

ARANI,

Farmers want more warehouses for their produce

A.D.BALASUBRAMANIYAN



Sudhir Kumar, Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, New Delhi, M.P.Nirmala, Principal Secretary, Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection Department, inspecting paddy bags stored at TamilNadu Warehousing Corporation godown in Arani. Photo: Special Arrangement

Farmers who stored their produce in godowns constructed by cooperative department and availed the produce by taking loans from Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS) said that these warehouses enable them to store their produce during the harvest season. But they feel that the number of godowns are less and the demand does not meet the requirement.

The farmers aired their views in the presence of Sudhir Kumar, Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India. He was here to address the farmers, officials of different government agencies, bankers etc. on effective utilization of 'Negotiable Warehouse Receipts(NWR)'. NWR is a document given to people when they store their produce in the warehouses that are registered with the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA). These receipts can be pledged in banks anywhere in the nation.

Mr. Sudhirkumar, M.P.Nirmala, Principal Secretary, Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, Dinesh Rai, Chairman, WDRA, Ranvir Singh, Joint Secretary, WDRA, District Revenue Officer S.Valarmathi and officials from government agencies from Tamil Nadu inspected warehouse run by Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation here before they consulted with farmers and officials.

Mr.Sudhir Kumar insisted that NWR should clearly mention about the quality of produce stored for only then it will serve the purpose.

BIDAR,

'Ensure that farmers get loans in time'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Banks should ensure that farmers and other beneficiaries in the priority sector got loans in time, Ujjwal Kumar Ghosh, zilla panchayat Chief Executive Officer, has said. Releasing the annual credit plan of State Bank of India, the lead bank, he said on Monday that if farmers got loans in time, half of their problems would be solved. The bank had prepared an annual plan of Rs. 2,446.79 cr. for the district, which was 36 per cent higher than that of last year. Of this, Rs. 2,406 cr. was for priority sector and Rs. 40 cr. for the rest, he said.

MANGALORE,

'Five more farmers' societies to be promoted'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Jack of all trades: Farmers were growing jackfruit because of its commercial viability.

The Department of Horticulture will promote five more societies this financial year to popularise horticulture in Dakshina Kannada, said a senior official.

A society or a cluster is formed by bringing together farmers of nearby villages. In that cluster, a particular variety of horticultural crop is promoted. Each registered society gets Rs. 2 lakh from the government as a revolving fund. Farmers also get maintenance grant. The societies are being promoted under the Integrated Horticulture Development Scheme.

Deputy Director of Department of Horticulture, Dakshina Kannada, Yogesh H.R. told *The Hindu* that the government was promoting cultivation of pepper, cocoa, banana and jackfruit in 19 societies in the last two financial years.

Accordingly, pepper was being promoted on 389 hectares by involving 962 farmers under nine clusters or societies. Around 672 farmers are cultivating cocoa on 256 hectares under seven clusters. Banana was being cultivated by 85 farmers on 56 hectares under two clusters.

He said that 12 farmers had taken up cultivation of jackfruit on about five hectares. He said farmers were now showing interest to cultivate jackfruit — long ignored by them — because of its commercial viability.

The Deputy Director said that five societies would be promoted this year — one in each taluk. The officials were now enquiring if farmers were interested to cultivate any other crop than the ones which were already being cultivated by the clusters, Mr. Yogesh said. Each farmer can cultivate the identified crop on a maximum of two hectares. Each cluster should have at least 30 to 40 farmers, and the crop should be cultivated on minimum 25 hectares to 30 hectares of land.

He said that if any society wanted to set up any processing units of horticulture crops, the government would extend the societies 40 per cent subsidy (of the total project cost) under the National Horticulture Mission.

□ *Each society gets Rs. 2 lakh as a revolving fund; farmers also get maintenance grant*

□ *The government is promoting pepper, cocoa, banana and jackfruit in 19 societies*

MYSORE

Sangha seeks compensation for farmers as per provisions of Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha on Monday staged a demonstration outside the Deputy Commissioner's office here in support of their demands.

They demanded legislation in the State on the lines of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, enacted by the previous government at the Centre, and compensation for agricultural land acquired in the past as per the provisions of the Act.

It also sought proper rehabilitation of farmers whose land had been acquired.

In a memorandum, the sangha alleged that injustice had been done to farmers while fixing price for their lands and demanded an inquiry into the compensation fixed for lands acquired for industrial development.

Jobs sought

They also sought jobs for families whose farmlands had been acquired.

The activists, in a memorandum submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah through the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore, demanded extension of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) to 200 days and enhancement of daily wages under the scheme to Rs. 300 per day.

The sangha also opposed the State government's move to allow foreign direct investment in the retail sector besides condemning eviction of farmers doing agriculture in the government land. Such farmers must get title deeds, the memorandum said.

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- *Farmers have sought legislation on the lines of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013*
 - *Farmers demanded extension of employment under MNREGA to 200 days*
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SRIKAKULAM, June 3, 2014

Farmers look forward to loan waiver

STAFF REPORTER

More than two lakh farmers in the district are eagerly awaiting the loan waiver scheme promised by TDP president and Chief Minister-designate N. Chandrababu Naidu. It is estimated that Rs. 1,700-crore worth loans will have to be waived if the new CM keeps his word.

With banks having disbursed Rs. 1,100 crore to farmers during 2013-14, the accumulated loans stand at Rs. 600 crore.

Now, the banks have adopted a wait and watch policy before issuing fresh loans during the kharif season.

“We will take a decision on fresh loans after a formal announcement comes from the new government on loan waiver,” said a senior executive of a public sector bank.

Incidentally, farmers are worried that banks will not issue fresh loans as of now. In fact, most farmers are in deep financial distress, thanks to floods and Cyclone Phailin, which devastated crops in the district. “Farming activity has become a lottery, thanks to natural calamities. Moreover, it has become expensive with the escalation of labour charges and prices of inputs, particularly seeds and fertilizers. So, the new government should support us through the loan waiver scheme,” said B. Ramulu, a farmer from Narasannapeta.

For the new government, implementing the loan waiver scheme will be a Herculean task. However, it can be carried out in phases by going for long reschedule plans.

BJP Kisan Morcha national executive member Pudi Tirupati Rao said the government was bound to implement the scheme, as it was part of the TDP’s election manifesto.

“Farmers will not leave agricultural activity if the scheme is implemented properly. Besides instilling confidence among farmers, the scheme can help them overcome financial distress. So, we want to submit a detailed proposal to the government,” Mr. Rao added.

Farm debt is around Rs. 1,700 crore in Srikakulam district

LONDON

UK-MANGOES



MANGO IMPORT BAN: EU TO SEND HIGH-POWERED DELEGATION TO INDIA

A high-powered team of scientific experts from the European Commission will visit India in September to check measures put in place by the country in order to help lift the EU ban on the import of Indian mangoes. PTI

NELLORE,

Tender coconuts are the first choice for parched throats

STAFF REPORTER

'Nellorians prefer local variety as they are tastier'



Healthy sips: People consuming tender coconut water to get respite from the oppressive heat in Nellore on Monday.— Photo: K. Ravikumar

People thronged vendors selling tender coconuts in the city to relish the nutritious beverage as the maximum temperature touched 42 degree Celsius mark, coinciding with Rohini Karte, the hottest fortnight of the year.

With dog days expected to continue for another 10 days, the tender coconut vendors did a brisk business throughout the day as people made it a point to drink one or two tender coconuts to get instant relief from the scorching heat and also take home at least a couple of tender coconuts for their near and dear ones.

Unlike in other places, where the tender coconut imported from Karnataka and Kerala sells at a pace, Nellorians prefer the local variety, says Sk.Rafi, who sells the wholesome beverage at the Barkas centre, while talking to *The Hindu* .

Good returns

“There are not many takers for tender coconuts from other states. We source our tender coconuts from surrounding villages”, adds another vendor Seenaiyah while slicing the head of the tender coconut with expertise.

“The locally available tender coconuts are tastier and cheap too”, says a satisfied customer paying just Rs. 15 per tender coconut.

“We easily make up to Rs. 2,000 per day during summer. But our income dwindles to Rs. 1,000 per day during the rest of the year”, adds Rafi expecting that people will consume beverage with medicinal properties regularly in the future.

SALEM

Water storage level improves at Mettur

STAFF REPORTER

Brightening the prospect of opening the Stanley Reservoir in Mettur for irrigation by July, the water storage level has increased from 36.95 cusecs on May 26 to 39.95 cusecs on June 2.

The improvement in storage level by three feet in a week, constant inflow of about 2,500 cusecs due to downpour in catchment areas and the onset of South West Monsoon this week is expected to improve the storage level in the coming days.

Though it is customary to open the dam for irrigation on June 12 every year, given the current level of 39.95 feet, water would not be released on the date.

On Monday morning, the storage was 12.06 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) as against its capacity of 93.47 tmc ft.

The inflow was 3,510 cusecs and the outflow 500 cusecs.

Last year, during the same period the level was at 18.43 feet and the storage was 3.96 tmc ft.

THANJAVUR,

Collectors distribute grants, compensation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

District Collector N. Subbaiyan distributed benefits estimated at Rs. 2.46 lakh to 22 beneficiaries at the grievances day meeting held at the collectorate here on Monday.

He distributed benefits under Uzhavar Padukappu Thittam and marriage assistance schemes and so on. He received petitions related to house site pattas, ration cards, loan assistance, and so on. From his discretionary fund, the Collector gave a cheque for Rs. 15,000 to R. Priyadarshini of Perumandi village near Kumbakonam for purchasing sewing machine. P. Chandrasekar, District Revenue Officer, was present.

TIRUVARUR: New ration cards were given to 29 persons at the weekly public grievances day meeting held here on Monday.

S. Natarajan, Collector, who presided over the meeting, also handed over sewing machine to a woman and appointment orders for two people. A total of 276 petitions containing various grievances of the people were received by the authorities.

ARIYALUR: District Collector E. Saravanelraj, Collector, distributed benefits worth Rs. 22.73 lakh under various government schemes at the grievances day meeting here on Monday.

- *Sewing machines given away to 26 beneficiaries*
 - *Rs. 20.62 lakh given as subsidy under poultry scheme*
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MYSORE,

Training in natural farming

People's Legal Forum (PLF) has organised a one-day training program in Subhash Palekar model of natural farming on June 19 at Hadinaru village in Nanjangud taluk. Experts will provide the inputs to farmers on natural farming. Participation is restricted to 100 farmers. Those interested can register before June 16 with P. Baburaj by calling on 9448576297 or Mahesh on 8088246603. — Special Correspondent

Water level

MADURAI

The water level in Periyar dam stood at 113.80 feet on Monday with an inflow of 158 cusecs and a discharge of 200 cusecs. The level in Vaigai dam was 32.02 feet with no inflow and a discharge of 40 cusecs.

The combined storage in Periyar credit was 1,351 mcft. Rainfall recorded during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Monday (in mm) is as follows: Periyar-18.2, Thekkady - 1.2, Gudaloor - 7, Shanmuganadhi - 6, Madurai - 14, Kallandhiri - 5, Chittampatti - 13, Melur - 18.8, Tirumangalam - 21, Idiyapatti - 30 and Viraganoor recorded 3 mm of rainfall, PWD officials here said.

Mettur

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 40.08 feet on Monday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 3,274 cusecs and the discharge, 500 cusecs. — Special Correspondent

TIRUNELVELI

The water level in the Papanasam dam on Monday stood at 49.15 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 32.99 cusecs and 204.75 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam. The level in the Manimuthar dam stood at 67.29 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 3 cusecs and 45 cusecs of water was discharged.

Chennai

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Tuesday, Jun 3

Max Min

35° | 28°

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 05:41

Humidity: 38

Sunset: 06:31

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1001

Tomorrow's Forecast



Sunny

Wednesday, Jun 4

Max Min

33° | 26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday

Jun 5



39° | 28°

Partly Cloudy

Friday

Jun 6



38° | 28°

Partly Cloudy

Saturday

Jun 7



40° | 29°

Sunny

Sunday

Jun 8



40° | 28°

Sunny

Monday

Jun 9



37° | 28°

Sunny

Airport Weather

Ahmedabad

Delhi

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 05:23

Humidity: 62 Sunset: 07:15

Wind: normal Barometer: 1004



Cotton rules flat on limited buying

Rajkot,

COTTON FLAT ON LIMITED BUYING

Cotton prices ruled unchanged on limited buying by domestic mills. *Kapas or raw cotton* also traded flat as ginning activity has slowed down. Gujarat Sankar-6 best quality was traded at Rs. 40,500-42,000 for a candy of 356 kg. Average cotton price was Rs. 38,000-39,000 and at the lower end, it was quoted at Rs. 32,000-35,000. About 26,000-27,000 bales of cotton arrived in Gujarat and 75,000 bales across the country. Traders said enquiries were limited and only domestic mills were buying. There was no enquiries from exporters. *Kapas* was traded for Rs. 800-970 for a maund of 20 kg and gin delivery *kapas* was quoted at Rs. 1,000-1,030 a maund. Our Correspondent

Pepper continues to rule steady

Kochi,

Pepper markets continued to rule steady on limited activities on Monday, while no trading was reported from both the national and regional exchanges. Sellers felt the market would become buoyant in the coming days, market sources told *Business Line*. According to them, the pepper available in the market now is from Karnataka sellers and importers. They were offering at Rs. 695 a kg. Spot prices remained unchanged at Rs. 68,600 (ungarbled) and Rs. 70,600 (garbled) a quintal on limited activities. Indian export prices also stayed steady at \$12,200 a tonne (c&f) for Europe and \$12,450 a tonne (c&f) for the US and continued to remain totally out priced. GK Nair

Textile body demands cotton development board

Coimbatore,

The Southern India Mills Association (SIMA), the apex body of textile mills in the South, wants a Cotton Development Board on the lines of the Coffee Board.

SIMA Chairman T Rajkumar told media persons that India has the potential to produce 1,000 lakh bales (170 kg each) of cotton by 2020-2023.

To raise output

The formation of a Cotton Development Board would increase the output of the natural fibre, said Rajkumar.

He said cotton production has been good in the last two years and has been hovering around 370-375 lakh bales.

He said that the marginal decline in cotton prices in the domestic market was mainly due to the drop in availability of quality fibre.

“Quality cotton is being exported,” Rajkumar said. Asked if SIMA was considering a reduction in the cotton yarn price, (a demand from the knitwear exporting community) he said: “Yarn prices have remained stable since February.”

Declining sales at Kochi too

Kochi

Kochi tea auction continued to witness a declining trend with 22 per cent of the offerings going unsold due to lack of bid or low bid.

However, the drop in price was less for tea which came under the selection of the major blenders, the auctioneers Forbes, Ewart & Figgis said.

In sale no 22, the quantity on offer in the CTC dust category was 13,82,500 kg. The market opened Rs. 3-5 lower. As the sale progressed, the decline in prices was in the range of Rs. 5-10 and sometimes more.

Exports

The quantity on offer in orthodox grades was 9,000 kg. The market was lower with many withdrawals.

A small quantity of orthodox dust was absorbed by exporters and upcountry buyers.

In the best CTC dusts, PD varieties quoted Rs. 95/117, RD grades ruled at Rs. 100/122, SRD fetched Rs. 112/142 and SFD at Rs. 111/154.

The quantity on offer in orthodox leaf grades was 1,03,000 kg. The market for select best Highgrown Broken and Whole Leaf was steady to firm.

Others were irregular and tended to ease. CIS countries continued to be the mainstay in the market, while Tunisian buyers operated at lower levels.

The demand for CTC grades was good and the quantity on offer was 107,000 kg.

The market for Clean Black Well-Made teas, coupled with useful liquors, were fully firm to sometimes dearer. Others were irregular and declined in value.

In dust category, Injipara (Prm) RD fetched the best price of Rs. 157, followed by Monica SFD at Rs. 156.

In the leaf varieties, Chamraj Green FOP (S) quoted the best prices of Rs. 299, followed by Pascoes Woodlands Hyson Green Tea at Rs. 285.

Cardamom loses flavour on slack demand

Kochi,

The downtrend in the cardamom market continued on slack demand, despite squeeze in supply at the auctions last week.

Individual auction average prices, which were ruling above Rs. 800 a kg a fortnight ago, fell to below Rs. 720 a kg last Thursday.

Good summer showers for over a week in the growing areas, coupled with indications of a timely onset of South-West monsoon this week, have changed the market sentiment, sources told *Business Line* .

Buyers in the market were not aggressive, trade sources in Kumily said. Everybody is waiting for the new crop which is expected to trickle in by the end of this month.

According to sources, demand may pick up once the pipelines in the North Indian markets become empty. Exporters are not active and they are also waiting for the new crop.

At the KCPMC auction on Sunday, arrivals dropped to 46.4 tonnes from 53.4 tonnes the previous week and almost the entire quantity was sold out, PC Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, Kumily, said.

The maximum price was Rs. 1,001/kg and the minimum Rs. 411/kg. Auction average fell to Rs. 721.73 from Rs. 765.67 on last Sunday, he said.

38% Coonoor tea remains unsold

Coonoor,

Due to inadequate demand, as much as 38 per cent of the 12.93-lakh kg offered at Sale No: 22 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auction worth Rs. 3.65 crore, remained unsold despite shedding Rs. 4 a kg.

Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped the CTC market when Vora Sons bought it at Rs. 186 a kg. Vigneshwar Estate got Rs. 184, Crosshill Estate Rs. 178, Hittakkal Estate Rs. 174 and Deepika Supreme Rs. 173.

In all, 79 marks got Rs. 125 and more per kg.

Among orthodox teas, Kodanad topped at Rs. 213 a kg, followed by

Kairbetta at Rs. 211, Havukal Rs. 191, Prammas Rs. 185, Glendale Rs. 183 and Highfield Estate Rs. 182. In all, 27 marks got Rs. 125 and more per kg.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids in the range of Rs. 50-54 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs. 100-160 for brighter liquoring sorts.

They were in the range of Rs. 60-62 for plain dusts and Rs. 120-180 for brighter liquoring dusts.

Export purchase was less and limited to plainer less-priced teas. Some teas were bought for Pakistan in the wide range of Rs. 55-78 a kg.

Medium and plainer CTC leaf eased Rs. 2-3 and still there were withdrawals. Most CTC plainer dusts lost up to Rs. 4 and still there were heavy withdrawals.

Fears over Govt policies drag sugar futures

Mumbai,

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market were mixed, while the futures were down by Rs. 9-25 a quintal for June and July contracts, on fears the new government will adopt a harsh policy for distribution of essential commodities by removing middlemen.

Spot market prices fell by Rs. 28 a quintal on the higher side, while it increased by Rs. 36 and Rs. 8 for S and M grades respectively. Naka and mill tender rates were steady with usual volumes. But with the start of the new month, the sentiment remained positive.

As supply is ample on the back of continuous selling by producers amid normal demand, prices are almost steady, said a Vashi-based wholesale dealer

Arrivals at Vashi market were 59-60 truckloads and local offtake 57-58 loads. On Saturday evening, 16- 17 mills offered tenders and sold 48,000-50,000 bags at Rs. 2,880-2,970 (Rs. 2,880- 2,970) for S-grade and Rs. 2,970-3,100 (Rs. 2,970-3,100) for the M-grade. Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were (per quintal): S-grade Rs. 3,076-3,172 (Rs. 3,000-3,176) and M-grade Rs. 3,180-3,322 (Rs. 3,172-3,350). Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs. 2,980-3,050 (Rs. 2,980-3,050) and M-grade Rs. 3,080-3,190 (Rs. 3,080-3,190).

Dry weather to sap TN sugar production

Chennai,

Sugar industry in Tamil Nadu continues to see a dip in production due to dry weather and low recovery.

Going by sugarcane planting data, the dip is likely to sustain in the coming 2014-15 (October-September) season, with sugar production likely to hit a low of about one-third of the installed production capacity.

This will make it three years in a row that the output in Tamil Nadu has dropped. In contrast, the country's sugar output is seen adequate.

Drop in production

The concern, according to sugar mill representatives, is that the drop in State's production against overall growth in major producing areas such as Maharashtra and Karnataka, will mean sugar prices will continue to rule low on ample supply even as volumes drop. According to industry estimates, as of April, sugar mills in the State crushed about 121 lakh tonnes of sugarcane for the 2013-14 season, with an estimated sugar recovery of 8.97 per cent against last year's 167 lakh tonnes when recovery was higher at 9.17 per cent.

Sugar production is down by about 37 per cent at 9.66 lakh tonnes as of April against 15.32 lakh tonnes in the previous season.

Sugarcane planting is also lagging. As of April, sugarcane acreage for the coming crushing season, is estimated at about 3.25 lakh acres against 4.28 lakh acres last season.

In the current season, sugar output in Tamil Nadu could be around 13.5 lakh tonnes, with the coming season seeing a further drop to about 11 lakh tonnes. This is about one-third of the established milling capacity in the State.

Rice market to be range-bound

Karnal,

The rice market may see only need-based buying and prices may rule with marginal fluctuations in the coming days, according to traders. In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) dropped Rs. 200 and was sold at Rs. 9,000 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) was quoted at Rs. 7,500 a quintal, down Rs. 300. Pure Basmati (raw) eased by Rs. 150 and was quoted at Rs. 12,150 a quintal. Duplicate basmati (steam) was sold at Rs. 7,000 a quintal, down Rs. 200. Pusa-1121 (second wand) was sold at Rs. 7,100, Tibar at Rs. 6,000, and Dubar at Rs. 5,200 a quintal. In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (steam) was down Rs. 100 and was sold at Rs. 4,600, while Sharbati (sela) was quoted at Rs. 4,200 a quintal, down Rs. 50. Our Correspondent

Rubber prices may head south

Kottayam,

Rubber prices dropped further on Monday following a fall in domestic and global futures markets. The slide kept sentiments under pressure during late trading hours.

According to sources, there were no genuine buyers even at lower levels and the market might seek further lows in the days ahead.

Sheet rubber weakened to Rs. 145 (147) a kg, according to the Rubber Board. The grade declined to Rs. 142 (144), as quoted by the dealers.

Futures drop

June futures dropped to Rs. 144 (146.05), July to Rs. 142.30 (144.38), August to Rs. 140.95 (142.01), September to Rs. 139.01 (140.64) and October to Rs. 139.61 (142.70) a kg on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE). RSS 3 (spot) slipped to Rs. 119.42 (121.96) a kg in Bangkok. June futures declined to ¥181.00 (Rs. 104.95) from ¥185.9 per kg in the day session, but recovered to ¥183.5 (Rs. 106.40) per kg in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates (Rs. /kg): RSS-4: 145 (147); RSS-5: 143 (144); ungraded: 137 (139); ISNR 20:137 (138); and latex 60%: 120 (120).

Soya sluggish on weak global cues

Indore,

A sluggish trend continued in soya oil on weak global cues and physical demand. Soya refined oil was quoted at Rs. 640-45 for 10 kg (Rs. 665-70 last week) in the local mandis on Monday, while soya solvent declined to Rs. 610-12 (Rs. 625-28 last week).

Compared with last week, soya oil is ruling Rs. 20-25 lower. Weak demand and decline in prices of imported oil due to the strengthening of the rupee, have resulted in the sluggish trend in soya oil. In futures also, soya oil was trading low on weak buying support. Soyabean witnessed a sluggish trend on weak buying and demand with prices in mandis across Madhya Pradesh quoting at Rs. 4,400 a quintal (Rs. 4,250-4,500 a quintal last week). In the Indore mandis, soyabean ruled at Rs. 4,200-4,350 a quintal. Our

Correspondent

Quality, lower sales drag turmeric

Erode,

Turmeric prices continued to rule low even as arrivals and sales were limited on Monday. Besides, the quality of the produce was also poor. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger turmeric was sold at Rs. 4,691 to Rs. 6,395 a quintal, the root variety Rs. 3,899-6,015. The finger turmeric was sold at Rs. 6,019-7,629, the root variety Rs. 5,504-6,394. Of the 356 bags that arrived, 110 bags were sold. At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger turmeric fetched Rs. 5,616-6,459, the root variety Rs. 5,116-5,955. Out of the 222 bags put up for sale, 144 bags found takers. Our Correspondent

Business Standard

NCDEX raises transaction charges for agri commodities

National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange ([NCDEX](#)) has increased transactions charges for [agricultural commodities](#), effective this month.

In February, the charges were reduced significantly. For agricultural commodities, charges stood at Rs 1.95/Rs 1 lakh for the first Rs 200-crore volumes, and Rs 1.3/Rs 1 lakh for incremental average daily volumes above Rs 200 crore. Now, the charges have been raised to Rs 3/Rs 1 lakh for volumes of up to Rs 100 crore; for additional volumes, the charge is Rs 2/Rs 1 lakh.

For metals, energy products and [palm oil](#), the charges of 40 paise/Rs 1 lakh for a volume of up to Rs 50 crore and 30 paise for volumes exceeding Rs 50 crore have been maintained, as NCDEX is yet to penetrate the market in these segments, for which [Multi Commodity Exchange](#) is the market leader.

The exchange has also announced charges for off-market, or client negotiated, deals for traders using 'Comtrack' services, which are akin to depository services. Though it is similar to a warehouse service, goods deposited under Comtrack can later be sold on the NCDEX futures platform if an opportunity arises; else, the trader can sell the goods off the market.

NCDEX has announced effective June 1, it will levy a 0.1 per cent charge (for both buyers and sellers) for "client-negotiated trades" (off-market transactions). The charge will be levied on the last available spot price on the day the transaction is effected. The charge will be applicable on transactions carried out on holidays, too, but as these deals aren't reported on the exchange platform, the charge would be similar to a warehousing or depository charge.

In addition to regular warehousing charges, these charges, too, will be recovered from clients by COMTRAK Participants.

Guchi mushroom prices jump on higher gleaning

It has been a good year for the wild [guchi mushroom](#) found in [Himachal Pradesh](#), finders say. The price of the grey mushroom has risen by about Rs 2,000 from last year to Rs 11,000 a kg.

The last of the guchi mushroom is still entering the markets of the hill state, including the capital Shimla's. Once the rare mushroom leaves the state, its price shoots up due to strong demand from top hotels in metropolitan cities. Besides its exotic taste, experts say the mushroom is rich in protein and other nutrients.

The guchi mushroom cannot be grown. It sprouts naturally in the wild. It is found in moist, shady forest floors, orchards, yards and meadows in the mid hills of the state. Guchi finders set out in late March with sling bags, looking for this wild mushroom.

Some remain away for weeks and return with their bags full. The last of the wild guchi can be found at the end of May.

The mushrooms are strung to threads and dried for a few days before being sold. Guchi is often bought by buyers directly from farmers and pickers in villages to sell at [higher prices](#) in markets across the state and other parts of the country.

Though this mushroom variety has been around for ages, the state government has no statistics on how much of it is found and sold every year, and at what value. Locals say if there are frequent thunderstorms, guchi sprouts from the ground aplenty. In Himachal, the mushroom is found in the hills of Shimla, Kinnaur, Kullu, Sirmaur and Chamba districts, among other places, and also in Jammu & Kashmir.

Chana down 1.5% on weak demand



[Chana](#) prices dropped 1.50% to Rs 2,895 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators trimmed positions amid weak domestic demand against higher supplies from producing regions.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for delivery in July fell Rs 44, or 1.50%, to Rs 2,895 per quintal with an open interest of 1,08,940 lots.

The commodity for delivery in June lost Rs 42, or 1.46%, to Rs 2,826 per quintal in 88,400 lots.

Market analysts said besides subdued demand in the spot market, higher supplies from producing regions pulled down chana prices at futures trade.

India's coffee exports up 9% in Jan-May



India's [coffee exports](#) increased by 9.32% in value terms at Rs 2,567 crore during the January-May period this year on better realisation in view of firm global prices, according to the Coffee Board.

Coffee shipments from India, the world's fifth biggest exporter, stood at Rs 2,347.92 crore in the corresponding period last year.

In volume terms, however, the shipments fell marginally to 1,59,275 tonnes in January-May of 2014 from 1,59,295 tonnes in the year-ago period.

"Because of firm global price trend, we got average export realisation of Rs 1,61,160 per tonne. This is 9% higher than Rs 1,47,394 per tonne earned in the year-ago period," a senior Board official said.

Global coffee prices have risen by more than 80% during the period - after having dipped sharply last year - on expectation of production fall in the world's largest coffee producer

Brazil, the official added.

According to the Board's latest data, the country exported 43,465 tonnes of Arabica coffee and 73,645 tonnes of Robusta coffee during the January-May of this year.

The Arabica shipments rose by 31% from 33,220 tonnes, while Robusta exports dropped by 15% from 86,736 tonnes in the said period.

The shipment of instant coffee rose significantly by 91% to 18,875 tonnes in January-May of this year as against 9,850 tonnes in the year-ago.

Total domestic output is expected to be in line with the Board's estimate of 3,11,500 tonnes for 2013-14 crop year (October-September), down by 2.1% from 3,18,200 tonnes produced in 2012-13.

India exports coffee largely to Italy, Germany, Belgium, Jordan, Turkey and Russia, among others.

Cardamom down 1.1% on profit-booking



[Cardamom](#) futures fell 1.17% to Rs 910 per kg in futures trading today after speculators booked profits at prevailing levels amid weak demand in the spot market.

Adequate stocks position in the physical market on increased arrivals from producing belts also put pressure on cardamom prices.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in July fell by Rs 10.80, or 1.17%, to Rs 910 per kg in a business turnover of 97 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in June traded lower by Rs 7.50, or 0.82%, to Rs 905 per kg in 42 lots.

Market analysts said besides profit-taking by speculators at existing level, fall in demand in the spot markets mainly influenced cardamom prices at futures trade.

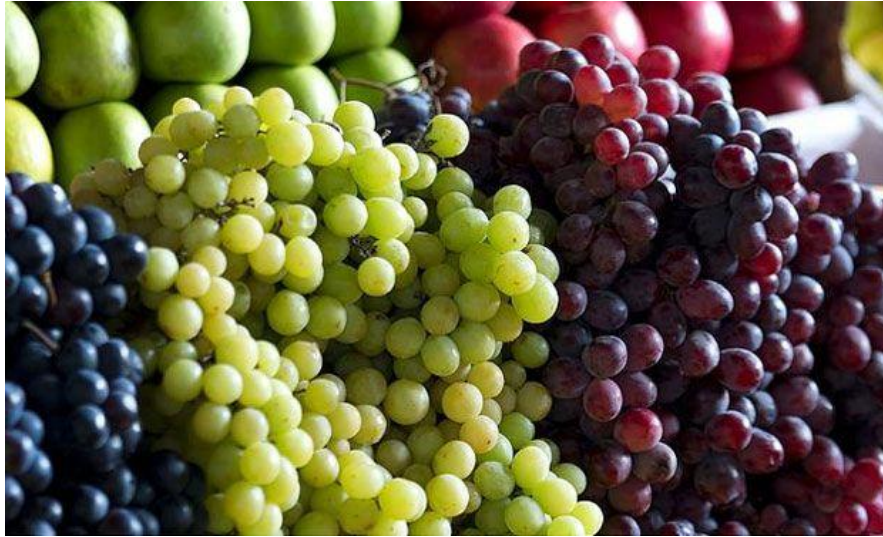
THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Truck rentals rise 5% in May on wheat harvest, fruit & vegetable arrivals

Truck rentals on key routes recovered in May by 4-5% after a fall in April 2014 on the back of untimely rainfall in few states, including Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. A monthly alert on the sector by the Indian Foundation of Transport Research & Training (IFTRT) on Monday, truck rentals on routes including Delhi-Nagpur-Delhi, Delhi-Kolkata-Delhi, Delhi-Guwhati-Delhi and a few others showed a rise of 5% in the month. The report cites wheat harvesting, nearly 15%-20% jump in summer fruit & vegetable arrivals, consequent rise in rural spending, increase in election expenditure and shrinking truck fleet on National Permit routes as the reason for the improvement in truck rentals in the month. The report adds that while dispatches of FMCG, consumer durables, general merchandise and housing construction material improved in tier-I and tier-II cities during the month.

DECCAN Chronicle

Grape-enriched diet could help protect you from getting blind



Researchers have said that a grape enriched diet could help protect your retina's structure and function, preventing it from deterioration which can cause blindness.

The University of Miami, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute investigated if a diet supplemented with grapes could protect the photoreceptors in mice with retinal degeneration, where the mice were either fed a grape-supplemented diet corresponding to 3 servings of grapes per day for humans or one of two control diets.

The results showed that retinal function was significantly protected in the mice consuming the grape-enriched diet, exhibiting thicker retinas and the consumption also protected retinal function in an oxidative stress model of macular degeneration.

Further analysis revealed that the grape diet resulted in lower levels of inflammatory proteins and higher amounts of protective proteins in the retinas.

Dr. Abigail Hackam, lead investigator of the study said that the grape-enriched diet provided substantial protection of retinal function and it appears that grapes may work in multiple ways to promote eye health from signaling changes at the cellular level to directly countering oxidative stress.

The study was presented at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology conference in Orlando, Florida.

Karnataka government to raise Almatti dam height



The Karnataka government, which is keen on completing the ongoing projects in the Krishna and Cauvery basins, has decided to seek a legal opinion on whether it can issue a gazette.

Speaking to reporters here on Monday, water resources minister, M.B. Patil said that the government was weighing its options and would consult counsel Fali Nariman before taking a call on the issue.

Recalling that the government had issued a gazette notification on Cauvery basin projects even while a Special Leave Petition was still pending in the SC, he said it would make

sure the state's interests were not compromised if took similar action with these projects. "We will act only after getting a green signal from Mr Nariman," he added.

As for the creation of Telangana, Mr Patil said he did not think it would result in one more inter-state water dispute for Karnataka. "The Supreme Court has already given its verdict on sharing of the Krishna river waters. Now Andhra Pradesh's share will be divided between Telangana and Seemandhra. Karnataka will have nothing to do with that. But should the two states' claims affect its interests, the state will react,' he asserted.

The minister was apprehensive about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet project of linking the Ganga and Cauvery rivers. "I am not an expert on the issue. But I have gone through various reports which say that while in some places, it could be helpful, in others it could result in ecological disaster. We need to be careful when implementing the project," he warned, noting that it will have to take into account the various inter-state river water sharing disputes as well.

"The Centre should take care to ensure that each state's right over the water is protected. The project should not be taken up without consulting all the states," he insisted.

"We are meanwhile trying to make optimum use of water from the Krishna basin by completing pending work and modernising and desilting existing canals. We are using technology provided by a foregin company on trial basis to reduce silting in one reservoir each of the Krishna and Cauvery basins. If the pilot project is successful, it will help improve storage in the reservoirs," the minister said.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Take urgent step for payment of dues to sugarcane farmers: HC

Allahabad High Court today asked the Uttar Pradesh government to take "immediate" action for ensuring payment of dues, running into thousands of crores, to sugarcane farmers in the state.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Dilip Gupta, passing the order on a petition also asked the state government to "persuade" sugar mill owners for payment of dues to farmers at the earliest and ordered that the state's Cane Commissioner shall be held accountable in the event of "breach of the court order".

The Public Interest Litigation was filed by Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Sangathan.

It was alleged in the PIL that several farmers in the state have been driven to suicide as the process of recovery of loans given to sugarcane growers was being initiated, even though the cultivators were unable to get their dues from the mill-owners who were allegedly "hand-in-glove" with government officials.

Wheat: Problem of plenty in MP, Rajasthan



NEW DELHI: Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh seem to be facing a problem of plenty this year. As both the states have announced bonus of Rs 150 per quintal over minimum support price (MSP) of wheat, farmers from the neighbouring districts of Punjab and Haryana are selling their produce in these two states.

Wheat procurement in Rajasthan in the current marketing season has crossed 1.8 million tonne while on an average the procurement is around a million tonnes. In Madhya Pradesh, over seven million tonnes of wheat has been purchased against 6.3 million tonnes in the previous financial year.

The bonus announced is over the MSP of Rs 1,400 per quintal.

Government officials said in Rajasthan some of the recently procured grains are being kept in temporary storage since the warehousing capacity is inadequate. "There are some reports that some of the grains kept in open have also got wet. We are yet to verify the reports. This is a serious issue. The states need to access their capacity to store before they take any extra step to push procurement.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Guarseed slips in futures trade on weak export demand

[Guarseed](#) prices tumbled by Rs 190 to Rs 5,050 per [quintal](#) as [exportdemand](#) declined amid higher [production](#) estimates.

Besides, higher supplies in the market also weighed on the prices.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), guarseed prices for the current contract in June plunged Rs 190, or 3.63 per cent, to Rs 5,050 per quintal, with an [open interest](#) of 15,625 lots.

Similarly, July contracts also plummeted by Rs 190, or 3.54 per cent, to Rs 5,170 per quintal, depicting an open interest of 11,334 lots.

Marketmen said in addition to weak export demand, increased supplies on higher production estimates, mainly weighed on prices.