhapur, against Rs 34-35 a kg about five weeks ago. Shivaji Bhoite, owner of Heatech Pvt Ltd, a Kolhapur-based jaggery unit and exporter, said jaggery prices remained upbeat in local market, following a similar trend in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Also, export demand had picked up in the last few weeks, which fuelled jaggery prices in local markets, he added.

Hapur-based Vijendra Kumar Bansal, head of jaggery trader Durgadas Narayandas, said prices would remain high this year due to lower production. He feels prices will rise to Rs 55 a kg. Khandelwal explained that farmers receive cash payment upfront for supply cane to kolhus in comparison with an uncertain payment recovery from sugar mills. Normally, jaggery price declines in case consumers prefer in favour of sugar and vice-a-versa.



Sugar output down 4%, says Isma



Indian mills produced 23.15 million tonnes (mt) of sugar between October 1 and April 15, down four per cent from a year earlier, the Indian Sugar Mills Association ([Isma](#)) said.

Indian mills had produced 1.54 mt raw sugar by the end of March and of that 850,000 tonnes was exported, Isma said on Thursday.

In March alone, mills shipped 350,000 tonnes of raw sugar and they are likely to benefit from the incentives announced by the government for the dispatches, it said.

India announced an incentive of 3,300 rupees per tonne for production of raw sugar for exports as the world's second biggest producer of the sweetener tries to bring down its stockpile by promoting exports.

In April and May, sugar exports are likely to total 350,000 to 400,000 tonnes, the association said.

The world's biggest consumer of sugar is likely to produce 23.8 million tonnes in 2013/14, slightly lower than the 25.1 million tonnes produced a year ago.

Local sugar prices hit a 14-1/2 month high on April 4 thanks to the summer season when demand for ice creams and soft drinks picks up. The election campaign has also propped up prices.

Delay in fixing sugar export subsidy hitting business: ISMA



The government's delay in fixing the export subsidy on raw [sugar](#) for the April-May period is adversely affecting shipments contracted earlier, the Indian Sugar Mills Association ([ISMA](#)) said today.

The government had announced a subsidy of Rs 3,300 per tonne on raw sugar [exports](#) on February 28 to help the cash-starved industry to clear cane arrears and improve their financial situation. It also decided to

review the subsidy amount, depending on the [rupee-dollar](#) exchange rate.

According to ISMA, 1.45 million tonnes of sugar in both raw and refined form are estimated to have been exported in the first six months of the current marketing year, which started in October. Of this, 350,000 tonnes of sugar were exported last month, the first month of the subsidy.

"However, government is yet to announce the incentive for raw sugar production and exports for April and May. The delay in announcement of incentive rate is adversely impacting the physical shipments of sugar exports already contracted," ISMA said in a statement.

As much as 400,000 tonnes of sugar are likely to be exported in April and May. Some shipments have already been dispatched and are in transit.

ISMA said the market expects the subsidy to be unchanged at Rs 3,300 per tonne.

The country's sugar [output](#) declined 4 per cent to 23.1 million tonnes till April 15 of the 2013-14 marketing year from 24.15 million tonnes in the same period last year.

Production declined in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, the top two producing states, while output in Karnataka was at a record following good rains.

Chilli teja surges 3.25% on strong demand



[Chilli teja](#) prices surged 3.25 per cent to Rs 9,860 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators created fresh positions on strong demand in the spot market against tight supply from producing belts.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chilli teja for delivery in June shot up by Rs 310, or 3.25 per cent, to Rs 9,860 per quintal with an open interest of 800 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in July traded higher by Rs 192, or 1.99 per cent, to Rs 9,862 per quintal in five lots.

Market analysts said the rise in chilli teja prices at futures trade was mostly due to strong demand in the spot market against tight supplies from producing belts.

Coriander rises 0.67% on pick-up in demand



[Coriander](#) prices rose by 0.67 per cent to Rs 9,635 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions on rising demand in the spot market against restricted arrivals from producing belts.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, coriander for delivery in May rose by Rs 64, or 0.67 per cent, to Rs 9,635 per quintal with an open interest of 42,020 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in June gained Rs 59, or 0.60 per cent, to Rs 9,836 per quintal in 27,030 lots.

Market analysts said fresh positions built up by speculators due to pick-up in spot market demand against restricted arrivals from producing belts mainly led to rise in coriander prices at futures trade.

Turmeric down 1.3% on profit-booking



[Turmeric](#) prices moved down by 1.35% to Rs 6,556 per quintal in futures market as speculators booked profits after fall in demand at prevailing levels in the spot market.

However, reports of rain damaging the crop in growing areas of South India restricted the fall.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), turmeric for delivery in May fell by Rs 90, or 1.35%, to Rs 6,556 per quintal with an open interest of 12,565 lots.

Likewise, the spice for delivery in April lost Rs 78, or 1.18%, to Rs 6,525 per quintal in 12,565 lots.

Analysts said besides profit-bookings by speculators, fall in demand at prevailing higher levels mainly influenced turmeric prices at futures trade.

Cardamom up 0.3% on increased demand



[Cardamom](#) futures maintained an upward trend for the fourth-straight day with prices rising further by 0.36% to Rs 944.90 per kg in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions amid increased demand in the spot market.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in June added Rs 3.40, or 0.36%, to Rs 944.90 per kg in a business turnover of 16 lots.

Likewise, the spice for delivery in May gained Rs 2.30, or 0.25%, to Rs 917 per kg in 71 lots.

Analysts said apart from firming trend at spot market on increased demand, restricted arrivals from producing regions mainly supported the upside in cardamom prices at futures trade.
