

Bahour farmers lead the way in organic farming

It's 15 years since they have bought chemical pesticides



Natural method: Farmers of Bahour make their own fertilizers in the form of 'pancha gavya.'— Photo: T. Singaravelou

PUDUCHERRY, March 15, 2014 - "It has been ages since anybody bought chemical pesticides from the nearby outlet run by the government," said Bahour farmers.

This group of farmers proudly say that they have not used chemical pesticides

for over 15 years as they showed around their lush green fields where paddy, urad dhal, sesame seeds and vegetables are grown.

Called the Iyarkai Vivasayigal Sangam, the group was formed by the Pondicherry Science Forum.

At least 100 acres in the village is cultivated using natural pest repellents. "We make poochi viratti using a decoction made of neem leaves, veli kaathan, nochi and adathoda leaves. We soak the leaves in water for a month and then spray the liquid on the plants," explained P. Murugan, a farmer.

The farmers don't stop with what they have learnt from organic expert Nammalvar.

Experimentations

"He told us how our forefathers were only into organic farming and that we should not consume poison in the form of chemical fertilizers. I have sown paddy in the traditional method and also using a planter... in a third field I have sown a native variety. I want to see the harvest from each of these fields," said P. Amirthalingam, another farmer.

The farmers also make their own fertilizers in the form of 'pancha gavya' where jaggery, cow dung, cow urine, bananas and country liquor (or curds) is mixed and kept aside for a month (it is turned over once in 15 days) and used instead of urea.

"We spray it on the crops so that the pulses grow larger. Using cow dung and coconut fibres we make organic fertilizer, which is used in the fields," explained R. Pavadai, who showed other farmers around his farm where he cultivates mushroom using cut straw.

T.P. Raghunath, Centre for Ecology and Rural Development of the Pondicherry Science Forum, said the Forum has been providing them intensive training programmes.

"We have tried to change the typical approach to agriculture, which is input and output. We want them to see it as a wholistic system where farming is linked to our lives," he explained.

Poultry farmers in a fix over code of conduct

NAMAKKAL, March 15, 2014 - With the model code of conduct in place restricting carrying more than Rs. 50,000 in person without proper records, poultry farmers are at the receiving end.

Everyday more than one crore eggs is supplied to Tamil Nadu and an equal number of in Kerala.

President of the Life Stock and Agri Farm Traders Association P.V. Senthil said that usually half of the load would be for a single wholesale point, from where payment is made in cheque or demand draft.

But the rest are for small-scale traders who pay in cash. Usually truckers themselves collect the money. Most of the time these truckers will have Rs. 3.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh on them, he said.

With the announcement of elections, the money was being seized at various places from Kerala to Tamil Nadu affecting the trade.

If the authorities could suggest a way out, the traders would be too happy to abide by it, Mr. Senthil said.

Recently Rs. 1.4 lakh was seized from M. Pandian, a trader from Chennai at Thimanayakanpatti, near Rasipuram.

“We are buying eggs from there for the last 18 years. The officials should give us time to provide evidence for carrying cash.

The egg industry is run on a cash and carry basis. Stringent election norms are badly affecting us,” he said.

He has been shuttling between Chennai and Namakkal for the last four days to get his money back.

A camp very special to farmers rearing cattle

VELLORE, March 15, 2014 - Vaccination of 550 cows against the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), deworming of 550 cows, 128 calves, 342 sheep, 669 goats, 17 dogs and six fowls were carried out at a special veterinary camp organised jointly by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Thandalam Yogakshema Trust, Chennai, with the support of All India Radio, Chennai, at Thandalam village in Arakkonam taluk recently.

Ten veterinary doctors and supporting staff carried out the camp under the guidance of G. Kamalanathan, Regional Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, Vellore.

T. Manoharan, Regional Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Vellore and Vijayakumar, Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry, Ranipet Division also assisted the camp.

Testing of pregnancy was done for 42 cows, sterility treatment given to 51 cows and artificial insemination given to 21 cows. Besides, vitamin mixes and salt licks were made available for the farmers who were educated on the need for using them.

A demonstration on the preparation of composite fodder and concentrate feed was conducted for the benefit of the dairy farmers.

Saraswathi, Head of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) Centre in Vellore taught women on the preparation of ‘cottage cheese’.

All cattle were provided with green fodder and water at the camp.

Another highlight of the camp was a seminar, wherein the practical aspects of best management techniques in cattle rearing were discussed with the farmers. Training was also given to farmers on the making of fodder mixture and value-added milk products such as rose milk and ‘panneer.’

A total of 570 farmers and 1,712 animals benefited by the camp. The members of the Thandalam Yogakshema Trust had made excellent arrangements for the conduct of the camp in consultation with the veterinary doctors.

They provided a vast shamiana for assembling the cattle in shade, erected separate pens for attending cattle, goats and sheep, provided a demarcated area for vaccination, artificial insemination, deworming, product and information display, and preparation of milk products.

FMD vaccination, deworming carried out at special veterinary camp

In Marathwada, hailstorm adds to woes of farmers



OSMANABAD, LATUR, March 15, 2014 - Across Rambhau Navale's small vineyard, mounds of grapes lie rotting on the ground. By now, the fruit ought to have been ripe for picking but it was hit by a powerful hailstorm.

In 20 minutes, the farmer says, his crop was finished. He lost Rs. 5 lakh.

"Who will buy these grapes now? I had invested Rs 1.5 lakhs in the crop. How will I recover it?" he asks, walking through his uprooted field.

In the Marathwada region, which has had two successive years of drought, this calamity has hit farmers harder.

While the belt is the worst hit, the unseasonal rains and hailstorm swept through 28 of Maharashtra's 35 districts over the past two weeks, destroying crops on over 15 lakh hectares. The calamity, coming as it did close to the Lok Sabha elections, has got the Congress-NCP government worried about a backlash from farmers.

"I have asked the Centre for relief worth Rs. 3,000 crore, based on the preliminary survey. This includes crop loans and relief on interest," Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said on Friday. Officials say the rabi crop has been wrecked, and horticulture, too, has been impacted.

Politicians of all parties rushed to the region over the last week. They included Mr. Chavan, Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray and senior BJP leader Gopinath Munde.

Anger mounting

However, public anger is mounting as farmers feel that the visits are just a gimmick. They point out that the hailstorm began on February 22 and peaked by March 3 — before the model code of conduct came into effect — but the government did not act in time. Now, the State has to await the green light from the Election Commission for doling out relief.

"We are left to fend for ourselves as usual," says Balaji Jeve, whose jowar crop on six acres was wiped out by the rain. "Even animals won't eat this fodder now. We can't afford to hire people to clear the dead farms."

While Marathwada is the epicentre of the calamity, Vidarbha, infamous for suicide among farmers, too, has faced the brunt of the hailstorm, which later spread to western and northern Maharashtra.

The Opposition has demanded bank loan waiver for farmers here. But for many like Navale, who borrowed from moneylenders, it may not be enough. "I took a loan from a private lender to buy water for the grapes. How will I repay it now?"

'Need to protect native crop variety'

BIDAR, March 15, 2014 - There is a need to protect native breeds and varieties of crops, K. P Vishwanath, director, extensions, University of Agriculture Sciences said on Friday.

This would ensure increased resistance to diseases, nutritious grains and conservation of a valuable gene pool, he added.

He was speaking at a programme to create awareness on plant breeds and farmers rights at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

One of the important benefit of saving seeds of native varieties is that farmers will not be too dependent on multi-national seed companies for their needs.

The other benefits are that crops suited to Indian climatic conditions can serve as the base materials for further research and development of new breeds, Dr Vishwanath said.

He quoted a study to say that India had the largest varieties of field and horticulture crops. However, farmers are suffering as there is little to no focus focus on research or extension of marketing of crops, post harvest technologies, he said.

C. R Konda, head, agriculture research station, Ravi Deshmukh, head, KVK, S. Shivaraj, deputy conservator of forests (social), Vishwanath Patil Koutha, Karnataka rajya Raitha Sangha leader and others were present.

Farming sector in the grip of crisis

Reduced soil exposure to sunlight has led to infertility in about 3.5 lakh hectares



A farmer uprooting cotton plants to allow the soil to get sunlight at Boraj in Adilabad.- PHOTO: S. HARPAL SINGH

ADILABAD, March 15, 2014 - The farming sector, especially the Bt cotton segment, might face a deeper crisis in the long run due to gradual soil health degradation caused by decreasing periods of soil exposure to sunlight. The ill-effects by way of reduced soil fertility can be seen in 3.5 lakh hectares of land under Bt

cotton cultivation in Adilabad district.

As the Bt cotton plant has a longer productive life, vegetatively and commercially, its foliage is allowed to survive even until mid May thereby reducing the period of land preparation. Such reduced land exposure to sunlight in turn increases moisture retention of the soil and curbs the all important microbial activity in the soil, according to experts.

“Longer periods of moisture in black cotton soil causes increased land salinity. The hazard of the crop being attacked by pink bollworm and other sucking pests goes up correspondingly,” opines D. Mohan Das, principal scientist, Agriculture Research Station, Adilabad.

Good monsoon with prolonged cloudy weather since June last year has also contributed towards land salinity going up in the cotton areas. Adilabad has had 60 rainy days between June and October and rainfall in excess of 50 per cent of the normal 1,100 mm and a maximum average temperature of 26 degree Celsius was recorded.

Ideally, soil should be exposed to sunlight for over 2 months between March and May for it to regain its fertility.

“Our lands remained in poor light with not more than 32 degree Celsius for maximum day temperature for about 10 months now, which invariably necessitates increased administration of fertilisers in the coming kharif season,” farmer Tummal Ram Reddy of Sangvi village in Jainad mandal points out by way of expressing concern.

“It’s high time the authorities addressed such concerns of the farming sector. Political parties should come out with plans to wean us away from this dependency on Bt cotton and to stave off the impending crisis,” Mr. Ram Reddy demands.

Milk prices increased

KARIMNAGAR, March 15, 2014 - The Karimnagar Milk Producer Company limited increased its milk selling price by Rs. 2 per litre for toned milk and Rs. 4 per litre for pure milk from Saturday onwards.

In a press note, Karimnagar Dairy chairman Ch Rajeshwara Rao said that they were forced to increase the prices following increase in milk procurement price from the farmers, increase of petroleum price, power tariff hike and other production costs. Toned milk, which was earlier sold at Rs. 36 per litre, would now be sold at Rs. 38 per litre and pure milk from Rs. 42 per litre to Rs. 46 per litre.

Global powers sign declaration on sustainable fishing

ATHENS, March 15, 2014 - Officials from some of the world's top fishing powers signed a declaration in Greece on Friday to promote sustainable management of fish stocks. The signatories — the EU, United States, Japan, Philippines, Colombia and Indonesia — pledged to support measures to address fishing overcapacity. These include developing international fishing vessel records, limiting the number of licenses and vessel tonnage and eliminating fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing. "We bear responsibility for the conservation of living marine resources and thus for addressing overcapacity when it undermines conservation and sustainability objectives," the statement said.

The event was organised in Thessaloniki under Greece's rotating EU presidency. According to the European Commission, the EU imports 70 per cent of its fish intake. Overall, the bloc accounts for a fourth of the world's seafood resources. Some progress has been made. In 2013, 25 stocks were fished sustainably in the North Sea and Atlantic, five times more than in 2009, the European Commission says. This is expected to increase to 31 stocks in 2015.

But environmental group Greenpeace stressed that more action is needed. "EU countries should start by scrapping the largest and most destructive industrial fishing vessels, initiating a shift towards small-scale low-impact fishing, which is more environmentally sustainable, creates jobs and supports local communities," it said. EU Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Commissioner Maria Damanaki conceded this week that enforcing compliance by states has been a "struggle". "To achieve the right balance between fishing power and natural resources, all global actors need to pull together," she wrote in a Huffington Post article. — AFP

Water level at Mettur

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 49.21 feet on Friday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 355 cusecs and the discharge, 500 cusecs.

The water level in the Papanasam dam on Friday stood at 51.20 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 30.79 cusecs and 54.75 cusecs of water is discharged from the dam.

The level in Manimuthar dam stood at 73.10 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 40 cusecs and no water is discharged.

Food-related traders asked to register with FSSAI before August 4



“Vendors simply have to declare that they are running a food-based business”

*Pertinent points: Experts at a discussion on Food Safety Standards Act at Pondicherry University on Friday.—
Photo: T. Singaravelou*

Although the Food Safety Standards Act has been in place for several years now, and it is now mandatory for all food-related businesses, including street food vendors, to register with the Food Safety Standards Authority of India, many restaurants and smaller vendors hesitate to apply for the licenses. All food related businesses have been asked to register with the FSSAI before August 4 this year.

Since the experience in the past of many of these food vendors has been bad when it came to licensing and policing by the officials, many people have refused to apply for their unique identity cards.

The FSSAI, however, is very different since the emphasis is not on policing from outside, but on self regulation, Member of the scientific committee of the FSSAI J.S. Pai said on the sidelines of the One day workshop on Food Safety Act: “Know the Act & Regulations” here on Friday.

The intentions of this Act are good, and through its provisions, there is very little scope of harassment and problems. It is up to the State government and universities to raise awareness among the people, he said.

Even though the procedure is very simple, the vendor simply has to fill a form to declare that he is running a food-based business, many do not apply. The onus is on State government to ensure this happens, since it will make the vendors accountable, Senior Scientist of the National Institute of Nutrition R.V. Sudershan said.

Through their unique identity numbers, the name and location of the vendor as well as contact details will be available to the consumer. This will make them answerable, he said.

In terms of the consumers, there is a section of the FSSAI website that invites whistleblowers. These people will be working with the Centre or State governments to help ensure the quality of food is maintained, Aruna Kumar from the Central Food Technology Research Institute said.

The one-day workshop organised by the Food Science and Technology Department was aimed at educating business people in the food industry on the Act.

📌 ***The onus is on State government to ensure compliance by traders***

📌 ***One-day workshop on Food Safety Act organised***

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 74

Wind: normal

Saturday, Mar 15

Max 31° | Min 22°

Sunrise: 06:16

Sunset: 06:19

Barometer: 1015

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Sunday, Mar 16

Max 33° | Min 23°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday
Mar 17

33° | 23°

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday
Mar 18

27° | 22°

Cloudy

Wednesday
Mar 19

28° | 22°

Cloudy

Thursday
Mar 20

29° | 22°

Overcast

Friday
Mar 21

29° | 23°

Overcast

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Farmers ask central team for crop loan waiver, financial assistance

NASHIK: The hailstorm-hit farmers on Friday urged the central government team, which visited various parts of the district where crops and orchards were badly damaged, to waive crop loans and electricity bills, and offer substantial financial assistance so they may stand on their feet again.

A two-member central government committee is touring Nashik division from Thursday to assess the damage caused by unseasonal rains and hailstorms in the past few days.

The committee visited various parts of Dhule district on Thursday. On Friday, it visited various hailstorm-hit areas of the Nashik district, including Talwade, Dhawleshwar, Aaskheda, Wagale and Akhatwade villages.

Committee members R L Mathur, assistant advisor, ministry of drinking water and sanitation of the central government and S M Kolhatkar, director of the department of cotton development, Mumbai, assessed the crop damage and interacted with the farmers.

District collector Vilas Patil, who also was with the committee members, said the government would decide on the financial assistance. "But we will definitely convey the

farmers' request to the state government," Patil said.

Patil also asked tehsildars concerned to file preliminary reports or panchanamas of every farmer and ensure that no one was left out.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana, led by its North Maharashtra president Deepak Pagar, met the central government committee and presented them with a memorandum of demands, including waiver of crop loans, waiver of electricity bills and adequate financial assistance to the rains and hailstorm-hit farmers.

The team will soon submit its report to its leader, Sanjeev Chopra, the joint secretary of the ministry of agriculture of the central government and inter-ministerial central team leader, who will submit the final draft of the report to the central government, shortly.

The intermittent rains and hailstorms have badly damaged the crops and orchards in 177 tehsils in 26 districts across the state during last few days. Accordingly, a total of 10 central committees, led by Sanjeev Chopra, the joint secretary of the ministry of agriculture of the central government and the inter-ministerial central team leader, have begun assessing the damage in the four divisions - Nashik, Auranbagad, Pune and Nagpur - from Thursday. Four teams are assessing the areas of crop damage in Aurangabad division, three in Nagpur, two in Pune and one team in Nashik division.

Business Standard

FMC allows evening trading in agri futures



The derivatives markets regulator, the Forward Markets Commission ([FMC](#)), has allowed evening trading in internationally-linked agricultural commodities effective April 1.

The aim is to widen the horizon of the commodity futures market and to bring [agri commodities](#) at par with non-agri ones in trading practices. FMC has notified 10 such commodities.

It has also directed that all exchanges under its purview be closed for trading on all Saturdays.

In another development, the regulator has directed 'no trading' on Saturdays. Exchanges have been told to send compliance reports by April 15. Traders have welcomed both decisions.

Traders are presently able to put through orders on the domestic futures platform only in the morning session. The agri commodities opened for evening trade by the new order are [soya oil](#), [soya meal](#), [crude palm oil](#), [RBD palmolein](#), [cotton,kapas](#), [cottonseed](#) oilcake, [cotton seed](#), [sugar and maize](#).

"Domestic market participants are often unable to adequately hedge their price risk associated with international price movements in certain agri commodities during evening

hours. Any significant movement in the international market during this time leads to a significant gap in the domestic exchanges on the next day, thereby making the hedge ineffective for the trade participants. Hence, there is a need to align domestic futures prices better with international price movements in internationally linked agri commodities,” said FMC on Friday.

“The Exchange will abide with Forward Market Commission’s directives regarding closure of trading on Saturdays. The change in trading hours for some agricultural commodity contracts on week days will be implemented,” said the spokes person of leading agri futures exchange NCDEX. Earlier, members of various exchanges had brought to the notice of the regulator the huge price difference between consecutive days in domestic exchanges because of global developments. In the absence of evening trading sessions, traders were unable to take positions.

“FMC has done a great favour to the commodities market by considering the request to also allow agri commodities in the evening session for commodities with international reference. This will help hedgers to do risk management as per international market price movements and traders/ investors will be able to take advantage of volatility in the evening session,” said Ashok Mittal, alternate president, Commodity Participants Association of India.

As for the other decision, futures trade in non-agri commodities on Saturdays were suspended in September 2013. Now, FMC has decided the exchanges will remain closed on all Saturdays, effective April 1. “Since, global markets remain closed, there is no reason for allowing futures trading on Saturdays in India as well. Full-day closure will help exchanges attend to compliance matters, etc,” the regulator said.

“Saturday-off is a welcome move by FMC. Tthe volumes were too thin and many a time, there was unexpected volatility on Saturdays. This will also allow members to utilise that time for other activities like housekeeping and compliance,” said Mittal.

Jayant Manglik, president, Religare Securities, said, “Both of FMC’s decisions are in the right direction. We favour either full open or full closed on Saturdays. The regulator opted for the second one. Also, aligning the domestic market through evening trade with the international market will help traders take their positions as per developments overseas.”

India's veg oil imports hit 3-yr low in February

India's import of vegetable (veg) oils fell a staggering 40% in February to hit three-year monthly low mainly due to heavy disparity in import of palm products resulted into drastic reduction of import of [crude palm oil \(CPO\)](#).

Data compiled by the apex trade body the [Solvent Extractors'](#) Association (SEA) showed imports of vegoil at 969,175 tonnes in February this year compared to 578,975 tonnes in the corresponding month last year.

During the first four months of the current oil year (November 2013 and October 2014), however, overall veg oil imports recorded a fall by a marginal 6% to 3.50 million tonnes from 3.74 million tonnes in the same period last year. Indian traders and [refiners](#) largely import crude palm oil for refining locally and blending with other edible oils for retailing.

They also import refined oil (refined, bleached and dioxinized or [RBD](#) palmolein) for direct packing and retailing if that makes economic sense i.e. if price difference between crude and

palm oil works out to \$60 a tonne.

India meets around 55% of its annual [edible oil](#) consumption of 18.5 million tonnes through imports. Import of crude palm oil fell in February to 269,000 tonnes as compared to 670,000 tonnes in the same month last year.

Before the inverted export duty imposed by Indonesia in October 2011, RBD palmolein used to be sold at least \$ 60-80 per ton higher than CPO, however now finished product RBD palmolein is cheaper by \$15-20 compared to raw material CPO. **Cont...**

India's vegetable oil imports drop to 3-year low in Feb

The country's [vegetable oil imports](#) fell by 40% to a three-year low of 5.78 lakh tonnes in February this year due to sharp fall in shipments of palm oils, industry body [SEA](#) said today.

The country had imported 9.69 lakh tonnes of vegetable oil in the same month of the previous year.

The Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) also expressed concerns over higher import of cheaper refined palm oil, leading to under-utilisation of domestic refineries. Many of them are on the verge of closure.

India meets about 60% of its annual vegetable oil demand of 17-18 million tonnes through imports. Palm oils make up 80% of the country's total vegetable oil imports.

According to the SEA: "Import during February is the lowest in last three years, mainly due to heavy disparity in import of palm products which led to drastic reduction in import of crude palm oil ([CPO](#))."

Palm oil imports dropped significantly by 99% to 4.03 lakh tonnes in February this year from 8.05 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period, it said in a statement.

Among palm oils, crude palm oil (CPO) shipments fell by 60% to 2.69 lakh tonnes from 6.70 lakh tonnes, but import of refined crude variant rose by over 10% to 1.65 lakh tonnes from 1.48 lakh tonnes in the review period.

The SEA said import of RBD palmolein has risen as global prices of this refined variant have become cheaper by USD 15-20 per tonne as compared to CPO.

"In view of increased import of RBD Palmolein in last two years, capacity utilisation of domestic refiners reduced from 55-60% to 30-35% and many units are the verge of closure," it said.

Import of non-edible oils fell to 9,431 tonnes in February this year, compared to 14,999 tonnes in the same period last year, the SEA data showed.

As on March 1, edible oils stock at various ports is estimated at 4.75 lakh tonnes, of which CPO is 2.40 lakh tonnes. About 7,70,000 tonnes of edible oil is in the pipeline.

Total stock, both at ports and in the pipeline, has drastically reduced by 2.70 lakh tonnes to 12.45 lakh tonnes due to lesser import in last two months, SEA said.

Early this year, the government had hiked the import duty on refined palm oil to protect the interests of local oilseeds farmers and refiners against cheaper imports.

During the November-February period of 2013-14 marketing year, total palm oil imports have fallen to 25.96 lakh tonnes, as against 31.03 lakh tonnes in the same period of previous year, the SEA data showed.

India imports palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia.

Sugar up 0.5% on lower output estimates



Supported by lower output estimates and rising spot demand ahead of summer season, [sugar](#) prices rose by Rs 17 to trade at fresh seven-month high of 3,071 per quintal today in futures trade.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), sugar for delivery in April traded Rs 17, or 0.51%, to trade at Rs 3,071 per quintal, the highest level since August last year, with an open interest of 39,080 lots.

On the similar lines, the sweetener for delivery in March traded higher by Rs 29, or 0.99% to Rs 3,019 per quintal in 8,510 lots.

Analysts attributed the persistent rise in prices at futures trade to speculative positions built-up by speculators after country's sugar production for the marketing year 2013-14 has been revised downwards by 1.2 million tonnes to 23.8 million tonnes due to lower output estimates in Uttar Pradesh.

Besides, rising demand from bulk consumers ahead of summer season in the spot markets supported the upside in sugar prices at futures trade.

In the spot markets, at Mumbai's Vashi wholesale market, Small sugar (S-30) traded higher at Rs 2,882/2,932 per quintal in yesterday's trade.

Palm oil down 0.8% on profit-booking



Amid profit-booking by speculators and sluggish domestic demand, [crude palm oil](#) prices softened by 0.82% to Rs 589.10 per 10 kg in futures trade as speculators trimmed their positions.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for delivery in April eased by Rs 4.90, or 0.82% to Rs 589.10 per 10 kg in business turnover of 560 lots.

Likewise, the oil for delivery in March contract traded lower by Rs 4.10, or 0.69% to Rs 590.10 per 10 kg in 144 lots.

Market analysts said besides profit-booking by speculators, sluggish demand in the spot

market against adequate stocks position, mainly influenced crude palm oil prices at futures trade.

Cardamom up 0.3% on spot demand



[Cardamom](#) prices rose by 0.38% to Rs 811.80 per kg in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions supported by rising demand in the spot market against restricted arrivals from producing belts.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in April rose by Rs 3.10, or 0.38% to Rs 811.80 per kg in business turnover of 341 lots.

Likewise, the spice for delivery in May contract edged up by Rs 2.30, or 0.27% to Rs 840.80 per kg in 39 lots.

Analysts said speculators created fresh positions after demand picked up in the spot market mainly led to rise in cardamom prices to trade higher at futures trade.

Refined soya oil weakens on low demand

Refined [soya oil](#) prices moved down by 0.63 per cent to Rs 722.60 per 10 kg in futures trading today as speculators reduced holdings following subdued demand in the spot market.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, refined soya oil for delivery in April declined by Rs 4.55, or 0.63 per cent to Rs 722.60 per 10 kg with an open interest of 1,13,570 lots.

In a similar fashion, the oil for delivery in March shed Rs 2, or 0.27 per cent to Rs 728 per 10 kg in 11230 lots.

Analysts attributed the fall in refined soya oil futures to sluggish spot demand against adequate stocks position.

Potato sheds 0.13% on weak demand



Amid lower domestic demand, [potato](#) futures traded lower by 0.13 per cent to Rs 1,200 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators offloaded their positions.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, potato for delivery in April traded lower by Rs 1.60, or 0.13 per cent to Rs 1,200 per quintal in business turnover of 51 lots.

The potato for delivery in March contract also weakened by 90 paise, or 0.08 per cent to Rs 1181.20 per quintal in 24 lots.

Analysts said fall in potato prices was mostly owing to offloading of positions by speculators against lower demand in the spot market led to decline in potato prices at futures trade.

Chana sheds 0.46% on subdued demand



[Chana](#) prices fell by 0.46 per cent to Rs 3,266 per quintal in futures trading today as participants reduced positions driven by sluggish demand in the spot market.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for delivery in April fell by Rs 15, or 0.46 per cent to Rs 3,266 per quintal with an open interest of 85,140 lots.

The May contract lost Rs 14, or 0.42 per cent to Rs 3314 per quintal in 40,120 lots.

Analysts attributed the fall in chana prices at futures to sluggish demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position.

Jeera futures down 1.5% on higher output hopes



[Jeera](#) prices fell by 1.52 per cent to Rs 10,380 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators trimmed positions, triggered by expectations of higher output.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, jeera for delivery in April fell by Rs 160, or 1.52 per cent to Rs 10,380 per quintal with an open interest of 9,996 lots.

The March contract lost Rs 155, or 1.46 per cent to Rs 10,440 per quintal in 984 lots.

Analysts attributed fall in jeera futures to offloading of positions by speculators on hopes a higher output.

Further, sluggish demand in the spot market against increased supply fuelled the downtrend, they said.
