

TS issues guidelines for crop loan waiver

Telangana Government on Wednesday night issued guidelines for crop loan waiver scheme for the farmers. It also directed all the bankers to commence fresh lending of crop loans immediately. In an eight-page order issued here, the Government said the scheme would cover short term production loans and crop loans against gold, disbursed to farmers in the Telangana State by scheduled commercial banks, cooperative credit institutions and regional rural banks, all collectively called lending institutions. The eligible amount for debt waiver would be limited to the amount of loan (together with applicable interest) disbursed and outstanding as on March 31 this year or Rs. 1-lakh per family, whichever is lower. The farmer family according to the order is head of the family, spouse and dependent children. The crop loan waiver scheme would not be eligible for advances against pledge or hypothecation of agriculture produce other than standing crop, tied loans and closed crop loan accounts. The order said each lending institution which has disbursed the short term crop loan would prepare village-wise list of farmers with outstanding crop loan and gold loan as on March 31. The list of farmers would be compared by the bank manager and a final list would be prepared by the bank as per the format prepared specifically for this purpose. A joint mandal level bankers committee meeting would be convened to check if some farmers have taken crop loan and agricultural gold loans for crops from more than one bank. All the banks in the mandal would come with a final list and finalise the beneficiaries to avoid duplication.

Nagapattinam Collector reviews preparations for samba cultivation

The administration has warned of a crackdown against private companies and dealers of uncertified seeds and fertilizers. In the wake of release of water from Mettur dam, a review meeting on the preparedness of the line departments in meeting the requirements for samba season was held here recently. Collector T. Munusamy said steps were being taken to ensure that the Kallanai gates were opened so that water reached downstream in time. Steps have been taken to repair shutters and dredge all channels.

Highways Department has been directed to remove any hurdles on waterways that might have come up during its construction activities over rivers. TWAD Board had been directed to ensure that pits dug up on riverbeds were properly closed before the water flowed downstream. The current samba crop was expected to be raised over an area of 1.8 lakh hectares in Nagapattinam district. This would include over 58,000 hectares under direct sowing. About 824 tonnes of long-term and medium-term samba seeds such as Aaduthurai 46, B.B.T.5204, Savithiri, Aaduthurai 50 and so on were available in all agricultural extension centres of the district.

Agriculture college to be set up at Anna Farm

The Government Agricultural College and Research Institute originally planned to be set up at Kudumiyanmalai near here will be located at the Arignar Anna Farm here. The sprawling 1,017-acre premises of the Arignar Anna Farm has adequate infrastructure, including buildings, for starting the college. The buildings would be temporarily used as classrooms, said C.Manoharan, District Collector. The Collector held discussion at the farm with the officials of various departments and representatives of Tamil Nadu Agriculture University for setting up the college. In a press release issued later he said that 100 acres had been allotted for setting up the centre at the farm and the exact site would be selected soon, he said. He also pointed out that the State government had allotted Rs.50 crore towards the first instalment for starting the college. Initially, 90 students would be admitted, he said. The farm, among other things, include soil testing laboratory, horticulture farm, training institute for agriculture officers, farmers training centre and other farm-related activities.

Monsoon prospects bleak for Ramanathapuram

As farmers are praying for a good northeast monsoon after they lost their crops to successive droughts in the last two years, the KrishiVigyan Kendra (KVK) of Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU) has suggested that they could try short-duration Co (R) 51, a new paddy variety developed by the university. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that the northeast monsoon will not be normal this year owing to El Nino factor and there could be a deficit of 10 to 12 per cent rainfall. Farmers, who have planted paddy on about 1.3 lakh hectares of rain-fed areas in the district, are keeping their fingers crossed. While farmers in the delta region cultivated long-duration paddy varieties during samba season, farmers here have already switched over to short-duration crops such as 'BPT 5204' (135 days duration) and ADT 45 (115 days duration), but the KVK says the farmers should go for crops of much shorter duration. "They preferred the BPT 5204 for its fine grain and good price but it is susceptible to diseases," R. Durai Singh, Professor and Head, KVK-TNAU, here said. Instead, they could try Co (R) 51, a 90 to 95-day variety or drought-resistant Anna 4 of 100 days duration, he said.

With monsoon playing truant, the farmers could be assured of successful cultivation if they went for 90-day duration 'Kudhuraivali,' Ragi and Varagu, or 65-day duration pulses such as black gram MDU1 or green gram Co8. But the farmers had their mind set for paddy, Mr. Singh said. Both 2012-13 and 2013-14 had been disastrous for farmers following the failure of northeast monsoon. In 2012, the monsoon began on a right note and the district received good rains in October, but later there was severe drought and the crops withered at the terminal stage. During 2013-14, the farmers lost their crops at the germination stage itself as the monsoon failed.

Farmers ready to take up samba paddy cultivation



• TIME TO ACT:With the Cauvery flowing past Mukkoumbu, a farmer at Vayalur near Tiruchi prepares his land for samba crop on Wednesday.— PHOTOS: A. MURALITHARAN AND R.M. RAJARATHINAM



SAMBA SEASON

- Samba paddy likely to be raised on 1.50 lakh acres in Tiruchi district
- About 87,000 acres of land is under canal irrigation
- 8,500 tonnes of paddy seeds available in the district
- Cauvery Delta Farmers' Association has urged PWD officials to ensure water in all the 17 irrigation canals in the region

8,380 cusecs of water realised at Upper Anicut, say officials

Farmers in canal-irrigated areas of the district are gearing for taking up samba paddy cultivation even as water released from the Mettur reservoir reached the Upper Anicut (Mukkombu) on the outskirts of the city on Wednesday. About 8,380 cusecs of water was realised at the Upper Anicut and it flowed across the Cauvery along the city. Water for irrigation would be released in the delta region from the Grand Anicut on

Thursday. Agriculture Department officials are expecting samba paddy to be raised on about 1.50 lakh acres in the district, including about 87,000 acres in the canal irrigated areas and the rest in the non-delta region of the district. Farmers in the canal irrigated areas have already started preliminary works such as ploughing the field. Farming operations are expected to commence in about a week's time in these places. However, farmers in the non-delta areas of the district are expected to go in for the crop only by October/November. Officials said that about 8,500 tonnes of seeds of different paddy varieties were available with the primary agriculture cooperative societies and with private traders in the district. Adequate quantity of fertilizers would also be made available in time, they said. Meanwhile, farmers are keeping their fingers crossed on the prospects of the crop this season and feel that proper water management would be the key. "We welcome the State government's decision to release water from Mettur Dam. It will help improve the water table immediately. However, since we require water for about 110-120 days for the crop, the Centre should ensure that the Karnataka government released Tamil Nadu's due share of water in the Cauvery over the next few months," said P. Ayyakannu, State Vice President, Bharatiya Kisan Sangam. R. Subramanian, Deputy Secretary, Cauvery Delta Farmers Welfare Association, urged the Public Works Department to ensure release of adequate water in all the 17 irrigation canals in the region.

"Officials should ensure that the water reached the tail end areas of the canals and take steps to repair damaged shutters," he said. He demanded sanction of crop loans liberally

Bivoltine is gaining popularity among farmers

With attractive and assured returns, bivoltine (white silk) has been gaining popularity among sericulture farmers in the central region in the recent years. A concerted effort is being taken by the Sericulture Department in coordination with Central Silk Board to give an impetus to the development of bivoltine.

Change in technology

The change in technology has been facilitating sericulture even in dry belts and the department has identified select villages in Thanjavur district where the annual rainfall has dwindled to some extent in the recent decades, said N. Malliga, Assistant Director of Sericulture, Tiruchi. In fact, it has been planned to bring an additional 70 to 100 acres under sericulture in Thanjavur district during the current financial year. The department has identified Orathanadu, Ammapettai, Kumbakonam, Papanasam and a few other places for bringing more area under sericulture cultivation. She said that farmers in villages such as Kulamangalam, Vadasery, Arumalaikottai, Vaduvur (all in Orathanadu), and Tirupurammadam and Tiruvalanchuzhi near Kumbakonam would be motivated to go in for bivoltine. An enlightenment programme would be held in Thanjavur on Thursday to motivate the farmers to go in for modern technology and take due advantage of the

cluster promotion programme (CPP) being implemented in the district. N.G. Selvaraju, scientist, Central Silk Board, said that the modern technology has dispelled the myth that the sericulture was a season-specific activity.

Price of Nendran banana may show increasing trend

The price of Nendran banana is expected to witness an increasing trend between August and October, the Agro Market Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMIBPC) of the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business has said. In a price advisory to banana growers, the AMIBPC advised farmers to sell their produce upon harvest to take advantage of the rising price. The price of the variety was Rs. 48 a kg at the Coimbatore UzhavarSandai. However, arrivals are on decline since last month due to crop damages by wind in Karamadai and Annur region. The price is expected to be around Rs. 55-60 a kg during the harvest season from August to October. The projections were based on an analysis of the price of the banana variety at the UzhavarSandhai for the past six years and a traders' survey at the Coimbatore Kumaran markets conducted by the Back Office of AMIBPC operating at the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. Both the analysis and survey revealed that the price would be on the rising trend. In Tamil Nadu, Nendran banana is grown in Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruchi, and Kanyakumari districts. Farmers have taken up sowing last year to get their produce ready in time for Onam in Kerala to get reasonable profit for their produce.

Incessant rain causes concern among residents, farmers in Hassan

Incessant heavy rain that continues to lash Sakleshpurtaluk has created mini waterfalls across the taluk besides leaving those residing near the hills in fear of landslides. People who pass through ShiradiGhat stop to enjoy the mini waterfalls. The taluk received more than normal rainfall in July. Many roads were damaged, obstructing public and private transport. The heavy downpour has affected hundreds of hectares of coffee plantations, leaving growers with losses this year. Coffee and pepper are worse hit due to the rain. Until first week of August, the district administration had estimated total loss to be at Rs. 9.26 crore in the district. Majority of the damage has been reported from Sakleshpurtaluk.

Notice

Officers of the Public Works Department have issued a notice to a family at Uchchangi warning that the department would not be responsible if their house was damaged due to landslide. The PWD Assistant Executive Engineer (Sakleshpur) served the notice (dated July 28) to Nagaraj asking him to shift to a safer place. The notice said that a portion of the hillock along the Hirisave-Chattanahalli State highway had shifted. Stating that there was possibility of a landslide, the department has warned the family to relocate immediately.

Mr. Nagaraj alleged that the PWD was responsible for the present situation. The unscientific work carried out by them has led to this state, he alleged.

Water damages crops after NLBC escape gate caves in

Crops in acres of land were damaged after an escape gate installed at 34 km of the Narayanpur Left Bank Canal (NLBC) near Rajnkollur village caved in due to the heavy pressure of water in the canal on Monday .Reports reaching the district headquarters on Tuesday said that standing crops including bajra, groundnut, red gram and banana were damaged after the water from the damaged escape entered the fields.The escape gate was reportedly closed for many years and it gave way because of the heavy release of water in the canal this year. Authorities had reportedly released 9,000 cusecs of water into the NLBC.The farmers said that the accident occurred due to the negligence of the Krishna BhagyaJala Nigam Ltd (KBJNL) officials who reportedly did not maintain the gates regularly before releasing water into the canal.According to reports the flood waters entered fields in Rajankollur, Rajwal, Kadarahal and Geddalamari villages. The farmers have demanded a compensation of Rs 30,000 per acre.However, Chief Engineer (Operation and Maintenance) KBJNL, N. Kshetrapal dismissed the allegation of negligence and the claims of water entering the fields

International Year of Family Farming expo

‘Annam’ — a three-day expo with seminars and awareness programmes on indigenous rice varieties, fruits, vegetables, and animals — will begin at Yuvakshethra Institute of Management Studies at Mundur, near here, on Thursday as part of observing International Year of Family Farming.The event is being organised with the help of different government agencies and social organisations.Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala will inaugurate the expo on Thursday morning. Palakkad Bishop Jacob Manethodath will preside over the function. K.V. Vijayadas, MLA, will inaugurate the exhibition pavilions and ShafiParambil, MLA, will distribute saplings. Kerala University for Veterinary and Animal Sciences Vice Chancellor B. Ashok will deliver the keynote address.Sessions dealing with topics such as family farming and climatic conditions; zero-budget farming; State agricultural policy; value-addition of jackfruit; and preservation of indigenous cow varieties will be held, with experts introducing the topics. There will be an exclusive section for jackfruit-based products.

Workshop on organic farming

The College of Dairy Science and Technology and the Directorate of Entrepreneurship, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, will hold a workshop on “Organic farming for a better life” here on August 17. Those who wish to participate, contact 9495713796.

'Sravanam' brings cheer to coconut farmers

Labourers at work at a coconut grove at Ambajipeta in Konassdema.- PHOTO: S. Rambabu
There has been a spurt in coconut and copra prices in Konaseema region of East Godavari district owing to the demand in Sravanam festivity that began three weeks ago. The coconut prices are now quoted at Rs.7, 500 per 1000 raw fruits and for the old stock, it has gone up from Rs. 6,800 to Rs.7, 200, bringing cheers to the farmers in the entire Konaseema. On the other hand, the prices of copra have touched a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per 1,000 nuts two weeks before the Vinayaka Chaturthi. The traders attribute the rise in the price to the demand for copra in the upcountry markets in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. To some extent, the fall in yield this season in 16 mandals of Konaseema has also a role to play in it, they say. The twin Godavari districts account for the bulk of coconut and copra production in the State. Unfavourable climatic conditions and untimely rains in the last five years have resulted in substantial losses in the yield. The best copra, locally known as Gandra Kuridi, is currently fetching Rs. 10,000 per thousand nuts and even the slightly inferior grades like Gatagata are sold well above Rs. 8,500 per thousand fruits. According to traders, raw coconuts from Tamil Nadu and Kerala are also finding their way to Andhra Pradesh and they are available at Rs. 4,500 per thousand.

Diversion of water irks farmers

Tension prevailed at Kurubodu village in Karnataka State, as water from Tungabhadra low-level canal was diverted through an escape channel on Wednesday. According to the information, the farmers of Karnataka villages reportedly released the water through escape channels at a rivulet to fill the nearby tanks. The shutters of LLC were also downed to curtail the onward flow completely. On learning the incident, farmers from Adoni and Yemmiganur in Andhra Pradesh, who were affected by the action, tried to reach the place. The irrigation officials pacified the group promising to check the illegal diversion and revive the flow to AP. The farmers from Kurnool alleged that the irrigation officials in Karnataka overlooked the illegal activity of the people in their region, which robbed AP of its quota of water. As against the original allocation of 24 tmcft to LLC, only six to eight tmcft reached the AP border due to the lenient attitude of the Karnataka officials. Water pilferage turned into a major issue between Karnataka and AP often leading to skirmishes.

Students adopt four villages to study crop patterns

Final year students of Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) of Agricultural College, Bapatla, in Guntur district, have adopted four agro-economy villages in Krishna district for their five-month study on agriculture pattern and other issues related to food production. The villages adopted as a part of their six-month 'Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWEP), an academic project, are – Ravivaripalem, Chagantipadu, Gandigunta, Thotalvalluru. "We were exposed to direct sowing operations through drum seeders. Studying issues ranging from credit access for farmer to marketing facilities are

other daily activities at Ravivaripalem,” said M. Aishwarya and M. Mamata. “Each of us has a host farmer in the adopted village. We advise them to follow scientific methods in using fertilizers and pesticides. The programme literally helps us understand what we have been taught in the classroom in the three years,” opined the girl students J. Anusha, SaiSowjanya and S. Supriya. A total of 54 students of final year B.Sc (Agriculture) have been attached to the host farmers in the respective four villages, where they study and understand patterns of crops, both food and commercial crops. “The college authorities will attach us to agri-industries such as ICRISAT and Seed Processing Centres on the last month of the programme,” said another student T. Divya Sri.KrishiVignana Kendra, Ghantasala, Principal Scientist M. Satyanarayana and agriculture experts based in Machilipatnam are also guiding the students with necessary inputs.

Efforts on to make farming remunerative: Ministers



Ministers B. Gopalakrishna Reddy (Environment and Forest), P. PullaRao (Agriculture) and KamineniSrinivas (Health) during the ‘PolamPilusthondi’ programme in Srikalahasti constituency of Chittoor district on Wednesday.— Photo: K. V. Poornachandra Kumar

The State government is leaving no stone unturned to make farming remunerative, and the ‘PolamPilusthondi’ is the right step in that direction, said Ministers P. PullaRao (Agriculture), BojjalaGopalakrishna Reddy (Environment and Forest) and KamineniSrinivas (Health).Participating in the ‘PolamPilusthondi’ programme on Wednesday at R. Mallavaram village, they reiterated the government’s resolve to reach out to farmers and address their grievances.Recalling the commitment given by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu while launching the programme at Vizag, Mr. PullaRao said tangible progress would be achieved on the agriculture front with concerted efforts. “From monitoring soil health to throwing light on mechanisation, the officials have a serious job on hand now,” he said. He also urged farmers to focus on allied areas like cattle rearing, poultry and fisheries, so that the losses accrued, if any, in farming could be offset by the others.Mr. Reddy said revolutionary changes would be brought in the way farming was done and expressed happiness at the good response the programme was drawing across the state. “By improving the yield and thus higher returns to the farmers,

we will ensure that agriculture is made remunerative”, he said. Revenue Divisional Officer Ch. Rangaiah, Joint Directors Nirmala Nityanand (Agriculture) and Srinivasa Rao (Animal Husbandry) were present.

Cotton output likely to cross 400 lakh bales next season

Cotton production is expected to cross 400 lakh bales next season (October 2014 to September 2015), according to trade representatives. Anand Popat, Secretary of Saurashtra Ginners' Association, and Dilip Patel, President of All Gujarat Cotton Ginners' Association, told *The Hindu* here on Wednesday that total cotton production next season was estimated to be 404 lakh bales. Since monsoon was delayed, cotton arrivals would be late by a month. Production in Gujarat was expected to be 135 lakh bales, which would be almost the same as the current cotton season (2013-14). If the yield improved, production in Gujarat would go up, they said. (According to the Cotton Advisory Board, cotton production for the season ending next month will be 390 lakh bales and exports will be over 110 lakh bales). Bhadrash Mehta, Managing Director of Bhadrash Trading Corporation, said 58 per cent of India's cotton exports were to China and the rest to countries such as South Korea, Bangladesh, Thailand and Vietnam. At present, China's policy is not favourable for import of cotton from other countries and clarity is expected on its course of action in a month. Globally, with stocks piling up and slowdown in demand, the impact was felt on the prices even now. In India, cotton prices were almost stable for the last one year and prices are likely to come down.

Better profit margin for fish growers in Bihar



Fish farming is an important and fast growing sector in Bihar. The state has immense natural aquatic resources in the forms of ponds and tanks where quality fish seed are required for good fish production. “The gap existing between demand and supply of fish seed provide huge opportunities for unemployed youth to invest in fish seed production sector of aquaculture” says Dr. TunTun Singh, fisheries extension officer, office of Deputy Director, fisheries, Darbhanga. Mr. Yogi Sahani in Jagdishpur village, Darbhanga, was attracted to venture in fish seed business because of a high profit margin in Northeastern states. Initially he used to buy fish spawns from Naihati, Kolkata, and other local fish seed producers from in Bihar.

Gross income

Today Mr. Sahani's hatchery unit generates a gross income of Rs 50 lakh a year from sale of carp spawns, fry and fingerlings (different stages in fish growth) alone. A family of nine members with three acres of agricultural land and 0.5 acre pond, Mr. Sahani could barely meet the basic needs of his family about 10 years back. Dr Tun Tun Singh, fisheries extension officer during a routine village tour, met him and advised him to start a Hapa breeding pond to raise fish spawns at very low cost. Hapa breeding is a low cost technique to produce different fish spawns in a captive net inside the pond. From 2006 till 2008 Mr. Sahani took a two acre pond on an annual lease and did the same.

Five lakhs

In three years he was able to earn Rs. 5 lakh which raised his confidence to venture into establishing a carp seed hatchery unit. In 2009, the fisheries department officials helped him in establishing the unit in his three acre land. Initially the farmer invested Rs. 7 lakh out of which Rs. 5 lakh was from his own saving and Rs. 2 lakh was borrowed from several private moneylenders at exorbitant interest rate of five percent a month. The hatchery was named Kailash Matshya hatchery.

Bank loan

A project report was prepared and a loan of Rs. 15 lakh was sanctioned from a nationalised bank. The loan amount was used for constructing some more carp hatchery units. The unit over a period of time improved from producing about 12 million fries to gradually 20 million fries in three acres. Keeping in view of the growing demand for fingerlings Mr. Sahani outsourced a 50 acre pond from a private pond owner. Presently he has 26 ponds in 53.5 acre area under his supervision.

Subsidy

The fish farmer also got a subsidy of Rs 3 lakh for the project from the State govt and was conferred the Best farmer award in 2012 by the Bihar agriculture University. "My gross income in 2013-14 was over Rs. 50 lakh. I earned Rs. 25 lakh as a net profit. I have repaid all bank and private loans within two years," says Mr. Sahani. His customers are mainly from North-West part of Bihar, particularly from Madhubani, Darbhanga, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Bettiah and Vaishali districts. These fish farmers travel long distance to purchase the fish seeds from Kailash hatchery because of its good quality, fair price and services. In Bihar especially the government's encouragement towards developing fish seed hatcheries is quite encouraging. In fact the government and banks welcome new entrepreneurs into this line. Till some years back Mr. Sahani worked as a labour to harvest fish and Makhana from the ponds of big farmers on daily wage basis. But today he has become a role model for nearly 500 fish farmers in the region,

according to Dr. Tun Tun. For more information interested readers can contact Mr. Yogi Sahani on Mobile: 09934979995 and Dr. Tun Tun Singh, Mobile: 09473191559/09431086114, email: ttsingh2002@gmail.com

Controlling pod fly menace in drumstick

Of late, drumstick pod is found to be seriously injured by a pod or fruit fly. Infestation of this pest starts from fruit initiation and persists till harvesting stage. Maggots enter into tender fruits by boring small-bore holes at the terminal end.

Gummy sap

Due to this injury a gummy exudation drips down from the pods resulting in shrinking, rotting, drying and splitting of the fruits. As many as 25-30 maggots can be found inside a single infested drumstick pod. This pest is reported to cause 70 per cent loss under poor management conditions. The adults are small yellowish fly with red eyes. They lay minute eggs on the outer grooves of tender pods. After 3-4 days the eggs hatch into maggots and start piercing the tissues of pods and develop for a period of 18-25 days. Full grown cream coloured maggots fall on to the ground and pupate in soil for 5-7 days. The brownish puparia may undergo dormancy until they get suitable environment to emerge as adult flies. Its activity is maximum from April to October.— Periodically collect and destroy all the fallen and damaged fruits by dumping in a pit and covering with a thick layer of soil to prevent carry-over of the pest.— Use attractants like citronella oil, eucalyptus oil, vinegar (acetic acid), dextrose or lactic acid to trap flies.— Fermented tomato fruit traps at 25 no/ ha can be placed.— Frequently rake up the soil under the trees or plough the infested field to destroy puparia and drench neem seed kernel extract 5 per cent at 2 lit/tree during 50 per cent fruit set.

Spraying

Spray dichlorvos 76 SC 500 ml or malathion 50 EC 750 ml in 500 - 750 L of water per ha when pods are 20-30 days old and apply Azadirachtin 0.03 per cent during 50 per cent fruit set and 35 days later.— Thiamethoxam 25 WG at 800g / ha may be applied in soil on 150, 180 and 210 days after planting.— Harvest the pods at least after seven days of spraying to avoid residual toxicity.

(Dr. J. Jayaraj Professor and Dr. M. Kalyanasundaram, Professor and Head, Department of Entomology)

Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai 625 104, Phone: 0452-2422956
Extn.214, email: agentomac@tnau.ac.in)

Water release from Bhavanisagar

Water will be released from the Bhavanisagar dam in Erode district for irrigation from Friday. In a statement here on Wednesday, Chief Minister Jayalalithaa said the decision would benefit 1,03,500 acres in Erode, Tirupur and Karur districts. On Wednesday morning, the water level stood at 76.28 feet against the full level of 105 feet. The storage was 13,795 million cubic feet (mcft) against the capacity of 32,800 mcft. The dam received 1.942 cubic feet per second (cusecs).

Inflow into Mettur Dam drops

With the discharge from Karnataka dams being reduced significantly, the inflow at Stanley Reservoir in Mettur dropped further from 20,160 cusecs on Tuesday to 12,124 cusecs on Wednesday. Public Works Department officials said that the water level stood at 111.56 feet against its Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 120 feet. The storage was 80.645 tmcft against the dam's capacity of 93.470 tmcft. The outflow continues to be at 8,999 cusecs..

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Chennai

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Today's Weather



Sunny

Thursday, Aug 14

Max Min

36° | 27°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 53

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 05:56

Sunset: 06:30

Barometer: 1007

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Friday, Aug 15

Max Min

33° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday
Aug 16



33° | 24°

Cloudy

Sunday
Aug 17



33° | 25°

Cloudy

Monday
Aug 18



32° | 25°

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday
Aug 19



31° | 25°

Cloudy

Wednesday
Aug 20



32° | 25°

Partly Cloudy

Airport Weather

Chennai

Chennai

Rain: 0 Sunrise: 05:56
Humidity: 53 Sunset: 06:30
Wind: normal Barometer: 1007



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Drought-free AP: Naidu Seeks Icrisat Help

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has asked Icrisat to collaborate with his government in making Andhra Pradesh a drought-free state. In a meeting with Icrisat executives on Wednesday, the CM discussed ways to take agriculture to next level in the coming five years in the state. The Chief Minister asked Icrisat executives to adopt innovative technologies to transform agriculture into a profit-making sector. Naidu asked the organisation to suggest appropriate cropping patterns that would create better livelihood opportunities for the farmers. The executives said they would follow the government's mission-based approach through convergence, capacity building. Lauding Icrisat for its effective rainwater management techniques, the CM asked the team to work out a plan on water management, food security and for improving livelihood of farmers. Icrisat director general William D Dar, director of Icrisat development centre Suhas P Wani were present.

'Animal' Tag for Rabbits Dismays Farmers



The Animal Husbandry Department will urge the Central Government to make necessary changes to the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and registration of food Businesses) Regulation, 2011, in which 'rabbit' has been inadvertently classified under the 'animal' category, said Animal Husbandry Department Director Dr N NSasi. Dr Sasi told 'Express' that since the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, was framed at the national-

level, the regional tastes and preferences were largely not incorporated. The government would write to the Centre to make the necessary changes at the earliest. Food Safety Commissioner T V Anupama said that their office will also seek necessary amendments in the Act it had serious ramifications on the rabbit-rearing sector. Scores of rabbit farmers in the state were dismayed after the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued a circular banning the culling of rabbits, dogs, camels and cats for meat purposes. A number of schemes has been mooted by the Agriculture Department and the Animal Husbandry Department to promote rabbit rearing in the state. Financial assistance has also been routed through agencies like NABARD. Kudumbashree state programme manager Dr Saleem said that in districts like Idukki and Thrissur, there were many farmers who had taken up rabbit farming. Kudumbashree has also evinced keen interest in devising special schemes to promote rabbit farming to produce and sell value-added products like burgers and cutlets through its food outlets. Former Animal Husbandry Department deputy director Dr N Shudhodhanan said that broiler rabbits reared in Kerala were different from the wild hare. He said that broiler rabbits were usually reared in Kerala and Haryana. A similar issue had affected the quail farming in the state when the Forest Department had banned the rearing or culling of quails by classifying these birds under the Wild life Act. Subsequently, the state government had taken up the matter with the Centre, contending that Japanese quails were being reared by the farmers, which was exempted from the purview of the Act. He said that 'Soviet Chinchilla' breeds were reared in Kerala, and it was promoted to counter protein deficiency among the people. Rabbit rearing was also promoted as self-employment ventures. There are livestock management training centres of the Animal Husbandry Department in every district, he said.

Potato Crisis Persists: Bengal Unmoved, Odisha Hopeful

With potato crisis continuing to pinch consumers, State Government on Tuesday said 80 trucks carrying the tuber crossed over to the State from neighbouring West Bengal. "About 80 potato trucks have reached the State since last night. The potato traders in West Bengal have criticised their Government's undeclared restriction on the transportation of potato to other States," Minister of State for Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Sanjay Dasburma told reporters here. "We have been putting pressure on the West Bengal Government to withdraw its undeclared restriction on the potato transportation," Dasburma said. The Minister said State Government had also been trying its best to normalise the situation. The trucks entered into Odisha through Jamsola check gate as the West Bengal police had been guarding the check gate at Laxmannath area bordering Balasore. "It is high time the State Government should take up the matter with the Centre and the ruling BJD should raise it in the Parliament," said general secretary of Odisha Byabasayee Mahasangha Sudhakar Panda. After failure of talks at Chief Minister level, the State Government is left with no option but to seek Centre's intervention for a permanent solution to the recurring problem, he said.

Dasburma said the potato traders in West Bengal too have become restive and are protesting their Government's undeclared restriction on the transportation of potato to other States. Meanwhile, the State Government has lifted buffer stocks of potato in different cold storages and sent those to the districts. About 22 truckloads of potato have reached Bhubaneswar where the wholesale price of the vegetable is `2,200 per quintal. The State had been reeling under potato shortage since August 6 due to sudden restriction imposed by West Bengal Government.

Organic Bazaar Returns

GoodSeeds, a community-focused brand to promote healthy urban lifestyle and healthier local communities in harmony with mother nature, is returning with their GoodSeeds "Sustainable Lifestyle" bazaar. GoodSeeds has been active in the city in promoting this concept by bringing together like-minded people and facilitating interaction, awareness and knowledge sharing through their unique bazaars. It has also recently launched its online portal. The bazaar will demonstrate its 'family friendly' roots in a 'mela' like ambience that will feature local producers of healthy, organic and eco-friendly products and provide an opportunity to discover what our local community has to offer for healthy living. One can also directly interact with local producers including farmers, weavers and artisans and learn more about their passion and products. The bazaar will also have a kid-friendly space with a number of healthy and fun activities involving children - such as, story telling, traditional games, pottery and more. There will be interesting organic light foods and beverages. For details contact 97044 96664 or 040 23350473

THE HINDU **BusinessLine**

Global cotton body to speed up dispute settlement process

The International Cotton Association Limited is in the process of working out a new non-binding mediation process to expedite the disputes and ensure sanctity of contracts, its President Mohit D Shah said here on Tuesday. "There is a possibility to introduce a non-binding mediation, whereby buyers and sellers will be able to sit and discuss to resolve the issue. "Some sort of announcement can be expected soon," he said, on the sidelines of a cotton conference organised by the Indian Cotton Federation in Coimbatore. ICAL's annual conference is slated at Dubai in the first week of October, and Shah is hopeful of making some announcement on the new mediation process during or just ahead of the conference. Shah incidentally was among the three awardees (the others being Chairman of Kotak Commodities Suresh A Kotak and Bhadresh Mehta, Managing Director, Bhadresh Trading Corporation, Mumbai) to get the Federation's Lifetime Achievement Award. Stating that the prime focus of the global arbitrary body is in ensuring contract sanctity, he said plenty of initiatives were being deliberated with a focus on sanctity of the contract. "We are trying to put in place a proper process and framework and this is

expected to open a new door,” he added. On defaults, he said from a level of 272 defaults worldwide in 2010-11, it has fallen to 26 arbitrations between April. “Defaults are coming down,” he said.

Volume of tea on offer at Coonoor auction falls

There will be no auction of Coonoor Tea Trade Association on Friday on account of Independence Day. Hence, both leaf and dust auction of Sale No. 33 will take place on Thursday. The offer has come down by 1.58 lakh kg compared with last week, amounting to 18.87 lakh kg. Of this, 13.64 lakh kg belong to the leaf grades and the rest to the dust grades. As much as 17.77 lakh kg is of CTC variety and only 1.10 lakh kg orthodox variety. The proportion of orthodox teas continues to be low in both leaf and dust grades. In the leaf counter, only 67,000 kg belongs to orthodox, while 12.97 lakh kg to CTC. Among the dusts, only 43,000 kg belongs to orthodox, while 4.80 lakh kg to CTC. In the leaf auction last week, among corporate buyers Hindustan Unilever Ltd bought brighter liquoring varieties. Tata Global Beverages Ltd showed some interest on good medium sorts. In the dust auction HUL was active on good medium varieties. Tata Global and Duncans Tea did not operate. Godfrey Philips Indian bought medium sorts. Indcoserve expressed interest for good medium smaller grades. There was good demand for brighter liquoring teas from upcountry buyers. Overall, internal buyers were less active.

Rubber Board to use satellite technology for data collection

The Rubber Board will use technological tools such as satellite mapping to make the collection of field statistics easier, not only for the data collecting officials but also for growers, said Sheela Thomas, Chairman, Rubber Board. She was at the launch the Certification of Rubber Plantations at Kanjirappally. She said informed that the certification programme was introduced in response to the demand from growers. James Jacob, Director, Rubber Research Institute of India pointed out that by mapping using global positioning coordinates, the location of the plantations could be traced out any time. The certification is voluntary and initially given for a period of twenty years.

Higher unit value affects cashew kernel exports

Export of cashew kernels continued to decline during the current fiscal as a high unit value continued to be a deterrent. At the same time, imports of kernels from other origins also fell between April and July. While competition from other nuts coupled with rise in kernel prices are attributed to the decline in exports, a higher import duty is pointed out as the reason for the lower imports of kernels, trade sources said. “A sharp rise in the imported raw cashew nut prices has resulted in a corresponding increase in kernel prices,” SasiVarma, Executive Director and Secretary, Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, told *BusinessLine* .

Industry sources at Kollam said the rise in raw cashew prices has pushed the kernel prices up and a parity price from exports is not available. “We have to import to as the indigenous raw cashew production is below 50 per cent of the industry’s annual requirement,” they said. Between April and July, total exports stood at 34,917 tonnes valued at Rs. 1,529.16 crore at an average unit value of Rs. 437.95 a kg as against 41,502 tonnes valued at Rs. 1,617.28 crore at the unit value of Rs. 389.69 in the same period a year ago. Similarly, shipments of roasted and salted cashew dropped to 278 tonnes valued at Rs. 11.15 crore from 684 tonnes worth Rs. 24.02 crore last year. There has been a significant rise in the unit value of cashew nut shell liquid and consequently its exports dropped to 2,088 tonnes valued at Rs. 9.92 crore against 2,752 tonnes worth Rs. 10.21 crore. The unit value this year was Rs. 47.52 a kg as against Rs. 37.10.

Raw cashew import

In contrast, imports of raw cashew increase during the first four months of the current fiscal despite a sharp rise in prices. Between April and July this year, 4,25,090 tonnes of raw cashew valued at Rs. 2,767.29 crore were imported at an unit value of Rs. 65.10 a kg. Imports during the same period last year stood at 3,52,203 tonnes valued at Rs. 1,931.85 crore at an unit value of Rs. 54.85 a kg. According to KA Rethesh, Managing Director, Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation, increased offtake by Vietnam has pushed up the demand for raw cashew. He said nearly 50 per cent of the raw cashew processed in the country is absorbed by the domestic market.

Vegoil imports jump 25% in July on record soya oil buy

Vegetable oil imports increased 25 per cent in July to 1,109,674 tonnes against 889,493 tonnes during the same period a year ago. The rise in imports in July was largely attributed to shipment of 306,068 tonnes of soyabean oil, a record since import was allowed under open general licence in 1994, according to the data released by the Solvent Extractors Association of India. A sharp jump in domestic soyabean prices forced many solvent units to import the oil on a large-scale. The country imported 1,092,271 tonnes of edible oil and 17,403 tonnes of non-edible oil. Import of non-edible oil in July was at a lower level in the recent past due to weak demand. Imports of non-edible oils between November 2013 and July dropped 34 per cent to 143,791 tonnes (217,930 tonnes). Major non-edible oils that were shipped in include palm fatty acid distillate and crude palm kernel oil. The overall import of vegetable oil in the first nine months of the oil year was up two per cent at 8,191,894 tonnes (8,034,553 tonnes).

Palomolein import

Import of refined palmolein was down 32 per cent at 1,200,566 tonnes (1,758,107 tonnes) in this oil year, while crude oil shipments increased 13 per cent to 6,847,537 tonnes (6,058,516 tonnes) due to higher duty by exporting countries on crude soyabean,

sunflower and canola oil, which constitute about 35 per cent of the total crude oil import. Prices of all vegetable oils fell in July as the rupee depreciated against dollar to 60.10 against 59.74. Prices of refined palm oil were down to \$827 (about Rs. 49,703) a tonne against \$833 in June, while crude palm oil was quoted lower at \$834 (\$841). Soya oil price was down at \$930 (\$951). As on August 1, stocks of edible oils at various ports are estimated at 570,000 tonnes consisting 250,000 tonnes of crude palmolein, 50,000 tonnes of refined palmolein, 140,000 tonnes degummed soyabean oil and 130,000 tonnes of crude sunflower oil. Total inventory, including 1,020,000 tonnes of vegetable oil in the pipeline, is expected to be higher at 1,590,000 tonnes against 1,485,000 tonnes in June, said the Association.

Arecanut won't be banned, Health Minister assures growers

The Union Government has assured the Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative (Campco) Ltd that arecanut will not be banned, according to K Padmanabha, President, Campco. A delegation of MPs from the arecanut-growing districts in Karnataka, along with the Campco President, got this assurance at a meeting with Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi on Tuesday, he said. Addressing presspersons here on Wednesday, Padmanabha said that the delegation met the Minister as the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the previous UPA Government had filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court last year in a case related to a gutkha company. In that affidavit, it was stated that arecanut consumption was harmful to health. Following this, farmers are constantly fear that a ban could be imposed on cultivating arecanut. However, the Minister has made it clear that the Government will not resort to any move to impose a ban on arecanut, Padmanabha said.

Import concern

The delegation also met the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industries, Nirmala Sitharaman, seeking an increase in the minimum price for the import of arecanut from Rs. 110 a kg to Rs. 170. This estimate is based on the evaluation of the cost of production by a panel in Karnataka. The panel had worked out the average cost of production at Rs. 170 a kg for the 2012-13, he said. The request has also been made to the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade. Nirmala Sitharaman has agreed to look into this issue, he said. Padmanabha said that the cooperative wants to expand the market for its chocolate products as a 'swadeshi' brand in government undertakings.

Swadeshi chocolate

At present, the cooperative chocolate manufacture is supplying around 40 tonnes of chocolate products to Army Canteens in Eastern Command every quarter and expansion to Army canteens in other areas is also planned. Steps will also be taken to market Campco's chocolate products in Indian Railways, he said.

Business Standard

WPI inflation eases to 5-month low of 5.19% in July



Wholesale price inflation in July eased to a five-month low of 5.19%, helped mainly by a moderation in fuel costs, government data showed on Thursday. In June, wholesale prices rose 5.43% year-on-year, their slowest pace in four months. The reading for May WPI inflation was revised to 6.18% from 6.01% earlier.

Highlights:

Manufactured products inflation: 3.67% vs 3.61% m-o-m. Primary articles inflation: 6.78% vs 6.84% m-o-m. Food articles inflation: 8.43% vs 8.14% m-o-m. Fuel and power group inflation: 7.40% vs 9.04% m-o-m

 **THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS**

WPI inflation eases to 5-month low of 5.19 per cent in July



India's wholesale price inflation in July eased to a five-month low of 5.19 per cent, helped mainly by a moderation in fuel costs, government data showed on Thursday. The rise in the wholesale price index (WPI) compared with a 5.10 per cent year-on-year jump forecast by economists in a Reuters poll. In June, wholesale prices rose 5.43 percent year-on-year, their slowest pace in four months. The reading for May WPI inflation was revised to 6.18 per cent from 6.01 per cent earlier. Times of Potato crisis far from over

Despite state government's claim to have sufficient stock of potato in cold storages, the crisis continued to affect consumers on Tuesday as it was sold for Rs 30 a kg in retail markets. About 80 truckloads of potato clandestinely came into the state from West Bengal on Tuesday. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik has asked officials to solve the problem. "We have informed the Centre. Discussions are also on with the West Bengal government to lift the undeclared restriction on potato supply. Some trucks of potato are arriving in the state every day," said food supplies and consumer welfare minister Sanjay Dasburma. The minister had claimed on Monday that Odisha has enough stock to meet the requirement of the state for another month. "We have been regulating the distribution of potato to stabilize the escalating retail price," he said. Potato is being sold at Rs 20 a kg at fair price and Maitree shops here while the price of the tuber is Rs 23 to Rs 25 in Udyan Fresh outlets. The state government has decided to set up a potato field station in Boudh district. The National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) would produce quality seed in two horticulture stations of the state. This has been decided at a high-level meeting chaired by chief secretary G C Pati here on Tuesday. "The field station to be set up over 50 acre will help in creating quality seeds, adopting micro-irrigation system, grading, further research in quality yield, post-harvest management and storage of the tuber," said director (horticulture) Sanjib Chadha. The project to set up more cold storages in the state will also be finalized by August, official sources said.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Farmers to pay more for animal fodder as deficient monsoon hits output of coarse grains



The deficient monsoon this year is likely to hit production of coarse grains such as jowar and bajra and other minor millets like ragi and pulses the hardest. This may not have much impact on the country's food security because India has ample stocks of wheat and rice but it will add to the financial burden of farmers, who will be forced to pay more for animal fodder since coarse cereals are an important source of fodder. With the decline in production of coarse cereals such as jowar, bajra and maize, cattle feed prices are expected to remain firm this year. "Following the increase in raw material prices, cattle feed prices have already risen 30-40% since April," said Dinesh Bhosale, chairman of Compound Feed Manufacturers' Association of India (CLFMA).

As on August 8, coarse cereals have been sown over 14.015 million hectare in the country in this season, compared to more than double the regular area under cultivation of 27.67 million hectare.

B Ventateswarlu, vice chancellor of VasantryaNaikMarathwadaKrishiVidhyapeeth said, "The most adverse impact of the erratic monsoon will be felt on the coarse cereals this year. The area and yield of these crops is likely to be significantly affected in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Telangana." Maharashtra, which has the highest area under jowar in the country, has reported a 40% decline in the area under jowar and bajra compared with the targeted area. In the drought-prone regions of the state, farmers have been buying sugarcane as cattle feed to sustain bovine wealth. The stocks and other by-products of cereals are used as fodder or raw material for animal feed. Due to delayed sowing of the coarse grains, prices of green fodder have increased from about Rs 2.50 per kg to about Rs 4 per kg while prices of dry fodder have increased from Rs 6 per kg to Rs 9 per kg, resulting in an increase in the cost of milk production for farmers. BalramYadav, managing director of Godrej Agrovvet said, "Fodder prices have increased 40-50% but milk prices have decreased Re 1 per litre, adding to the financial burden of farmers." Of India's total requirement of about 70 million tonne cattle feed, 7 million tonne comes from the organised sector. Soyabean meal is considered the benchmark for animal feed prices. Indian soyabean oilcake price is higher than the international prices by 30-40%, resulted in a fall in its exports. Experts say expensive feed ingredients also lead to an increase in the rate of adulteration, besides raising the cost of production for farmers.

