

## **Forest-related research to be available at the click of a button**

R. SAIRAM

The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) is all set to host a thematic Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Centre which will provide access to forest-related research data from institutions across the country. IFGTB Director N. Krishna Kumar told *The Hindu* that a website, being developed as part of this project, will be commissioned shortly. It will provide access to research data for all stakeholders, ranging from forest researchers, students and Government departments to non-governmental organisations and farmers. The primary objective of the ENVIS Centre is to collect research data on the forest-related subjects and tie-up with various research institutions besides creating a databank. He said that conservation and management of Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) had gained a lot of importance in India, which is rich in biodiversity and has over 2,800 trees. However, while tree resources have been found to have huge ecological and economical significance, research on this subject was scattered and stakeholders cannot access all information at one place. All of this is now set to change with the commissioning of the ENVIS Centre. "The IFGTB has been researching on trees and genetically improving them for the past 25 years. All of this data would be made available in this website, which will be like a single-window for providing information on an assorted range of subjects," the IFGTB Director said. Besides a one-time allotment of Rs. 3.50 lakh for infrastructure such as computers, scanners, printers and other equipment, the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests would provide Rs. 15 lakh every year for the ENVIS Centre. It would be part of a network that included 68 centres located in research institutes across the country. It would offer information on FGR, wetlands and wildlife besides other aspects of trees and forestry. According to Kannan C.S. Warriar, IFGTB Scientist and ENVIS Co-coordinator, the website would be helpful for farmers in many ways. Farmers were now being actively encouraged to go for intercropping in order to reduce their dependence on a single crop and diversify their income source. However, this also entailed a considerable risk as not many farmers might know that kind of crops were best suited for their local conditions. The website would provide information on the best crops for their agro-climate. Farmers can also obtain information by e-mail. The website would also be constantly updated with the latest advancements in the field of FGR, he added

## **Farmers call for harnessing excess flow**

L. RENGANATHAN

With the Cauvery carrying a huge quantum of water from the Kabini and Krishnaraja Sagar reservoirs in Karnataka over the past few days and fast filling up the Stanley Reservoir at Mettur, farmers and activists in Tamil Nadu have called for proper harness of the excess flow. They pointedly call for a plan to avoid a repeat of August last year when around 17 tmcft was let into the sea. The level in the Mettur dam capped the 75-foot mark by Sunday evening and the inflow exceeded 40,000 cusecs. If this rate continued for the next fortnight — a possibility as the catchments in Karnataka have been experiencing continued rains — the dam may surplus, forcing the PWD to discharge water into the river. There will not be any problem if the realisation at the dam is under 50,000 cusecs. But in case of a sudden discharge in excess of one lakh cusecs after the dam surpluses, it becomes difficult to harness the water. This situation calls for proper planning at least from the current year. “Even by conservative estimates and the data available with the PWD for the period from August 4 to 8 last year, about 17 tmcft was let into the sea. Similar was the situation in 2005 and 2007. By diverting floodwaters in such situations through the renovated Grand Anicut Canal to parts of Pudukkottai district will mean a lot in the immediate context. Feeding the Veeranam tank through Coleroon is another option. But the crux of the matter is the water should not be allowed to drain into the sea,” points out P. M. Natarajan, former Deputy Director (Geology), Ground Water Division. For more than a decade, he has been advocating an intra-State river link plan originating at Mayanur in Karur district to quench the thirst of southern districts, besides feeding the system tanks in the parched Pudukkottai and Sivaganga districts. “From the Mayanur Barrage, not more than 2,500 cusecs can be drawn at present by the canals on either side of the structure. The State government, with the help of the Centre, must expedite the intra-State river link plan and plan for new checkdams along the Cauvery downstream of Srirangam to store even little quantum. In the short run, the water managers could do little,” says Kavandampatti R. Subramanian, deputy secretary of the Cauvery Delta Farmers Welfare Association

## **Open auction of small onions twice a week at Chettikulam**



The district administration has announced that open auction of small onions would be held twice a week – Monday and Thursday – at the recently inaugurated marketing complex for onions at Chettikulam near here. The new system has been put in place for

the benefit of the small and marginal farmers in the district. Earlier, the auction used to be held only on Thursday. Following farming community's plea that indirect auction of onions was causing time delay, the administration has decided that open auction would be conducted hereafter to enable immediate disbursement of money to the onion growers, an official press release here said. The auction would be held every Monday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farmers could take part in the auction after getting their names registered. Onions would be sold to those traders who quote higher price. The release further said 114 bags of onions weighing 7,504 kilograms were sold for Rs. 1.05 lakh at the complex during the auction held on July 24.

### **Switch to millets to tackle climate change, farmers told**

M.J. PRABU

A two-day workshop on millets, organised on the Kolunji eco-farm at Odugampatti near Pudukkottai recently, urged farmers to shift to alternative crops in view of the recurrent drought caused by climate change. Oswald Quintal, director of Kudumbam, said this was the third consecutive year of drought in the entire State, and it was time for farmers to shift to alternative crops, especially millets, which required just one-third of the water needed for growing paddy and sugarcane. More than 500 farmers attended the workshop, organised by the Kunnandarkoil NABARD Farmer's Club and 'Kudumbam'. Salome Yesudass, a Chennai-based nutritional scientist, explained how millets were the storehouses of micro-nutrients to fight food-borne diseases. Gnanamalar, Professor and Head of the Vamban Pulse Research Station, highlighted the efforts of the institution at developing pulse varieties capable of withstanding stress. NABARD District Development Manager Somasundaram pointed to the target of 3,750 acres under millet in the district for this year and urged the farmers to make use of the schemes for millet promotion in the Agriculture Department. In his keynote address, Shajahan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Pudukkottai, said: "Given the consecutive monsoon failure and nutritional challenges, millets are the only answer to ensuring food security, and will be the future of food and farming. The State allotted Rs. 2,000 an acre in subsidy for millet promotion. One hundred per cent subsidy will be given to the farmers' groups and federations for availing themselves of processing machineries."

### **Demands**

The workshop passed resolutions, demanding the immediate implementation of the State Planning Commission's recommendations for millet promotion, decentralised procurement and distribution of millets through the PDS, a separate budget for rain-fed

farming, awareness programmes in schools and colleges on millets, crop insurance and subsidy for millets farmers. About 10 stalls were opened by various entrepreneurs, bio-input units and seed collectors to exhibit their collection. About 500 bags of millet seeds and tree seedlings were distributed to the participants.

### **Check dam near Tiruvaiyaru to irrigate 5,891 acres**

M. BALAGANESSIN



A check dam under construction at an outlay of Rs.13.40 crore at Koothoor village near Tiruvaiyaru will ensure irrigation for an area of 5,891 acres in the region. It will also serve as a rain water harvesting structure, facilitating artificial recharging of the wells, tanks and other water bodies in its periphery said R. Vaithilingam, Minister for Housing and Urban Development. The Minister who inspected the dam on Sunday advised officials to expedite the project. He said the check dam would supply water to the irrigation channels in Koothur and Pazhaya Maharajapuram. Mr. Vaithilingam also inspected the dredging works of various irrigation channels. channels in various places in the district. He said that the Koothadi channel in Kaduveli village was being dredged to a length of 4 km at an expenditure of Rs.4.50 lakh; Tiruvaiyaru channel for 5 km at Rs. 5.50 lakh and Vazhaipoo drainage channel for 3 km at Rs. 5 lakh. Mr. Vaithilingam advised the officials to expedite the work ahead of the release of waters from the Mettur for irrigation.

### **Proposals**

He also directed the officials to send proposals for the construction of check dams across the rivers wherever possible so as to harvest the rain water for irrigation. N. Subbaiyan, District Collector, K. Parasuraman, MP, Sampath, Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department accompanied the Minister.

## **100 acres of fallow land made cultivable**



Director of Agriculture Department M. Rajendhiran, interacting with farmers at Ulundurpet on Sunday.

Under the fallow land development scheme, bushes on 150 acres of land at A. Sathanur village in Ulundurpet block have already been removed and 100 acres ploughed during rainy season to make them ready for cultivation. Director of Agriculture Department M. Rajendhiran inspected the works being undertaken under the scheme at Ajis Nagar in the village on Sunday. The Director conceded the demand of a farmer to get government subsidy for installation of a solar powered pump-set for the purpose of irrigating farm land. He said that the State government, in its endeavour to increase food productivity, had decided to reclaim the fallow lands for agriculture purposes. The scheme envisages giving necessary assistance to the farmers to clear the bushes, take to ploughing at the time of rain and to construct farm ponds. Mr. Rajendhiran stressed the point that whenever it rains the farmers, using the moisture, must start ploughing the so-called fallow lands so it would be made ready for cultivation. The farm ponds would serve as the storage point for rain water which could be used for irrigation. Such ponds would also recharge the groundwater. Under the scheme, being implemented jointly by the Agriculture Department and the Tamil Nadu Watershed Development Agency, the farmers would be provided with water harvesting structures, and, seed and plant materials besides the marketing linkage. The official also inspected a farm pond set up in the village. He said that 11 more farm ponds would be dug in the village soon. He called upon the farmers not to let their lands lie fallow and if they do not put the land to productive use they would face economic strain and the food security of the State would also get impacted. Joint Director (Agriculture) P. Rajamani and others accompanied him.

## Cane farmers protest against amendment to sugarcane Bill

R. KRISHNA KUMAR



The Sugarcane Cultivators' Association has urged the government to withdraw the amendment to the Sugarcane Bill.— PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM

### **Expensive harvest**

■ Sugarcane farmers say they incur Rs. **2,800** to Rs. **3,000** as input cost for a tonne of sugarcane

■ Support price fixed by the government is Rs. **2,500** per tonne

■ According to farmers, factories pay around Rs. **1,750** to Rs. **2,000** per tonne of sugarcane

Rajya Kabbu Belegarara Sangha or Sugarcane Cultivators' Association has flayed the amendment to the Karnataka Sugarcane (Regulation of Purchase and Supply) (Amendment) Bill, 2014 passed by the State government and said it would force farmers to take up alternative crops. Association president Kurubur Shantakumar told presspersons here on Sunday that the amendment is heavily loaded against farmers and the amendment has been conceived by MLAs and MPs who own sugar factories, to suit their vested interests. Sugarcane farmers in the State are in dire straits as the cost of cultivation had gone up over the years. While farmers incur Rs. 2,800 to Rs. 3,000 as input cost for a tonne of sugarcane, the support price fixed by the government is only Rs. 2,500 per tonne, while factories release around Rs. 1,750 to Rs. 2,000 per tonne, Mr. Shanthakumar said. "With such disparity in the production cost and support price, sugarcane cultivators in the State will start scouting for alternative crops for survival," he added. Already cultivators in parts of Mysore and surrounding areas as also other parts of

the State were opting for horticulture crops like tomato, papaya, pomegranate and sapota. Since the gestation period is four months, farmers reap at least three crops and get income thrice a year unlike in sugarcane, where the gestation period from the time of cultivation to harvesting is one year. In addition, farmers have to wait for four to five months for sugar mills to release the money and hence the income for sugarcane cultivators is only once in 18 months, Mr. Shanthakumar said. He said given the grave situation under which the sugarcane farmers were raising cane, it is a travesty of justice that the government has passed an amendment that breaks the back of farmers. The association has rejected the ex-gate price mechanism introduced in the amendment according to which the onus is on farmers to get the crop harvested and transport it to sugar mills at their cost, instead of ex-field price in which the onus is on the factory to meet the cost of harvesting and transportation. The association also rejected the distance limitation imposed on cultivators according to which they are bound to sell the produce only at factories within a radius of 25 km from their farms. "This is a conspiracy by the elected representatives owning sugar mills to curb farmers' independence," the association said. The government has been urged to withdraw the amendment failing which the association has threatened to launch an indefinite strike.

### **Survey: land in Malnad has turned barren owing to ginger cultivation**

NAGESH PRABHU

Fertile lands in Malnad districts of the State have turned barren owing to the extensive cultivation of ginger and the use of poisonous pesticides and chemical fertilizers, according to a survey conducted by Vriksha laksha Andolana, a non-governmental organisation headed by Anant Hegde Asisara, former chairman of the Western Ghats Task Force. Addressing presspersons here on Sunday, Mr. Asisara and T.V. Ramachandra, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, said ginger was being cultivated on nearly one lakh acres of land in Kodagu, Hassan, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada and Chikmagalur. "Several acres have been converted into barren lands owing to the extensive and unscientific use of chemicals and pesticides for the crop," they said.

### **Polluted water bodies**

Quoting a survey titled 'Ginger Cultivation in Malnad: Barren Land Formation and Poisoning of Water Resources due to Massive use of Pesticides', Mr. Hegde said that lakes, wells and streams were polluted following the release of poisonous chemicals into the water bodies. "Rivers Varada, Kumudvati, Tunga and Bhadra are being polluted because of uncontrolled, ill-advised farming," the study said. However, the agricultural or

science universities have not studied the effect of intense inorganic farming. Intensive use of pesticide has threatened the floral and fauna in the Western Ghats. The State Biodiversity Board and the departments of Forest, Environment and Wildlife should act swiftly to save fertile lands of Malnad region, the study said.

### **IISc study**

Another study conducted by Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, on the status of forests in Chikmagalur district, said that encroachment of forest land (22,055.59 hectares) and conversion to agricultural land was the principal cause of degradation of forests. It said that Tarikere taluk had the highest number of encroachments (26.41 per cent), followed by N.R. Pura (25.3 p.c.), Kadur (15.19 p.c.), Chikmagalur (11.27 p.c.), Mudigere (9.2 p.c.), Koppa (8.17 p.c.), and Sringeri (4.4 p.c.). Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Hegde said that he had urged Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda to hold a meeting with officials to control the extensive use of pesticides for ginger crop.

### **Speedy processing of graft cases sought**

The city-based Azhimathi Virudha Janakeeya Munnani led by K.P. Vijayakumar submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Oommen Chandy on Saturday seeking his intervention to ensure speedy processing of corruption cases registered against certain members of the previous Corporation council. The forum leaders said action on the part of the government on the issue was lagging for over eight months.

### **Farmers yet to get relief for monsoon crop loss**

Farmers have expressed concern over the delay in getting relief from the government for the huge crop loss they suffered during the recent downpour in the district. Though people's representatives from each Assembly constituency are ready with the loss estimates, the government is yet to assess the crop loss in the district. In Kozhikode district, the loss due to various monsoon-related calamities in just two weeks is Rs.2 crore as per official records.

### **No hope**

“We have no hope in getting relief from the government as there are several persons who still continue to wait for funds sanctioned in the last monsoon season,” says a farmer from Thamarassery taluk who suffered loss in the current season. Some of the farmers' organisation leaders say the government is yet to understand the seriousness of the situation.



## **Unhappy with CM**

“Chief Minister Oommen Chandy was in Kozhikode on Saturday to attend various functions, but he did not notice the issue,” said P. Viswan, former MLA and district president of the Karshaka Sanghom. He said that the farmers’ organisation under his leadership would take up the issue and discuss it before the next State committee meeting on August 4. Meanwhile, some of the farmers’ organisations have decided to visit the rain-hit areas where there was crop loss. Chengottukavu, Chemancheri, Moodadi, Thurayoor, Arikkulam and interior areas of Koyilandy would be visited first by the farmers organisations.

## **Report**

The report of the visit will be handed over to the State government. As per the Revenue Department’s estimate, crops in nearly 87.5 hectares of land were affected by the rain and wind. As many as 1,264 farmers suffered crop loss. The agriculture sector suffered a loss of Rs.1.32 crore. Revenue officials said that they were in the process of submitting loss estimates to the government.

## **Cotton farmers’ woes may continue post-harvest too**

S. HARPAL SINGH



A farmer ploughing his cotton field at Arepalli in Adilabad district.— PHOTO: S. HARPAL SINGH

The woes of farmers, chiefly cotton farmers, are likely to continue all through the season despite the crop-saving spell of rainfall during the last 7 or 8 days. The prolonged dry spell having increased investment in sowing thrice and proportionate increase in ‘personal’ expenditure, there are enough indications that the price of cotton is not exactly going to be remunerative.

## **Largest area**

Adilabad is the largest cotton producing area in Telangana, the cash crop being cultivated normally in over 3.25 lakh hectares (currently about 2.25 lakh hectares), and any downward fluctuation in either yield or price will have a tremendous impact on the 3 lakh plus small and marginal farmers. A simultaneous and equally forceful impact will also jolt the huge cotton processing industry in the district which has an estimated turnover of about Rs. 8,000 crore per year. The season has been pushed back by about 40 days for lack of rainfall, which means the produce of a majority of cotton farmers will arrive in the markets only in late November or December. Add to it the average increase of about Rs. 2,000 in investment per acre on account of re-sowing and another Rs. 2,000 on account of interest on private loans for the dry period, the scenario becomes grimmer.

## **Average yield**

The overall expenditure for cultivating cotton in an acre will rise to between Rs. 16,000 and Rs. 18,000, according to observers. The yield, again owing to weather conditions, is expected to be in the range of 4 to 6 quintals on an average for every acre which means the price of cotton later in the season has to be quite high so that the poor farmers are bailed out of their pathetic situation.

## **Forward trading**

According to sources, cotton traders have begun forward trading, involving sale of cotton bales in December this year. The price of a candy of cotton bale in such trading is reported to be about Rs. 42,000 on an average which is not very encouraging given the current situation. "Going by the rate of cotton bale in forward trading, the price of cotton will be around the minimum support price of Rs. 4,050 per quintal when the produce arrives in the markets," opines Ch. Narsaiah, a senior cotton commission agent in Adilabad agriculture market. "There is need for the government to review the situation and fix higher MSP for cotton, at least Rs. 6,500 per quintal, in order to prevent farmers from sinking into deeper morass," suggests senior Telangana Rashtra Samiti farmer leader B. Goverdhan Reddy

## **Tobacco growers in a tizzy**

G. NAGARAJA

The Government's move to promote alternative crops to tobacco as part of its campaign against tobacco consumption sparked an intense debate among tobacco growers in the northern light soil (NLS) region in West Godavari district. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan recently favoured the government to go ahead with the proposals for alternative crops in the tobacco growing regions as suggested by scientists, saying the alternatives were quite viable in every aspect. The Virginia Tobacco Farmers Association has reacted sharply to the Minister's move, saying that such measures might deprive growers of their livelihood. Association president Karatam Venkatareddy Naidu said the alternative crops like black gram and medicinal plants suggested by the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), Rajahmundry, failed in the NLS area comprising West Godavari and Khammam district in Telangana for want of soil suitability. Economically also, such crops had little viability in the tobacco growing regions, he asserted.

### **'Not viable'**

Sugarcane was suggested as one of the alternative crops in the NLS area in West Godavari district, he recalled, wondering how it could become a better alternative than tobacco when sugarcane area drastically came down to 5 lakh acres from 10 lakh acres in the State due to market vagaries and other adverse conditions. Sugarcane is a water-intensive crop which was obviously not feasible in the NLS area which was mainly dependent on scarce ground water, Mr. Naidu added. Of the total 700 million kg of annual tobacco production in the country, Virginia tobacco in the NLS area in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka together accounted for 250 million kg. The Virginia tobacco grown in the NLS area has a huge export potential. Mr. Reddy Naidu appealed to the government not to ride roughshod over an issue which involved the livelihood of millions of farmers in the name of discouraging tobacco consumption. Meanwhile, T.G.K. Murthy, Director, CTRI, contradicted the claims of the tobacco growers on the suitability of alternative crops in tobacco growing areas. Maize, oil palm and sugarcane are already being raised in the NLS area. They might not be economically as viable as tobacco but they were quite suitable to the local conditions, he claimed.

## **Provide bank loans to tenant farmers, says CPI**

Communist Party of India State secretary K. Ramakrishna on Sunday demanded that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu take steps to provide bank loans to end travails of thousands of tenant farmers forced at the door step of private money lender. Mr.

Ramakrishna said though the State government was taking credit for rescheduling of farm loans, it failed to see through the misery of tenant farmers, who were actually cultivating the land. “I am sure that not even a single farmer has been given fresh crop loan this kharif so far. But farmers are optimistic that their loans would be waived,” said Mr. Ramakrishna.

### **Tussar farming area set to become part of AP**

P. SRIDHAR

The core area of tussar silk cultivation in Bhadrachalam division is all set to become part of the State of Andhra Pradesh with the transfer of Chintur, Kunavaram and V R Puram mandals, where the traditional tussar farming is mainly concentrated, to the neighbouring State. Bhadrachalam division, endowed with a long forest cover encompassing Nalla Maddi (*Terminalia tomentosa*) trees and traditional expertise of Adivasis in rearing tussar silkworms in forests, had earned a niche for itself as a hub of tussar silk cultivation in Telangana. The division occupied a special place among the other areas of tussar silk cultivation spread across Adilabad, Warangal and Karimnagar districts in Telangana State. Tussar farming has been one of the traditional sources of livelihood for Adivasis since time immemorial. Over 1,200 farmers, predominantly Adivasis, are engaged in tussar silk cultivation in eight TSP mandals – Chintur, V R Puram, Kunavaram, Venkatapuram, Charla, Wajedu, Manuguru and Aswapuram of the district. The maximum number of tussar rearers hail from Chintur, Kunavaram and V R Puram mandals, those recently included in AP.

### **Wide reputation**

Tribal women of the Agency earned a wide reputation for successfully operating grainages in the eight TSP mandals and supplying the Disease Free Layings (DFLs) to buyers from as far as Jharkhand, Odisha and other States. The Sericulture Department recently constructed a cocoon godown and a marketing building at an estimated cost of Rs 6 lakh in Chintur. The transfer of the core areas of tussar farming activity from Bhadrachalam division to the State of Andhra Pradesh has cast a shadow on various initiatives taken by the department to raise tussar plantations, promote silkworm rearing and silk reeling in the Agency.

### **Promotion to continue**

About 1,204 farmers harvested 20.27 lakh tussar cocoons in the Agency in 2013-14, says K Bhavani, in-charge Deputy Director, Sericulture, Khammam district. Nearly 80 per cent of the tussar farmers hail from Chintur, Kunavaram and V R Puram mandals. Seven of the total of 11 private grainages are located in the three mandals. “All our initiatives to promote tussar cultivation will continue as per the directions of the government,” Ms Bhavani said. Assets worth Rs 2.5 lakh were distributed to tussar women farmers by the

Hyderabad-based IICT as part of its tribal women empowerment programme in Bhadrachalam last week.

### Water level

### Mettur

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 75.77 feet on Sunday against its full reservoir level of 120 feet. The inflow was 40,160 cusecs and the discharge 6,000 cusecs.



Chennai - INDIA

#### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

**Monday, Jul 28**

Max Min  
39° | 28°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 70

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 05:52

Sunset: 06:38

Barometer: 1005

#### Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

**Tuesday, Jul 29**

Max Min  
36° | 26°

#### Extended Forecast for a week

Wednesday  
**Jul 30**



36° | 27°  
Cloudy

Thursday  
**Jul 31**



38° | 27°  
Partly Cloudy

Friday  
**Aug 1**



39° | 28°  
Partly Cloudy

Saturday  
**Aug 2**



39° | 27°  
Partly Cloudy

Sunday  
**Aug 3**



38° | 27°  
Cloudy

#### Airport Weather

Chennai

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 05:53

Humidity: 79

Sunset: 06:37

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1004



### **Government to Push God's Own Agri-produce as 'Safe to Eat'**

“This will be a big boost to the registered farmers who are engaged in the cultivation of these crops. Moreover, it will encourage good agricultural practices,” said Agriculture secretary K R Jyothilal. He said that the certification could be given by checking the Maximum Residue Level (MRL) prescribed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The state will guarantee the quality of produce. The Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council of Kerala (VFPC-K) already has a tie-up with Kerala Agriculture University (KAU) for certification of vegetables with low levels of MRL. It would also help create awareness among the public and prevent the dumping of vegetables with high residue levels of pesticide from the neighbouring states. “Vegetables worth more than `3,000 crore comes into the state from outside annually. Branding the produce would encourage more people to grow them here. It will also help the food processing industry get low pesticide residue produce,” said Navaz Meeran, chairman, southern region, Confederation of Indian Industry.

### **'Monsoon Expected to be Normal, No Need for Alarm'**

Monsoon is expected to be normal in the coming weeks and there is no need to be 'alarmist', Union minister Jitendra Singh today said. "The deficiency of monsoon in the first six weeks was 43 per cent. It has now gone down to 32 per cent. So, monsoon has increased by 11 per cent." In coming weeks, especially in central as well as northeast India, the forecast is that monsoon will be normal. We want to send a message to our countrymen that this is a good news and there is no need to become alarmist," Singh, the Minister of State for Earth Science, told reporters here. In July, the country is likely to receive rainfall of 93 per cent of the Long Range Forecast (LPA), and "rainfall of 96 per cent of the LPA is expected in August," said Shailesh Nayak, Secretary in the Ministry of Earth Science (MoES). Nayak, however, added that they would "also have to see the rainfall in the next few days of the month". The MeT department has already said that India would experience a deficient monsoon this year. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, 96-104 per cent of the LPA means normal rainfall whereas 90-96 makes for below normal monsoon showers. Monsoon rainfall was deficient in June, but has picked up in July. "The rainfall looks good for the next three weeks till

August 15. There is formation of a depression which will bring good rainfall," Nayak added.

### **Tomato Price Shoots through Roof in Northern Odisha**

The most popular vegetable in Indian kitchens, tomato, is now out of bounds for the middle class and poor. Even as the northern region of the State got its share of rain, the price of vegetables is still on the rise. After potato and onion, the price of tomato has shot through the roof. Sources said tomato is priced at `80 a kg in open market which is almost thrice the cost of the vegetable that was being sold at `25 a kg a fortnight back. Better quality tomato is priced higher. The unprecedented rise in tomato price has been attributed to supply crunch. Apart from the local farmers, the coastal districts of Balasore and Bhadrak along with neighbouring Mayurbhanj depend on Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal for supply of vegetables including tomato. Though the region consumes nearly 80 tonnes of tomato daily, now the supply is 30 to 50 tonnes. There is no arrangement to store the vegetable for a long time. As untimely rain in the last week of May destroyed the vegetable crops in the region, traders now totally depend on the supply from neighbouring States. A wholesaler, Rabindra Behera, said price fluctuation in market depends on the demand and supply. "The supply from tomato producing States has come down drastically as the crop was damaged due to untimely rain or no rain. Export to Pakistan has also aggravated the crisis in local market," he said. Meanwhile, people have almost stopped purchasing tomato. A homemaker, Manjulata Das, said earlier, they used to purchase at least one kg of tomato in a week. Now they have reduced it to 500 gms. Officials said the price will fluctuate till the harvest of fresh crop and improvement in the supply. Besides supply constraints, vegetable prices have increased as transportation cost has gone up due to hike in diesel price, they added. Traders claimed that they have to pay more towards the cost of transportation which also leads to the price rise. "A couple of days back, I had to pay `two lakh towards transportation cost to get 12 tonnes of tomato from Bangalore in addition to the cost of the vegetable. If I do not get profit of `10 per kg why will I invest so much," asked a trader.

### **Biocontrol Agents to Protect Areca Crops**

A city scientist has devised a special formulation of microscopic worms that will help control a variety of insects infesting areca crop. Arecanut prices had recently shot up from Rs 15,000 to Rs 1 lakh a quintal after a shortage caused by an infestation of white grubs, the larvae of a type of beetle. The larvae eat roots of areca crops. The formulation of the microscopic worms, made of nematodes, is a biocontrol agent developed by Dr M Nagesh, principal scientist at the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (NBAII). It controls insects, including soil insect pests and white grubs, on a number of

crops. Biocontrol agents are ecologically safe and non-toxic to humans. Entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN) are beneficial nematodes that are parasitic to more than 200 species of insects. They infect insect hosts by entering through their natural body openings, and with the help of bacteria, kill the host within 48 hours. The formulations can be applied as a broadcast, a spot application or through drip irrigation at the time of planting, or at the knee-height stage of the crop or during crop growth. The ideal time of application for white grub control is during pre-monsoon showers as that is the time when the white grub beetles emerge from the soil, mate and lay eggs. Dr Nagesh told Express that Sri Biotech Laboratories India (Hyderabad), Sri Venkateshwara Chemicals (Hyderabad), Multiplex, (Bangalore), Camson Biotech (Bangalore), FARMER (Ghaziabad), Allwin Industries (Indore), Agri Biocare (Kottayam) and Rawoof Foundation (Sirsi) are some of the companies that have bought this technology. Some companies are exporting it for management of soil-borne insect pests such as termites and white grubs, he said. NBAII distributes small quantities of the formulation during demonstration trials at farmers' fields free of cost. The formulation can also be used to cure white grub infestation in sugarcane, banana, cardamom, groundnut, potato, corn and turf grass. For more details, call Dr Nagesh at 080-2351198

### **'Be Eco-friendly in Aquaculture Practices'**

Aquaculture practices should follow eco-friendly methods in order to achieve sustainable development of the fisheries sector, said Fisheries Minister K Babu. He was speaking after inaugurating the Prof Alikunhi Chair for Sustainable Aquaculture Systems at the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), here on Saturday. "Depletion of the indigenous fish stock is a serious threat to the fish bio-diversity of the State. "Awareness programmes for farmers should be arranged in this regard. Also, appropriate farming technologies should be developed under the new Chair at the KUFOS to meet the challenges faced by the sector. We have to utilise indigenous fish varieties for diversified fish farming, and the seed production of the same is to be developed extensively," the Minister said. He also said that unscientific fishing and 'overfishing' should be curbed strictly.



### **Yellow delight: PAU variety breaks green monotony of watermelons**



Moving from green and heavy watermelons, Punjab this summer tried yellow watermelons. The fruit, however, still remained invisible at the majority of markets as farmers in few pockets grew exotic seeds supplied by a Taiwan company. For the last three years, the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, has been working on its own yellow melon variety which will take minimum two years more. Habitual of heavier, green watermelons, families in Punjab were a bit suspicious initially. Crispy flesh with more juice content finally got the go-ahead. “Some even understood that watermelons are still unripe with yellow skin but we had to convince them that they are fully ripe,” said Rattan Singh, a fruit retailer. “Family size is reducing and thus lighter melons are preferred. Yellow colour has also broken green monotony,” he added. One of the selected farmers in India by Know-You Seed company based in Taiwan, Harpreet Singh Gill from Haripur village said that the company distributed 50 kg seeds this season to farmers in India. While traditional green melons fetched Rs 2 to 3 per kg at the wholesale market, yellow ones fetched Rs 12 to 13 per kg. “The variety is called ‘Vishaala’. Although costly at Rs 60,000 per kg, they are profitable,” said Gill. He practised farming using mulching technique to reduce wastage and control weeds, and PAU scientists too visited his fields. “People were least interested in buying yellow melons. Then the company hired a team of salesmen in Patiala which went door to door and convinced people to taste once,” he said. Retailers too earn Rs 25 to 30 per kg as compared to Rs 8 to 10 from green melons. Prolonged rain earlier damaged watermelon crops and yield was reduced by 40%, which also prompted farmers to try yellow ones, said Lajwinder Singh Brar, director (horticulture), Punjab. Meanwhile, PAU is targeting economical seeds for farmers. Dr Rajinder Singh, from department of vegetable sciences, PAU, said, “For two years,

yellow melons were imported by retailers but have been grown here for the first time. They are of 1 to 5 kg but hybrid seeds are expensive. Our survey shows that this trend will increase.”“PAU’s variety seeds will be affordable and we will be educating villagers about it,” he said, adding that “no pathogens or diseases have been found till now which is a good sign”. While private companies are claiming total soluble sugar (TSS) levels in yellow melons at 15-16, PAU says around 12 TSS has been recorded. AVRDC, the World Vegetable Research Center in Taiwan, played a major role in developing yellow melons. They can be sown in winters too.

## THE HINDU BusinessLine

### **Sugar factories urged to focus on R&D**



The area under sugarcane cultivation in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana should be increased and all efforts be made to improve cane yields and recovery, according to N Prabhakar, Vice-President, Nava Bharat Ventures. Prabhakar, who is in charge of the sugar division of the diversified Nava Bharat Ventures, also called for the modernising of sugar mills in the region. He was elected President of the South Indian Sugarcane and Sugar Technologists' Association at the two-day annual convention of the body here on Saturday. “The realty boom in some parts of coastal districts triggered by the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh is causing concern, as it may eat into farm lands. Sugarcane and other crops may also suffer,” he said after his election. The mills should focus on increasing the area under cane cultivation and also mill efficiency. Right from ploughing to sowing, intercultural operation, water and fertiliser use efficiency, the field staff of the sugar mills should ensure constant monitoring, Prabhakar added. “Though the per acre yield in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is better than that in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana, there is scope for considerable improvement. New technologies and farm-level

mechanisation are necessary for achieving better productivity and quality.”There should be special focus on R&D in all the sugar factories, he added. There are 527 sugar plants in various parts of India of which 24 are in Andhra Pradesh and 10 in Telangana. Both States produce one million tonnes of sugar a year, while the national production is 24.5 million tonnes. Stating that there was huge potential to increase sugarcane cultivation, he said lack of mechanisation, employment guarantee scheme and less suitable agro climatic conditions were affecting the industry to a large extent. On sugar pricing, Prabhakar said the Rangarajan committee recommendations such as paying 70 per cent of sale price to the farmers should be adopted across the country. A uniform, rational pricing policy should be formulated, he added.

### **Single form for availing subsidies from fisheries board**

The ordeal of filling 42 different forms to avail subsidies from the National Fisheries Development Board will soon be passé, as beneficiaries can fill just a single form to avail it. The entire processing of the application will be completed within two weeks, claims Chief Executive MV Rao. The simplified form will soon replace the existing one. This is an effort to make delivery of services hassle-free and reach the beneficiaries and stakeholders, he told media persons on Sunday. Stakeholders include aquaculture farmers, seed and feed and processing entrepreneurs and women’s groups engaged in marketing endeavours throughout the country. The Board’s most popular scheme for fishermen-assistance, to purchase fish transport vehicles to both individuals and fishermen societies, has seen the distribution of 1,150 vehicles at an investment of Rs.11 crore, he explained. Another Rs. 250 crore has been spent on modernisation of 135 fish markets, 117 retail fish markets and on mobile markets in Mumbai, Chennai and Andhra Pradesh. Referring to the activity in the two States, he said funds have been sanctioned for establishing modern fish markets at Hyderabad and Nellore districts. The Board has spent Rs. 39 crore in Telanagana and Rs. 24 crore in AP under various schemes for fishermen and particularly for supplying fish transport vehicles. The Fisheries Board has also spent Rs. 109 crore on building of 32 fish anding centres and 21 fishing harbours development, he added.

### **Telangana farmers asked to look at redgram, jowar, castor**

KV KURMANATH

The farmers in Telangana have been advised to go for crops like redgram, jowar and castor with the rainfall deficit delaying sowings in several parts of the State. As a result of laggard weather conditions, sowings in paddy, maize, redgram and greengram have been

hit. Soya and cotton fared well. The latest figures available with the Agriculture Department have put the deficit at 53 per cent as the State received only 140 mm of rain in the kharif season as against the normal rainfall of 294 mm. Seven out of the nine districts (barring Hyderabad district) have recorded deficit rainfall in the range of 20 to 59 per cent. Nizamabad and Nalgonda are even worse with the deficits touching up to 99 per cent. "Due to the delay in the onset of monsoon and erratic rainfall received in June, the rain fed crops faced moisture stress in the state. Rains in the first two weeks of July improved the moisture levels," a senior government official told *Business Line*. While paddy sowings were completed only in 76 per cent of the normal (as-on-date) figure of 2.17 lakh hectares, soya acreage has gone up by 19 per cent. Cotton, which is normally grown in 15 lakh hectares in the State, is expected to reach the normal acreage. "Any delay in other crops because of late rains would help cotton. Farmers would prefer to go to cotton in times of delayed monsoons as they can expect at least some income. They will get at least one or two pickings where as other crops would completely fail them in such adverse conditions," P Sateesh Kumar, Executive Director of Nuziveedu Seeds, has said. The other significant crops that could reach the normal levels in the State include turmeric and sugar cane.

### **Being creative with the bamboo**

LN REVATHY

While most bamboo growers were voicing concerns about marketability of the bamboo at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) here recently, representatives of Uravu, a Kerala-based non-governmental organisation begged to differ on that count. Displaying some edible items prepared from bamboo shoot and bamboo handicraft products, Baburaj, President and Founder of Uravu, told *Business Line* that the organisation implemented programmes for sustainable development of rural areas and disadvantaged social groups. The edible items prepared with bamboo shoots on display included pickle, *laddoo*, bamboo rice, a powder mix, bamboo chocolate and candy. And the self-help group that showcased the stuff said that such items were a hit everywhere. "There is a huge market for products prepared from the bamboo shoot. Some of the items are seasonal though. The season for shoot procurement is between June and September. We process the shoots for preparation of pickles and other such items," said a member of a Thirukkaipetta Bamboo Shoot Processing Unit. While such delicacies are not available at the local shops here, the lady said that the group supplied the value-added products to Kudumbashree unit and aroma fresh organic shops which has four outlets including one at Bangalore. "We also participate in expos. Last month alone, we sold

products worth ₹3.50 crore at expos,” she said. Uravu, which is focused on end-to-end programmes for the development of the bamboo sector not only sells bamboo saplings but also organises awareness programmes to promote commercially viable bamboo. It also helps bamboo farmers prepare value-added products such as bamboo bags, pens, bangles, ear-studs, ornamental lamp-holders. The organisation, according to Baburaj, sells 20 lakh bamboo saplings every year. “We have a bamboo garden at Wayanad, where 40 different varieties of bamboo are grown.” The organisation also imparts training on bamboo crafts and processing for the benefit of small farmers and women. Besides local farmers, groups from Nigeria and Israel have also undergone training at the centre on bamboo cultivation and craft, Baburaj said.

## Business Standard

### New FAO norms come as a shot in the arm for rice exporters



The newly adopted global norms by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) for rice exports are likely to benefit India the most. The UN food standards body the Codex Alimentarius Commission earlier this week adopted new standards to protect consumer health worldwide, including setting out maximum acceptable levels of lead in infant formula (less than 0.01 mg/kg) and of arsenic (less than 0.2 mg/kg) in rice. Going by the Codex standard, the United States will not be able to export rice at all due to having more than the permissible level of arsenic. Indian trade sources say rice produced in the United States contains more than 0.3 mg/kg of arsenic as against less than 0.2 mg/kg in India. “Therefore, there will be a natural exit for the United States from the global rice market. This evacuated space may benefit India,” says M P Jindal, president of the All India Rice Exporters' Association (AIREA). Of the 40.7 million tonnes of rice trade estimated globally in 2014, the United States contributes 2.7 million tonnes, the country's total surplus out of over 7.5 million tonnes of annual output. “The United States was lobbying with the FAO for rejecting the implementation of the Codex norms. But, thankfully, the FAO accepted the norms which will eliminate the United States from the rice export market,” says Gurnam Arora, Joint Managing Director of Kohinoor Foods, one of the largest basmati rice exporters from India. Data compiled by

the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) showed India exported around 11 million tonnes of rice in the financial year 2013-14, of which the basmati variety constituted 3.76 million tonnes while non-basmati variety contributed the rest (7.13 million tonnes). Rice exports from India have steadily increased in the last three years. While shipments of basmati rice moved up marginally, exports of non-basmati rice almost doubled in the last three years to 7.13 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 3.99 million tonnes in 2011-12. In terms of realisations, too, India has witnessed an over 100 per cent increase in both basmati and non-basmati rice.

## RICE EXPORTS

Year	Basmati		Non-basmati	
	Quantity (mn tonnes)	Value (₹ cr)	Quantity (mn tonnes)	Value (₹ cr)
2011-12	3.18	15,449.61	3.99	8,659.10
2012-13	3.46	19,409.38	6.69	14,448.87
2013-14	3.76	29,299.96	7.13	17,749.97

Source: APEDA

The FAO was apprehensive about excessive content of arsenic in rice. Long-term exposure to arsenic can cause cancer and skin problems. It has also been associated with developmental effects, heart disease, diabetes, and damage to the nervous system and brain. Arsenic is naturally present in high levels in the groundwater and soil in many parts of the world. The element can enter the food chain when it is absorbed by crops from water and soil. Rice, in particular, can take up more arsenic than other crops and as a staple food for millions of people can contribute significantly to arsenic exposure, which is detrimental to human health. Arsenic contamination in rice is of particular concern in some Asian countries where paddy fields are irrigated with groundwater containing arsenic-rich sediments pumped from shallow tube wells. Improved irrigation and agricultural practices can help reduce arsenic contamination, for example growing crops in raised beds instead of flooded fields.

# DECCAN Chronicle

## Prices of vegetables on the rise



Vegetable prices continue to soar with even tomato prices have touched between Rs 50 – Rs 60/kg. Depleting groundwater, increase in labor and transportation costs and diversion of supplies from producing markets are the leading reasons for increasing vegetable prices say traders. While prices may ease by Rs 5 in the coming months for the vegetables, consumers must brace for price rise they add. However, onion prices have come down with supplies coming from Madhya Pradesh to the city. V.S. Soundaryarajan, trader at the Koyambedu wholesale market says, “Onion bags which were at Rs 1500 ten days back were prized at Rs 1200 on Saturday as the supplies from MP have reached. Further, onion prices would slide down by next month as second crop from Andhra Pradesh would arrive.” Tomatoes priced at Rs 60 for the past one week has given a scare to consumers, traders say that it will continue to be high. Attributing the price rise of tomato to diversion of supplies from producing markets to other states, the traders say, “Supplies from Karnataka have been diverted to Maharashtra and Bihar leading to reduced supplies here. There were 60 trucks of tomatoes coming to Koyambedu market everyday but now there are only 40.” Traders point out that government needs to step in and check that such diversions do not happen. Nearly sixty percent of tomatoes to the city come from the state of Karnataka. Traders suggest consumers to go for vegetables like drumstick, snake gourd, brinjal and green plantain which have maintained a below Rs 30 mark over the month. Vegetables from hilly areas including carrots, beetroots will continue to be costly.

## **THE TIMES OF INDIA**

### **Social forestry department to distribute saplings**

The social forestry department is trying to improve tree cover in the Marathwada region by distributing 40 lakh saplings free of charge this season. The region has been facing a severe water scarcity and has just 6% of its area under forest cover. The department wants to increase the region's green cover by 33%. "The region certainly warrants more attention than others in the state with larger and better forest areas. The department had submitted a long-term drought mitigation plan to the state government six months ago, which has now been sanctioned. The idea is to secure green cover over denuded lands within their carrying capacity," said the deputy director of the social forestry department in the Marathwada region, P Shrivastav. He said that the land, with little depth of soil, would support grass better than trees. "Keeping ecological constraints in mind, this

exercise strives to provide fodder in the vicinity of drought affected villages. The programme is initially going to be taking up in the worst-affected villages of Aurangabad, Jalna, Nanded and Beed. The approximate cost of the plan to be executed over 2014-19 would be Rs 52 crore," the official said. Shrivastav said each raindrop was crucial for the region. "The department is aiming at planting 40-45 lakh seedlings in the region this year," he said. Seedlings, too, are being distributed free of charge to sensitize people about expanding green cover in their neighbourhoods. The seedlings are available in Gulshan Nursery in Aurangabad and in Kannad, Gangapur, Sillod and Soyegaon talukas in rural areas. They are also available in the headquarters of each district as well as in most of the talukas," the official said. He urged all citizens, educational and industrial institutions, NGOs, media houses, universities and colleges, housing societies, central and state departments and their undertakings to order seedlings. The social forestry department, he said, would be pleased to extend its fullest cooperation to any planting activity undertaken anywhere in any part of the region. The following officers may be contacted: Aurangabad - Assistant director Satpute - 7507458277; Jalna & Hingoli - deputy director H Ingole - 7719983683; Latur - deputy director Kamble - 9422838059; Nanded - deputy director S Bidwai - 9422417899; Osmanabad - D Baraskar - 9423718528; Parbhani - deputy director, R Bhojee - 9922666400; Beed - deputy director N Kulkarni - 9730504818.

### **Tomato prices make housewives see red**

Housewives and restaurateurs are buying less tomatoes these days. It's not a new health fad, but it's the price that is keeping them away from the juicy red ingredient in their food. With a 100% increase in prices as compared to last month, tomatoes, that jumped from 30 per kg to 60 per kg, are keeping Goans away from it. "The price of tomatoes is very high. It's unfortunate that these cannot be stored for long as they are perishable items. Instead of buying half a kg, I now buy only a quarter of a kg, thereby reducing the intake." Swati Akerkar, a housewife said. Another housewife who had just bought some vegetables from the market said the government should step in and ensure that vendors



don't charge exorbitant rates. "Even Goa State Horticulture Corporation (GSHC) rates keep increasing by 2 or so daily these days. Keeping an eye on the rates has become a daily routine for us. I didn't buy tomatoes today, because the rates have shot through the roof," she said, adding that a few years ago vegetable prices didn't increase so frequently. Businesswoman Seema Kumar agreed and said, "Onions at least can be stored, but tomatoes can't. The price hike means that our middle-class lifestyle itself has become a luxury," she said. Approximately, around 150 tonnes of tomatoes are imported in Goa daily, with most of it coming from Belgaum in Karnataka. GSHCL imports around 25 to 30 tonnes a day, five days a week. Dayanand Amonkar, a wholesaler at the Panaji market cited shortage of supply as a reason for the rising costs. "Due to the delay in the monsoon, there has been less output (in Belgaum) and that has resulted in the steep rise in costs. Also, these are perishable items so we can't afford to store them for a long time," Amonkar said. He rejected the proposition that the entry tax imposed last year by the Goa government on non-Goa registration vehicles might have contributed to the rise in prices. "The entry tax is minimal when compared to the value of tomatoes being transported. Due to the rain, a portion of the produce being transported gets wasted, and that adds to the prices," he said. Restaurant owners are also facing a tough time. A common practice during the offseason is for restaurants to reduce the use of expensive ingredients in their dishes. Nagraj Kamat, owner of Shanbhag's Sanyog, in Panaji said he asks his cooks to reduce the use of certain vegetables from time to time in order to offset the hike in costs. "We normally use 10 kg of tomatoes per day, but since tomato prices have shot up, I've ordered my cooks to try and use just 8 kg," said Kamat, "If this is not done, we'd have to increase the prices on the menu." Small restaurant owners, like Kamat, often have to decide between raising prices and curbing profit margins, but what adds to the situation is the need to strike a balance between maintaining sales and counterbalancing the increase in food costs. An increase in prices of their dishes will keep people away. There's no good news as prices are slated to increase further. "After tomatoes, onions are next," claimed a vegetable vendor. Potatoes and onions have already increased marginally. Both were being sold for Rs 28 a kg last month and are now selling for Rs 30 and Rs 34

respectively. French beans, on the other hand, have become cheaper, dropping from Rs 100 to Rs 60 a kg.

### **Farmers threaten to launch agitation against new sugarcane Act**

Karnataka sugarcane growers association president Kurbur Shantakumar on Sunday threatened to lay siege to Raj Bhavan if the state government implements the newly amended law regarding paying the price for the sugarcane supplied by the farmers to the factories and said the new act is detrimental to the interests of the sugarcane growers. New act stipulates the companies to pay ex-factory sugarcane price discontinuing the old rule which make the factories to pay the ex-field price. This will make the farmers bear the transportation charges. Act says the factories will be asked to reimburse the transportation charges based the profits made by the respective factories. At a press meet here, he said governor should not give his consent to the act. He said the government has yielded to the influence of the sugar barons and brought in a new act which will exclusively benefit to the factory owners and not the farmers. He said the new act earmarks only 25 km radius as the reserve for the farmers to supply sugarcane and this will force the farmers to face hardships and lose their rights who are located outside this area. " Whole act is meant to protect the interests of the factory owners and not the farmers, " he alleged and said the farmers have to unite and fight this act. Shantakumar said the government which is worried about the profits of the factory owners is not bothered to disclose what if the factories declared that they are under loss ." Government and the people inside it have yielded to the influence of the sugar barons and mostly money has played a key role in bringing this act" he said. He said the farmers of the state will be organized and made to fight this anti-farmers law.