

# THE HINDU

Coimbatore

Efforts on to make Kallanai an agricultural heritage site



The Grand Anicut or Kallanai will soon be a part of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) if efforts by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) pay off.

TNAU Vice-Chancellor K. Ramasamy told *The Hindu* on Sunday that following suggestions from eminent agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan, the institution had taken up the task and if the efforts fructified, it would be the 11th such heritage site in the country.

Mr. Ramasamy said that to understand the significance of the anicut, a comparison with the Godavari river system would be appropriate. Though the latter's water resources were five times that of the Cauvery, it was Thanjavur that was called the Granary of the South.

It was because the Cauvery waters were well managed in the Delta and the anicut was on top of that.

It was only after Sir Arthur Cotton built a dam across the Godavari in 1891, on the lines of the Grand Anicut, that the Godavari Delta gained prominence.

The uniqueness of the plough used in the Cauvery Delta region, the System of Rice Intensification technique, the thalady cultivation and the mangroves grown under the Delta eco made the place unique warranting it heritage status, he said.

The 329 metre-long, 18.3 metre-wide and 5.49 metre-tall anicut was constructed on interlocking technology without cementing material. Chola King Karikalan constructed the anicut to divert the Cauvery water to the Delta for irrigation.

Mr. Ramasamy said the institution had submitted the draft proposal to the GIAHS secretariat, which had asked for a few more details.

The university would document the same and submit the revised draft.

As and when the GIAHS accorded the status, it would be the third such site in Tamil Nadu. And the recognition, according to the GIAHS website, would pave way for support for protective government policies and incentives for conservation of biodiversity and traditional knowledge.

NEW DELHI

### **Vegetable prices lower than last year'**



Tomatoes are available at half of July 2013 rates and onions 9.5 per cent lower: the Food and Civil Supplies Department highlighted these figures as the impact of its increased procurement and sale through retail to control food price inflation.

In a statement on Sunday, Food and Supplies Commissioner S.S. Yadav said the arrival of tomato in July, which amounts to 6,892 metric tonnes, is 45 per cent higher than what arrived here at the same time last year. He added, "Around 51,431 metric tonnes of onion has arrived in

Delhi till July, which is 375 metric tonnes more than the arrival in the corresponding period of last year.” This had led to a fall in wholesale prices by 5 per cent in the previous week.

This feat has been achieved using a four-pronged strategy of availability, enforcement, awareness and de-control. Government offices and vans have turned retail outlets and 250 hoarders have been prosecuted.

### Alert system

A text message alert system has also been introduced to disseminate price information.

Also, fruit and vegetable sales have been regulated through control of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees with the department itself monitoring prices of 22 essential food commodities.



Chennai - INDIA

#### Today's Weather



Cloudy

#### Tuesday, Jul 22

Max 36° | Min 29°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 56

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 05:51

Sunset: 06:38

Barometer: 1006

#### Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

#### Wednesday, Jul 23

Max 37° | Min 28°

#### Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday Jul 24	Friday Jul 25	Saturday Jul 26	Sunday Jul 27	Monday Jul 28
36°   28° Partly Cloudy	37°   29° Cloudy	37°   29° Cloudy	37°   29° Partly Cloudy	36°   29° Partly Cloudy



MADURAI

**Now, farmers can test soil at Mattuthavani**

A mobile soil testing unit was launched at Mattuthavani paddy and flower market complex here on Friday. It is an initiative of District Agriculture Department and Madurai Market Committee.

“It will be stationed at the market twice a month and farmers can bring soil samples and get them tested there. For the rest of the month, the unit will tour the villages across the district,” said Joint Director of Agriculture Jaisingh Gnanadurai.

The vehicle has a small laboratory. Technicians test the soil samples and give the results to the farmers during the day, latest by 3 p.m. There are three agriculture officers who advise the farmers and answer their queries on soil.

Madurai Market Committee secretary J. Thavasamuthu said the paddy market was chosen to station the unit since more farmers visited it. “This is a longstanding demand of the farmers and based on their response, we will increase the frequency of visits to the market,” he said.

The market has 129 paddy shops, 60 traders of fertilizers and seeds and 104 flower traders. Members of the Integrated Association of Farmers and Traders of the market bear the expenses of Rs.20 for getting a soil sample tested.

Officials said the unit would enable the traders in the market to maintain a database of the various soil types of farmers. “Based on the database, the traders can sell the right type of fertilizers and seeds to them,” Mr. Thavasamuthu said.

### **Karnataka govt arms sugarcane board with more powers**

The Karnataka Government has decided to amend certain regulations to provide more teeth to the Karnataka Sugarcane Control Board.

An amendment to the Karnataka Sugarcane (Regulation of Purchase and Supply) Act was moved in the Assembly on Monday with H S Mahadev Prasad, State Minister for Co-operation and Sugar, introducing the Karnataka Sugarcane (Regulation of Purchase and Supply) (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

#### **Transparency**

The proposed Bill has been brought to help the government to implement the purchase and supply of sugarcane in a more transparent manner. It also aims to empower the board by proposing to grant the powers of civil court to the Board to inquire into the matters in discharge of their functions such as summoning of persons, documents etc.

The amendment also strengthens the Board to include Minister for Co-operation, Secretary Finance and Commerce & Industry Department in addition to controller, legal metrology.

The Bill has also defined ‘additional sugar cane price’ which means the additional price to be paid by the occupier of the factory to growers for sugarcane delivered at the factory gate over and above fair and remunerative price declared by the commissioner for cane development and director of sugar based on the decision of the board.

## **New clause**

Also a clause 'fair and remunerative price of sugarcane (FRP)' as price fixed by the Central government under Clause 3 of Sugarcane (Control) Order 1966 for the year for sugarcane delivered at the factory gate has been inserted.

The government plans to strengthen the Board by including three ministers (Sugar, Agriculture and Co-operation), bureaucrats (seven), sugarcane growers (five) and factory owners (five) representing all four revenue divisions.

The Bill also proposes to form an expert committee for calculation of actual realisation in sugar factory and also to advise the Board. For price realisation, local factors such as actual recovery of sugarcane, realisation of sugar and its by-products such as bagasse, press mud and molasses and ethanol or other productions directly produced from sugarcane juice without producing sugar for deciding additional sugarcane price.

## **Board meetings**

The Board will meet thrice a year – commencing before starting of the crushing season, after closure of the crushing season and at the end of the sugar season. As for the functions of the board, it has to decide sugarcane price on revenue sharing basis taking into consideration actual revenue realised from sugar, bagasse, molasses and press-mud.

The Bill has made provision for payment of sugarcane price in two stages – at first stage on supply of sugarcane for payment of fair and remunerative price based on previous year recovery and at second stage payment of additional price of sugarcane on revenue sharing basis determined on the actual realisation in a sugar factory.

## **No need to ban onion exports, say Agriculture, Commerce Ministries**

The Agriculture and Commerce Ministries do not want onion exports to be banned as there has been a fall in outbound shipments following the imposition of minimum export price (MEP) last month.

The inter-ministerial committee on onions, which met last Friday, however, decided to keep a close watch on the movement of domestic prices and exports to take timely policy decisions when required.

Union Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs Ram Vilas Paswan had asked the Commerce Ministry to ban exports of onions before importing to ease rising prices.

## **Export and production**

"Export of onions from the country is never more than 10 per cent of total production. After the imposition and upward revision of the MEP, exports have come down further. But we are keeping a close watch on the situation and would take an appropriate decision whenever required," a Commerce Ministry official told *BusinessLine*.

In June, an MEP of \$300 a tonne was imposed on onions to stop export of the cheaper varieties.

It was increased to \$500 a tonne early this month.

Higher onion production last season that ended in July, estimated at a record high of 19.2 million tonnes, should also play a role in assuaging fears of a supply short-fall, the official said.

Wholesale price of onion at Lasalgoan in Maharashtra has risen by over 50 per cent to about ₹20 a kg compared with less than ₹14 a kg last month. Retail prices in Delhi have nearly doubled to ₹30-40 a kg compared with prices in May.

### **Rise in demand**

“One important reason behind the rise in prices is an increase in demand. With more people now able to afford onions, the demand is higher. This factor cannot be ignored,” the official said.

Hoarding is another problem that the Government is struggling to deal with. Paswan, last week, called for stringent rules in all States to check hoarding. He said the Essential Commodities Act should be amended to raise imprisonment for hoarders from six months at present to a year.

### **Palm oil futures set to rise**

Malaysian palm oil futures on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives edged lower on Monday dropping to a nine-month low on weakness in the soya complex and a firm local currency once again dampening sentiment. Exports showed a positive trend for a change.

Cargo surveyor Intertek Testing Services reported that exports of Malaysian palm oil products during July 1-20 rose 7.8 per cent from a month before to 868,843 tonnes due to bigger shipments to Europe and China. Exports to China nearly doubled compared with the same period in June.

Crude palm oil active month October futures are lower as expected. As mentioned in the previous update, a move below MYR 2,375/tonne could hint at weakness again possibly targeting 2,250 on the downside. Several targets are seen being tested in the coming sessions on the break below 2,275 levels.

Strong support will be seen near MYR 2,265-75 followed by important support at 2,245- 50 . Below here the market could be inclined to test further lows near MYR 2,185 levels too.

Though the undercurrent is weak, prices are displaying bullish tendencies.

Prices are holding well above 2,275-85 levels and this gives us a feeling that an up move or pullback looks likely in the coming sessions. Initial resistance will be seen towards towards 2,355-65 initially or could even extend towards 2,395-2,400 levels.

Though, the downtrend still remains intact, the downside from here also looks limited. Favoured view expects a pullback higher.

As mentioned earlier, prices met an intermediate wave target at MYR 2,135 and corrective decline to 2,345-50 levels, followed by a sharp third wave move to 2,575-2,600 materialised.

Price structures suggest a possible third wave move ending at 2,690 and a corrective, fourth wave with targets at 2,450 now. The fifth wave possibly ended at MYR 2,898/tonne and a corrective A-B-C in progress with an equality target now stretching to 2,185 levels now.

RSI is in the oversold zone now indicating a possible upward correction.

However, the averages in MACD are still below the zero line of the indicator hinting at a bearishness to be intact. Only a crossover again above the zero line could at resumption in the bullish trend.

Therefore, look for palm oil futures to rise again.

Supports are at MYR 2,265, 2,245 and 2,185. Resistances are at MYR 2,365, 2,400 and 2,435.

*The author is the Director of Commtrendz Research. There is risk of loss in trading.*

### **Cotton wilts on limited demand**

#### **RAJKOT,**

Cotton prices ruled steady on the back of limited demand by domestic mills. On the other hand, arrival of cotton in Gujarat increased marginally as weather was clear. *Kapas* or raw cotton too was remained unchanged.

Best quality Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton was traded at ₹ 41,000-500 a candy of 356 kg. Average grade cotton was ₹ 39,000-40,000 and lower grade ₹ 35,000-36,000. About 8,000 bales (of 170 kg each) of cotton arrived in Gujarat and 20,000 bales arrived in India.

### **Turmeric pales on poor demand**

#### **ERODE,**

Spot turmeric prices in Erode markets decreased on Monday following poor upcountry demand.

“Only two or three orders were received from merchants in North India; so the price of turmeric is declining. Further, turmeric growers, expecting good price for their commodity, brought limited stock,” said RKV Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said due to arrival of medium quality hybrid finger turmeric, prices decreased by ₹ 400 a quintal. Of the 2,400 bags that arrived, 1,180 were sold. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger turmeric was sold at ₹ 4,155-6,519 a quintal; the root variety ₹ 4,009-6,437.

Salem Hybrid: The finger variety fetched ₹ 5,781-8,189 and the root variety ₹ 5,589-6,676. Of the 495 bags on offer, only 94 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger turmeric ruled at ₹ 5,499-6,359; the root variety ₹ 5,531-6,591. Of the 257 bags on offer, 256 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger turmeric was sold at ₹ 5,739-6,619 and the root variety ₹ 5,699-6,586. All the 548 bags put up for sale were traded.

# Business Standard

Cardamom down 0.4% on sluggish demand



prices moved down by 0.40% to Rs 927.50 per kg in futures trade today as speculators reduced positions amid a weak trend at spot market on subdued demand coupled with adequate stocks in the physical market.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in August fell by Rs 3.70, or 0.40%, to Rs 927.50 per kg in a business turnover of 114 lots.

Likewise, the spice for delivery in September shed Rs 1.40, or 0.15%, to Rs 908.20 per kg in six lots.

Market analysts said offloading of positions by speculators on the back of subdued demand in the spot markets against adequate stocks position led to the fall in cardamom prices at futures trade.

Palm oil down 0.3% on profit-booking



prices fell 0.31% to Rs 513.40 per 10 kg in futures trade today as speculators booked profits amid a weak trend in spot markets on falling demand.

Further, adequate stocks in the physical market on increased supplies from producing belts also put pressure on the prices.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for delivery in far-month September eased by



Rs 1.60, or 0.31%, to Rs 513.40 per 10 kg in a business turnover of 29 lots.

Likewise, the oil for delivery in August shed Rs 1.10, or 0.21%, to Rs 520.30 per 10 kg in 150 lots.

Market analysts said besides profit-booking by speculators at current levels, fall in demand in the spot market against sufficient stocks, weighed on crude palm oil prices at futures trade.

[Mettur Dam level at 53.06 feet](#)

The water level in the [Mettur Dam](#) today stood at 53.06 feet as against the maximum level of 120 feet. The inflow into the reservoir, meanwhile, was 19,829 cusecs while the outflow of about 800 cusecs, the [PWD](#) officials said.

The storage was 19.793 tmc against the capacity of 93.4 tmc. The officials said Karnataka was releasing around 27,000 cusecs tot-ally into [Cauvery](#) from Kab-ini and [Krishnaraja Sagar](#) dams following copious inflows.

[Justice delivered in Mullaperiyar dam: Jaya](#)

**The SC had on May 7 held that the 120-year-old dam is safe and allowed the Tamil Nadu govt to raise the water level to 142 feet and ultimately to 152 feet**

A day after all shutters were lowered in [Mullaperiyar dam](#) to increase its storage level from 136 feet to 142 feet in compliance with the [Supreme Court](#) order, [Tamil Nadu](#) chief minister [J Jayalalithaa](#) today said justice has been delivered to the people.

Making a suo motu statement in the Assembly, she said, "The act of downing the shutters in Mullaperiyar in order to raise its storage level to 142 ft is a victory for the people of Tamil Nadu. More than a victory, it is justice delivered." A high-powered committee comprising officials from Dam Safety Organisation, Central Water Commission and bureaucrats from Kerala and Tamil Nadu had inspected the dam. Later, all the 13 shutters were downed for raising the [water level](#).

"This is a victory for Tamil Nadu. This is a victory for the people of the state, particularly the farmers. I'm extremely happy over this victory which has rightfully come to us after 37 years. With this, Tamils' rights has been reinstated in the Mullaperiyar issue," Jayalalithaa said, amidst thumping of desks in the House.

The Supreme Court had on May 7 held that the 120-year-old dam is safe and allowed the Tamil Nadu government to raise the water level to 142 feet and ultimately to 152 feet after completion of strengthening measures on the dam.

The five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice RM Lodha had passed the judgement striking down a law promulgated by the Kerala government declaring Mullaperiyar dam as endangered and fixing the water level at 136 feet.

The Kerala government had on July 1 filed a plea in the Supreme Court seeking review of its May 7 verdict.

Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry dam and was constructed pursuant to the Periyar Lake Lease Agreement of October 29, 1886, across Periyar river.

The dam is situated in Idukki district of Kerala and is owned and operated by the Tamil Nadu government.

#### Dairies focus on value-added products for future growth

Value-added [dairy](#) products ([VADP](#)) are driving the way for dairy players. Through the years, the share of these products in the overall revenue of these companies has risen significantly. To boost growth, most companies plan to focus on this segment and add new products to their portfolio.

Maharashtra-based [Parag Milk Foods](#) said VADPs accounted for about 80 per cent of its turnover (Rs 1,500-1,600 crore), against 40 per cent about three years ago (when its turnover was about Rs 900 crore). Devendra Shah, chairman and managing director, said the company had maintained its focus on these products through the past few years. "Investors are interested in this category, as this is high-growth and gives better returns," he said.

[IDFC](#) and [Motilal Oswal](#) have invested in Parag Milk Foods.

A recent report by [CARE Ratings](#) said, "Through the past decade, significant transformation took place in the Indian demographic space, which led to heightened consumer interest in VADPs. This shift in the dynamics of the sector proved beneficial for manufacturers, as margins in the case of VADPs are more than double the margins in the liquid milk segment."

While margins in the liquid milk space stood at four-five per cent, those for VADPs ranged from 12 per cent to 18 per cent, the report said. According to estimates, the share of VADPs in the milk and milk derivatives segment is growing at about 25 per cent every year, and it is expected this pace would be maintained till 2019-20.

R G Chandramogan, managing director of South-based private dairy company [Hatsun Agro](#), said VADPs were at a nascent stage in India. "The main growth drivers in this segment are curd, ghee and ice creams. As the market matures, the segment will start giving both volumes and margins."

Most dairy companies have already invested in building capacities for value-added products. Recently, Parag invested about Rs 110 crore in its Pune plant; now, it has a combined processing capacity of about 2,000,000 litres a day (Pune and Andhra Pradesh plant). A year ago, Hatsun, too, invested in building capacities for VADP; the company now processes about 300,000 litres of VADP a day.

CARE Ratings says, "Product innovations are likely to accelerate India's dairy market, which is anticipated to improve margins by attaining greater scale, higher capacity use and an increasing contribution from new milk variants."

Dairy companies are planning to add products in the VADP portfolio. [Karnataka Milk Federation](#) plans to enter the [cookies](#) and [biscuits](#) segment. A senior company official said, "The thrust will definitely be on value-added products, but there is a social obligation to supply liquid milk, and we will continue to do that."

Shah agrees. "While there is growing demand for liquid milk, the demand for value-added products is also increasing commensurately. We have increased our procurement by 20 per cent to take care of the demand."

[GEAC clears import of GM soyabean oi](#)

India's biotech regulator [Genetic Engineering](#) Appraisal Committee ([GEAC](#)) has given green signal for the import of Genetically Modified (GM) [soybean oil](#).

"Three applications for import of GM Soybean oil were permitted as highly processed food like oil do not contain detectable DNA or Proteins. The same was confirmed by Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) Mysore after testing of the oil samples," GEAC said, adding that more than 70 countries are importing GM soybean and canola oil.

The statutory body, which held its 121st meeting on Friday, also permitted confined field trials of 13 [GM crops](#), including rice, brinjal, chickpea, mustard and cotton, out of the 15 cases it considered.

GEAC Chairman Hem Pande said "field trials for certain varieties of GM crops including rice, brinjal, chickpea, mustard and cotton had been cleared".

However, the field trials, or small scale experiments, on these crops were subject to No Objection Certificate (NOC) from state governments.

During the GEAC meeting, three cases of pharmaceuticals were also considered of which two were deferred and one case pertaining to revalidation of the GEAC nod was permitted.

Officials said GEAC had "virtually" not met for almost two years from April 2012 to March 2014 due to which which decision on 79 applications for field trials remained pending.

These 79 cases, recommended by Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) under the Department of [Biotechnology](#), included 37 cases of revalidation and 42 new cases involving confined (regulated) field trials related to cotton, rice, castor, maize, wheat, groundnut, sugarcane, chickpea, mustard, sorghum and brinjal.

The GEAC on Friday also decided to constitute a sub-committee to review the toxicology data

generated by the applicants of GM brinjal developed by BejoSheetal P Limited and GM mustard developed by Delhi University South Campus in view of concerns raised by some of the members.

An official said all GM crops field trials are subject to stringent norms which are as per the international standards.

India has so far only allowed commercial growth of BT cotton with the issue of GM crops having been a highly controversial one for the country.

Sources said that the moratorium continues for BT brinjal and the only commercial release at present is cotton, which is grown on around 11 million hectares in the country.