

Drought forces farmers to sell cattle, says KJK

COIMBATORE, March 3, 2014 0 - Prevailing drought conditions and the resultant fodder scarcity were forcing farmers to sell their cattle to traders in Kerala for the purpose of meat, said G.K. Nagaraj, State President of Kongu Nadu Jananayaka Katchi on Thursday.

In a statement, Mr.Nagaraj said that dry spell has begun in Coimbatore region and the drought conditions have started resulting in fodder scarcity and cattle feed prices going up. This has resulted in people selling their cattle to merchants in Kerala for slaughtering them to meet the demand for meat.

Dwindling population

'Glaring example is the dwindling population of cattle in Kalapatty.

Dairy farmers have begun selling their cattle. They have also begun to take up jobs as daily wage workers.

Failure to properly maintain water bodies and depleting groundwater table are some of the causes for this condition. As a result cattle feed that used to be sold at Rs 5 is now priced at 25.

In addition to scarcity of fodder and feed, acute drinking water crisis would also loom large during summer. These will in turn lead to milk shortage also.

Appeal

The state president has, therefore, appealed to the Government to extend tax concessions, free distribution of fodder and incentives to dairy farmers.

He also called for expediting the distribution of relief for those who had lost their cattle to foot and mouth disease.

Dry spell has resulted in fodder scarcity, increased cattle feed prices

225 traditional crops on display at fair

NAMAKKAL, March 3, 2014 - As many as 225 traditional crops, medicinal plants, pulses, millets and fruits were on display in a one-day exhibition of indigenous crops - that was organised by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at its premises in Namakkal, recently. It included 40 new varieties that were yet to be documented as native varieties of this district. The exhibits were displayed by 20 farmers and farmers clubs.

Highlight of the exhibition was the 30 crop varieties and 19 medicinal plants that were displayed by M. Malliga (43) of Karatupalayam village in Paramathi Velur Taluk. She created awareness among the farmers of her place and nearby villages on the event on the event and collectively displayed them on behalf of them.

She displayed a majority of the 40 yet to be documented endangered local varieties.

Some of the crops in her collection were sweet potato, papaya, lablab, pulichai, bottle gourd, cucumber, ash gourd, bitter gourd, snake gourd, brinjal, horse gram, cesamom and mochai.

This was in addition to the local varieties of millets and other crops from her locality.

S. Padminamma (52), of Marakadu near Mohanur, displayed yet to be documented local new local varieties of groundnut, cluster bean **pillow ash gourd, Vaiyan kambu, perennial cowpea, peranial lablab and pummelo among her collection of many other indigenous crops.**

Farmer R. Selvaraj (54) of Mannathi near Tiruchengode displayed small variety of tomato with less flesh, small locules and less sour taste.

"Members of the Valvilori Goat Rears Club from Kolli Hills exhibited 32 different varieties of juicy fruits from Kolli Hills.

They included yet to be documented fruits such as three types of jack fruit, namaran hill banana, two varieties of custard apple and twisted tamarind", B. Mohan, Head of the KVK, said.

The exhibition also showcased seven traditional types of seed storage method that were followed by the farmers of this region.

M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation will organise a similar expo on March 6 with focus on indigenous fruits and millets from Kolli Hills.

Rs. 2,000-crore relief for rain-hit farmers, says Chouhan

BHOPAL, March 3, 2014 - *'Loss of crops, deaths in heavy rains, a national calamity'*

Calling the loss of crops and deaths in this week's torrential rain and hailstorm a national calamity, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Chouhan has said that Rs. 2,000 crore would be set aside for relief in the Vote-on-Account in the Vidhan Sabha starting on Monday.

Forty-nine of the State's 51 districts have witnessed hailstorm and heavy rains due to a cyclonic system over Gujarat and Malwa this week. This is the heaviest February rain the State has seen since 1926.

Official figures show 9,584 villages have lost crops. The State is likely to lose its second position in wheat production. Five people and 50 head of cattle have lost their lives.

Withhold permission for field trials of GM crops: JD(U)

BANGALORE, March 3, 2014 - The Janata Dal (United) has taken exception to Union Minister for Environment and Forests M. Veerappa Moily giving permission for field trials of genetically modified (GM) crops in a "hurry".

JD(U) State general secretary G.K.C. Reddy, accompanied by freedom fighter H.S.

Doreswamy, told presspersons here on Saturday that Mr. Moily had reversed the earlier policies by giving permission for field trials of GM crops, which his predecessor Jayanthi Natarajan had rejected.

They said this was against the interests of farmers of the country.

'Not consulted'

These trials were being pushed through when elections were just around the corner, without consulting experts and farmers, said Mr. Reddy, arguing that this would result in farmers becoming "slaves" to foreign companies for seeds.

Mr. Doreswamy regretted that the focus of agriculture in the country was being dictated by international agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Agricultural universities, which ought to work for the welfare of the poorest farmers of this country, too were more attuned to multinational companies, he said.

They demanded that the permission for trials be withheld and the next government be allowed to take a decision after wider consultations.

Unseasonal rains damage crops

KARIMNAGAR, March 3, 2014 - Mango groves in over 16,000 hectares affected

Unseasonal rains and hailstorms caused extensive damage to the farming community in various parts of Karimnagar district since the last two days.

The incessant rains which wreaked havoc during the kharif season are also leaving their impact during the rabi season. Following the abundant availability of water, farmers have taken up cultivation extensively. But, the rains shattered their dreams. The mango groves were damaged in over 16,000 hectares, mostly in the Jagitial sub-division. Similarly, rains damaged maize, til, red gram, green gram and other crops. Vegetable crops were also damaged. The district recorded an average of 3.8 mm rainfall. Husnabad mandal received 36.2 mm followed by Koheda and Bheemadevarapalli mandals - 25.2 mm rainfall respectively.

Preliminary reports by the authorities said that the crops might have been damaged in over 20,000 hectares in entire district. **Nalgonda Staff Reporter adds:** Parts of Nalgonda district, particularly Bhongir and Alair witnessed drizzles on Sunday. Yadagirigutta, Bibinagar, Bhongir were among the towns that witnessed rains on Sunday. The same areas also experienced rainfall on Saturday as well. However, no incident of crop damage was reported at any place under these two Assembly constituencies as rainfall was not so intense. District headquarters Nalgonda also remained cloudy during Saturday and Sunday evenings. **Sangareddy Staff Reporter writes:** Heavy rainfall was recorded at the district headquarters on Sunday. Hailstorm was reported at some places and low lying areas were inundated. Heavy crop loss was reported. On Friday night, heavy rainfall was reported at Sangareddy, Zaheerabad, Narayanahed, Siddipet, Kalher, Chegunta and other areas. Crops like maize, sunflower and wheat were damaged.

Grass cutting machines distributed

PERAMBALUR, March 3, 2014 - Collector Darez Ahamed distributed grass cutting machines worth Rs. 8.70 lakh to 50 farmers under the State Fodder Development Programme at a function at veterinary dispensary near the new bus stand here on Saturday. The machines have been provided by the animal husbandry department. While the cost of each machine was Rs. 17,400, the department provided a subsidy of Rs. 13,050 to each beneficiary. —
Special Correspondent

NABARD trains cooperative society personnel on WDRA

TIRUCHI, March 3, 2014 - The NABARD Consultancy Services was facilitating accreditation of godowns built with assistance under the Rural Infrastructure Development, according to S. Suresh Kumar, Assistant general manager, NABARD, Tiruchi. Speaking at three-day training programme on warehouse development and regulation for officers of cooperative credit and marketing societies of Tiruchi and Ariyalur districts here recently, Mr. Suresh Kumar said the Centre was extending interest subvention to banks for pledge loans up to Rs. 3 lakh against negotiate warehouse receipts (NWRs) at 7 per cent interest for small and marginal farmers.

The training, organised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, was aimed at sensitising personnel of cooperatives to the provisions of the Warehousing

Development Regulatory Act (WDR), procedures for accreditation and registration of primary agricultural cooperative society warehouses, scientific storage techniques, insect and pest management, record maintenance, insurance and benefits of negotiable warehouse receipts (NWRs).

The training was meant for societies where godowns had been constructed with assistance under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund and accreditation of such godowns is under way under the WDR.

Officers from the Central Warehousing Corporation, Chennai, explained various provisions of the Act, and those from Oriental Insurance Corporation of India and State Bank of India handled sessions on insurance and financing by banks against NWRs. The programme was inaugurated by M. Mirunalini, Managing Director, Tiruchi District Central Cooperative Bank, and the valedictory session was chaired by G. Rajendra Prasad, Joint Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Tiruchi.

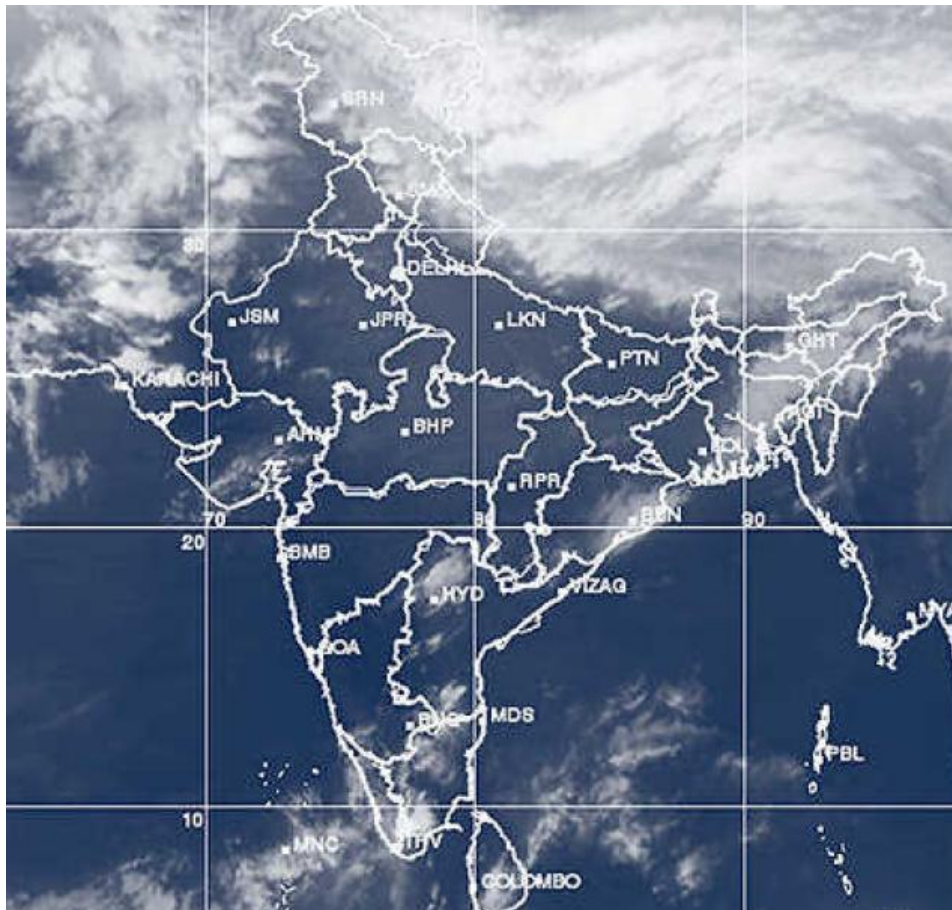
Water level

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Sunday stood at 50.15 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 106.74 cusecs and 503.50 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam. The water level in Manimuthar dam stood at 71.90 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 37 cusecs and 30 cusecs of water was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 10.55 feet, 38.35 feet in Perunchani, 3.44 feet in Chittar 1, 3.54 feet in Chittar 11, 3.60 feet in Poigai and 44.78 feet in Mamabazathuraiyaru.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on March 02.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 79

Wind: normal

Monday, Mar 3

Max Min

29° | 24°

Sunrise: 06:25

Sunset: 06:17

Barometer: 1013

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Tuesday, Mar 4

Max Min

30° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Wednesday

Mar 5



31° | 23°

Partly Cloudy

Thursday

Mar 6



31° | 22°

Partly Cloudy

Friday

Mar 7



25° | 23°

Cloudy

Saturday

Mar 8



26° | 23°

Cloudy

Sunday

Mar 9



26° | 23°

Cloudy

THE HINDU Business Line

Coconut crushing units around Kangeyam shut on poor oil sales

Also, failure of monsoon hits coconut production

Erode, March 2: Over a hundred coconut crushing units in and around Kangeyam town in Tirupur district have been closed on account of poor sale of coconut oil and lower production of coconuts.

Over 120 coconut oil producing mills are functioning in and around Kangeyam. They buy copra from various markets in Erode district, besides Pollachi, to produce coconut oil. Due to severe drought in Erode district and failure of the North-East Monsoon, over five lakh coconut trees have withered, affecting production.

Production of coconuts has decreased in other places too. Lack of buyers has resulted in prices of coconut oil decreasing to Rs. 1,760 for 15 kg loose pack. In wholesale markets, it is selling at Rs. 118 a kg, and in the retail market, at Rs. 130-140 a kg. Coconut oil sales have come to a virtual standstill. Just 1-1.5 tonnes of coconut oil were sold last week. In view of the lower production, many farmers have begun to import coconut from Kasaragod and Kannur areas in Kerala.

Over 20 truckloads of coconuts arrived in the last three days in the Erode area, said farmers. Copra is selling in the open market at Rs. 9,000 a quintal and in regulated market committees at Rs. 8,800 a quintal.

Business Standard

World coffee output may rise marginally this yr

Global [coffee](#) production is estimated to increase marginally to 145.8 million bags in the ongoing 2013-14 marketing year despite a small drop projected in major producing countries like Brazil, Indonesia and India.

World coffee production stood at 145.1 million bags during 2012-13 crop year (October-September). One bag contains 60 kg of coffee.

"Total coffee production in 2013-14 is provisionally estimated at 145.8 million bags, a 0.5 per cent increase on 2012-13," the International Coffee Organisation ([ICO](#)) said in a report.

Production of Arabicas is expected to decrease by 3.8 per cent to 85.4 million bags, but that of Robustas is projected to rise by 7.2 per cent to 60.3 million bags this year.

Among Arabica varieties, production of 'Other Milds' is likely to drop by 9.1 per cent due to ongoing outbreak of coffee leaf rust disease in Central America. Production of 'Brazilian Naturals' and 'Colombian Milds' is also expected to decline by 2.2 per cent each this year.

Coffee output in Brazil, the world's largest producer, is expected to decline by 3.3 per cent to 49.2 million bags in 2013-14, but a record volume for an off-year in Brazil.

Similarly, production in third largest producer Indonesia is expected to decline to 11.66 million bags from 12.73 million bags, while output in India, the world's fifth biggest producer, is also seen to be down at 5.19 million bags from 5.3 million bags in the review period.

Production is also expected to be lower in countries like Bolivia, Burundi, [Costa Rica](#), [Cuba](#), [Ecuador](#), Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Uganda this year.

However, coffee production in Vietnam, the world's second biggest grower, is expected to increase to 27.50 million bags in 2013-14 marketing year, as against 22.03 million bags in the last year.

Coffee production in Ethiopia is likely to increase to 6.6 million bags from 6.36 million bags in the review period.
