

Subsidy on irrigation system to be paid directly to farmers

Government wants to avoid complaints of misuse of funds: MLC



RAISING AN ISSUE: Shobha Bani, member, making a point at the general body meeting of the zilla panchayat in Gulbarga on Thursday. — PHOTO: ARUN KULKARNI

GULBARGA, February 7, 2014 - The State government has decided to release the

subsidy amount to farmers under the scheme for installation of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems directly to their bank accounts.

Replying to members' queries at the general body meeting of Gulbarga Zilla Panchayat here on Thursday, its president Ramesh Margol and the officials of the Agriculture Department said that the government was extending subsidy of up to 90 per cent of the cost of drip and sprinkler irrigation sets.

When the members expressed apprehension that many farmers were unable to avail themselves of the benefits of the scheme as they had to first invest a lot on the installation of sprinkler and drip irrigation systems and claim the subsidy later, Congress MLC Allamaprabhu Patil said it had been decided to directly release the subsidy amount so that there were no complaints of misuse.

The government had consulted legislators from all parties and arrived at a consensus decision in this regard. The members said that the panchayat should ensure that there was no delay in releasing the subsidy after it was claimed.

Earlier, Independent Member Shobha Bani alleged that Agriculture Department officials were providing misleading figures about the number of beneficiaries of the scheme of providing agricultural implements and the exact amount released by the government to them. Mr. Allamaprabhu Patil and other members took exception to the officials providing misleading information. However, chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture Basavaraj Malipatil said there was a huge demand for harvest machines in all taluks. More than 350 applications for these machines were pending. The Rs. 18 crore set aside for this purpose was inadequate to meet the entire demand, he said.

Systematic farming will be profitable: Heggade

Two-day Krishi Utsav begins at Nehru Stadium

HUBLI, February 7, 2014 - If systematically done, adaption of modern farm technologies will make agriculture more profitable than any other occupation, said Dharmasthala Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade.

He was inaugurating the two-day 'Zilla Krishi Utsav' and 'Pragati Chintana Sabhe' at Nehru Stadium here.

Mr. Heggade elaborated on how farmers, using modern technology and changes in crop patterns, could even ensure daily earnings from their farmlands. He also stressed the need for a system through which farmers would be able to get fair prices for their crops in the market, and said that the government should take steps to set up cold storages especially to help farmers to store their crops for some time, so that they could sell them when they got better prices.



Farmers exhibiting their wares at the two-day Zilla Krishi Utsav at Hubli on Thursday. — Photo: Kiran Bakale

Elaborating on the changes in the lives of the rural people, Mr. Heggade said that the both 'sanskaar' and a modern lifestyle were required. "Our culture will not leave us however far we travel. We need to preserve it while adapting to the modern day changes," he said.

Mr. Heggade also highlighted the need for plugging pilferages in what their

family had earned, and called upon rural women to keep a check on the spending habits of their men for ensuring a better living.

Vinay Kulkarni, MLA, appealed to people to not quit farming. "I am also a farmer and I do face problems. But when done in a planned manner, [farming] can bring more revenue than any other occupation. You need to encourage your wards to take up farming apart from getting them educated," he told them.

Mr. Kulkarni also appealed to them to learn from what other successful farmers had done, and not to indulge in unnecessary expenditure.

Dairy farmers' meet at Kuruppanthara

KOTTAYAM, February 7, 2014 - The State-level meet of dairy farmers will be held under the aegis of the Dairy Development Department at Kuruppanthara in Vaikom on Friday and Saturday. The two-day annual meet will get under way with an exhibition of dairy products that will be launched by Mons Joseph, MLA. – Staff Reporter

Irked farmers demand canal water release

KHAMMAM, February 7, 2014 - Farmers mainly comprising maize growers staged a rasta roko at Seetanagaram in Bonakal mandal on Thursday in protest against the alleged non-release of water from the NSP Rapalli major canal to the NSP ayacut under the Seetanagaram panchayat.

According to sources, the agitated farmers squatted on the Wyra-Bonakal road in the centre of Seetanagaram village. Vehicular movement on the main road was disrupted for some time due to the blockade. The farmers raised slogans demanding withdrawal of Varabandi (Rotation system) and regular supply of water from the NSP major canal to save their maize crops.

Meanwhile, the police detained several farmers, bundled them into police vehicles and shifted them to the Bonakal police station. The police reportedly registered cases against

several farmers who participated in the protest. The police action drew flak from Rytu Sangham leaders.

Thai farmers protest in new challenge to PM



BANGKOK, February 7, 2014 - Dozens of Thai rice farmers mounted a protest in Bangkok on Thursday in the latest show of public anger against Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's embattled government.

A controversial scheme to guarantee farmers above-market rates for rice has become a lightning rod for anger among Yingluck's critics, who say it has encouraged corruption, drained the public coffers and left the country with a

mountain of unsold stock.

About 200 rice farmers, accompanied by trucks and combine harvesters, massed outside the commerce ministry in protest at the lack of payment under the scheme, which knocked the kingdom from its position as the world's top rice exporter in 2012. "I want the government to help because I have no money to use now. We have suffered a lot otherwise we would not come," said farmer Sunan Poompuang.

"If they cannot solve the problem, then let other people do the job."AFP

First agri-business incubator in West Africa established

SANGAREDDY, February 7, 2014 - *Recognises the role of agri-business and entrepreneurship in building the economy*

The first ever full-fledged agri-business incubator in West Africa was inaugurated recently, recognising the crucial role of agri-business and entrepreneurship to build the economy through sustainable and market-oriented agriculture.

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) teamed up with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) based at Patancheru in Medak district to establish the West African Agri-Business Resource Incubator (WAARI).

WAARI was officially inaugurated in the Selingue province of Mali by Professor Moustapha Dicko, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Government of Mali, according to Dr. William Dar, ICRISAT Director General.

WAARI is one of the six agri-business incubators being established under the Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN) project of FARA, with the Agri-Business Incubation (ABI) programme of ICRISAT's Agri-Business and Innovation Platform (AIP) as the handholding and mentoring partner.

The Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) is financially supporting this initiative in Africa.

"Public-Private partnerships hold the key for activating the Inclusive Market-Oriented Development (IMOD) strategy in order to replicate and scale-up the benefits of technology interventions and science-based solutions for millions of smallholder farmers.

Agri-Business incubation creates agro-enterprises and jobs which ultimately benefit the smallholder farmers,” said Dr. Dar during the launch of WAARI.

Recognises the crucial role of agri-business and entrepreneurship in building the economy

Tourists, farmers happy to see White Ibis in lake

Constant vigil being maintained to check poaching



New pasture: Migratory birds spotted at Suchindrum lake in Kanyakumari district.

Tourists thronging Kanyakumari district and farmers are happy to see White Ibis building nests in groups in the middle of Suchindrum lake. Mid-January is the breeding season for migratory birds in the district.

The lake is situated on the outskirts of the town on Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari National Highway (NH 47). The din and bustle of heavy traffic on the

highway notwithstanding, more than 50 nests are found on treetops in the lake.

Robert Grubh, a noted ornithologist from Kanyakumari district, told *The Hindu* that for the first time these birds had come here for building nests. Farmers had been educated about the need to protect these birds as they were ‘friends of farmers.’ The Forest Department should create many manmade islands in Suchindrum and other large waterbodies in the district to facilitate breeding of these birds.

“Since the neighbouring Tirunelveli district is experiencing drought-like condition for the last couple of years, these birds would have preferred waterbodies in Kanyakumari for nesting as water was available perennially in almost all ponds and lakes here,” said environmental educator S. S. Davidson.

“The Black-Headed Ibis or Oriental White Ibis is a part of the Ibis family, which breeds in the Indian subcontinent and southeast Asia. It builds its nest with sticks on a tree and lays two to four eggs. The species is seen in marshy wetlands, rich in feed including fish, frogs and other water creatures and insects. It walks actively on marshy land probing the soft mud with its bill and often feeds in shallow water with its head shortly submerged,” said Mr. Davidson. Wildlife expert Anand Prasad said that along with the Ibis, Cormorants had built nests on adjoining trees and some pelicans were seen roosting in the island trees.

The Suchindrum-Theroor wetland complex and Manakudy Estuary have been declared bird reserves by the State Government considering the rich bio-diversity in these waterbodies.

According to the Forest Department officials, a constant vigil is being maintained to check poaching and ensure that there was no disturbance to the habitat of these birds.

Collector inspects cattle farm

THANJAVUR, February 7, 2014 - N. Subbaiyan, Collector, inspected government cattle farm at Naduvur at Orathanadu and exotic cattle breeding farm at Eachankottai on Wednesday. He saw Rs. 4.75-crore construction work at the cattle farm. The farm is located on 650 acres and it has farmers training hall, cattle sheds, and administrative office. Road and compound wall work is going on at a cost of Rs. 7 crore. He later visited the cattle breeding farm. A

cattle shed for tethering 40 cattle is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 73 lakh . Another shed for bulls is coming up at a cost of Rs. 93 lakh. Besides, frozen semen building is coming up at a cost of Rs. 25 lakh. — Special Correspondent

Furore in Rajasthan Assembly over power supply to farmers

JAIPUR, February 7, 2014 - The Rajasthan Assembly witnessed noisy scenes on Thursday over the issues of power supply to farmers and revision of power tariff, with the Opposition accusing the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of failing to keep its promise of eight-hour supply to agricultural consumers and not examining the scope for tariff reduction.

The matter came up during Question Hour when the National People's Party MLAs, Kirorilal Meena and Geeta Verma, sought to know the steps being taken to fulfil the promises made by the BJP in its election manifesto. Congress legislators were quick to join them.

When Energy Minister Gajendra Singh, replying to the original question, affirmed that the State would not only become self-sufficient in power sector but also achieve a surplus by August this year, Mr. Meena said the State government could reduce power tariff by 50 per cent if it effectively checked T&D losses.

"The Delhi government has proved that this can be done," said Mr. Meena referring to the Aam Aadmi Party government's decision to provide 50 per cent subsidy on power consumption up to 400 units. The Congress MLAs joined him in demanding that the power supply be improved and streamlined, prompting the treasury members to get up and point out to the previous Congress-led government's "complete failure" on the front.

Amid the din in the House, Mr. Singh said the power infrastructure at this stage was not strong enough to support eight-hour supply to farmers. "We have to resort to shutdowns for improving the infrastructure. This we will do around Holi when sowing [of crops] is finished," he said while pointing out that farmers were getting electricity supply for six-and-a-half hours during the day and seven hours during night.

The Minister said the actual T&D losses in the State amounted to more than 35 per cent, though their official figures were 22 to 23 per cent. "We are getting the figures verified through audit. The picture will be clear within three months," he said, adding that the reduction in T&D losses may help bring down power tariff.

The State Assembly later passed the Rajasthan Goods (Control of Production, Supply, Distribution and Trade and Commerce) Bill aimed at dealing with hoarding, black marketing, price hiking and artificial scarcity of essential commodities. The House passed the Bill through a voice vote after rejecting a motion for referring it to the select committee.

The House, which was convened for a day on Thursday after a gap of a few days as part of the 14th Assembly's first session, was adjourned to February 20.

Farmers cashing in on water pipeline breach



Water flowing from the pipeline breach being pumped to the nearby paddy field near Koththankulam on Palayamkottai Ambasamudram road.— Photo: A.SHAIKMOHIDEEN

Farmers in Tirunelveli are cashing in on rupture in a drinking water pipeline near Koththankulam on the Ambasamudram Road.

A couple of farmers, using 5 HP pumps, are siphoning the water seeping through the breach to their fields.

“As Koththankulam is bone dry, we are using this water for the past few days to save our crops,” said a farmer, who was using his kerosene-operated pumps to divert the water.

Corporation officials attributed the breaches to the zigzag alignment of the main pipeline carrying drinking water from Suththamalli to Palayamkottai, for a distance of a kilometre. Water is flowing unabated at several places beyond Tharuvai on the Ambasamudram Road for the past several days. After farmers objected to the pipeline running through their farms, an Erode-based company, which was entrusted with the job of laying the pipeline, made some corrections but that had resulted only in rupture caused by pressure.

“I’m visiting the problem spot and breaches are being plugged. But non-availability of technicians is delaying the work. We will set things right in the next couple of days,” assured T. Shanthi, Assistant Executive Engineer, Melapalayam Zone.

Corporation officials attribute the breaches to zigzag alignment of the main pipeline

Rs. 495 lakh incentive given to farmers

DAVANGERE, February 7, 2014 - *Amount remitted to farmers’ bank accounts*

The Davangere district administration has distributed around Rs.495 lakh as incentive to sugarcane growers in the district. Over the last few days an incentive of Rs. 150 per tonne of sugar, has been given to farmers who have been supplying to sugar factories, as announced by the State government.

The incentive amount had been directly remitted to the farmers’ accounts in different banks. S.T. Anjan Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Davangere district, and Manjunath, Deputy Director of Food and Civil supplies, said that over 2,900 farmers had already been given the incentive.

They said that over 8,000 sugarcane growers of Davangere district had supplied sugarcane to four different factories including two sugar factories situated in the district.

The government had released a total amount of over Rs. 7.5 crore to the district to distribute the farmers the incentive amount among farmers.

Factories

The whole incentive amount would be distributed to sugarcane farmers in another ten days, the DC said.

The four sugar factories to which sugarcane growers in Davangere district supplied cane to are Davangere Sugars in Kukkuwada village in Davangere, Shyamanur Sugars in Duggavathi in Davangere, Vijayanagar sugar factory in Hospet in Bellary district, Hanguru sugar factory in Haveri district.

Manjunath said that more than 5,00,521 metric tonne sugar cane was crushed by the factories during the season.

Anjan Kumar said that all the sugar factories had agreed to pay an amount of Rs. 2,300 per tone and by adding Rs.150 incentive from the government per tonne, sugarcane growers would get an amount of Rs. 2,450 which, the DC described as a fair price for cane growers.

Thailand’s flagship rice buying policy turns sour

BANGKOK, February 7, 2014 - An ambitious rice buying programme that Thailand’s ruling party hoped would aid millions of its poor rural supporters may instead help bring down the increasingly cornered government.

With the help of populist policies such as the rice pledging scheme, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra’s party won a landslide election victory in 2011. But it suffered a self—inflicted

and crushing setback late last year by attempting to amnesty Yingluck's elder brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, so he could return to the kingdom without serving prison time for a corruption conviction.

Ousted as Prime Minister in a 2006 coup, Thaksin is a highly polarizing figure, beloved in the countryside and loathed in the capital, Bangkok, where military, palace and old money cliques have traditionally held sway over the nation.

The rice crisis could not have come at a worse time for the government, which is reduced to a caretaker administration after street protests sparked by the amnesty bill forced new elections. Official results of the Feb. 2 vote may not be announced for months after protesters in Bangkok prevented some polling places from functioning, requiring by-elections. The government is also assailed by numerous court cases and investigations that could result in it being deposed judicially.

Now the ruling party faces the risk that the bedrock of its support, farmers, will turn against it.

"We are going on the streets because we're facing a dead end," said Sombat Roek-anan, a farmer from Ayutthaya province, a stronghold of the ruling Pheu Thai party. "The farmers used to be 100 percent behind the government before the rice scheme, but now it's 50—50."

Rice is Thailand's staple grain and one of its main exports. In hopes of boosting rice prices and increasing rural incomes, the government bought harvests from farmers at about twice the price prevailing in global markets. The program backfired when the Commerce Ministry had difficulties selling the grain overseas as rival exporters such as Vietnam undercut it. Losses from rice pledging have swelled to \$4.46 billion since the policy was started in 2011, and in a blow to national pride, Thailand lost its spot as the world's top rice exporter in 2012, surpassed by India and Vietnam. The policy also underlined a deep division in Thai society, with Bangkok's white collar classes resenting the largesse directed at the rural poor. Subsidizing rice has caused "tremendous losses" to the Thai economy, said Somkiat Tangkitvanich, president of Thailand Development Research Institute, a Bangkok think tank. "Most importantly, this scheme cannot help the farmers in a sustainable way."

Critics also say the scheme lacks transparency, has been dogged by corrupt middlemen and smugglers, and benefited farmers with large land holdings rather than poor smallholders. — AP

Fruit and flower show

CHITRADURGA, February 7, 2014 - The Horticulture Department in association with the District Horticulture Association has organised the 23rd fruit and flower exhibition at the department office premises for three days from Saturday here.

Zilla Panchayat CEO Manjusri said the main objective of the exhibition was to encourage farmers to grow horticulture crops by using latest technologies to get more yield. The participants would also be given prizes based on their exhibits. The exhibition would be open for the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

No takers for fishermen subsidy scheme in Ramnad

RAMANATHAPURAM, February 7, 2014 - *No one applied for it though 25 obtained the applications*

The Tamil Nadu government's 50 per cent subsidy scheme conceived mainly to wean away fishermen of the Palk Bay area from trawler fishing to tuna longliner and avoid conflicts with

the Sri Lankan Navy has so far evoked poor response with the last date for getting the subsidy drawing to a close on February 10.

The Fisheries Department invited applications from the fishermen to avail themselves of subsidy on December 26, a week after the government issued guidelines, but no one had applied so far, though 25 fishermen had obtained applications, sources here said.

“We have been motivating the fishermen to use the subsidy scheme and go for tuna longliner-cum-gillnetter, and we expect at least 10 fishermen to submit their applications before the last date,” the sources said.

In the 2013-14 budget, the government had announced the raising of the subsidy from 25 to 50 per cent with a ceiling of Rs.30 lakh. The government proposed to provide subsidies for 20 longliners, each costing Rs.60 lakh, this year, and earmarked 60 per cent of the total subsidy for fishermen of the Palk Bay region.

Joint application

The Fisheries Department suggested that fishermen in groups, not exceeding six, could jointly apply and construct a longliner for Rs.60 lakh and get 50 per cent back-ended subsidy.

According to the guidelines, subsidy would be given in three stages. In the first stage on completion of the construction of hull, the fishermen would be given Rs.10 lakh, another Rs.10 lakh at the second stage, when they purchased and installed engine and other machinery, and the balance at the third stage when they procured the fishing gears.

There are 1,650 mechanised boats in the district – 770 in Rameswaram and 880 in Pamban – accounting for one-third of the total boats in the State and the fishermen are used to trawler fishing all these years.

“The fishermen could take up tuna longliner for trouble-free and sustainable fishing in the long run,” the sources said. There were also 2,300 motorised vallams (country boats) and 900 non-motorised vallams in the district, which topped in fish production with 87,000 tonnes of fish caught in a year. Fishermen in Thuthoor in Kanyakumari and Tharuvaikulam in Tuticorin districts were taking up multi-day tuna longliner fishing and it was time for the Rameswaram fishermen to toe the line, the sources added.

Cotton auction to be held weekly

TIRUCHI, February 7, 2014 - *Trading to be held every Wednesday at Thuraiyur Regulated Market*

Fulfilling a long-felt need of cotton growers of the district, the Tiruchi District Market Committee has introduced weekly cotton trading at the Thuraiyur Regulated Market to help farmers sell their produce without having to depend on intermediaries.

Most cotton growers in the district had to go to Namakkal or other neighbouring districts hitherto to sell their produce through the agriculture marketing societies there or depend on traders, who charged a commission. Apart from complaints over delays in payment from traders, farmers expressed apprehensions of being short-changed in weighing.

Cotton is raised on about 10,000 hectares in the district normally and during the current year the coverage has increased to about 12,000 hectares. The crop is grown mainly in Thuraiyur, Musiri, Uppiliyapuram, Manachanallur, and Pullampadi areas in the district and the auctioning at the regulated market at Thuraiyur is expected to come in handy for farmers to transport their produce easily. Farmers had been demanding introducing the cotton auctioning at the regulated market to overcome the problem and help them get remunerative price. The issue had been raised in recent monthly farmers' grievances day meetings and Collector Jayashree Muralidharan has instructed the Department of Agriculture Marketing and Agri Business to introduce an auctioning system through the regulated market. The Regulated Market at Thuraiyur would conduct cotton auctions every Wednesday, according to R. Chandrasekaran, Deputy Director, Agri Business and Marketing and Special Officer, Tiruchi District Market Committee. The auction would be conducted by way of closed bidding to eliminate any malpractice.

Mr. Chandrasekaran, who inaugurated the auction on Wednesday in the presence of V. Kandasamy, Secretary of the District Market Committee, told *The Hindu* that the first auction attracted about 20 farmers and equal number of 'lots' comprising 79 bags of cotton. Five cotton traders participated in the auction. The cotton brought in by farmers fetched a minimum price of Rs. 46 a kg and a maximum of Rs. 58 a kg, depending on the quality. Farmers need not pay any charge for participating in the auction and or have apprehensions over weighing. The regulated market at Thuraiyur has a storage godown with a capacity of 2,000 tonnes where farmers could store their produce if they wished to hold the stocks for a better price, said Mr. Chandrasekaran. A publicity campaign had been launched to draw more cotton growers to the auction.

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- ☐ ***The auction will be conducted by way of closed bidding***
 - ☐ ***Farmers need not pay any charge for participation***
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Water level

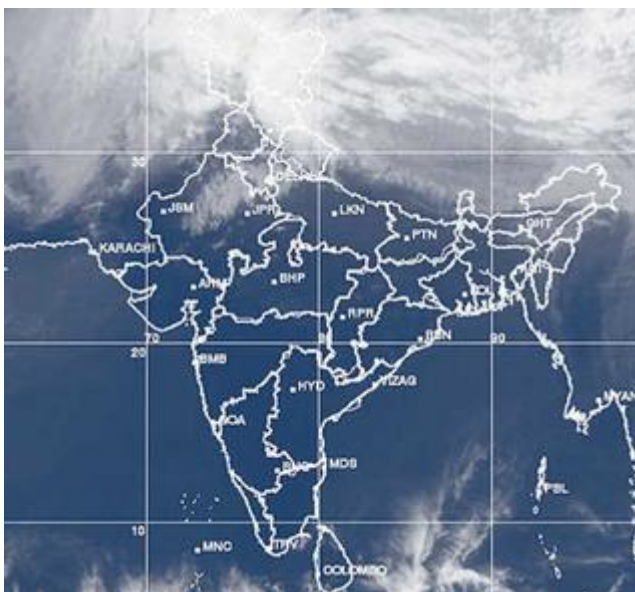
The water level in **Periyar dam** stood at 111 feet (permissible level is 136 feet) on Thursday with no inflow and a discharge of 105 cusecs. The level in Vaigai dam was 35.05 feet (full level is 71 feet) with an inflow of nine cusecs and a discharge of 40 cusecs. The combined storage in Periyar credit was 972 mcft.

The water level in the **Mettur dam** stood at 51.5 feet on Thursday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 474 cusecs and the discharge 1,000 cusecs.

Water level in the **Papanasam dam** on Thursday stood at 74.70 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 373 cusecs and 1,154.75 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam. The level of **Manimuthar dam** stood at 82.05 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 21 cusecs and 140 cusecs of water was discharged.

Kanyakumari-The water level in **Pechipparai dam** stood at 17 feet, 48.65 feet in Perunchani, 7.81 feet in Chittar I, 7.90 feet in Chittar II, 4 feet in Poigai and 54.12 feet in Mamabazhathuraiyaru.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on February 06.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	35	17	0	0
Arogyavaram	33	13	0	0
Bapatla	30	18	0	0
Calingapatnam	32	20	0	0
Gannavaram	33	19	0	0
Hanamkonda	33	17	0	0
Hyderabad AP	33	16	0	0
Kakinada	32	21	0	1
Khammam	33	20	0	0
Kavali	31	18	0	2
Kurnool	36	19	0	0
Mahabubnagar	33	18	0	0
Machilipatnam	31	20	0	0
Narasapur	31	20	0	0
Nellore	33	21	0	tr
Nizamabad	34	17	0	0
Ongole	32	19	0	2
Ramagundam	34	14	0	0
Tirupathi AP	33	15	0	1
Tuni	32	21	0	0
Vizag AP	31	20	0	3
Vizag	28	21	0	19

KARNATAKA

Agumbe	33	13	0	0
Bangalore AP	31	15	0	0
Bangalore	33	17	0	0
Bagalkote	34	14	0	0
Belgaum AP	33	14	0	0
Bellary	36	15	0	0
Bijapur	33	15	0	0
Chitradurga	33	15	0	0
Chickmagalur	30	13	0	0
Chintamani	32	11	0	0
Gadag	33	17	0	0
Gulbarga	35	19	0	0
Hassan	31	12	0	0
Honavar	32	20	0	0
Karwar	33	21	0	0
Madikeri	26	12	0	5
Mangalore AP	33	22	0	0
Mysore	32	15	0	0
Mandya	33	14	0	0
Panambur	34	23	0	0
Raichur	34	17	0	0
Shirali	33	20	0	0

KERALA

Alappuzha	32	23	0	1
Kannur	34	24	0	1
Kochi AP	33	22	0	0
Kottayam	33	22	0	0
Kozhikode	34	24	0	tr
Punalur	35	17	0	1
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	32	23	0	140
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	34	23	0	45

Vellanikkara	35	22	0	0
TAMIL NADU				
Adirampattinam	33	18	0	12
Chennai	31	19	0	tr
Chennai AP	33	19	0	1
Coimbatore AP	34	17	0	0
Coonoor	22	10	0	12
Cuddalore	31	19	0	tr
Dharmapuri	34	15	0	0
Kanyakumari	33	20	0	85
Karaikal	29	20	0	7
Kodaikanal	21	9	0	17
Madurai AP	35	20	0	10
Nagapattinam	29	20	0	7
Palayamkottai	35	21	0	31
Pamban	30	22	0	63
Parangipettai	31	19	0	6
Puducherry	31	19	0	1
Salem	36	15	0	0
Thanjavur	33	22	0	1
Tiruchi AP	34	19	0	tr
Tirupattur	36	15	0	0
Tiruttani	34	17	0	2
Tondi	30	20	0	43
Tuticorin	30	22	0	21
Ooty	21	8	0	0
Valparai	29	5	0	12
Vellore	34	16	0	1
LAKSHADWEEP				
Amini Divi	32	25	0	68
Minicoy	31	24	0	11
OTHER STATIONS				
Kolkata (Alipore)	30	17	0	0
Mumbai	29	20	0	1
New Delhi	25	10	tr	11

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace) and total rainfall in mm since January 01, 2014.

DRY WEATHER IN TAMIL NADU

CHENNAI: Dry weather prevailed over Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep.

The minimum temperature fell at a few places over Tamil Nadu, rose at one or two places over north interior Karnataka and changed little elsewhere over the region.

They were appreciably below normal at most places over Tamil Nadu, at one or two places over Andhra Pradesh and interior Karnataka, below normal at one or two places over Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Rayalaseema, appreciably above normal at one or two places over coastal Karnataka and were remained normal over the rest of the region.

Chamarajanagar recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 11 degree Celsius in the plains of the region.

Forecast (valid until Saturday morning): Dry weather will prevail over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Farmers weather bulletin for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry: Forecast (valid until Saturday): Mainly fair weather will prevail over Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Fair weather.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Friday, Feb 7

Max 30° | Min 20°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 94

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:34

Sunset: 06:12

Barometer: 1012

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Saturday, Feb 8

Max 31° | Min 20°

Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday
Feb 9



32° | 20°

Partly Cloudy

Monday
Feb 10



25° | 21°

Cloudy

Tuesday
Feb 11



25° | 20°

Cloudy

Wednesday
Feb 12



25° | 20°

Overcast

Thursday
Feb 13



26° | 20°

Overcast

THE  NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

Keeping Unique Cattle Breeds Alive



The rare cattle breeds exhibited by Earth Care Foundation at Atholi Biopark | T P SOORAJ

The rare cattle breeds brought under the roof of 'Gramadarshanam 2014,' an agriculture seminar and exhibition of indigenous cattle breeds at Atholi Biopark, are really a treat to the eyes. Taking it as a rare opportunity, people from across the district are thronging the exhibition stalls to have a look at the natives.

Earth Care Foundation, near Atholi Biopark, is organising the programme.

"This programme can be considered as an attempt to save endangered species from extinction," says chairman of Earth Care Foundation, P V Krishnan Kutty. Elaborating more on the programme which has been extended to February 9, taking into account the request of natives, he says, "To our wonder, housewives were seen enthusiastic about dairy farming. Almost all the visitors expressed their desire to be dairy farmers," he says.

Vechur cow, the smallest cattle breed in the world which was nominated for the Guinness Book of World Records, is a major attraction at the exhibition. "I have only heard about the rare breed. I got the opportunity to know more about it at the exhibition," says Radhamani, a visitor. The Kasaragod Dwarf breed, a little taller than the world's smallest breed Vechur, a native of Kerala, Cheruvally cattle, indigenous to Cheruvally, Mundakkayam and Kanjirappally regions of Kottayam district, Ponwar cow, a draught cattle breed and a native of Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh, Kangeyam cow that derived its name from Kangeyam taluk in Tamil Nadu, are some of the few breeds on display.

"There is an increasing trend among the rich these days to own cows. Most of them prefer to have Vechur and Kasargod Dwarf, while some of them are very particular about having Ponkanoor cow in their cattlesheds," says N V Balakrishnan, who has exhibited his cow at the exhibition.

He owns around 12 varieties of cows. The organisers have put forward a lucrative offer of giving a first-hand experience to visitors interested in cattle rearing. Those coming with a recommendation letter from the representatives of local governing bodies can look after a native breed for a fixed period. Based on the satisfaction level they can either buy the breed or give it back to the Earth Care Foundation.

Vadakara Dwarf, Malanad Gidda, Ponkanoor cow, Khilari "There used to be not so many takers for indigenous breeds earlier. With the awareness spread on the quality of these breeds, there has been a considerable demand for them," says Padmanabhan Ooralunkal, general convenor.

With the confidence gained through the first exhibition, the organisers say that in the coming years also Gramadarshanam will be conducted in Atholi.

THE HINDU Business Line

Wheat prices caught in a web of abundance



Demand from Dragon The major development which has supported the global market is the demand from China, which is expected to import 9.5 million tonnes

India is the second largest producer of wheat in the world after China, contributing to about 13.02 per cent of the world's production. According to the

4th advance estimate, wheat production for 2012-13 is estimated at 92.46 million tonnes (mt).

Over the last three years, production has increased due to good yields, supported by good monsoon and increase in the minimum support price.

Over 94.54 per cent of the total production of the country comes from six States. The top wheat producing States of the country are Uttar Pradesh (31.93 per cent), Punjab (18.21 per cent), Haryana (13.37 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (12.16 per cent), Rajasthan (9.82 per cent) and Bihar (4.98 per cent).

Domestic consumption is estimated at 85-90 mt. India is the third major wheat consumer globally after China and European Union.

International scenario

World wheat production is projected at a record 708.9 mt, up 3.5 mt. Higher production in Canada, the European Union (EU), and the FSU-12 (former Soviet Union states) more than offset a drop in Iran and Paraguay.

Black Sea production is expected to rebound to 108 mt due to favourable weather, compared with 77.2 mt in 2012-13. Consumption is expected to reach a record 707 mt, up 4 per cent from 2012-13 and the global feed use is expected to rise three per cent to 141 mt.

Price trend analysis

The wheat spot market price variation study indicates that the price volatility remains steady for most of the year and a spurt is witnessed in the period between June and August. Reports of Black Sea exporters re-entering the market at competitive prices is likely to keep the global price volatility under check.

There are reports that Black Sea production is likely to rebound by 40 per cent to 108 mt on improved weather and higher yields.

Russian production is expected to increase by 16.3 mt from 2012-13 to 54 mt and Black Sea exports are expected to reach 37.1 mt and represent 24 per cent of world market, compared with 19 per cent in 2012-13.

In the domestic market, the spurt in the volatility was noticed during July-August 2013 (from an average of around 20 per cent to over 40 per cent) and since then prices have been consolidating in a tight range.

The major development which has supported the global market is the demand from China, which is expected to import 9.5 mt, compared with the 5-year average of 1.74 mt with its production remaining unchanged at 121 mt.

Spot prices in Delhi sharply declined from March onwards due to higher wheat production. The Indian market is marginally stable at the higher level amidst expectation that 5.5 mt of wheat will be exported in the current marketing year.

Wheat being a Rabi crop, sown during October to December, is highly dependent on good monsoon.

Production trends

This year, good rainfall in major producing regions has provided the required soil moisture during the sowing period.

The upcoming harvest season is likely to see production of around 90-95 mt. The Indian market is currently pegged around Rs. 1,650 a quintal, which is likely to hold on for the coming season without much fluctuation.

I expect the 2014 prices to be range-bound with an upper cap of Rs. 1,780 and lower firm support at Rs.1,420 a quintal.

The writer is Head – Trade & Commodity Intelligence Group, NCML.

Soyameal shipments down 41% in January

New Delhi, February 6: Soyameal exports in January dropped by 41 per cent to 3.64 lakh tonnes on lower crushing due to poor bean arrivals. This was because farmers continued to hold back their produce, anticipating better prices. In January last year, soyameal exports stood at 6.20 lakh tonnes (lt).

On a financial-year basis, soyameal exports during April-January were 24.25 lt, down 4.37 per cent over corresponding period a year ago, according to data compiled by Soyabean Processors Association of India. In April-January period of last fiscal, soyameal exports were 25.36 lakh tonnes.

Iran remained the largest buyer of the pricier Indian soyameal during January importing 99,000 tonnes, followed by Korea at 68,850 tonnes and Europe at 44,500 tonnes. Other large buyers during the period were Saudi Arabia at 17675 tonnes and Croatia at 9066 tonnes.

During the current oil year starting October till January, total soyameal exports stood at 15.49 lt (16.99 lt).

Indian exporters are facing a drop in enquires ahead of the impending large soyabean harvest in South America as buyers have adopted a wait-and-watch attitude. Large producers Brazil and Argentina are projected to harvest 90 million tonnes and 50 million tonnes respectively.

Jeera crackles on poor offtake

Rajkot, February 6: Jeera prices moved down on the back of weak export as well as domestic demand. Moreover, profit selling on future market also weighed on jeera price. On the NCDEX, jeera March contract decreased Rs. 27.50 to Rs. 11,867.50 a quintal with an open interest of 6,747 lots.

April contract declined Rs. 27.50 to Rs. 11,857.50 with an open interest of 3,720 lots. About 4,000 bags of jeera arrived in Unjha mandi of Gujarat and prices declined by Rs. 5-7 to Rs. 1,900-2,460 for 20 kg.

In Rajkot APMC, about 800-1,000 bags were arrived and prices stood at Rs. 2,100-2,260. Experts said that jeera futures are expected to remain under downside pressure on higher output expectations this season. However, value buying and overseas demand may support prices at lower levels.

Sugar freight rates rise on shortage of trucks

Mumbai, February 6: SUGAR FREIGHT RATES UP

Sugar prices were mixed on the Vashi wholesale market on Thursday, keeping the undercurrent positive due to shortage of trucks at producing level. Freight rates rose further by Rs. 2-5 a quintal in some areas pushing prices higher. Despite start of the new month, retailers' demand remained limited. In the Vashi market prices for S-grade rose by Rs. 16 on the higher side on improved offtake, while for M-grade it dropped by Rs. 6-10. Naka and mill tender rates were unchanged as producers continued to sell old stocks. Our Correspondent

Outlook turns bearish for mustard on higher arrivals

Indore, February 6: OUTLOOK TURNS BEARISH FOR MUSTARD

A sluggish trend continued in mustard and its oil on slack demand. Besides, arrival of new mustard crop added to the sluggish trend. In Indore, mustard oil ruled at Rs. 627 for 10 kg (down Rs. 13 from last week). Irrespective of the demand, rise and fall in mustard oil, prices

in Indore mandis are directly linked with corresponding rise and fall in prices of soya oil, said a trader. A sluggish trend will continue in the coming days, said another trader. Our Correspondent

Fresh enquiries boost rice

Karnal, February 6: Rice prices ruled firm on Thursday following fresh trade enquiries and hopes of good buying in the coming days.

Prices have been ruling firm in the rice market due to trade enquiries and steady demand, said Amit Chandna, Proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company. Prices may continue to rule around current levels over the next few days and then, it may witness an uptrend, he said.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) sold at Rs. 9,200-50, while Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted at Rs. 8,150. Pure Basmati (Raw) quoted at Rs. 12,500. Duplicate basmati (steam) sold at Rs. 7,000 a quintal.

Pusa-1121 (second wand) was at Rs. 7,050, Tibar at Rs. 6,100 while Dubar at Rs. 5,000. In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) sold at Rs. 5,000 while Sharbati (Sela) was quoted at Rs.4,800.

Permal (raw) sold at Rs. 2,300, Permal (sela) at Rs. 2,350, PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs. 2,900 while PR-11 (Raw) was at Rs. 2,800. PR14 (steam) sold at Rs. 3,200 a quintal.

About 7,000 bags of different paddy varieties arrived at the Karnal Grain Market Terminal. About 5,000 bags of Pusa-1121 arrived and went for Rs. 4,250 while 2,000 bags of Sharbati went for Rs.2,200 a quintal.

Weak futures drag turmeric

Erode, February 6: Spot turmeric prices in Erode markets decreased by Rs. 200 a quintal following a decline in the futures market.

“Turmeric futures slid by 2-4 per cent in the last two sessions; so traders quoted lower price and purchased some stocks of turmeric. Though traders have not yet received huge upcountry orders, they are buying little quantity of turmeric with an intention of storing it. Most of the traders have showed interest in buying the quality root turmeric,” said RKV Ravishankar, President of Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Spot rubber declines on lack of buyers for any grade

Kottayam, February 6: Spot rubber prices declined on Thursday. The market lost ground as there were no genuine buyers for any grade locally.

Sharp declines in the domestic and international futures and the ambiguity regarding the procurement of rubber from growers kept the commodity under pressure during session. Sheet rubber weakened to Rs. 143 (Rs. 145) a kg, according to traders. The grade was quoted flat at Rs. 144 and Rs. 141 respectively, by the Rubber Board and dealers. The trend was partially mixed. February futures dropped to Rs. 143.25 (Rs. 146.11), March to Rs. 145.31 (Rs. 148.30), April to Rs. 147.50 (Rs. 150.82), May to Rs. 150.80 (Rs. 153.98) and June to Rs. 152 (Rs. 153.01) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) declined to Rs. 130.99 (Rs. 134) at Bangkok. February futures closed at ₹209.8 (Rs. 128.99) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Riding on vannamei shrimps, seafood exports surge

Kochi, February 6: The huge growth in production of the vannamei shrimp in Andhra Pradesh and other States on the East Coast has helped seafood exports scale new heights in the first three quarters of the current financial year.

Exports of vannamei almost doubled in quantity compared with the first three quarters of the last fiscal – to 1.34 lakh tonnes (lt) from 69,000 tonnes.

In dollar terms, the jump was spectacular: \$1,474 million from \$540 million. This is an increase of 173 per cent over the previous fiscal's first three quarters.

A little over a half of vannamei exports was to the US, while 16 per cent was to South-East Asian countries.

Piggybacking on the splendid performance of vannamei and other frozen shrimps, the seafood sector is now scaling up its expectation on export earnings beyond the \$4.33-billion target for the entire fiscal.

According to the Marine Products Export Promotion Authority, export earnings have already topped \$3.66 billion.

Vannamei excels

Seafood exporters said out that vannamei farming was fast expanding in Andhra Pradesh, the nerve-centre of shrimp culture. Vannamei production was also gaining in other States on the East Coast – Tamil Nadu, Odisha and West Bengal – as well as in Gujarat. Farmers' initiative, rather than institutional or Government support, was driving the vannamei farming, they said.

Huge demand from the US and South-East Asia, remunerative prices and devastation of vast stretches of shrimp farms in leading cultured-shrimp producing countries is encouraging new farmers in the States on the East Coast to venture into vannamei. "It's a case of success driving further success," one exporter commented.

MPEDA said out that frozen shrimp made up a third of the seafood exports, while in dollar terms, the share was as high as 65 per cent. Shrimp export in the three quarters was 2.29 lt bringing in \$2,396 million. The percentage of increase over the same period in the previous year was 27.5, while in dollar terms the jump was 70.5 per cent.

Of the total exports of shrimp, vannamei alone constituted 81 per cent of in terms of quantity.

The share of fish in the export basket was 30 per cent, mainly cuttle fish and squid.

According to MPEDA, 6.92 lt of marine products were exported during April-December 2013.

The rupee value of the exports was Rs. 21,829 crore. In terms of quantity, the exports had marginally fallen, from 7.21 lt in the corresponding period previously; but the rupee value was a big rise from Rs.14,811 crore.

Procurement of wheat likely to be higher at 35 mt



[Wheat procurement](#) in 2013-14 is expected to be higher than last year. Timely sowing, new and more weather-resistant varieties, with timely rain, have triggered hopes for a higher crop and larger procurement.

The Food Corporation of India is yet to prepare final estimates for procurement but sources told Business Standard this could touch 35 million tonnes, about 40 per cent higher than last year. The procurement in 2012-

13 was 25 mt. According to sources, a meeting by the food secretary is scheduled on February 17 to discuss procurement.

The target for procurement last year was actually 44 mt. This could not be achieved due to some crop damage from rain in Punjab and Haryana towards the end of the season and heavy buying from the private traders in Madhya Pradesh (MP). These three contributed 23 mt of the wheat last year (Punjab 10.9 mt, MP 6.3 mt and Haryana 5.9 mt).

According to some private traders, the procurement this year would be without any laxity, as this is an election one. Farmers prefer to sell wheat to the government because the purchase price of private traders is inconsistent.

IN STOCK	
In million tonnes	
Year	Procurement
2010	28.30
2011	24.36
2012	38.14
2013	25.04
2014P	35.00

P=Provision Source: Ministry of food

Raj Kumar Phor, a farmer in Karnal district (Haryana) said, "Many farmers in our area have sown the early varieties to save on yield if the temperature becomes unfavourable. Cool weather is more conducive for the crop in the maturing stage. This happened in 2012 and resulted in an incredible harvest." He added the winter monsoon had been adequate and occurred at the right time. "We registered a yield of 26-27 quintals a hectare last year and expect up to 30 quintals this season."

The Director of Wheat Research Institute, Karnal Indu Sharma corroborated that impact of better technology and good weather (if prevails till March) may help getting higher yields.

World food prices drop to 19-month low



[World food prices](#) fell in January to 19-month low, as costs for everything from [sugar](#) to grains slid amid ample global supplies, the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organization ([FAO](#)) said.

An index of 55 food items dropped to 203.4 points last month from 206.2 in December, the Rome-based FAO wrote in an online report on Thursday. The index is

down 4.5 per cent from a year ago and is at the lowest since June 2012.

[Corn](#) was the worst performer in the S&P GSCI gauge of 24 commodities last year, sliding 40 per cent on an outlook for a record global crop. Sugar tumbled 16 per cent in New York in 2013 and extended the slide this year 1.6 per cent, as world supplies outpaced demand. In a separate report, the FAO said on Thursday that world grain production will be larger than previously expected at a record 2.502 billion tonnes.

The FAO's grain-price index fell to 188.4 points from 191.5 points the prior month, according to the report. Its gauge of sugar prices slid 5.6 per cent, while vegetable oil costs dropped 3.8 per cent and meat prices fell 0.9 per cent. Only dairy costs rose, climbing 1.4 per cent, the FAO said.

Potato up 2% as demand picks up, tight supply

[Potato](#) remained higher for the third straight session and prices shot up by 2.10% to Rs 1,181 per quintal in futures trading today on pick up in demand in the spot market amid tight supplies following lower arrivals from the major producing regions.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for delivery in far-month April shot up by Rs 24.30, or 2.10% to Rs 1181 per quintal in business turnover of 240 lots.

Potato for delivery in March also traded higher by Rs 18, or 1.63% to Rs 1123.80 per quintal in 386 lots.

Analysts said pick-up in demand in the spot market against tight supplies due to restricted arrivals from producing regions mainly pushed up potato prices at futures trade.

Refined soya up 0.7% on strong demand

[Refined soya oil](#) prices gained 0.72% to Rs 676 per 10 kg in futures market today as speculators created fresh positions, tracking a firm trend at spot market on strong demand in view of wedding season.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), refined soya for delivery in March gained Rs 4.85, or 0.72% to Rs 676 per 10 kg with an open interest of 103950 lots.

Similarly, oil for delivery in February moved up by Rs 2.10, or 0.31% to Rs 684.75 per 10 kg in 25,930 lots.

Analysts said fresh positions built-up by speculators on the back of strong demand supported by ongoing wedding season mainly led to rise in refined soya oil prices at futures trade.

Chana down 0.6% on higher supply, low demand

[Chana](#) prices declined by 0.60% to Rs 2,804 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators trimmed positions, driven by low demand in the spot market against higher supplies from producing regions.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for delivery in February declined by Rs 17, or 0.60% to Rs 2804 per quintal with an open interest of 47,160 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in April shed Rs 8, or 0.27% to Rs 2998 per quintal in 76,490 lots.

Analysts said speculators trimmed positions, driven by a low demand in the spot market against higher supplies from producing regions mainly pulled down chana prices at futures trade.

Palm oil up 0.6% on global cues

Continued its rising streak for the third day, [crude palm oil](#) gained 0.63% to Rs 544.40 per 10 kg in futures trading today as speculators enlarged positions, driven by upsurge in demand in the spot market amid a firm global trend.

Firm global trend on speculation that dry weather in South America may cut soybean production, potentially trimming global cooking oil supplies further influenced crude palm oil prices.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for delivery in March added Rs 3.40, or 0.63% to Rs 544.40 per 10 kg in business turnover of 20 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in February edged up by Rs 3.30, or 0.61% to Rs 540.50 per 10 kg in 72 lots.

Analysts said speculation enlarged their positions on account of upsurge in demand in the spot market mainly helped crude palm oil prices to trade higher at futures trade for the third-day.

Meanwhile, palm oil for April delivery climbed 0.8% to 773 dollar a metric tonne on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange.

Sugar up 0.4% on spot demand

[Sugar](#) prices traded higher by 0.41% to Rs 2,714 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators created fresh positions, driven by pick up in seasonal demand in the spot market.

However, ample supplies in the physical market restricted the gains.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), sugar for delivery in March rose by Rs 11, or 0.41% to Rs 2714 per quintal with an open interest of 23040 lots.

Likewise, the sweetener for delivery in February edged up by Rs 6, or 0.23% to Rs 2670 per quintal in 15,000 lots.

Analysts said speculators created fresh positions after pick up demand in the spot markets following ongoing wedding season but ample supplies, limited the gains.

Cardamom up 0.5% on rising demand

[Cardamom](#) prices extended gains for the fourth-straight day by adding 0.54% to Rs 759.60 per kg in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions supported by rising demand in the spot market.

Tight stocks availability in the physical market due to less arrivals from producing region further fuelled the uptrend.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in February gained Rs 4.10, or 0.54% to Rs 759.60 per kg in business turnover of 12 lots.

In a similar fashion, the spice for delivery in March traded higher by Rs 2.80, or 0.35% to Rs 807.80 per kg in 130 lots.

Market analysts said besides rising demand in the spot market against restricted arrivals from producing regions mainly kept cardamom futures higher for the fourth-day.

Coriander down 1.1% on sluggish demand

[Coriander](#) prices fell by 1.16% to Rs 8,800 per quintal in futures market today as speculators reduced their positions at existing higher levels driven by sluggish demand in the spot market.

Adequate stocks position in the physical market following increased arrivals from producing region also put pressure on coriander prices.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, coriander for delivery in April fell by Rs 103, or 1.16% to Rs 8,800 per quintal with an open interest of 31,400 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in February declined by Rs 86, or 1.07% to Rs 7,980 per quintal in 25,660 lots.

Market analysts said speculators reduced their positions at existing higher levels driven by sluggish demand in the spot market against increased supplies mainly kept pressure on coriander prices at futures trade.

Turmeric down 1.9% on profit-booking



[Turmeric](#) prices moved down by 1.96% to Rs 7,186 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators booked profits at prevailing higher levels, driven by a decline in demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), turmeric for delivery in May moved down by Rs 144, or 1.96%, to Rs 7,186 per quintal with an open interest of

5,035 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in April lost Rs 142, or 1.95%, to Rs 7,144 per quintal in 17,240 lots.

Analysts said besides profit-booking by speculators at prevailing higher levels, decline in demand in the spot market, mainly led the fall in turmeric prices at futures trade.
