

WTO talks fail as India firm on farm subsidy

SANDEEP DIKSHIT

NO COMPROMISE

- India demanded **more freedom** on stockpiling, agro subsidy
- India will **consider follow-up action** during WTO recess through August
- Deadline for signing trade facilitation pact **expired on July 31**
- TFA protocol was to be **implemented In July 2015**

Hours after the World Trade Organisation (WTO) failed to agree on a Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) or global customs rules following Indian opposition, senior officials said India would push for a permanent peace clause for subsidy on agriculture until a final solution was found. India has refused to agree on a TFA because it wants the WTO to decide simultaneously on a higher limit on stockpiling of agriculture produce to feed the poor. Due to a lack of agreement on the second issue, India has not consented to a TFA at the WTO, where all issues are decided by consensus. Denying that India was a deal-breaker, officials said India would sit down for negotiations as soon as the one-month recess at Geneva ended. WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo said in Geneva, “We have not been able to find a solution that would allow us to bridge the gap,” and asked envoys to “reflect long and hard on the ramifications of this setback.”

Area under Kharif crops comes down

GARGI PARSAI

The area under kharif crops is lower by 114.2 lakh hectares owing to the delayed and erratic south-west monsoon. The cumulative rainfall in the country till July 30 was 23 per cent below the long period average. The total area under kharif crops was 706.25 lakh hectares as compared with 820.47 lakh hectares sown last year, according to official statistics on Friday.

Farm implements distributed

E. Saravanelraj, District Collector, distributed agricultural implements estimated at Rs. 2.20 lakh to nine beneficiaries under the special kuruvai package scheme on Friday. While

four farmers got power weeder, other five were sanctioned water pipes. Earlier, the Collector inspected the newly constructed panchayat union building at T. Pazhur, built at an estimate of Rs. 1.52 crore. He inspected the rainwater harvesting structure on the new premises. Sadayappa Vinayagamurthy, project director, District Rural Development Agency, explained the facilities available on the new premises.

Siruvani Dam overflows in Coimbatore

KARTHIK MADHAVAN



The Hindu With the Reservoir overflowing, the TWAD Board had also increased the supply; on August 1 it supplied 98 million litres a day to the city. Photo: Special Arrangement

Siruvani Water Level			
Date	Rainfall*		Water Level[^]
	Dam	Adivaram	
July 27	06	1	42.48
July 28	16	5	42.97
July 29	09	5	43.30
July 30	41	17	43.96
July 31	120	30	44.78
Aug. 01	169	38	49.57

Note: * - in mm

^ - in feet

After a year's gap, the register in which the water position in the Siruvani Reservoir and water supplied to the city are noted on a daily basis in the city had an important entry. In the column where the water level is entered, a Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board employee wrote 878.51 m. The magic number in layman's language means the Reservoir overflows. The last time the register had a similar entry was exactly 12 months ago – August 1, 2013, said a TWAD Board source. The storage level at 878.51 m means that the Reservoir has 49.57 feet water. The Reservoir's dead storage level is 863.4 m. The source said that the Reservoir overflowed around 10 a.m. Friday, aided by heavy rains in the last two days in the catchment. As of August 1, 8 a.m., the Dam had recorded 169 mm rain and the Adivaram 38 mm. On July 31, the Dam had recorded 120 mm and the Adivaram 30 mm. And, on July 30, the Dam had recorded 41 mm and the Adivaram 17 mm. With the Reservoir overflowing, the TWAD Board had also increased the supply; on August 1 it supplied 98 million litres a day to the city. The Reservoir overflowing coincides with the Coimbatore Corporation's decision to resume giving new water connections. It had stopped issuing new connections more than five months ago as the water level in the Siruvani Reservoir gradually came down. In summer this year the Siruvani water position dropped so low that that Reservoir had only water that equalled 10 days supply to the city. This summer also saw the Kerala Government try and close a tunnel, which is below the dead storage level, on the grounds that it carried water to the city. If Reservoir were to see overflow of water during the northeast monsoon season as well then the city would have comfortable position on the water supply front in the summer of 2015 as well.

Farmers exposed to family farming



In a bid to motivate farmers and increase awareness of “family farming”, the Directorate of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), has organised a two-day workshop-cum-exhibition which was inaugurated by District Collector L. Subramanian here on Friday.

The event is being organised in commemoration of the silver jubilee celebration of TANUVAS and the International Year of Family Farming. Speaking about the workshop, C. Chandrahasan, Director of Extension Education, TANUVAS, said the participants would be introduced to a host of new technology and techniques which could be used for family farming. “Over the years, the concept of family farming or integrated farming where agriculture is considered as a combination of cultivating crops and rearing cattle and poultry has lost favour among farmers. Through introducing better technology and mechanisation, we hope to revive these methods of farming which will ensure a sustainable livelihood and profitable income,” he explained. The workshop had over 700 farmers from the southern districts registering to attend sessions on effective running of poultry farms, cattle and sheep rearing, vermicompost units and schemes and subsidies given by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Exhibition

An exhibition with over 30 stalls showcasing the latest technology available in the market and value-added products from millets, milk, fruits and honey got under way at MADITSSIA Hall. A few varieties of hens and turkeys have also been kept at the exhibition. “We have kept new machines on display so that farmers can know the benefits of value addition. With a growing demand for paneer in the market, we devised a ‘paneer presser’ machine. It can be easily operated and it gives 200 grams of paneer from one litre of milk,” said Vimala Rani, an Assistant Professor from TANUVAS.

Mettur inflow up again

But farmers want prudential water management



The level in the Stanley Reservoir at Mettur stood above 83 feet on Friday.— PHOTO: E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

The prospects of a larger flow into the Stanley Reservoir at Mettur brightened on Friday with the surplus water being let out of the Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini dams in Karnataka. On Saturday, about 39,000 cusecs from Karnataka is expected to reach Biligundlu in Dharmapuri district, where the Cauvery enters Tamil Nadu. While the inflow dropped in the past three days, it improved from 11,103 cusecs Thursday to 14,392 cusecs on Friday. The level stood at 82.43 feet as against the full reservoir level of 120 feet, PWD officials said. The outflow was 6,800 cusecs. During the same period last year, the inflow was 35,557 cusecs, and the level stood at 108.49 feet. Though the dam was to be opened for irrigation on August 12, the sudden surge in the inflow led to water release on August 2. However, in the current year, the chances of opening the sluices in the first week of August look bleak as the level is yet to reach 90 feet, a mark necessary for water release. On Friday evening though, the flow at Biligundlu shot up to 21,000 cusecs, Central Water Commission officials said.

Ban re-imposed

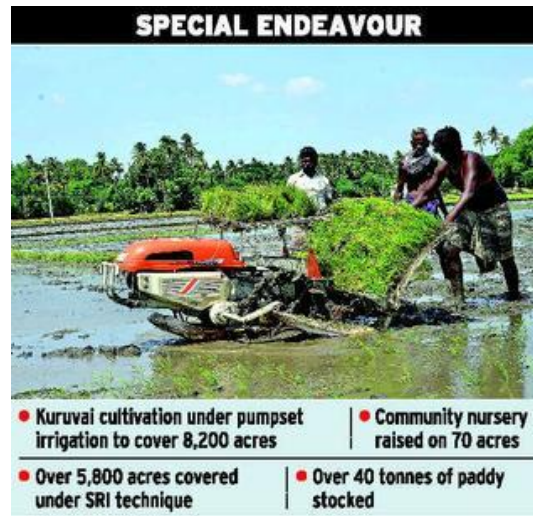
Dharmapuri Collector K. Vivekanandan told *The Hindu* that 31,000 cusecs was released from the Kabini dam and 8,000 cusecs from the KRS dam on Friday. "This quantum of water is expected to reach Biligundlu around noon on Saturday," he said. The district administration re-imposed the ban on coracle ride and bathing at Hogenakkal. The ban on coracle ride was lifted only on Thursday, after being in force for 12 days.

Be cautious: farmers

Expressing happiness at the steady increase in the flow into the dam, farmers in the Cauvery delta districts wanted the State to exercise caution while releasing water for 'samba' (long-term) paddy cultivation to avoid any wastage. Last year, about 20 tmcft was let off into the sea because of the sudden discharge of a large quantum from the Kabini dam, they point out. "The dam should be opened only when the level crosses 90 feet. The level should be sustained continuously," S. Ranganathan, secretary of the Cauvery Delta Farmers Welfare Association, said on Friday. The expected inflow in the event of drainage from the KRS "is unlikely to be of any use to the Cauvery delta, as the 'Kuruvai' (short-term) period is gone and the 'Samba' period will start in late August," said Kaveri Danapalan, general secretary of the Cauvery Delta Farmers Protection Association. "The court judgment envisions 45 litres outflow into Tamil Nadu for every 100 litres storage in the KRS. But this sporadic release is to ensure the dam's safety, and not in the spirit of the judgment and the rights of the lower riparian States. Delta is not a drainage ground, and this water will not support irrigation as we are now in the in-

between phase,” he said. While Siva Suriyan, Tiruchi district secretary of the Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, called for uniform water distribution to all 17 channels in the delta to benefit farmers growing various crops. Farmers should also be informed of the date of opening of the dam, said V. Jeevakumar, a farmer from Budalur.

8,000 acres to be under Kuruvai



About 8,000 acres of land is being brought under Kuruvai cultivation under the special kuruvai package being implemented at a cost of Rs. 1.47 crore in pump set irrigated areas in Anthanallur, Musiri, Manachanallur and Lalgudi blocks.

Free implements

The agriculture department has been identifying special groups for distribution of free implements for the Kuruvai cultivation. Official sources said that, the thrust is on to encourage farmers to take up system of rice intensification (SRI). So far 5,800 acres have been brought under SRI, benefiting 3,050 farmers, sources added. sources .Soil nutrients such as zinc sulphate, gypsum and bio fertilizer are being supplied. A total of 20 groups have been identified for the distribution of transplanting and weeding at cent per cent subsidy valued at about 44 lakhs, according to agricultural department sources.

Nursery transplant

Transplanting nurseries is in full swing and the agriculture department had stocked 40 tonnes of ADT 36 and ADT 43 variety seeds. Adequate stock of fertilizers including 3,629 tonnes of urea, 3,225 tonnes of DAP, 3,124 tonnes of potash and 4,377 tonnes of complex fertilizers had been stocked at government and private godowns. With a view to

encouraging drip irrigation using solar-powered pump sets, ten motors will be set up in deep borewell, the rest will be for open wells.

Fertilizer godowns inspected



RAID:Officials inspecting fertilizer bags kept at godowns of Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation in Tuticorin on Friday.Photo: N. Rajesh

A team of officials attached to the Agriculture Department's quality control wing checked fertilizer godowns here on Friday.As potash, a vital chemical nutrient, is being imported from Russia via Tuticorin harbour and packed here in godowns of Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation, the team comprising Assistant Director of Agriculture (quality control) S. Mathiazhagan and Fertilizer Inspector Ramalakshmi inspected the packing of the fertilizer.The objective is to ensure prompt delivery of quality fertilizer to farmers in Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Tiruchi and other districts.As of now, 31,699 tonnes of potash has been stocked in the godown. The team verified the stock and got samples to check the chemical nutrient's quality.Random checks were conducted to verify the weight of bags as the fertilizer, received in bulk, is being packed in the godown. The maximum retail price printed on the bags was checked.“The fertilizer samples will be sent to the laboratory for analysis and the farmers will get it after its quality is ensured. The farmers should get properly printed receipt with their names, quantity and price for every purchase,” said Mr. Mathiyazhagan.The subsidized fertilizers should not be sold for industrial purpose and the offender would have to undergo rigorous imprisonment up to seven years, the official warned.

Krishna water to arrive in a few days

K. LAKSHMI

A thirsty city staring at water shortage can heave a sigh of relief as the much-anticipated Krishna water from Andhra Pradesh is finally on its way to Chennai. Water released from the Kandaleru reservoir on Friday evening will travel nearly 155 km in the Kandaleru Poondi canal to reach Tamil Nadu. “It will take six days for the water to reach the Poondi reservoir where it will be stored and then, supplied to Chennai households,” said an official of the Water Resources Department. The Andhra Pradesh authorities released a volume of 500 cubic feet per second (cusecs) from the reservoir for the city.

“We expect to receive about 300 cusecs initially. This will be enough to support the drawal of 300 cusecs daily from the city reservoirs to provide drinking water,” said an official. The department expects that the volume of water released will be increased in a week. At a time when the water level in city reservoirs is fast-depleting for want of rains, Krishna water is vital in building up storage and preventing a severe water crisis. At present, Chennai Metrowater is providing 587 million litres a day from existing water sources. According to the agreement between Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, Chennai must be given 8,000 million cubic feet of water, which will be enough for eight months of water supply, between July and October.

State mulling drip irrigation for sugarcane farmers

FIROZ ROZINDAR



District in-charge and Water Resources Minister, M.B. Patil looking at a model designed by students while inaugurating the new science lab in a government higher primary school at Honnutagi village of Bijapur taluk on Friday.— Photo: Rajendra Singh Hajeri

M.B. Patil, Minister for Water Resources and District in-charge has said that in order to save water used for irrigation, the government has decided to ensure drip irrigation facility in five years in command areas where sugarcane was cultivated in the State. Speaking after inaugurating the newly built science lab in a government higher primary school at Honnutagi village of Bijapur taluk here on Friday, he said that with drip irrigation, the government wishes to save at least 40 tmcft of water used by these crops through the present flood irrigation method. He said it was a common complaint of the farmers that canal water does not reach the tail-end areas as many farmers illegally used pumpset to draw water from the canal. Drip irrigation would resolve this issue, Mr. Patil said.

Subsidy plans

Mr. Patil said the government was seriously contemplating to offer subsidy and easy loan facility to farmers for installing drip irrigation system in their fields. "Besides subsidy, the government would ensure that the farmers start repaying the loan after two years of its installation in order to give sufficient time to the farmers," he said. The Minister said that besides saving huge quantity of water, drip irrigation would prevent salinity of soil, save electricity used to lift water and increases the yield due to uniform supply of water.

Pumpset regularisation

On the allegations that many farmers were not ready to regularise their pumpsets, he said that instead of asking for regularisation, the government would instruct them to install drip irrigation technique in their fields. The Minister said that within a fortnight, the government would come up with guidelines for the project.

Lift irrigation projects

He also said that all head works related to lift irrigation projects of Gutti Basavanna, Chimmalagi and Mulawad would be completed by the end of this year and supply of water would commence by March 2016.

Farmers allege rule violation in release of water along LBP canal

Farmers came up with the accusation that the court ruling on release of water through Lower Bhavani Project (LBP) canal was violated and further appealed to the authorities not to allocate water from rivers as well as canals for lift irrigation in general. These issues, along with few other key topics, were raised during the exclusive grievances

redressal meeting which the district administration for farmers here on Wednesday. C. Nallasami, president of Lower Bhavani Farmers Welfare Association, said that distribution of water from Bhavanisagar Dam through Kodiveri irrigation system and Kalingarayan canal had commenced for raising samba crop but not through the LBP canal which too was fed by water from the same dam. "This is a violation of the Supreme Court's judgment in the Cauvery issue where the apex court in Page 85 of the fifth volume of the verdict has stated that the water release should be synchronised through Kodiveri, Kalingarayan, and LBP canal systems, meaning that the release should be simultaneous," he said. According to him, non release of water for irrigation through LBP canal at this juncture could affect 20,000 acres in Tirupur district. The farmers said that there were many cases of water been allotted from rivers and canals for lift schemes which too was against the ruling of the apex court. On the complaint of encroachment from a section of farmers who were using Tirupur South Uzhavar Sandhai for selling their produces directly to the consumers, District Collector Mr. Govindaraj said that continuous steps were being taken to remove any unauthorised trade of vegetables outside the Sandhai. Mr. Govindaraj asked the agriculture officials to randomly check the identity cards of the farmers who use the Sandhai premises to avoid any unauthorised persons from using the facility.

'Grape farmers not yet given compensation'

Despite the government granting funds to farmers who have lost huge quantities of grapes due to hailstones in March this year, the district administration has not given the money to them, the Karnataka Grape Growers Association has said. Addressing presspersons here on Friday, State president of the association, Abhaykumar Nandrekar said the district administration was yet to complete the survey of the affected areas for distributing money to the farmers. He said the government had issued the order to offer Rs. 40,000 per hectare (for maximum of two hectares) compensation to grape farmers. "While the funds are with the district administration, the slow survey work is delaying its release," he said. Mr. Nandrekar said that the State and Union governments have orally agreed to waive off Rs. 278-crore interest on loan borrowed between 2004 and 2012 by the grape farmers of the State. The Union government has also issued instructions to all the nationalised banks to stop the loan recovery process till the next government order on interest waiver. About implementing the Good Management Practice (GMP) system, where the Union government offers 50 per cent financial for re-cultivation of grape plants, Mr. Nandrekar said the Union government has told the State to make use of funds granted under National Horticulture Mission for the scheme.

Did poor quality soyabean seeds cause crop failure?

T.V. SIVANANDAN

A team of senior scientists from University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Raichur, and officials from the Agriculture Department recently conducted a joint survey of agriculture fields in parts of Aland and Chincholi taluks in Gulbarga district where soyabean crop failed to germinate. Agriculture Department officials told *The Hindu* here that the scientists collected soil samples and seeds that had failed to germinate from the agriculture fields for a series of tests in high-end laboratories in the UAS, Raichur. The officials said that results of the study team's findings are likely to be submitted on Monday. Preliminary investigation by the Agriculture Department following complaints from farmers revealed that sub-standard seeds could have been mixed with certified seeds at some point and distributed to farmers. However, the overall soyabean crop scenario has been good and it is only in some places where the crop has failed to germinate. The soyabean seeds were imported from Madhya Pradesh and distributed by the Karnataka State Seed Corporation Agency through the Raitha Samparka Kendras in the district. As much as 9,339 quintals of soyabean seeds have been distributed to farmers and except for complaints from Aland and Chincholi taluks, there has been no trouble other taluks. There were also no complaints of non germination of the crop elsewhere in the State. President of the Karnataka Pranta Raita Sangha Maruti Manpade said that farmers who had taken up soyabean sowing in the hope of reaping a rich yield now find themselves in a woeful position and the government should compensate them farmers for their loss, as the farmers cannot take up sowing of an alternative crop during the kharif season. Besides, the government should order a CID investigation of the alleged mixture of sub-standard seeds with certified soyabean seeds before they were distributed through the Raitha Samparka Kendras. The Agriculture Department has fixed a target of 14,000 hectares of land under soyabean cultivation in the district. However, despite the failure of rain in June, farmers have taken up sowing in 23,632 hectares of land — 14,314 hectares in Chincholi, followed by 5,120 hectares in Aland and about 3,000 hectares in Gulbarga taluk. Agriculture Department officials said that farmers aided by some good rainfall in July have completed sowing in 75 per cent of the targeted area. As against the target of covering 5.70 lakh hectares during the kharif season, farmers have completed sowing in 4.25 lakh hectares. Red Gram, the main stay of Gulbarga farmers, have been taken up in 2.45 lakh hectares against a target of 3.63 lakh hectares fixed by the government. Red gram sowing is still continuing in the district.

Crops damaged in heavy rain



Heavy rain in northern Kerala since Thursday evening has disrupted life and caused widespread damage to standing crops and properties.

Rail traffic was partially hit on Friday due to poor visibility and flooding of tracks at the Kanhangad railway station. Incessant rain caused landslips at Karindalam and Madikai villages, near Neeleswaram, and Kannarthodi in Vellarikkundu taluk. People living close to rivers have been shifted to safer locations. The District Collector has ordered closure of schools on Friday and Saturday. Most roads and interjections in the city were inundated affecting vehicle traffic. According to official sources, one person was drowned and another was reported missing. Joshi, 35, son of Krishnan Kutty of Karuvankayam in West Eleri panchayat, was drowned in a well. M. Kunhikannan, 85, is reported to have been swept away in strong currents in the Pungamchalil river in West Eleri panchayat. The district received rainfall of 194 mm in the past 24 hours up to 8.30 a.m. on Friday. Sources said the district administration was making arrangements to shift 20 families living at Klaiкот in Hosdurg taluk, 30 families at Kulavayal quarters in Ajanoor, near Kanhangad, 12 families in Puloor and seven in Madikai villages, said official sources. The sudden spurt in water level caused damage to standing crops. The damage was estimated at Rs. 16.54 lakh. Six houses were partially damaged in the rain. Road traffic on the National Highway, near Mayyicha, was partially hit due to a minor landslip, they said.

Agri mall to come up at Thiruvangoor: Minister



Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan distributing high-yielding dwarf coconut sapling in Kozhikode on Friday during the foundation stone-laying ceremony of a Neera processing unit.— Photo: S. Ramesh Kurup One of the six proposed agriculture malls in Kerala will come up at Thiruvangoor near Koyilandy for effective retailing of various value-added agricultural products, Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan has said. He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for a Neera processing unit of the Kerala State Coconut Development Corporation (KSCDC) at Elathur near here on Friday.

Value-added items

Mr. Mohanan said the “agri-malls” would market all the native varieties of agricultural produce, value-added items, processed meat products, and other allied items being manufactured by farmers and various government-funded agencies in Kerala. The malls would come up with the required amenities, including spacious parking space for the customers and entertainment facilities for their children. A restaurant of the KSCDC, too, was being planned, he added. According to Mr. Mohanan, the coconut-based industries in the State were witnessing a new verve with the initiatives taken by the State government to control the meddling of outside agencies to cart away raw coconut at a cheap price. “Now, our farmers get a decent price in the open market, which will certainly shoot up in the days to come,” he said.

Big boon

The Minister said the Neera processing unit coming up at Elathur would be a big boon for farmers as they would be able to net at least Rs.1,000 from a coconut tree every month. “The farmers will have to handle only the production process and the rest, including the marketing, will be done at the processing plant,” he said. The KSCDC

officials, who explained the features of the processing unit, said it would have a capacity to process 10,000 litres of Neera a day.

6,000 litres of Neera

As per the current plan, 6,000 litres of Neera, 2,000 litres of coconut honey, and 2,000 litres of coconut sugar would be produced from the unit, they said. Sabah Pulpetta, chairman of the KSCDC, said the project would be completed by the government with a total investment of Rs.20 crore. “We hope to complete the undertaking within a period of five months,” he added. A.K. Saseendran, MLA, presided over the function. KSCDC Managing Director Ashok Kumar and General Manager (in-charge) Subhash Babu were also present.

Farmers’ Day celebrations

The Agriculture Department has decided to host a series of competitions in traditional arts and games as part of the forthcoming State-level Farmers’ Day celebrations in Kozhikode. The programmes will be held at the Marine Ground here from August 16. Coordinators said in a communication here on Friday that folklore performances too would be given special priority during the four-day event. The arrangements so far made to celebrate the event were officially reviewed by Agriculture Minister K.P. Mohanan, here, on Friday, they added.

Fertilizer shortage looms large on ryots

G. NAGARAJA

UNMANNED CHECK-POSTS	▶ Entry points to Telangana at Allipalli, Sitanagaram, Gurubhatlagudem and Medisettivaripalem still remain unmanned
If farmers from here will take away fertilizers and pesticides for use in their lands in Telangana, there will be, obviously, a shortage locally	▶ Movement of fertilizers, pesticides to Aswaraopet, Sattupalli and Dhammapet in Telangana through unmanned check-posts is on
S. JANAKIVENKATA RAMMOHANRAO, Assistant Director, Agriculture	▶ Farmers from EG take up cultivation in Khammam dist. in view of the good soil fertility and lower lease rates there
	▶ Telangana dealers reportedly lift stocks from WG by paying Rs. 100 more than the actual price

Despite the efforts by the government agencies to ensure timely supply of farm inputs to ryots, shortage of fertilizers and pesticides is looming large on farmers in parts of West Godavari district this kharif, thanks to unmanned check-posts along the Telangana border through which the fertilizers allotted to the district are being transported to the other

side. Rough estimates suggest that a quantum of 2 lakh tons of fertilizers is required during the current season in the district. It is learnt that movement of fertilizers and pesticides from the district to Aswaraopet, Sattupalli and Dhammapet in the Khammam district of Telangana is a common practice. The dealers from Telangana reportedly lift stocks from their counterparts here by paying Rs. 100 more than the actual price. Barring Jeelugumilli mandals, where a check-post was set up soon after the State division, entry points at Allipalli, Sitanagaram, Gurubhatlagudem and Medisettivaripalem still remain unmanned. A good number of farmers from the district are taking up banana and ground nut cultivation on leased lands in Sattupalli, Aswaraopet and Dhammapet mandals in view of the good soil fertility and lower lease rates there. "If tenant farmers from here will take away fertilizers and pesticides for use in their lands in Telangana, there will be obviously a shortage locally," says S. Janakivenkata Rammohan Rao, Assistant Director, Agriculture department. The department recently held a meeting with dealers from the three mandals on measures to be initiated against illicit inter-State movement of fertilizers and pesticides. It was proposed to post Agriculture Officers at all unmanned entry points and initiate criminal action against erring dealers, Mr. Rao said. He urged the ryots from the district undertaking cultivation in Telangana to procure manures, pesticides and fertilizers from there itself.

Ryots hail decision to establish turmeric processing unit

Farmers and people hailed the Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's decision to establish turmeric processing unit in over 1,250 acres at Mothe village in Velpur mandal and also an agriculture research centre at the agriculturally rich village, Ankapur in Armoor mandal. At an interactive meeting with the State-level agriculture and horticulture official teams led by Venkatram Reddy, Executive Director, Horticulture, at Velpur and Ankapur on Friday, the farmers told them that the Government should increase the subsidy to drip irrigation and farm ponds and supply machinery to harvest turmeric. The official teams said that the two centres once completed would be immensely helpful to farmers as they would enable them to sow high yielding varieties and also achieve more production. With the farmers still using old technology to dry turmeric it is containing more moisture, fetching less price. If the moisture is reduced to minimum level and qualitatively superior turmeric is brought to the market, it will give them profitable price, they explained. TRS Rythu Sangham State president V. Surender Reddy, meanwhile, told reporters in Armoor that the sanction of two centres is the first step towards achieving turmeric board. The turmeric processing centre and research station were sanctioned by the Chief Minister considering the appeal made by Member of Parliament K. Kavitha and A. Jeevan Reddy and V. Prasanth Reddy, MLAs from Armoor and Balkonda respectively. To set up the turmeric board, four States should represent the Centre and the MP is coordinating with the MPs of those States, he said.

Chennai

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Saturday, Aug 2

Max Min

35° | 28°

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 05:54

Humidity: 59

Sunset: 06:35

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1006

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Sunday, Aug 3

Max Min

36° | 28°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday

Aug 4



37° | 27°

Partly
Cloudy

Tuesday

Aug 5



37° | 28°

Partly
Cloudy

Wednesday

Aug 6



36° | 28°

Partly
Cloudy

Thursday

Aug 7



36° | 28°

Cloudy

Friday

Aug 8



36° | 28°

Partly
Cloudy

Airport Weather

Chennai

Chennai

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 05:53

Humidity: 79

Sunset: 06:37

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1004



THE  NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

Agricultural Operations in AP, TS on the Rise as Skies Open up

With moderate rains lashing Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and major reservoirs getting heavy inflows, agricultural operations in the two states are gradually picking up. Sowing in around 65 per cent of the total cropped area in Telangana and 42 per cent in Andhra Pradesh has been completed so far. Telangana: Propped up by the monsoon, farmers in the state have begun their farming activities. With rains giving the state a miss in June, the sowing schedule of rain-fed crops had been lagging. Now with the skies opening up, sowing of maize, cotton and red gram seeds has improved. While paddy cultivation was under progress with assured irrigation sources, due to erratic and uneven rainfall farmers were advised to sow crops like red gram, jowar and castor. The agriculture department took up campaigns to create awareness among farmers to cultivate ID crops like maize, red gram, castor and jowar instead of paddy. As against the normal rainfall of 361.2 mm till July 30, Telangana received only 192.8 mm, a shortfall of 47 per cent. A deficit of 20 to 59 per cent was reported in all the nine districts of the state except Hyderabad. Nizamabad, Adilabad and Medak recorded the highest rainfall deficit with 55 per cent. Paddy was sown only in 2.314 lakh hectares as against the seasonal normal of 10.04 lakh hectares. Andhra Pradesh: The total sown area for jute/mesa witnessed a marginal decline. Timely rain augured well for Kharif crops in the state. Paddy nurseries were raised in all parts of all the districts in the state. Cultivation of paddy is in progress in East Godavari and Krishna districts. With recent showers increasing the content of moisture in the soil, sowing of crops like maize, cotton, groundnut, sesame, bajra, jowar, etc are being sowed has gone up. Farmers were advised to take up cultivation of early maturing varieties of crops and sow dry paddy/drum seed in view of less rainfall. Krishna, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Prakasam, Nellore, Guntur, Anantapur, Kadapa and Chittoor received 20 to 59 per cent less rainfall.

Dearth of Fish Seeds: Agri Dept to Help Ryots

To meet the shortage of fish seeds, the Fisheries Department has entrusted ADAK (Agency for Development of Aquaculture, Kerala) with procuring fingerlings from rearing farmers and hatchery owners in Kerala. In Palakkad district alone, while the demand was 2.5 crore, the production was only 73 lakh fingerlings. With the capacity of the Malampuzha farm was 1.5 crore, meant that only 50 per cent of production was being

met. In the Malampuzha fish farm, monsoon breeding is undertaken from June to September in the Katla, Rohu, Mrigal and Grass Carp varieties. In winter, from October to January, fish varieties of common carp and koi carp are undertaken. The mrigal and common carp (cyprinus carp) varieties are sold for ₹35 for every 100 numbers, grass carp costs ₹75 for 100 numbers and Lebio ₹25 for 100 numbers. Both Katla and Rohu were sold for ₹50 per 100 numbers, said Deputy Director of Fisheries, Malampuzha, S Mahesh. Under the scheme, inland fish production is aimed to be increased to 3 lakh tonnes in three years up to March 31, 2015. The Matsya Samrudhi Scheme is ₹194.17 crore of which ₹55.30 crore will be given as subsidy.

Soil Acidity: Agriculture Department to Aid Farmers



In a step that will give solace to at least one lakh farmers in the state, the Agriculture Department is all set to provide assistance to do away with the adverse effects of soil acidity. Farmers will get assistance, under the Soil Health Management and Productivity Improved scheme, to apply soil ameliorants - a chemical that is applied to improve the quality of the soil and thereby improve plant growth - to reduce and gradually eliminate the negative effects of soil acidity which took a heavy toll on productivity for the past many years. The initiative is expected to benefit a minimum of one lakh farmers in select districts in the state. The plan to give financial assistance to farmers for applying soil ameliorants was made based on the soil study conducted by the Agriculture Department. "The soil study found that acidity in soil has been a matter of huge concern for the farmers. Acidity was common in land across the state, only the severity differed," Agriculture Director R Ajith Kumar said. The scheme is being implemented at a cost of ₹20 cr and financial aid for application of ameliorants will be ₹2,400 per hectare. "The initiative is for providing guidelines for something which the farmers are not familiar with. Once they get familiarised with it, they will continue it by themselves," Ajith Kumar added. The soil study found that acidity had been mostly affecting productivity of

paddy, while the effect on other crops have become visible only gradually. Acidity also affects microorganisms in soil, which affects productivity. It reduces the ability of the crops to absorb nutrients, the study pointed out. Ameliorants are applied to correct soil acidity and improve soil fertility status and thereby crop productivity; to supplement calcium and magnesium deficiencies in soil; to improve the intake of primary, secondary and micro-nutrients by the crops by improving soil health status and to sustain good soil health and improved agricultural practices.

Fish Farmers Open a Hatch to Net a Fine Catch



The Matsya Samrudhi scheme of the Fisheries Department, aimed at promoting inland fish farming by distributing fish fingerlings free of cost and feed subsidy to the public through local bodies by purchasing it from 30 selected hatchery owners in Kerala, has now turned into a lucrative business. Most of the hatchery owners who were supposed to breed them find it lucrative to purchase them from Andhra Pradesh and sell them to the local bodies at a profit. The hatchery owners also avail of various incentives from the Fisheries Department, including the subsidy of ₹15,000 available for each unit which was below one acre. Consider this: A fish farmer owning 50 cents of pond in Kerala could produce fish fingerlings at 30 or 40 paise. He has been listed as one of the 30 suppliers in Kerala by ADAK (Agency for Development of Aquaculture, Kerala) through a tendering process to grow and supply fish fingerlings to local bodies at 50 or 60 paise under the Matsya Samrudhi scheme. As fish fingerlings are available in Andhra Pradesh for 15 and 20 paise, lower than the production cost here, they are transported here in tanker lorries, say industry sources who refuse to be named. More than eight crore fish fingerlings were purchased by ADAK from the 30 listed suppliers to be distributed to local bodies in a year. The low production cost of spawn and fish fingerlings in the neighbouring states, especially Andhra Pradesh, led to this trend. The availability of vast tracts of land vis a vis Kerala, availability of enough brood stock, cheap labour and fish

rearing being a homestead activity in Andhra Pradesh led to the availability of fish fingerlings at `15 and `20 per 100 while the average price in the state seed farms was `50 to `75 per 100 in Kerala. The needs of the fresh water fish were being met by the National Fish Seed Farm in Malampuzha (150 lakh capacity), National Fish Seed Farm, Polachira (25 lakh capacity), fish seed farm, Pannivelichira (20 lakh), State Fish Seed Farm (5 lakh capacity) and fish seed rearing units (60 lakh capacity). Thus, the total capacity of fish fingerling production in the state was 260 lakh while the need was around 500 lakh.

THE HINDU BusinessLine

Kharif sowing gathers pace as monsoon deficit shrinks

Recovering ground			
(lakh hectares)			
	2014	2013	Normal
1. Rice	221.56	237.89	240.56
2. Coarse grains	120.78	162.77	162.54
(a) Jowar	11.46	18.7	22.77
(b) Bajra	45.53	59.37	62.12
(c) Maize	57.85	74.81	67.61
3. Pulses	67.19	82.95	82.16
(a) Arhar/Tur	25.39	32.81	30.02
(b) Urad	16.34	19.45	18.36
(c) Moong	14.52	19.35	18.67
4. Oilseeds	137.36	169.71	148.66
(a) Groundnut	28.37	36.85	34.93
(b) Soyabean	95.39	117.33	98.57
(c) Sesamum	10.25	10.12	9.95
(d) Sunflower	1.17	1.80	1.93
5. Cotton	104.84	108.54	107.33
6. Sugarcane	46.42	50.32	48.36
7. Jute & Mesta	8.11	8.29	8.41

Figures (including normal) are for as on August 1

With the monsoon deficit shrinking to 22 per cent, kharif sowing in all crops has picked up. This has helped to make up the acreage in key crops such as cotton, soyabean and rice. However, the overall *kharif* acreage is still lower than during the corresponding period a year ago. The total acreage under kharif crops is up 31 per cent to 700.6 lakh hectares (lh) as on August 1 against last week's 533.2 lh, according to the Agriculture Ministry data.

Pace of sowing

The increase in pace of sowings has reduced the deficit in cotton acreage to some 3.4 per cent from the previous week's 27.4 per cent. For soyabean, the acreage deficit stands

reduced to 18.8 per cent (29.3 per cent) and for rice the shortfall stands at 6.9 per cent (12.8 per cent). However, the acreage deficit remains high for pulses at 19 per cent (39.3 per cent) and coarse cereals at 25.8 per cent (43.4 per cent). The deficit in total seasonal rainfall has come down to 22 per cent for the first half of the four-month monsoon season.

Normal precipitation

The weighted rainfall across the country stood at 353.2 mm during the June 1-July 31 period against the normal 452.4 mm. Precipitation has been normal in 17 of the 36 meteorological sub-divisions, with 19 of them witnessing deficient rainfall.

Though farmers have largely caught up with acreages despite delayed monsoon, follow-up showers in the remaining monsoon period holds the key for a good harvest, experts said. “The yields will be good this year only if it rains in September and October as cotton requires rains during the flowering and fruiting stages,” said KR Kranthi, Director at the Central Institute for Cotton Research in Nagpur. Cotton has been planted on about 104.84 lh so far, against last year’s 108.54 lh.

More cotton acreage

The cotton trade is expecting an increase of 5-10 per cent in acreages this year as oilseed growers are expected to switch to the fibre crop on better returns last year. “Planting of soyabean is almost complete. There could be some late stage planting in parts of Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Overall, we expect the acreage to be lower by around five per cent this year,” said Rajesh Agarwal, spokesperson for the Soyabean Processors Association of India. So far, soyabean has been planted on over 95.39 lh against 117.33 lh last year.

Sugar turns sour on absence of bulk buying

Sugar prices in the spot market declined by Rs. 2-5 a quintal on Friday while futures market continued to decline for the fourth consecutive day. On Thursday, about 17-18 mills offered tenders and sold 54,000-55,000 bags at Rs. 2,925-3,000 (Rs. 2,930-3,000) for S-grade and Rs. 3,050-3,170 (Rs. 3,050-3,170) for M-grade. Bombay Sugar Merchants Association’s spot rates were: S-grade Rs. 3,086-3,202 (Rs. 3,090-3,205) and M-grade was Rs. 3,210-3,365 (Rs. 3,212-3,370). *Naka* delivery rates were: S-grade Rs.

3,050-3,160 (Rs. 3,050-3,160) and M-grade Rs. 3,150-3,280 (Rs. 3,150-3,280).Our Correspondent

Business Standard

UP govt holds 3 mt of sugar for auction



The Uttar Pradesh government says it has three million tonnes of sugar seized from private millers which haven't cleared sugarcane payment arrears to farmers. This stock is supposed to be auctioned to raise the money but the process is lagging for various reasons. It auctioned 530,000 tonnes of the seized stock in July and the money released for farmers' payment. The 95 private sugar mills have collectively paid Rs 11,765 crore against the total dues of Rs 17,366 crore for cane purchased during the 2013-14 crushing season, implying settlement of 68 per cent of the arrears. Since the Allahabad High Court is hearing a case pertaining to the arrears, the government had so far registered a little over 60 First Information Reports with the police and issued Recovery Certificates (RCs) against 52 mills. Pursuant to the RCs, issued by the state cane commissioner, the respective district administrations had seized the sugar stock for auctioning. In its affidavit filed at the HC on Friday, the government told the court that as a result of the confiscation, there was a ready stock of about 2.98 mt of sugar to be auctioned. Besides, 230,000 tonnes belonging to cooperative mills was also available. The 23 cooperative mills had settled 88 per cent of their dues, paying Rs 1,696 crore against dues of Rs 1,929 crore. The lone UP State Sugar Corporation had settled all its dues of Rs 92 crore. This way, the aggregate cane arrears stand at Rs 5,835 crore, a settlement of 70 per cent. All the 119 mills had paid Rs 13,553 crore against total dues of Rs 19,388 crore. The HC's next hearing is on Tuesday. The UP Sugar Mills Association is to meet on Monday to decide what to do. During the 2013-14 crushing season, UP's sugar output dropped by 13 per cent to 6.42 mt. The sector is the largest organised industry in the state, estimated at Rs 30,000 crore. Cane farming supports the livelihood of about four million farmers.

Cardamom down 0.6% on subdued demand



Cardamom remained weak and prices fell further by 0.60% to Rs 918 per kg in futures trading today as speculators engaged in reducing positions amid sluggish demand in the spot market. At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in August declined further by Rs 5.50, or 0.60%, to Rs 918 per kg in a business turnover of 127 lots. Likewise, the spice for delivery in September traded lower by Rs 2.20, or 0.25%, to Rs 881.50 per kg in 26 lots. Market analysts attributed the persistent fall in cardamom futures to low demand in the spot market against higher supplies from producing region.

The Telegraph

calcutta, india

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A pamphlet advertising Sri Sri Farmers Market that will debut in Dhurwa this Sunday.
Telegraph picture

Green would soon be the colour of your plate.

Come Sunday, farmers from Namkum and Bundu blocks of Ranchi will replenish the Vidhan Sabha market in Dhurwa with organically grown fruits and vegetables, which in addition to lacking toxic residues of conventional agricultural yield are arguably more nutritious too. Christened Sri Sri Farmers Market, the noble endeavour is supported by The Art of Living foundation and Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences & Technology Trust, Bangalore. "We have been working in Namkum for over six years now. Villagers have been trained in organic farming. Now, we will provide them a direct market for their bio-produce without involving middlemen," said Rajesh Kundu, a volunteer of The Art of Living. According to organisation functionaries, it will be a Sunday market from 9am and the prices of organically grown vegetables and fruits will be the same as those grown with the help of chemical fertilisers. The project will support local farmers and ensure that they get better price by selling their organic produce directly to end users, read pamphlets released on Friday to announce the August 3 launch. Ashim Kundu, a full-timer with The Art of Living, is the main driving force behind the project that is being executed by the YLTP (youth leadership training programme) team. "We have roped in 150 farmers from Namkum and Bundu who have been trained in organic farming, a form of agriculture that relies on techniques such as crop rotation, green manure, compost and biological pest control. At present, around two quintals of vegetables and fruits like onion, *nenua*, *kundri*, guava, papaya and mango will be grown every week. The organic yield will increase soon. The mart will also sell *shuddh desighee* and honey," he said. Kundu has been working with farmers of the region for over half a decade and has taught them how to produce organic manure, which increases soil fertility manifold. "We promote non-hybrid seeds. Hybrid varieties and inorganic fertilisers are a strict no-no." He added that they were trying to get the organic products certified by a quality laboratory. On whether the villagers were preferring organic methods when it came to productivity, the farming expert, who holds a masters degree in rural development, said cultivation using green manure preserved fertility of the land and hence, was more sustainable. "When other developed nations are consuming organically grown products, we can do the same too," he summed it up.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Bengal cultivating onions to meet growing demand: Mamata Banerjee

To meet the growing demand of onions and control the hike in its prices, the West Bengal government has started cultivation of the vegetable in Bankura district, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said. "In Bengal we don't cultivate onions. I have to buy onions from Nasik... In Bankura we already have started cultivating onion on 12,000 bighas of land," Banerjee said while speaking at a public meeting here after inaugurating 166 projects in the district and laying foundation stones of 110 more in different districts. Bankura MP Moon Moon Sen and party's all-India general secretary Mukul Roy were also present on the occasion. Banerjee said that West Bengal had set an example for the country in the 100-day-work programme and said the day was not far off when the state would be a model for the "rest of the world". Declaring that the state would observe August 14 as the 'Kanyashree Day', Banerjee appealed to unmarried girls below 18 and who are studying to enroll themselves immediately in the scheme to reap the benefit of the Rs 25,000 grant from the government. Kanyashree Prakalpa is Banerjee's dream project, for a bright future for the girl child and to prevent child marriages. Besides, she said, her government was also providing a monthly stipend of Rs 600-800 to students belonging to the SC and STs and studying in class six, seven and eight. Claiming that her government was also monitoring whether the schemes were properly operating or not. The chief minister also inaugurated 48 marketing hubs amid the 500s as planned by the state government. These marketing, Banerjee said would provide job to around five lakh youths associated with the self-help groups.