

Farmers get training in drip irrigation

TIRUNELVELI, February 20, 2014 - *Government has been offering cent per cent subsidy: official*

Farmers are being given on-field training in drip irrigation under National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) to get the optimum yield with minimum water in view of successive monsoon failure resulting in serious shortage of water for irrigation.

The NADP is being implemented to achieve the goal of reducing gaps in yield in important crops through focused interventions and maximize returns to farmers. Since the parched irrigation tanks and alarmingly going down groundwater level threaten farm activity, agriculturists in the blocks of Alangulam, Radhapuram Cheranmahadevi, Kadayam, Kuruvikulam, Vasudevenallur and Maanur are being encouraged to switch over to drip irrigation.

“Drip irrigation will not only scale down production cost and water use substantially but also helps farmers achieve better yield,” says S. Raja Mohamed, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Tirunelveli.

Demonstrating drip irrigation facility provided to the tissue culture banana (variety: Grand naine), supplied under National Horticulture Mission scheme during this year, as well as water melon fields at Radhapuram on Tuesday, he said that drip irrigation could be used for short term crops such as watermelon, lady’s finger and other long term horticulture crops like banana, mango, acid lime etc. Drip irrigation is an irrigation method that saves water and fertilizers by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants, either into the soil surface or directly into the root zone through a network of valve, pipes, tubing and emitters. Describing the advantages of the system, Mr. Mohamed said that it would scale down requirement of labour and would take care of application of fertilizers. “The government has been offering cent per cent subsidy for drip irrigation to small and marginal farmers up to five acres of land, he added. Area under cultivation could be doubled with introduction of drip irrigation system.

“It will reduce 30 per cent labour needs, cut 30 per cent of total fertilizer requirements. At the same time, production will go up by 30 to 40 cent per cent depending on cropping pattern. Quality of produces will also improve,”he added.

“We must look at our farms as a whole system not just production-focused and we change our systems as they need adjustment to micro irrigation system” says T.D. Satyarai, Assistant Director of Horticulture (in-charge), Radhapuram.

☑ ***It can be used for short term crops***

☑ ***It saves water and fertilizers***

5-HP solar pumpsets to be given to farmers on 80% subsidy

VELLORE, February 20, 2014 - The State government has decided to supply 5-HP solar-powered irrigation pumpsets to farmers at 80 per cent subsidy during the year 2013-14. This is aimed at increasing the use of solar energy for agricultural activities and creating awareness of it among farmers. The scheme will be implemented through the Department of Agricultural Engineering.

Collector R. Nanthagopal said in a release that the solar-powered pumpsets would be fitted to borewells equipped with drip irrigation or sprinkler irrigation facilities. Mobile solar panels would be provided to help farmers continuously tap solar energy. While a solar-powered pumpset would cost Rs.4,39,950, the government would provide a subsidy of Rs.3,35,200. The pumpsets could be fitted only to borewells with bore pipes having a minimum diameter of six inches. In order to facilitate tapping of solar energy, there should be no tree or shade near the wells.

The solar-powered pumpsets would work in borewells up to a depth of 300 feet. These pumpsets would be maintained by the agencies concerned for five years.

The Collector has appealed to interested persons to contact the Assistant Executive Engineers concerned in Vellore, Walajapet and Tirupattur.

CM supports cooperative farming



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Minister for Forests B. Ramanath Rai, Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda, Minister for Transport R. Ramalinga Reddy, and Ashok Kheni, MLA, with award-winning farmers in Bangalore on Wednesday. — Photo: Bhagya Prakash K.

BANGALORE, February 20, 2014 - Chief

Minister Siddaramaiah has underlined the need for comprehensive development of the agriculture sector to enable farmers lead a dignified life.

At a function to present awards to innovative farmers here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said farming was becoming unviable because of the dip in yield.

Mr. Siddaramaiah expressed concern over the dwindling number of families involved in agriculture owing to the migration of the youth to urban areas in search of jobs.

“Farming is no longer an attractive option for the educated youth, whose migration is causing more pressure on urban areas... Making farming a profitable and attractive activity and promotion of integrated farming systems are the solutions,” Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

He said the government was doing its best to increase agriculture production by launching pro-farming schemes and bringing more areas under irrigation. Agriculture production was 33 lakh tonnes in 1956, it rose to 131 lakh tonnes in 2013, and it is expected to be 135 lakh tonnes in the coming year.

Attributing the increase in agriculture production to the Green Revolution, he said technological advances had also had an adverse affect on the farm sector. “The need of the hour is to promote organic and natural farming to stem the ill effects of excess utilisation of fertilizer and pesticides. Instead of depending on seeds being supplied by agriculture companies, farmers have to produce seeds.”

Calling upon farm varsities to develop high-yielding varieties of seeds, Mr. Siddaramaiah said cooperative farming would provide answers to the problems being faced by farmers, including shrinking of cultivation area because of fragmentation of land.

Defending the government’s Anna Bhagya scheme, Mr. Siddaramaiah said it would help farmers to a great extent. “But I don’t advise them to grow paddy for the sake of the scheme. They have to focus on integrated farming which will be more beneficial,” he said.

Responding to complaints from farmers on the plummeting prices of tomato and the supply of spurious cotton seeds, the Chief Minister said the government was aware of the problem and would take steps to address them.

Farmer's notebook



Morale booster: Chander Singh (right) from Alirajpur district, Madhya Pradesh being conferred the best progressive farmer award in the district.—Photo: Special Arrangement ICAR, New Delhi had invited the farmer to speak at a national meeting

Why the smell of food makes you hungrier

Fasting for 24 hours improves the sense of smell



What matters: There was a correlation between the odour threshold and body weight.— photo: special arrangement Traditional families regularly practice days of fasting, during which they would skip meals — be it on Maha Sivaratri, days of the Ramzan month, or some even on a New Moon Day. Some of these people who do such fasting claim that they end up eating more than the usual meal when they break the fast — and that the very smell of food makes them hungrier and to eat more than the normal portion. Is this true or just a feeling of an emptied stomach?

Branch of science

Well the branch of science called “hedonics” (note its connection with the phrase ‘hedonistic’), which is a study of pleasant and unpleasant sensations and states of the mind, seems to have an answer.

A recent paper in the professional journal titled *Appetite* (how appropriately named!) reports that fasting for 24 hours improves nasal chemosensory performance (meaning improves the sense of smell) and food palatability (meaning makes you eat more than usual and enjoy it as well). In other words, changes in smell function can modify feeding behaviour.

This group of scientists from Canada inducted a group of nine men and six women as volunteers and tested their threshold of smell by asking them to smell a set of “sniffing sticks” on two separate occasions — first when they had a proper meal and so were “fed”, and later when they were asked to go without any food for 24 hours, or “fasted”. The odour threshold and discriminatory power were higher in the “fasted” group than in the “fed” group. So too was the palatability of the food.

Body weight

There was also a correlation between the odour threshold and the body weight of the volunteers, but this was more so in women than in men. The researchers concluded that fasting for 24 hours improves smell function and increases palatability.

It is still not clear why this is related to the body weight and the sex of the individuals. More research is needed to confirm this correlation, but we cannot yet dismiss their work as “fishy”!

Now comes a recent paper in the February 9 issue of the rather more prosaically named journal *Nature Neuroscience*, from a group of European scientists led by Dr Giovanni Marsicano of Bordeaux, France.

They wanted to unravel the mechanisms behind why hunger arouses sensory perception and increased food uptake.

To this end, they worked with mice because one can do direct *in vivo* testing on the neuronal circuits connected with sensory perceptions in the regions of the brain of live mice.

One can also work with such mice which are genetically devoid of genes which are connected with the odour perception circuit in the brain (genetically manipulated mice in which these genes are “knocked out”, so as to make them lose odour perception).

Earlier work by the Marsicano group showed that the molecule in the neurons in the mouse brain which triggers odour perception is called CB1 receptor.

Marijuana effect

This receptor, incidentally, responds to the smell of marijuana (also called hemp, hashish, or bhang, ganja, bangi, kanjavu, bangiaku in various Indian languages), and is technically called cannabinoid receptor 1 or CB1R. Though called cannabinoid receptor, CB1R responds to a variety of smells.

The group now started working with two sets of mice, one termed the control group and the other, the experimental group, members of which were given a bit of marijuana (actually the active molecule from this is called tetrahydrocannabinol or THC) to activate their CB1R.

Now they analysed the smelling and eating patterns of the two groups for comparison. First they were both made to sniff almond oil.

The THC administered mice were seen to sniff longer and deeper, and also to eat more feed than the control group of mice. Thus, the connection between activation of the odour perception circuit in the brain and greater intake of food was seen to be true.

No difference

Next, they recruited knock-out mice in which CB1R was absent and hence no smell perception. Administering them with THC made no difference.

Thus, the role of odour perception to feeding became clarified.

Then, they made a group fast for 24 hours with no feed at all and these behaved the same way as the ones treated with THC in the first set of experiments. Those ‘fasted’ mice smelt the food longer and ate more than the control group mice.

Thus what was seen in humans by the Canadians is true with mice as well, plus we now implicate the role of the odour sensor neurons and the CB1 receptor in the process.

So, now we know why the some food, when hot and steamy tastes better than when it is cold.

May be weight watchers should watch the temperature of their daily diet as well (and may be eat cold food?), and maybe those with anorexia should check their odour perception first, and repair that first rather than go on long binges of fasting.

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN - dbala@lvpei.org

Cause of decline in wild bumblebee populations identified

Is there a connection between the declining population of honeybees (which is tackled by active management by beekeepers) and bumblebees, which are wild pollinators?

A study published today (February 20) in *Nature* has found not only a global decline of bumblebees but also evidence to prove that the pathogens that infect honeybees have started infecting the wild pollinators.

M.A. Fürst, the lead author of the study from the Royal Holloway University of London, and others used a combination of field data and laboratory experiments to clearly demonstrate that emerging infectious diseases (EID) affecting honeybees are indeed affecting wild bumblebees as well.

They found the prevalence of deformed wing virus and *Nosema ceranae* in honeybees and bumblebees were indeed “linked.” “[Honeybees] is the likely source of at least one major EID in wild pollinators [bumblebees],” they note. Deformed wing virus (DWV) and *N. ceranae* are the major culprits in causing a decline in honeybee populations

The ability of the pathogens to jump from one pollinator species to another is a major concern as these insects play a vital role in agriculture. The ability to jump interspecies is simple as both pollinators “share diverse foraging sites.” The same is the reason for pathogens to move laterally from commercial bumblebees to wild bumblebees.

Analysis of genetic variation in the virus showed that bees collected at the same site shared more closely related virus strains than bees from different sites, indicating on-going disease transmission.

The transfer of emerging infectious diseases from honeybees to bumblebees is a “major cause of mortality” of bumblebees wherever managed bees are maintained, they note.

In controlled inoculation experiments carried out by the researchers, they found of the two pathogens (DWV and *N. ceranae*), the DWV was infective in just 21 days compared with controls. Also, the deformed wing virus, as the name suggests, causes the typical problems in bumblebees as they do in honeybees.

The overtly infected bumblebees produce non-viable offspring and suffer from reduced longevity. Both these factors combined result in rapid decline in their population.

That field estimates showed conservative prevalence should be surprising considering that insects with deformed wings would not be able to fly and hence not captured.

Controlling the spread is a big challenge as there is a global trade of both honeybees and commercial bumblebees. Though monitoring and controlling EIDs is another big challenge, the need to do it is imperative.

Management of bacterial blight of rice

Avoid high doses of nitrogen inputs

Bacterial blight is a major disease of rice. The disease is observed in both seedlings and older plants.

On seedlings, infected leaves turn greyish green in colour and roll up. Appearance of a milky or opaque dewdrop on young lesions early in the morning is one sign of infestation.

The entire plant wilts. The infected field should be kept well drained soon after infection is detected (in conventionally flooded crops). Apply potassic fertilizer in two split doses at tillering and pre-flowering stages.

Split doses

Avoid using high doses of nitrogenous fertilizers. Go for judicious application. Apply nitrogen fertilizer in three split doses, 50 per cent basal, 25 per cent in tillering phase and 25 per cent nitrogen in panicle initiation stage.

Use fresh cow dung slurry at 2kg/10 litres of water, strain it in fine cloth and spray at an interval of 7-10 days 3-4 times at 500 litres/ha. Keep fields clean — remove weed hosts and plough well.

Use of resistant varieties like ajaya, asha, biraj, CO-43, gobind, IR-64, janaki, PR-4141, radha, sona mahsuri, sujata, suraj, swarna, udaya, swarna radha, prasad gobind and pant dhan 4 IR-20 prevents this infestation.

Reduce the disease spread by careful handling of seedlings during transplanting, maintain shallow water in nurseries.

Use only disease free seedlings. *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Bacillus* strain 3 FZB42 are found effective against this infestation.

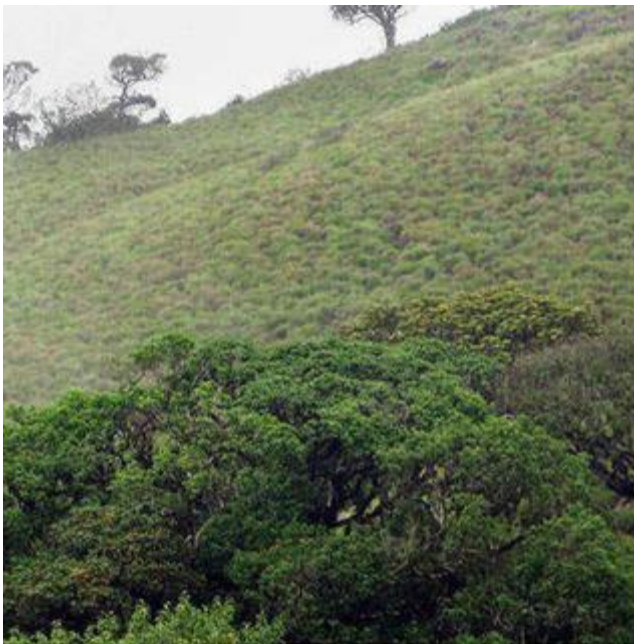
Chemical control

Soak the seeds with a solution of plantomycin 10gms or streptomycin 1.5gms and copper oxychloride 25gms in 10 litres of water. Spray the affected crop with the same chemicals at 500 litres /ha at 7-10 days intervals 2-3 times on need basis.

Streptomycin sulphate and copper oxychloride have been found superior for reducing the infestation and increasing grain and straw yield.

(Ritika Bhattacharjee, Msc, Research scholar and Utpal Dey, Ph.D. scholar, Department of Plant Pathology, Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani-431402, Maharashtra. email: utpaldey86@gmail.com. Mobile:08275824103.)

How fertilizers affect grassland ecosystems



Roy Mathew

Fertilization of natural grasslands — either intentionally or unintentionally as a side effect of global farming and industry — is having a destabilizing effect on biodiversity of global grassland ecosystems.

Strawberry delights



Strawberries make for great treats

It's the season for fresh strawberries. Here are a few recipes for strawberry treats.

Strawberry Cup Cake with Vanilla Ice Cream

Ingredients

Butter: 100 gm
Castor sugar: 200 mg
Strawberry essence: 1 tsp
Eggs: 2
Flour: 150 gm
Baking powder: 1 tsp
Milk: 85 ml

For the topping

Glazed icing: 2 tbsp
Chocolate: 1 tsp

Accompaniment

Vanilla ice cream: 3 scoops

Method - Preheat the oven to approximately 175 degrees Celsius. In a bowl, beat the butter, castor sugar and strawberry essence till light and fluffy. Add the eggs, one by one, until mixed well. Mix together the flour and baking powder. Add the milk and mix with spatula. Then fold in the flour. Fill the mixture into the greased cup cake mould. Bake for 15 minutes or till a skewer, when inserted in the centre of the cup cake, comes out clean. Keep aside for some time. Slice each cup cake in two equal halves, and in between the slices, slather the mixture of cream and strawberry filling. Sandwich the halves, and glaze them with icing. Pipe with chocolate. Serve with some scoops of vanilla ice cream.

Strawberry and Cream

Ingredients

Fresh strawberries: 150 gm
Cream: 150 mg
Crushed gems: Half cup

Method

Rinse the strawberries, and remove the tops. Slice each strawberry into half. Layer a few strawberries at the bottom of a glass bowl and spread some cream on top. Repeat till all the strawberries and cream are used up. Garnish with gems. Set in the fridge for at least two hours before serving.

MOUSHMI KISHORE

Course correction done for State biodiversity project

MAMALLAPURAM, February 20, 2014 - The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TBGP) faced some teething problems for which course correction is done.

This helped the project impact to remain intact, said Vineet Sarin, Principal Development Specialist, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) India.

Talking to *The Hindu* at the two-day workshop on 'Sustaining forest and livelihood through Joint Forest Management', organised at Kovalam near Mamallapuram, Mr. Sarin said tree cultivation in private land was the new concept introduced in the TBGP. The JICA team reviewed the progress of the project last month. Biodiversity being a major component was a new one, which brought in teething problems. "The project is at its initial stage. We want the State Forest Department to concentrate on the implementation of this programme," he said.

Help of non-governmental organisations was required for taking up the micro-planning and planting work under the TBGP. But, the Forest Department pointed out that they were unable to get the adequate number of NGOs for implementing the programme. Mr. Sarin said the JICA team has planned to interact with the NGOs in April this year to make them participate in large numbers.

Answering a question whether the organisation has any future plans to fund similar programmes, Mr. Sarin said right now the funding agency was keen to ensure the proper implementation of the TBGP. Once the project was successfully completed, extending further funds to the State Forest Department would be considered. The workshop at Kovalam was mainly organised to discuss how to sustain projects such as TBGP, he said.

Talking about effective use of Geographic Information System (GIS)-based technology, Mr. Sarin said the technology was needed for planning and monitoring.

The JICA has made it mandatory for all the States in the country to adopt GIS-based technology for monitoring various forestry-related projects.

Praising the efforts of the Tamil Nadu government, Mr. Sarin said, "We rate Tamil Nadu as a very good State in absorbing and implementing various forestry projects that the JICA has funded." The State Forest Department was serious about enlisting communities. There was a genuine willingness to connect with people and benefit them. The convergence had a larger impact in the TBGP, he added.

Two-day workshop on 'Sustaining forest and livelihood through Joint Forest Management' was organised

Vaccination for cattle in March

MADURAI, February 20, 2014 - The sixth round of vaccination to control foot-and-mouth disease will commence in March, District Collector L. Subramanian said here on Wednesday. According to a press release, at least 2.18 lakh heads of cattle will be vaccinated in the sixth round.

In the fifth round that ended recently, 1.87 lakh heads of cattle were vaccinated. The vaccination drive was launched in July 2011. Special campaigns would be conducted by the Animal Husbandry Department in villages across the district to create an awareness of the disease and the prevention methods.

Mr. Subramanian requested the cattle owners to get their animals vaccinated without fail, the release added.

Relish this super-fruit!

Guava is a tropical fruit rich in nutrition. With its unique flavour, taste, and goodness, it easily qualifies as a 'super-fruit'. It is low in calories and fat, but contains several vitamins, minerals and anti-oxidants, which play an important role in boosting immunity.

It is an excellent source of Vitamin C with 100 grams of the fruit providing almost three times the daily recommended intake.

Balsamic Guava and Feta Salad

Ingredients

Guava (small dices): 120 gm

Mixed lettuce leaves (cleaned and torn into small pieces, soaked in iced water for some time and drained): 160 gm

Fresh parsley leaves (cleaned and chopped): 10 gm

Extra virgin olive oil: 60 ml

Balsamic vinegar: 30 ml

Star anise (roasted and powdered): 1

Feta cheese (small cubes): 60 gm

Crushed black pepper: 1 tsp

Salt: To taste

Toasted bread (crusts removed): 4 slices

Method

Flatten the bread slices into thin sheets by using a rolling pin. Cut them in the desired shape and toast them in an oven at 130 degrees Celsius.

Prepare the dressing by mixing the balsamic vinegar, olive oil, star anise powder, parsley, salt and pepper.

Toss the lettuce along with the diced guava and the prepared dressing. Place on serving plates and add the feta cubes on top. Serve along with the toasted bread.

ALOK ANAND

Executive Chef, Taj Coromandel

Reformed bootleggers get cows



Support: Darez Ahamed, Collector, and Sonal Chandra, SP, handing over a cow to a reformed bootlegger in Perambalur on Wednesday.

PERAMBALUR, February 20, 2014 - Cows were given away to seven reformed bootleggers here on Wednesday. Handing over the milch animals to the

beneficiaries, Collector Darez Ahmed called upon them to make use of the opportunity to improve their livelihood. The animals were given through the Excise Department. Superintendent of Police Sonal Chandra, District Revenue Officer M.A. Subramanian and officials were present, an official press release here said.

Varsity takes deep initiative for women SHGs



Fisherwomen learning seaweed culture technique at Parangipettai in Cuddalore district.

PARANGIPETTAI (CUDDALORE), February 20, 2014 - The Centre for Advanced Study in Marine Biology attached to Annamalai University has taken the initiative to involve self-help groups in propagation of "kadal paasi," technically known as gracilaria, in

shallow waters of the coastal areas and estuaries.

This sea weed rich in nutrition has got immense edible value and multifarious applications in food and beverages industries. Since it is a naturally solidifying agent, it finds extensive use in preparation of ice cream, chocolates, 'payasam' and 'halwa.' It has medicinal properties too as it keeps goitre at bay and improves health.

Director of the centre K. Kathiresan told The Hindu that with financial support of National Fisheries Development Board, his institution recently conducted a five-day training programme for 30 members of SHGs, consisting of fisherwomen drawn from three coastal villages of Pudupettai, Pudhukuppam and Samiyarpettai.

Of 1,000 varieties of sea weeds available in the country, 23 were edible varieties. Kadal paasi was being widely consumed in Canada, South East Asia, China and Japan.

Gruel prepared from the sea weed known as 'kanji paasi' was considered nutritious as it was a rich source of iodine, magnesium, vitamin and amino acids.

The sea weed was occurring sparsely in Vellar estuary, Kollidam backwaters and the Paravanar. Therefore, the training programme was launched to popularise the sea weed.

Mr. Kathiresan said that it was proposed to train as many as 500 fisherwomen in this culture within three months. By adopting "raft culture," gracilaria could be propagated.

Initially, the sea weed would be collected and tied in small nodules in a rope in the manner of stringing flowers. Rope-cots, popularly seen in villages, would be an ideal medium for getting good yield. The strings would then be suspended into seawater and after a prescribed period, these would start gathering mass by absorbing the naturally available nutrients in the sea and grow in size. This mechanism, 30 kg of stringed gracilaria would swell into a 300-kg sea weed mass, thus fetching good dividends to SHG members.

As it was a photo-synthetic organism, the sea weed would thrive in shallower parts of the sea. Moreover, gracilaria would attract rabbit fish in hordes as it is a cherished feed. Hence, the places where this sea weed was being cultured would also turn out to be good breeding ground for fish.

"This nature-friendly propagation method can be carried out to supplement the income of coastal community and inculcate in them the importance of marine wealth," Mr Kathiresan said.

M. Srinivasan, professor of the faculty of marine sciences, taught the SHG members certain yoga postures to improve their health and develop positive outlook towards life.

No drop in sale of Aavin milk

TUTICORIN, February 20, 2014 - Though there is a dip in milk production, sale of Aavin milk continues to be as usual in Tuticorin and Tirunelveli districts, according to T. Balaji, General Manager, Aavin, Tirunelveli.

With a decline of milk production to the tune of 4, 000 litres since the beginning of February in these two districts, its production dropped to 68,000 litres as against its average level of 72, 000 litres.

During the corresponding period of last year, there was a production shortfall of 5, 000 litres.

However, sales trend continued to be steady in the market.

About 47,000 litres of milk was being sold every day in these two districts.

Despite a hike in milk procurement price from January 2014, the maximum retail price of milk in three varieties including toned, standardised and full cream remained unchanged since November 2011, Mr. Balaji said here on Wednesday.

Drop in milk production has affected conversion of milk into value added by-products. Cattle feed was insufficient to meet the requirement and this situation had led to drop in milk yield.

He expressed hope that the productivity level might get back to its original trend by April or May when summer showers were expected.

R. Ramasamy, Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, Tuticorin, said the prevailing cold weather conditions affected the production.

“Normally, during the lean period from February to May, milk production suffers a dip of five to 10 per cent.

During this period, milch cows stay pregnant and yield is poor. By June or July, cows begin to yield more milk after delivery,” Dr. Ramasamy said.

Fodder depots

He said that fodder depots would be set up at six places across the district.

The depots, which would be attached to veterinary dispensaries, would be open to cattle rearers to procure a kg of paddy straw at subsidised price of Rs. 2.

Water level

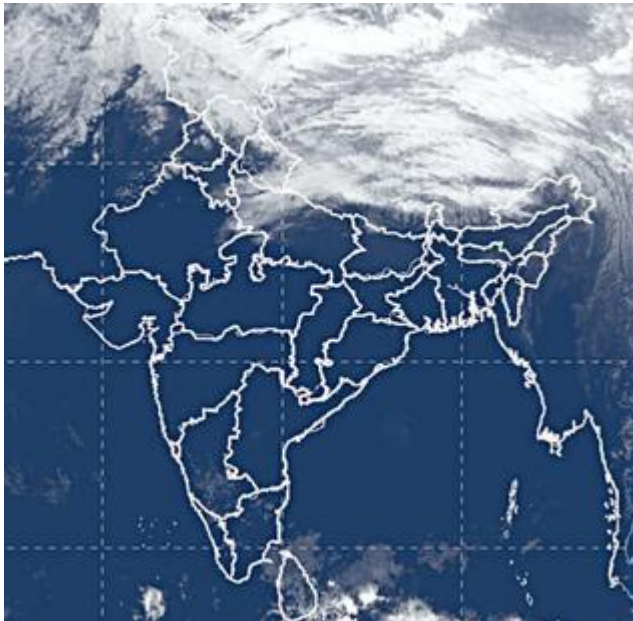
Mettur - The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 50.63 feet on Wednesday against its full reservoir level of 120 feet. The inflow was 169 cusecs and the discharge 600 cusecs.

The water level in the Papanasam dam on Wednesday stood at 58.45 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 218.98 cusecs and 604.75 cusecs of water is discharged from the dam.

The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 75.68 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 12 cusecs and 530 cusecs of water is discharged.

Kanyakumari - The water level stood at 13.50 feet in Pechipparai dam , 43.25 feet in Perunchani, 4.99 feet in Chittar 1, 5.34 feet in Chittar 11, 3.80 feet in Poigai and 54.12 feet in Mamabazathuraiyaru.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on February 19.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	32	22	0	0
Arogyavaram	31	18	0	0
Bapatla	31	19	0	3
Calingapatnam	28	16	0	0
Gannavaram	31	21	0	22
Hanamkonda	34	19	0	0
Hyderabad AP	29	18	0	1

Kakinada	31	20	0	1
Khammam	33	21	0	0
Kavali	29	22	0	9
Kurnool	33	21	0	0
Mahabubnagar	32	19	0	0
Machilipatnam	30	21	0	0
Narasapur	31	20	0	0
Nellore	30	24	0	10
Nizamabad	31	15	0	0
Ongole	32	21	0	2
Ramagundam	30	11	0	0
Tirupathi AP	33	21	0	3
Tuni	31	19	0	0
Vizag AP	31	19	0	3
Vizag	30	20	0	19

KARNATAKA

Agumbe	30	11	0	0
Bangalore AP	29	18	0	0
Bangalore	30	19	0	0
Bagalkote	—	—	—	—
Belgaum AP	31	15	0	0
Bellary	33	19	0	0
Bijapur	31	15	0	0
Chitradurga	31	20	0	0
Chickmagalur	30	20	0	0
Chintamani	—	—	—	—
Gadag	30	19	0	0
Gulbarga	33	18	0	0
Hassan	32	13	0	0
Honavar	33	21	0	0
Karwar	34	21	0	0
Madikeri	27	13	0	5
Mangalore AP	33	22	0	0
Mysore	31	20	0	0
Mandya	31	21	0	0
Panambur	33	23	0	0
Raichur	31	19	0	0
Shirali	32	20	0	0

KERALA

Alappuzha	33	25	0	1
Kannur	35	25	0	5
Kochi AP	33	23	0	2
Kottayam	34	25	0	0
Kozhikode	35	24	0	tr
Punalur	36	21	0	1
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	32	24	10	150
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	34	25	tr	45
Vellanikkara	34	24	0	0

TAMIL NADU

Adiramapattinam	34	22	0	12
Chennai	31	25	tr	10
Chennai AP	31	24	tr	6
Coimbatore AP	32	23	0	0
Coonoor	18	14	20	83
Cuddalore	32	25	0	1

Dharmapuri	34	21	0	0
Kanyakumari	31	25	0	85
Karaikal	31	25	0	7
Kodaikanal	16	9	tr	17
Madurai AP	34	24	0	10
Nagapattinam	31	26	0	7
Palayamkottai	34	24	0	31
Pamban	32	26	0	63
Parangipettai	31	26	0	6
Puducherry	31	24	1	5
Salem	34	21	0	0
Thanjavur	34	25	0	1
Tiruchi AP	33	22	0	tr
Tiruchi	—	—	—	—
Tirupattur	33	22	0	9
Tiruttani	33	19	0	4
Tondi	31	24	0	44
Tuticorin	31	24	0	23
Ooty	18	8	0	1
Valparai	27	13	0	13
Vellore	33	23	0	1
LAKSHADWEEP				
Amini Divi	32	23	0	74
Minicoy	32	24	0	12
Kavarathi	—	—	—	—
OTHER STATIONS				
Kolkata (Alipore)	25	13	0	41
Mumbai	32	20	0	9
New Delhi	23	7	0	50

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

ISOLATED RAIN IN A.P.

CHENNAI: Isolated rainfall occurred over Tamil Nadu, Kerala and coastal Andhra Pradesh.

Dry weather prevailed over Lakshadweep, Rayalaseema, Telangana and Karnataka.

The minimum temperature fell at a few places over T.N., at one or two places over Rayalaseema, coastal A.P., rose appreciably at a few places over coastal Karnataka, rose at one or two places over rest coastal Karnataka, north interior Karnataka, coastal T.N., Telangana, Rayalaseema and changed little elsewhere over the region.

They were markedly below normal at one or two places over Telangana, north interior Karnataka, north coastal A.P., appreciably below normal at one or two places over north interior Karnataka, Telangana, below normal at a few places over rest north coastal A.P., appreciably above normal at a few places over T.N., above normal at one or two places over south coastal A.P., Rayalaseema, T.N., coastal Karnataka, south Kerala and remained normal over the rest of the region.

FORECAST (Valid until Friday morning): Isolated rain or thundershowers may occur over T.N., Puducherry, Kerala, Lakshadweep, coastal and south interior Karnataka. Mainly dry weather will prevail over Rayalaseema and dry weather will prevail over north interior Karnataka, coastal A.P. and Telangana.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 66

Wind: normal

Thursday, Feb 20

Max Min

28° | 23°

Sunrise: 06:29

Sunset: 06:15

Barometer: 1014

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Friday, Feb 21

Max Min

31° | 23°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday

Feb 22



31° | 23°

Partly Cloudy

Sunday

Feb 23



25° | 22°

Overcast

Monday

Feb 24



25° | 22°

Overcast

Tuesday

Feb 25



25° | 23°

Overcast

Wednesday

Feb 26



26° | 23°

Overcast



Talks With Mills on Sugarcane Price Failed: State Tells HC

The State government on Wednesday submitted to the high court that although talks had failed with regard to fixing support price for sugarcane, it is still committed to providing `2,500 as support price per tonne of sugarcane.

Making the submissions, Advocate General Ravi Varma Kumar stated that criminal proceedings will be initiated against those who did not abide by this decision, by the state. The court was hearing a petition filed by The South India Sugar Mills Association, along with others, challenging the State government's action to fix support price of `2,500 per tonne sugarcane, to farmers. Talks with sugar mills were held by the State government, based on directions by the court. The petitioners not only alleged that the State government had threatened strict action against sugar mills which do not abide by the order over the fixed support price for sugarcane, but also alleged that since the State Sugar Control Board was in existence because of the Sugarcane (Regulation of supply and purchase) Act, the State government could not fix `2,500 per tonne of sugar cane as support price, when the Central government had fixed the price at `2,100.

Plea Over Yediyur Temple Dismissed

The high court on Wednesday dismissed a petition filed by Dr Thondata Siddalingeshwara Maha Swamiji of Gadag, who, in 2009, had approached the court alleging failure of the

Muzrai department in denotifying the Siddalineshwara temple in Yedyur and Kaggere. This, he alleged, was despite the fact that devotees had made requests to denotify the temples and the state government had denotified the Mahabaleshwar temple. He alleged that although representations were made to the Commissioner for Religious Endowment to denotify the temples, orders to the contrary was passed.

THE HINDU Business Line

Govt may allow additional wheat shipments from Central stocks

To ease storage crisis caused by higher stocks and rising production



Problem of plenty As on February 1, the wheat stocks in the Central pool stood at 24.2 million tonnes, more than twice the buffer.

New Delhi, February 19: The Government may consider allowing additional exports of wheat from the

Central pool stocks beyond March 31, in view of higher stocks and production estimates for the current rabi season.

“We may look at it... We have enough stocks,” said Food Minister KV Thomas, when asked whether the Government would allow further exports of wheat from the Central pool beyond March 2014.

“The Food Secretary is holding a meeting today to look at it,” Thomas told reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards. The Food Minister also said that the Government may extend the sale of wheat under the open market sale scheme (OMSS) by two months.

As on February 1, the wheat stocks in the Central pool stood at 24.2 million tonnes (mt), more than twice the buffer and strategic reserve norm of 11.2 mt as on January 1.

Further, the Agriculture Ministry in its latest estimates has pegged the wheat crop in the current rabi season at 95.6 mt.

Wheat harvesting is set to begin later this month in States such as Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, while the crop is said to be in good conditions in the northern States of Punjab and Haryana.

The Government had allowed exports of 2 million tonnes from the Central pool till March 31 to create storage space for the new crop.

Of this, about 1.5 mt has been tendered, while the actual shipments so far were estimated at 8 lakh tonnes.

In the current financial year, total wheat shipments from both public and private parties are estimated at 4.6 mt till January, sources said. In 2012-13, the total wheat exports from the country stood at 6 mt.

Poultry-feed seen ruling at current levels

Karnal, February 19: Poultry-feed prices continued to rule unchanged despite a downtrend in the prices of key ingredients.

Aditya Mishra, an expert, told *Business Line* that though there has been a fall in prices of key ingredients, it has not made much impact on the cost of production.

Any major alteration in prices of key ingredient is unlikely and feed prices may continue to rule around current levels in the coming days, he said.

In the physical market, soyameal dropped by Rs. 900 to Rs. 33,600 a tonne, while bajra dropped by Rs. 50 and sold at Rs. 12,750 a quintal. Di-calcium phosphate eased by 10 paise and was at Rs. 34.70 a kg while maize improved by Rs. 50 and sold at Rs. 1,460 a quintal. DRB went down by Rs. 600 and sold for Rs. 8,100, rice bran oil sold at Rs. 52 a kg, MBM dropped by Rs. 2 at Rs.42 while Mustard de-oiled cake was unchanged at Rs. 14,800 a tonne.

Pre-lay mash sold at Rs. 1,050; Layer concentrate 25 per cent was at Rs. 1,490 while Layer concentrate 35 per cent was at Rs. 1,175.

Broiler concentrate quoted at Rs. 2,040 for a 50-kg bag.

NCDEX cuts transaction charges to attract volumes



Samir Shah, MD, NCDEX.

Mumbai, February 19: Days after commodity market regulator Forward Markets Commission allowed differential transaction fees, agriculture-focused commodity exchange NCDEX has rationalised transaction charges for different commodities, in order to attract trade in illiquid contacts. The changes will come into effect from Wednesday. The exchange divided commodities

traded on its platform into list A and B.

Members trading in list A will now pay fee of Rs.1.95 for every Rs. 1 lakh of turnover for monthly average daily traded value up to Rs. 200 crore and on the incremental monthly average daily traded value, a transaction fee of Rs. 1.30 for every Rs. 1 lakh of turnover will be charged. This will result in lower fee for member trading up to Rs. 200 crore and marginally higher for those who record overRs. 200 crore turnover.

The commodities in list A include: Barley, Castor Seed, Chana, Coriander, Cotton Seed, Cotton Seed Oil Cake A Kola, Guar Seed, Guar Gum, Gur, Jeera, Kapas, Maize, Kharif Maize, Rabi Rmseed, Shankar Kapas, Soyabean, Soyameal, Refined Soya Oil, Sugar M200, Turmeric and Wheat. Members trading in list B commodities will have to pay a reduced transaction fee of Rs. 0.40 for every Rs. 1 lakh of turnover for monthly average daily traded value up to Rs. 50 crore and on the incremental monthly average daily traded value, a transaction fee of Rs. 0.30 for every Rs. 1 lakh of turnover will be charged. This would make it extremely cost effective for participants, said the exchange. List B commodities consist of: Brent Crude

Oil, Crude Oil Copper, PVC, Gold, Gold Hedge, Gold Hedge 100 Grams, Silver, Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palmolein, Rubber, Steel Long.

Samir Shah, MD & CEO, NCDEX, said, "Every commodity is at a distinctly different stage in the maturity cycle and introducing these commodity specific transaction charges will help in making it cost effective to trade participants."

Quality new crop lends colour to turmeric

Erode, February 19: TURMERIC GAINS ON QUALITY

Spot turmeric prices at Erode increased on the account of higher arrival of quality new crop. The price of both varieties of turmeric has increased by Rs. 100 and that of the hybrid finger variety by Rs. 300 a quintal. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, (New crop) the finger variety was sold at Rs. 5,489-6,915; the root variety Rs. 5,199-6,629. Salem Hybrid: The finger variety fetched Rs. 5,900-7,489 and the root variety Rs. 5,709-6,889. Of the 1,164 bags on sale, 406 were sold. Our Correspondent

Buyer resistance, profit booking sap rubber

Kottayam, February 19: Physical rubber prices lost ground on Wednesday.

The uptrend lost its steam on buyer resistance coupled with profit booking at higher levels though there were no genuine and quantity sellers in the local trading houses.

Sheet rubber declined to Rs. 152 (Rs. 155) according to traders.

The grade dropped to Rs. 152.50 (Rs. 155) and Rs. 159.50 (Rs. 152) respectively as reported by the Rubber Board and dealers. The March futures closed at Rs. 152.60 (Rs. 152.69), April at Rs. 157.01 (Rs. 156.89), May at Rs. 159.55 (Rs. 159.35) and June at Rs. 160.52 (Rs. 162.14) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) improved to Rs. 139.53 (Rs. 138.58) at Bangkok. The February futures closed at ₹228.6 (Rs. 139.30) on Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs. /kg: RSS-4: 152 (155); RSS-5: 150 (152); Ungraded: 148 (149); ISNR 20: 150.50 (151) and Latex 60%: 122 (122).

Patagonia problem: currency and commodities in focus

Argentina's higher export taxes create a lack of incentive for commodity producers to sell into external markets



Borislav Bajkic/shutterstock

Around this time of the year (seasonally commodity harvest is round the corner), there are three sets of people watching the events in Argentina unfold with a lot of interest. I am referring to commodity

and currency traders, scholars in Boston and Washington, and the people of Argentina themselves. My views are based on my understanding of the first set of people, as I have little current insight into the cerebral activity of the other two.

Argentina produces a large amount of agricultural commodities every year and consumes only a fraction of what it produces. As an example, it produces around 25 million tonnes of corn (mt) and exports 17 mt every year, making it both a large price taker and price maker in the international markets. The nation generates around 33 per cent of its export revenues from the sale of agricultural commodities.

Two things of note have happened over the past few decades. First, the quantity of commodities that Argentina produces has gone up manifold. Second, the long-term equilibrium price of commodities has also gone up during the same time frame. A naive observer may thus infer that Argentina should have been a great beneficiary of this multiplicative effect. On the contrary, Argentina's government has seldom benefited from higher commodity prices.

So, what's going on? In a zeal to realise higher revenues when commodity prices are higher, the Argentine government ends up proposing higher export taxes or fails to reduce these taxes. This policy, unfortunately, creates a lack of incentive for commodity producers to sell into external markets, and take advantage of the higher prices they could otherwise realise. Thus, two things happen: The government loses an opportunity to realise higher tax revenue, and producers miss the opportunity to sell commodities at high prices (lose-lose). The next inevitable effect follows like this: A stemmed commodity supply coming out of Argentina further increases commodity prices and inability to generate commensurate revenue given price increases pushes the Argentine currency value or PESO/USD southward. Argentina has very fertile lands and attracts one of the best rents for use of this land in the world.

Instead of toying with the taxes every year, government revenue policy should probably be directed towards pegging the tax rate to commodities prices to arrive at an optimal tax rate, which would benefit both the government and the producers. As Argentina already benefits from extremely liquid commodity cash markets, it is able to adjust quickly to international futures prices, which is a boon. The commodities traded out of Argentina are usually basis only contracts with futures prices fixed at a later date. If tax rates were a function of this fixing price, two issues would be addressed. First, the uncertainty of tax rate would go away as would the uncertainty around its related timing. This solution should properly incentivize producers to sell at their discretion, reaping the margins afforded by advantageous pricing and benefit the government towards having a better and steadier inflow of tax revenues. In a generalised scenario, export elasticity of a commodity is proportional to the currency rates; thus, a weakening Argentina Peso should benefit exports and vice versa. In the case of Argentina, this has not necessarily been the case, hence the solution I propose to the Patagonia problem.

All we need is a political will and a mathematical solution. Let the markets take care of the rest!

The writer is based in New York and is the founder and Managing Director of Opalcrest.

Business Standard

Edible oils' demand to rise 5% this year despite price fall

In spite of the steep fall in [edible oil](#) prices, local demand has not increased due to the surge in prices of other commodities of daily use. According to sector sources, demand growth is likely to be five per cent this year.

“For six months, prices have been under pressure due to higher production of seeds in India. But despite this, demand growth was a bit slow, as other commodities were trading higher owing to the rise in [inflation](#) during the past year,” said Angshu Mallick, chief operating officer, [Adani Wilmar](#) Ltd.

Mallick said the demand was likely to increase five per cent this year. “Oils have almost bottomed out and the pressure may reduce.” Experts said this year prices of most oils had gone down 10-40 per cent against a year ago. While prices of imports like [soya oil](#) and [RBD palm oil](#) have decreased 11 per cent and 7.5 per cent, respectively, sunflower oil saw a dip of 5.5 per cent and grapeseed oil declined 16 per cent.

Wholesale prices of oils have come down 10-12 per cent, while retail ones are down six-seven per cent. “Good climatic conditions in South America, Canada, Russia and Ukraine, the main producers, and even in India resulted in higher productivity. Malaysia and Indonesia have also seen favourable conditions,” an official of an oil company said. “The prices will continue to be lower for six months.” Palmolein and palm oils have not declined as much as others because the demand for biodiesel was good.

Govindbhai Patel, managing director of Deepak Enterprises, said, “Prices may continue to decrease further for some time as crushing is still higher. Crushing will gradually decline and pressure will reduce on prices. The palm oil price will not decline much as the crop size is small.” According to the data compiled by The Solvent Extractors’ Association of India (SEA), imports of oils during December 2013 (second highest since 1994) were one million tonnes compared to 908,587 tonnes a year ago, up 18 per cent.

B V Mehta, executive director, said, “This year all prices are reeling under pressure due to expectations of a higher production of seeds not only in India but across the world.”

[Groundnut oil](#) has been trading at a four-year low. Also, poor export demand has resulted in a further fall.

In January 2013, the price was Rs 2,250 for a 15-kg tin, an all-time high, but now is Rs 1,340-1,350, down 40 per cent. This was seen in January 2010. Suresh Kaneria, managing director of Kaneria Oil Industries, said, “The main reason for the fall is the higher availability of groundnut. Most has been diverted to mills as exports have been nominal this year.”

According to the ministry of agriculture the estimated seed area as on October 17, 2013, was 19.5 million hectares against 17.8 million a year ago, up 1.7 million. The summer crop is estimated at 17 million tonnes for 2013-14 against a year ago's 15 million. The yield increased to 867 kg a hectare during the current summer crop from 855 kg a hectare a year ago. According to the second advance estimates of production, nine seeds' production is likely to be 33 million tonnes in 2013-14 against 31 million a year ago. The report said groundnut production was estimated at nine million tonnes for the summer and winter crops this year against five million a year ago. Rape seed and mustard are estimated at eight million tonnes.

VEGETABLE OIL SPILL								
Name	Unit	Domestic prices			International prices			
		Feb 12 '13	Feb 12 '14	% chg	Unit	Feb 12 '13	Feb 12 '14	% chg
Soya bean	₹/10 kg	695.00	655.00	-5.76	USD/pound	57.60	43.85	-23.87
Sunflower	₹/10 kg	780.00	670.00	-14.10	USD/tonne	1,264.00	875.00	-30.78
Groundnut	₹/10 kg	1240.00	740.00	-40.32	USD/pound	97.00	78.00	-19.59
RBD palmolein	₹/10 kg	507.00	585.00	15.38	CNY/mt	6,068.00	5,406.00	-10.91
CP0-Kandla	₹/10 kg	444.10	550.40	23.94	MYR/tonne	2,421.00	2,597.00	7.27

Source: Bloomberg, Bombay Commodity Exchange Compiled by BS Research Bureau

The groundnut oil price on Wednesday was Rs 1,315-1,320 a 15-kg tin, down from Rs 1,425-1,430 a 15-kg tin in January. Soya oil was Rs 644-647 per 10 kg against Rs 654-655 a quarter ago while palm oil moved up from Rs 567-568 to Rs 598-600 per 10 kg in two months.

Groundnut exports to be hit on strict Malaysia, EU norms

[Groundnut](#) exports are likely to take a hit due to the stringent norms of the European Union (EU) and Malaysia to control [aflatoxin](#) levels.

The two largest importers that account for 40 per cent of exports have asked Indian traders to procure a health certificate for every consignment. The Export Inspection Council of India ([EIC](#)), under the commerce ministry, is issuing certificates.

This is required in addition to other certificates, including hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP).

“We have been appointed as the only agency for issuing health certificates for groundnut exporters to Malaysia and the EU,” said an official.

After getting complaints from the two regions, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority ([Apeda](#)) had told the commerce ministry repeatedly about exporters not adhering to global norms. The official said importers had warned the Apeda a suspension of shipments could kick in.

Between April and December 2013, exports fell 14 per cent in volumes to 361,642 tonnes against 420,640 a year ago. Falling global prices of oilseeds have also lowered realisations 13 per cent. The groundnut realisation fell to Rs 66,000 a tonne in the first nine months of the current financial year from Rs 76,000 a tonne a year ago.

GROUNDNUT EXPORTS			
Particular	April-December		Change in %
	2012	2013	
Quantity (tonnes)	420,460	361,642	-14
In ₹ crore	3,178	2,381	-25
In \$ million	583	395	-32
Realisation (₹/tonne)	76,000	66,000	-13

Source: Apeda

APEDA on December 31, last year, had asked recognized exporters including processing and milling units to obtain a provisional HACCP certificate for groundnut shipment after showing documentary evidences for their capability.

For determining aflatoxins levels in groundnut and its derivatives it would be mandatory that all public private partnership (PPP) consignments meant for export to the EU will compulsorily be vacuum packed only and no other type of packing will be used. The sampling will be done in gunny bags and after clearance from the laboratory, the consignment will be vacuum packed under the supervision of the authorized laboratory, APEDA said.

“The entire trade gets affected because of a couple of errant exporters as importers set stringent norms, difficult to adhere to. Hence, exporters should always maintain global quality specification for not to spoil entire exports fraternity from India,” said Kishore Tanna, chairman of Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council ([IOPEPC](#)) under Ministry of Commerce.

India's output is estimated at six million tonnes this year, a rise of 10 per cent on a year ago.

Rasoya Proteins proposes Rs 400-cr capex

[Edible oil](#) producer and retailer [Rasoya Proteins](#) Ltd (RPL) as embarked upon Rs 400 crore expansion plan to expand the capacity of its manufacturing units across Maharashtra.

While the company proposes to set up a plant for manufacturing ethanol from maize and other agro produce due to potential of increasing demand of the green fuel going forward under the mandatory blending with petrol, RPL is also looking to set up a large scale rice mill unit for processing of paddy.

“With an investment of Rs 400 crore we are planning to expand edible oil and other business in agri sector. For the first time, we are entering into branded rice segment with non-basmati rice “Rasoya” brand sale. Also, we are exploring possibility to set up bran processing unit to produce rice bran oil with raw material procured from our own mill,” said Prashant Duchakke, Executive Director, RPL.

Plans are underway to set up two [tur dal](#) processing units in Maharashtra to enter into branded oil segment.

“With this, our aim to become a full-fledged fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) company will be complete,” said Duchakke.

The company is currently, selling whole wheat flour under “Mejwani” brand in 1 kg, 5 kgs and 10kgs pack size and caters to western Indian markets aggressively.

“We are working on the modalities of raising funds. But, funds for our proposed investment will be raised through both loans and internal accruals,” he added.

Cardamom down 0.4% on profit-booking

[Cardamom](#) futures fell by 0.42% to Rs 798 per kg today as traders reduced their holdings amid sluggish spot demand.

Besides, sufficient stocks holdings in the physical market also influenced the cardamom prices.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for April contract declined by Rs 3.40, or 0.42%, to Rs 798 per kg with a business turnover of 182 lots.

The spice for delivery in March month fell by Rs 3.20, or 0.41%, to Rs 768.90 per kg with a trading volume of 367 lots.

Marketmen said besides profit booking by speculators at existing levels, fall in demand in spot market also put pressure on cardamom prices in futures market.

Potato up 1.1% on limited supply, high demand

[Potato](#) prices rose further by 1.14% to Rs 1,188.50 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions on a firming spot markets trend amid restricted arrivals from producing regions.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato prices for March contract rose by Rs 13.50, or 1.14%, to Rs 1,188.50 per quintal, with a business volume of 212 lots.

The potato for delivery in April also traded higher by Rs 6.30, or 0.52%, to Rs 1,200 per quintal, with a trading volume of 76 lots.

Marketmen said increased buying by speculators on pick-up in spot market demand led to the rise in potato prices at futures trade.

Palm oil up 0.5% on spot demand

[Crude palm oil](#) prices rose by 0.50% to Rs 573.20 per 10 kg in futures trading after participants created speculative positions following rising demand in the spot markets.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for delivery in February rose by Rs 2.90, or 0.50%, to Rs 573.20 per 10 kg in a business turnover of 43 lots.

Likewise, the oil for delivery in March was up by Rs 1.50, or 0.26%, to Rs 574.20 per 10 kg in 43 lots.

Analysts said speculative positions built-up by participants following pick-up in spot demand mainly led to rise in crude palm oil prices at futures trade.
