

## Paddy farmers in Erode expect bumper harvest

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*They used System of Rice Intensification method*

*For enhanced productivity: Farmers in Erode district have patronised System of Rice Intensification method of paddy cultivation on a large scale.- PHOTO: M.GOVARTHAN*

ERODE, January 30, 2014 - Thanks to adoption of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method of paddy cultivation, 70 per cent of farmers are looking forward to reaping a bumper harvest.

According to Agriculture Department officials, the harvest is in progress and the yield is in the range of 15,000 kg per hectare.

Incidentally, a farmer of Nasiyanur in Erode district N. Parameswaran received an award from the Chief Minister during the Republic Day for achieving highest agricultural productivity during 2012-13, adopting SRI method.

### **Production**

For having produced 6,119 kg paddy per acre, Mr. Parameswaran received the award that included Rs. 5 lakh in cash and a medal worth Rs. 3,500.

According to official sources, the productivity this year was bound to be more since the fields that had been cultivated after a gap of a year would have enhanced fertility. During 2012-13, a majority of farmers chose not to cultivate due to water inadequacy. This year, there was adequate water supply from the Bhavani Sagar Dam.

Also the monsoons did not cause extreme conditions, and there was no pest problem.

Since the success of SRI method has been proved, there would be more farmers switching over for higher productivity, there will be higher patronage, a senior official said.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Department has sown ADT 38 paddy in 20 acres in the Government Seed Farm at Bhavani for distribution to farmers for the next season of paddy cultivation under SRI method.

## Micro irrigation offers a ray of hope to farmers

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KARUR, January 30, 2014 - 264.81 hectares brought under system to benefit 265 farmers

At a time when water has practically stopped flowing down the Cauvery regularly and the rain gods have been rather harsh on the Karur farmers, micro irrigation system holds out some hope for them, especially in the parched areas.

With Mettur dam remaining closed for delta irrigation till at least June, the flow has ebbed. While farmers have been demanding at least 2,000 cusecs to meet drinking water requirements and keep the river course wet for recharging the ground water along the banks, the weather is turning increasingly hot by the day. Those conditions have put a question mark over the survival of the standing crops on thousands of acres.

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☐ 624 hectares covered in 2012-13 to benefit 397 farmers

☐ 659 hectares covered in 2011-12 to benefit 420 farmers

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## Farmers plead for better price, loan waiver

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*FOR FAIR PRICE: Farmers staging demonstration in Perambalur on Wednesday demanding higher price for sugarcane and paddy.*

PERAMBALUR, January 30, 2014 - Members of Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam of Perambalur and Ariyalur besides Sugarcane Producers' Association staged a stir in front of the

public sector sugar mills in Eraiyr near here on Wednesday, in support of their eight-point charter of demands.

Their demands, among other things, included immediate setting up of co-generation plant at the sugar mills in Eraiyr, enhancement in procurement price from the present Rs. 2,650 to Rs. 3,500 a tonne for sugarcane, waiver of crop loan taken by farmers during the current season in the wake of drought-prone conditions in major districts across the State.

R. Raja Chidambaram, State secretary of the association who spoke on the occasion, emphasised the need for expeditious completion of co-generation plant and modernisation of the mills.

Although a deadline of 18 months was fixed for execution of works on co-generation plant and modernisation in 2010, the project was yet to be completed. He appealed to the factory authorities to complete the work without delay.

Pointing out that farmers growing cotton, maize, cashew, gingili, and onion incurred huge loss, he wanted a higher procurement price for these produce to be fixed by the Central and State government.

N.P. Anbazhagan, president of Cane Growers Welfare Association, spoke.

## Collector encourages use of modern farm practices

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VILLUPURAM, January 30, 2014 - District Collector V.Sampath distributed welfare assistance worth Rs 10.89 lakh to 95 beneficiaries at the Mass Contact Programme held at Poonthurai in Vanur block near here on Wednesday.

The Collector utilised the occasion to propagate modern farm practices and introduce latest farm technologies. On the occasion, he gave away kits and inputs for those farmers who were keen on taking to System of Rice Intensification, battery-operated sprinklers and equipment for drip irrigation.

The Collector hoped the farmers would get enhanced crop yield by adopting these technologies, which in turn would improve their earning capacity. He also stated that the State government had launched many welfare schemes for improving the standard of living of the rural people. The government had so designed the schemes that their prompt implementation would bring about all-round development in the State.

The Mass Contact Programme enabled the officials from almost all government departments to have direct interaction with the villagers and to gain firsthand knowledge about their lifestyle and means of livelihood. Such a programme brought the government and the officials closer to the people, he said.

Such close contact would further enrich the knowledge of the officials to fine-tune the implementation aspects so the people would derive maximum benefits. Citing an instance, the Collector said the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme had enabled those in the lower economic strata to get treatment in corporate hospitals without feeling any financial burden.

After the advent of the free goat/sheep and cattle scheme, the rural households had registered significant increase in their income level. Under the Green House scheme, each family was given financial support of Rs 2.10 lakh, he said.

The Collector told the gathering that speedy action would be taken on all their petitions.

## Farmers demand 30 p.c. import duty on red gram

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GULBARGA, January 30, 2014 - Members of the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha (KPRS), Karnataka Red Gram Growers' Association (KRGGA) and All India Kisan Sabha have urged the government to impose 30 per cent duty on red gram import.

They urged Railway Minister M. Mallikarjun Kharge and the former Chief Minister N. Dharam Singh to extend support to the organisations, when they meet All India Congress Committee president Sonia Gandhi during her visit to Gulbarga on Saturday.

State president of KPRS Maruti Manpade and State president of KRGGA Basavaraj Ingin told presspersons here on Wednesday that duty-free imports of red gram had a drastic effect on growers.

Even after the State Advisory Price of Rs. 2,500 a tonne was fixed by the government, sugar factories had been paying only Rs. 1,800 a tonne to farmers, they said.

They demanded a minimum support price of Rs. 5,000 for all pulses and grains.

### **Memorandum**

Mr. Manpade said eight organisations would submit a memorandum to Ms. Gandhi.

## Farmers stage protest outside CNNL office

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MANDYA, January 30, 2014 - Alleging that the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (CNNL) officials had been neglecting the interests of tail-end farmers in Maddur taluk, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) members staged a protest demonstration outside the CNNL office here on Wednesday.

Hundreds of farmers from Panne Doddi, Ane Doddi, Hosakere, Eeregowdana Doddi, Sinchegodana Doddi, Adda Rasthe and Aralahalli participated in the protest.

The CNNL stopped discharging Cauvery water to Keregodu branch canal of Visvesaraya canal on January 25. Hence, water has not reached the tail-end areas, Venkatesh, a resident of Eeregowdana Doddi, told *The Hindu*.

Nearly 400 farmers from these villages had sown paddy, sugarcane and other crops on 1,500 acres of land. The crops had been affected owing to the shortage of water, he said.

Sangha members raised slogans against Housing Minister and Mandya district in-charge M.H. Ambareesh for failing to safeguard the interests of farmers.

"Mr. Ambareesh has not held meetings with farmers nor inspected canals in Mandya," alleged Channegowda of Ane Doddi.

The CNL should immediately release water to the canal for irrigation purpose, protesters said. CNL engineer Basavegowda and other officials promised the farmers to take measures to address the issue.

Sangha members Murali, Ramanna, Hosakere Ramesh and Puttaswamy led the protest.

## Farmers protest against shortage of water

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RAICHUR, January 30, 2014 - Hundreds of farmers laid siege to the office of Sirwar division, Department of Water Resources, here on Friday, protesting against the non-availability of water for their standing crops.

The farmers had come to the office to discuss their water problems with the officers concerned. However, on not finding any officer there, they locked the office and staged a demonstration. "Our standing crops are drying up because of shortage of water. We are in debt, and will further be pushed into crisis if our crops don't get water," they said. The farmers alleged that the officials had failed to make sure that the farmers in the tail-end areas of Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal got water for their crops. "Distributory canals at 89th, 90th, 91st and 92nd miles of the TLBC and their sub-distributory canals are almost dry. Officials are not releasing water even though there was enough in the Tungabhadra Reservoir," they alleged.

## Hybrid pigeonpea brings cheer to farmers

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SANGAREDDY: , January 30, 2014 - Over 70 smallholder farmers and seed producers from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat collectively endorsed and recognised the contribution of hybrid pigeonpea in achieving food and nutrition security and improved livelihood.

The hybrids in the crop (first in world in any legume) are the results of the crop improvements efforts by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) based at Patancheru in Medak district.

Despite facing challenges such as resource scarcity, climate change and degradation of soil fertility, farmers from the five States cultivating the ICRISAT hybrids reported significant increase in pigeonpea yields.

A medium-duration ICRISAT hybrid, ICPH 2740, demonstrated 38 % higher yields than other local varieties.

The review meeting on Hybrid Pigeonpea Seed Production, held at the ICRISAT headquarters last week, brought together, farmers, seed producers, entrepreneurs, non-governmental organisations and scientists to formulate a road map on expansion of pigeonpea production in India, according to release here by ICRISAT on Wednesday.

### **'Boon to farmers'**

"Our aim is to enable smallholder farmers to create wealth for themselves and their communities and fuel the engines of economic growth of nations.

Hybrid pigeonpea technology has great potential to lift millions of farmers in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa out of the hunger trap," ICRISAT Director General Dr William Dar said.

The scientists at Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University's (ANGRAU) Agricultural Research Station (ARS) in Tandur of Ranga Reddy district reported a pigeonpea yield of nearly 3 tonne per hectare in their on-station fields.

***Farmers from States cultivating the ICRISAT hybrids report significant increase in pigeonpea yields***

# Delhi govt. not to charge commission from farmers

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NEW DELHI, January 30, 2014 - *This may reduce prices of fruits and vegetables in the Capital*



Cauliflowers from Haryana being unloaded at the Azadpur Mandi.– File Photo:Sushil Kumar Verma

In a development that is likely to reduce the prices of fruits and vegetables in the city, apart from providing direct relief to farmers, the Delhi Government on Wednesday decided to do away with the 6 per cent commission levied on farmers for selling their produce at government-regulated *mandis* in the city.

Development Minister Girish Soni said

the government would now levy the 6 per cent commission from buyers (traders). The Minister said he has directed the *mandi* administration to implement the direction with immediate effect to stop the exploitation of farmers.

Stating that the decision would also help in keeping the prices of fruits, vegetables and food items under check, Mr. Soni said the AAP government has implemented the order of the Delhi High Court that set aside the laws amended by the previous Sheila Diskhit Government in 2010.

“The previous government on September 28, 2010, amended the by-laws of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) to charge commission of 6 per cent from farmers. This was challenged in the Delhi High Court and the amended by-laws were set aside by the Court on October 10, 2013. We have directed the officials to implement the order,” said Mr. Soni.

The order was welcomed even by some traders who agreed that the decision would help in reducing the prices. Former Azadpur Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee chairman Rajendra Sharma said the decision is likely to reduce the prices by at least 10 to 15 per cent “as it would increase the arrival of goods in the city as well as eliminate the profit booked by the middlemen”.

“All the neighbouring States including Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh do not charge commission from the farmers. It resulted in reduction of arrivals in Delhi as the farmers chose to sell their produce in these States. Now the trend would reverse,” he said.

“Moreover, the decision would also eliminate middlemen which would further affect the prices. As of now, more than 60 per cent of the produce arriving in Delhi *mandis* is coming through traders and not farmers. The traders buy the produce from farmers in the neighbouring States at a price which includes the 6 per cent commission. They would further sell their produce in the Delhi *mandis* after adding their profit. In the new regime, the price is likely to go down at least by 10 to 15 per cent,” he added.

The Minister, however, alleged that traders with political affiliations with the Congress and the BJP are putting hindrance in implementation of the decision and are threatening to go on strike and increase prices. “I have directed the APMC officials not to get bogged down by such protests,” Mr. Soni said.

# Farmer's notebook

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Example set: Especially in Tumkur region of Karnataka this type of poultry farming is emerging as a good model. — Photo: Special Arrangement  
*With 800 birds, in four months a net profit of Rs. 25,000 was obtained*

## Poultry industry seeks agriculture tag

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BANGALORE, January 30, 2014 - Seeking agriculture tag to the poultry industry, hundreds of poultry farmers from across the State took out a march here on Wednesday.

The Karnataka Poultry Farmers' Welfare Association is seeking agriculture tag to poultry farming besides seeking subsidy. "We want the government to categorise us under agriculture status like the way

Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat governments have recognised the poultry sector. This will help us get bank loans easily," association secretary Venkatesh said.

### **Subsidy sought**

Mr. Venkatesh urged the State government to provide water and power subsidy to the poultry sector on which thousands of farmers depended.

In Karnataka, according to him, there are about 6,500 poultry farms.

They submitted a memorandum to the office of the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. According to Mr. Venkatesh, Minister for Animal Husbandry T.B. Jayachandra had convened a meeting on February 10 to discuss their issues.

# Booster to increase groundnut yield

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Research findings says that majority of the soils of Tamil Nadu are deficient in zinc, boron, iron (micronutrients).

Apart from the basal application of major nutrients especially, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium the groundnut crop also needs some micronutrients at minimum dose.

A technology has been formulated by the Oilseeds Research Station, Tindivanam (TNAU) to supply micronutrient mixture as foliar application during the flowering stage to boost the yield.

## **Foliar spray**

The main objective of this spray is to increase the number of flowers, speed up photosynthesis, arrest flower drop and supplement the required micronutrients at a faster rate compared to soil application.

The components of the micronutrient mixture are one kg of diammonium phosphate, about 400 gm of ammonium sulphate, 200 gms of borax and ferrous sulphate each, 175 ml planofix, and 500 gm of zinc sulphate.

All the above nutrients are readily available in the local market and are cost effective. The nutrient mixture should be mixed thoroughly in 10 lit of water and filtered. The clear solution is then diluted in 190 litres of water and sprayed for an acre.

Spraying must be done during evening especially at 25 and 35 days after sowing. The cost of entire spraying cost comes to around Rs.750 per spray.

## **Increased yield**

The increased yield ranges from three to four bags (40kgs/bag) of dry pods per acre coupled with high shelling percentage. Many farmers in and around Villupuram district are practicing this technology and call it "Tindivanam tonic."

Recently Department of Physiology, TNAU, Coimbatore has come out with instant nutrient mix spray named "Groundnut rich" which consists of all required micro nutrients for the plant growth. The cost of the groundnut rich tonic is Rs. 120/kg.

## **Recommended dosage**

The recommended dose is 2.3 kg/spray. This groundnut rich instant mix can be obtained from the Department of Crop Physiology, TNAU, Coimbatore (phone: 0422-6611243).

Otherwise farmers can make their own tonic by mixing the above ingredients in the correct proportion.

(Dr.R.Vaidyanathan is Professor & Head, Oilseeds Research Station, Tindivanam, TNAU, Phone: 04147-250293, mobile: 9442472103.)

# Paddy harvest on 50,000 acres affected

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CUDDALORE, January 30, 2014 - Samba paddy crop in over 50,000 acres in Cuddalore district has not been harvested yet owing to acute shortage of labourers and non-availability of harvest machines.

Crops that are otherwise ready for harvest well before Pongal festival are now withering in fields and if action is not taken on a war-footing, it would inflict heavy losses, say farmers. Paddy ought to be harvested within 15 days of maturity and if left exposed to the elements in the farms hulling would become difficult as the grains would fall off the stalks, resulting in much lower yield. Vice-president of the Cauvery Delta Farmers' Association K.V. Kannan told *The Hindu* that it was impossible to find labourers to harvest ripe paddy crop. Harvesting ought to be done within the next 10 days and it would require either 10,000 labourers or 700 harvest machines.

But, it was a tall order to mobilise such a massive workforce and harvest machines in such a short a period. Mr Kannan pointed out that paddy crops on three lakh acres in the tail end

delta region, including Chidambaram, Kattumannarkoil and Bhuvanagiri, attained maturity at the same time because of direct sowing and transplantation practices.

In such a situation there was hardly any scope for spacing out the harvest. Mr Kannan noted that in earlier days, village artisans, including carpenters and ironsmiths, would join farm hands in harvesting paddy. Then they were paid in kind at the rate of seven 'marakkal' (a measure) for every man and five 'marakkal' for every woman for a day's work.

Those days, paddy was precious for labourers who used to store grain at their house with utmost care. But, in the past 10 years, when distribution of either subsidised or free rice through Public Distribution System had come into vogue, paddy seemed to have lost its value.

President of Kollidam-Keelanai Paasanana Vivasayigal Sangam P.Vinayagamoorthy, who vouched for such a disturbing trend, said that labourers were being attracted to Tirupur, Chennai and other urban areas for taking up jobs other than agriculture or allied activities. Therefore, labour shortage had begun to put tremendous pressure on farmers and forced them to find recourse to harvest machines. But, on this score too, there was an unbridgeable demand-supply gap.

Mr Vinayagamoorthy said that there were two types of harvest machines - track-chain type that could function with ease even in wet fields, and wheel type that could be comfortable only in dry farms. Agricultural Engineering Department in Cuddalore could boast of having only two such machines (one in each category) but even these too were either sent elsewhere or under disrepair.

Mr Kannan noted that as against the requirement of 700 harvest machines, only about 300 (both government and private-owned machines put together) were available in the district. Therefore, Mr. Kannan and Mr. Vinayagamoorthy said that since paddy harvest did not brook any delay, authorities should mobilise as many harvest machines as possible to help the farmers.

## Harvest of plenty

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*IT professional Vinod Raj has turned his interest in farming into a profitable venture cultivating cucumbers*



Techie Vinod Raj is nowadays rooted to the soil and is reaping rich rewards in the process. For the past several months now, the enterprising Vinod, a Test Manager at Allianz in Technopark, has been cultivating salad cucumbers on 15 cents of land in his home in Vattapara. He's just completed his first harvest and in the coming week he will be sowing the seeds for the next lot of cucumbers, which, if everything goes to plan, will be ready for harvest by April.

"Ever since I was a child, I've always had a green thumb. In fact, until I was in class 10, I used to help my father, Gabriel a.k.a. Appu, in our little home farm, tilling soil, watering and fertilising the crops, and so on. I had to give it up

because of my studies and, later, my job. Of late though, I am increasingly concerned about the way vegetable prices were soaring in Kerala and about the prevalent use of pesticides in cultivation. I wanted to try my hand at organic cultivation and do my bit to change the existing situation," says the 40-year-old.

Thus, in June last year, armed with just a bit of know how gleaned from the internet and a one-week crash course in cultivation from a Government centre in Delhi, Vinod dug his feet



into farming. He started off by setting up a polyhouse on his property. “Kerala’s climate and soil are well-suited for growing self-pollinated plants such as runner beans, okra, tomato, cucumbers, and so on, and also leafy vegetables such as red amaranthus (cheera), cabbage and cauliflower. Of the lot, I felt that cultivating salad cucumbers was the least labour intensive, which was a priority for me given my hectic work schedule,” he explains.

For three months he tended to the plants. “You’ve got to consider the plants as infants who need constant looking after,” he says, with a laugh. Consequently, Vinod would spend every free hour of every day on the farm, before and after office hours. “I would literally monitor each plant on each trellis, to keep pests and diseases at bay. To catch small pests, I used an old farming trick – placing yellow traps and blue traps (sheets covered with gum and those covered with castor oil or grease, respectively) at strategic locations through out the ployhouse. Each morning we’d get a bounty of pests stuck to the sheets. Some other things that need to be monitored constantly are the soil’s PH, the humidity, which tend to fluctuate a lot in a polyhouse and so on,” says Vinod. His perseverance and dedication seem to have paid off. The harvest yielded around 150 to 300 kg cucumbers per day!

That he says earned him a “tidy” enough profit. “It’s not about the money, really. Setting up the polyhouse cost me around 6.5 lakh and the rainwater-harvesting unit another Rs. 60,000. Coupled with other incidentals such as the cost of organic water-soluble fertilisers and labour charges I made a profit of around Rs. 35,000 to 40,000 per month over the three months of harvest,” explains Vinod.

Finding a market for his products was the easy bit. He would either drop off the produce at the World Market on his way to work or he directly sell to wholesale dealers who turn up at the farm. “In fact, a couple of dealers have already pre-booked the cucumbers from the next harvest!” he says. Apart from cucumbers, Vinod also grows snake gourd, red amaranthus, tomatoes and the like. He’s also got a small poultry farm.

Ever since his success with cucumbers, Vinod has become sort of an advocate for farming in Technopark. He regularly holds awareness classes for his colleagues and fellow techies, gives away seeds, sets those interested up with grow bags, and the like. He also takes sessions on farming, especially for local school children or anyone who drops by his farm. “Farming is a hands on job and is not easy on the pocket. It takes a lot of dedication and interest. But at the end of the day there’s something special, something hugely satisfying about eating something that you yourself have grown,” says Vinod. Now, that’s cool (...as a cucumber)!

NITA SATHYENDRAN

## Buzz back to Poigai village cattle shandy

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*Cattle trade under way at the shandy in Poigai village near Vellore on Tuesday.*

VELLORE, January 30, 2014 - The famous weekly cattle shandy in Poigai village about 10 km from Vellore was buzzing with activity on Tuesday after a gap of about three months. Sale of cattle in the shandy was temporarily suspended by the Department of Animal Husbandry (DAH) in the third week of November last year to prevent the spread of foot-and-

mouth disease which had killed about 80 cows in Vellore district.

The department suspended the cattle shandies in the district functioning in Poigai, K.V. Kuppam, Odugethurai and Thenpalli in order to prevent the cattle affected by FMD in

neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka as well as from neighbouring villages and districts from being sold in the shandies in Vellore district.

While the department allowed goats to be sold in the shandies last week in the wake of the control of FMD, it did not make any announcement on allowing cows to be sold.

But, following the control of the FMD owing to preventive measures taken in Vellore district, farmers started taking their cattle to the Poigai shandy last Tuesday since they felt the conditions now were safe for selling and buying cattle.

Farmers who suffered crop loss due to water scarcity said that they had no other option but sell their cattle to make up for the loss which they had to face owing to failure of crop.

C.K. Dhanapal, a farmer of Vellakuttai and Vellore district secretary of Tamil Nadu Farmers' Association, questioned medical prescriptions which the DAH gave to cattle farmers for controlling FMD. He wanted the DAH to advocate traditional systems of veterinary medicine among farmers to control FMD and other diseases, just as the Department of Health prescribed 'Nilavembu', a Siddha medicine for dengue.

Mr. Dhanapal claimed that he was able to treat FMD among his own cattle, including cows and goats by applying neem oil, a traditional and efficacious medicine, and thus saved them. He wondered why the Centre could not prevent the outbreak of FMD resulting in the death of lakhs of cattle throughout the country despite crores of rupees spent on veterinary research in institutes in different parts of the country.

## Water level

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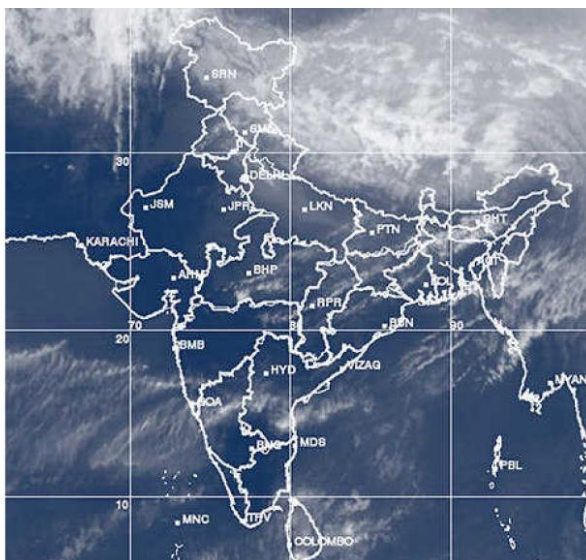
**Mettur** - The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 51.44 feet on Wednesday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 506 cusecs and the discharge nil.

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Wednesday stood at 86.45 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 115.47 cusecs and no water is discharged from the dam. The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 83.41 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 48 cusecs and 195 cusecs of water is discharged.

**Kanyakumari** - The level in the Pechipparai dam stood at 18.30 feet, while it was 51.75 feet in Perunchani, 9.58 feet in Chittar 1, 9.67 feet in Chittar 11, 4.20 feet in Poigai and 54.12 feet in Mamabazathuraiyaru.

## Weather

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INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on January 29.

# Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 0  
Humidity: 65  
Wind: normal

**Thursday, Jan 30**

Max 29° | Min 23°

Sunrise: 06:35  
Sunset: 06:07  
Barometer: 1013

Tomorrow's Forecast



Clear

**Friday, Jan 31**

Max 29° | Min 22°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday Feb 1	Sunday Feb 2	Monday Feb 3	Tuesday Feb 4	Wednesday Feb 5
29°   22° Sunny	30°   22° Partly Cloudy	30°   22° Partly Cloudy	25°   22° Cloudy	25°   22° Cloudy

## THE HINDU Business Line

### Ornamental fishery has big export potential: Minister



**Kochi, January 29:** The potential of the ornamental fishery resources in the country has to be exploited to improve India's share in the global market, according to Union Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs, KV Thomas.

"We have to take more steps to exploit the resources in the sector," he said speaking at an international seminar – Ornamentals Kerala 2014 – organised as part of India International Aqua Show.

Madhusoodana Kurup, Vice-Chancellor of Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, said that India contributes only 0.3 per cent of world exports and the sector can generate huge employment. He said that India's ornamental fishery export contribution was \$1.24 million.

The Western Ghats and the North-Eastern Region are the biodiversity hotspots of the ornamental fish industry in India.

Over 300 species being exported from India, he said 99 per cent is caught in the wild. As many as 287 native fish species and 92 exotic fish species are being exported. Lack of the production of new fish varieties, low cost feed, fish health management practices, proper training are major issues faced by the industry. Sevin Fossa, President, European Pet Organisation and aquarium consultant, Norway, said that India has to focus on marketing the products as well as sustainable exploitation of the rich resources on account of the large presence of indigenous fish varieties with high export values.

### **Eco-labelling**

Strict implementation of eco-labelling and green certification is the need of the hour to strengthen India's export industry of ornamental fishes.

Eco-labelling is necessary because consumers are more quality conscious and demanding for social and environmental responsibilities, said A Ramachandran, Director, School of Industrial Fisheries, Cochin University of Science and Technology.

The green certification will help sustain the ornamental fish resources in addition to boosting the product image, he said at the international seminar – Ornamentals Kerala 2014.

The seminar also recommended targeting a growth rate of five per cent by the Indian ornamental fish trade in global exports by 2020. To achieve the target, the seminar emphasised the need for setting up necessary infrastructure for mass production of the indigenous species.

## Poultry-feed rules flat

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**Karnal, January 29:** Poultry products dropped on lower offtake, while feed prices continued to rule flat despite fluctuation in prices of key ingredients. Aditya Mishra, a commodity expert, told *Business Line* that though there is some fluctuation in prices of key ingredients, it has not made any major impact on the cost of production. Feed prices may continue to rule around current levels even in the coming days, he said. Key ingredients of poultry-feed have been ruling in a tight range, he said. In the physical market, soyameal dropped by ₹800 to ₹33,700 a tonne, while bajra eased by ₹600 to ₹13,000 a quintal. Di-calcium phosphate moved up marginally by 10 paise to ₹34.70 a kg, while maize increased by ₹10 to ₹1,460 a quintal. Our Correspondent

## Stockists begin buying sugar for new month

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### **Mumbai, January 29:** STOCKISTS BEGIN BUYING SUGAR

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale spot market declined by ₹5-10 a quintal on Wednesday. The commodity extended its loss in the domestic futures market by ₹15 on lower physical demand. Stockists have started booking new orders to meet demand that emanates at the start of the new month. Arrivals at the Vashi market continued to be around 59-60 truckloads (100 bags each), while local dispatches were 57-58 truck loads. On Tuesday, late evening 18-19 mills offered tenders and sold more than 74,000-75,000 bags at ₹10 lower ₹2,520-2,600 (₹2,530-2,610) for S-grade and ₹2,670-2,800 (₹2,680-2,800) for M-grade. Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade ₹2,680-2,820 (₹2,690-2,825) and M-grade ₹2,812-2,952 (₹2,816-2,962). Naka delivery rates were: S-grade ₹2,600-2,780 (₹2,600-2,780) and M-grade ₹2,770-2,915 (₹2,770-2,915). Our Correspondent

# Upcountry orders lend colour to turmeric

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**Erode, January 29:** Spot turmeric prices increased by ₹200 a quintal on cues from the futures market.

“Prices in the futures market increased by 2-4 per cent on Wednesday. Further, the price was higher in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra than Erode. So the local traders quoted higher price and purchased the stock. In addition, they received some upcountry orders and bought more than 3,500 bags of the arrival of 5,000 bags,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

The arrival of new Mysore turmeric has increased and based on the quality it sold at ₹6,000. Due to the arrival of very fine hybrid finger variety, its price increased by ₹300 and the hybrid root variety increased by ₹200 a quintal. Our Correspondent

# Stockists continue to keep away from edible oils market

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**Mumbai, January 29:** TRADERS KEEP AWAY FROM EDIBLE OILS

Edible oils ruled weak on Wednesday on month-end slack demand, amid bearish futures markets. A cut in price for palmolein by local refineries on weak demand resulted in a drop of ₹3 for 10 kg in palmolein and soyabean refined oil on the Bombay Commodity Exchange. Rapeseed and cotton refined oil declined by ₹5, while groundnut and sunflower oil ruled steady, said sources. Stockists stayed away from fresh bets for the second consecutive day. Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoting palmolein at ₹577; super palmolein at ₹597; super deluxe palmolein at ₹617, and soyabean refined oil at ₹655. Ruchi quoted palmolein at ₹575; soyabean refined oil at ₹645; and sunflower refined oil at ₹663. Our Correspondent

# Spot rubber flat on lack of buyers

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**Kottayam, January 29:** Physical rubber prices were almost unchanged on Wednesday. According to observers, there were no quantity buyers or sellers in most counters and sentiments remained neutral, amidst scattered transactions.

The trend was mixed as ISNR 20 and latex lost further, while overall volumes were extremely low. Sheet rubber closed steady at ₹145 a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to traders and the Rubber Board. The grade was quoted unchanged at ₹142 by dealers.

February futures improved to ₹145.10 (₹144.01), March to ₹147.30 (₹146.16), April to ₹150.45 (₹149.10) and May to ₹152.45 (₹152.19) while the June futures remained inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) inched up to ₹ 138.82 (₹138.14) at Bangkok. February futures closed at ¥225.9 (₹137.39) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange

**Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were** RSS-4: 145 (145) RSS-5: 141 (141) Ungraded: 137 (137) ISNR 20: 141 (142) and Latex 60%: 117 (118).

# Business Standard

## Global oilseed output forecast raised by Oil World on soya bean, sunflower

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Global [oilseed production](#) will be larger than estimated a month ago because of improving prospects for soya beans in Brazil and sunflowers in Russia and Ukraine, Oil World said.

Production of seven major oilseeds will be 491 million tonnes in the 2013-14 marketing year, two million more than previously estimated and seven per cent higher than the prior season, the Hamburg-based researcher said in an e-mailed report. The outlook was raised for world harvests of soya beans, [sunflower](#) seed and rapeseed, signalling ample supplies of the crops used in cooking oil, biofuel and livestock feed and potentially falling prices, according to the report.

"We are quite bearish on [soya bean](#) prices and see considerable downward potential, with beans likely to fall below rapeseed and sunflower seed" on average through June, Oil World said. Global inventories of all three will rise to records by the end of the season, according to the report.

Bean futures declined 11 per cent in the past year on the Chicago Board of Trade, the global benchmark. Oil World expects spot prices for the oilseed delivered in Rotterdam to average \$480 a tonne from January through June, compared with \$515 a ton for European sunflower seed and \$500 a ton for rapeseed. Beans were \$555 a tonne October to December, sunflower seed was \$480 a tonne and rapeseed \$511 a tonne, it said.

### **World soya beans**

World production of beans will be 287.8 million tonnes, up from an estimate in December of 287.6 million, Oil World said. The researcher pegged Brazil's crop at 89.5 million tons and reduced its outlook for Argentina to 54 million tonnes because of dry weather. Global inventories at the end of the 2013-14 season may be 79.2 million tons, up 26 per cent from the past year. World production of rapeseed was pegged at 69.3 million tonnes, up 8.4 per cent from a year earlier.

Global production of sunflower seed rose to 41.6 million tonnes in 2013-14, 1.4 million more than estimated in December and 17 per cent higher than the previous season, Oil World said. Combined output in Ukraine and Russia, the biggest producers, may jump 27 per cent from the prior year to 20.7 million tonnes, offsetting a decline in Argentina's crop to 2.4 million tonnes, the smallest since 1987, it said.

"This is an unprecedented year for sunseed and products, with global production setting all-time highs and creating an extremely bearish scenario this season," Oil World said.

Global production of palm oil may total 58.3 million tonnes in the 2013-14 season that ends September 30, Oil World said. That's 2.5 million tonnes more than a year earlier, while a smaller growth rate than in the prior season. In Indonesia, the biggest producer, domestic demand is increasing for biofuel use. World exports may decline for the first time in 16 years, dropping 2.3 per cent from the previous season to 43.2 million tonnes, according to the report.

# Soybean down 1.7% on global cues

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[Soybean](#) prices softened by Rs 63.50 to Rs 3,675 per quintal in futures trading today largely in tandem with a weakening trend overseas.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#) counter, soybean for delivery in far-month June contracts dipped by Rs 63.50, or 1.70%, to Rs 3,675 per quintal, having an open interest of 3,440 lots.

Similarly, the most-active March delivery contracts weakened by Rs 33, or 0.88%, to Rs 3,726 per quintal, clocking in an open interest of 1,07,960 lots, while February contracts lost Rs 19, or 0.50%, at Rs 3,815.50 per quintal, in an open interest of 89,410 lots.

Marketmen said weakness in soybean prices at futures trade was mostly in tune with subdued trend in the international markets amid increased supply and slackness in demand at physical markets.

# Chana down 0.8% on subdued spot demand

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[Chana](#) prices fell by 0.86% to Rs 3,130 per quintal in futures trade today after participants trimmed positions due to weak spot demand.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for April delivery eased by Rs 27, or 0.86%, to Rs 3,130 per quintal, with an open interest for 68,400 lots.

Similarly, chana for February delivery fell by Rs 23, or 0.78%, to Rs 2,938 per quintal with an open interest of 74,920 lots.

Marketmen said low demand in the spot markets against increased supplies on prospects of higher production mainly put pressure on chana prices at futures trade here.

# Coriander up 1.1% on spot demand

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[Coriander](#) prices rose by 1.17% to Rs 8,417 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions supported by rising demand in the spot markets amid limited stocks.

At the [National Commodity and Derivative Exchange](#), coriander for February delivery gained Rs 97, or 1.17%, to Rs 8,417 per quintal with an open interest of 34,320 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in April traded higher by Rs 65, or 0.71%, to Rs 9,255 per quintal, with an open interest of 23,080 lots.

Market analysts said increased buying by speculators on the back of pick-up in spot demand against restricted arrivals from producing belts mainly influenced coriander prices to rise in futures trade.

## Potato up 0.5% on pick-up in spot demand

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[Potato](#) prices moved up by Rs 6.30 to Rs 1,097.10 per quintal in futures trade today on increased spot demand against restricted arrivals.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for delivery in April rose by Rs 6.30, or 0.57%, to Rs 1,097.10 per quintal, with trading volume of 50 lots.

Potato for delivery in March also moved up by Rs 5.10, or 0.47%, to Rs 1,068.20 per quintal with a trade volume of 67 lots.

Analysts said increased demand in the spot market against tight supplies from producing regions mainly pushed up potato prices at futures trade.

## Palm oil down 0.2% on subdued demand

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[Crude palm oil](#) prices fell 0.29% to Rs 532.50 per 10 kg in futures trading today as speculators offloaded positions due to subdued demand in the spot market against sufficient supplies.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for delivery in February softened by Rs 1.60, or 0.29%, to Rs 532.50 per 10 kg in business turnover of 43 lots.

Likewise, the oil for delivery in January traded lower by Rs 1.50, or 0.28%, to Rs 527.40 per 10 kg in 6 lots.

Analysts said offloading of positions by speculators amid subdued demand in the spot market against adequate supplies, mainly led to a fall in crude palm oil futures prices.



# Cardamom up 0.9% on spot demand

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[Cardamom](#) prices rose further by 0.97% to Rs 764.70 per kg in futures trade today as speculators indulged in creating positions driven by strong demand at the spot market amid hopes of improved export demand.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for March contracts rose by Rs 7.40, or 0.97%, to Rs 764.70 per kg, with a trading volume of 97 lots.

The spice for delivery in February was trading up by Rs 5.40, or 0.74%, to Rs 734.30 per kg, with a business volume of 218 lots.

Market analysts said rising spot and exports demand against restricted arrivals from producing regions, mainly influenced cardamom prices at futures market.

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