

DATE: 18.10.2014

THE HINDU

CCI refuses to procure cotton, cites high moisture content in produce

Cotton arrivals have begun picking up with over 15,000 bags of cotton having arrived for sale at the Agricultural Market Yard in the town on Friday.

Cotton growers from various mandals in Khammam division flocked to the yard early in the day in anticipation of procurement of their cotton produce by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

Sources said a team of CCI officials from Warangal arrived at the market yard in the morning to commence the procurement process. However, the staff concerned reportedly put off the process after measuring the moisture content in cotton brought to the yard. They reportedly pointed out that the moisture content in the cotton exceeded stipulated levels.

With the non-commencement of the procurement process till late afternoon, the farmers, particularly those who had arrived from distant places, sold their cotton to private traders at low prices, sources added.

The insistence on the part of the staff over the prescribed moisture content left several farmers terribly disappointed. "The reluctance of the staff to purchase our cotton on the technical ground that it contained high moisture content is unfair," rued K. Pichaiah, a cotton grower of Linga Gudem in Konijerla mandal.

“I have sold my cotton produce at 3,500 per quintal to a private trader under unavoidable circumstances,” he said, lamenting that the private traders were offering prices much lower than the minimum support price of Rs.4,050, taking advantage of the farmers’ helpless situation.

“The government should enhance the MSP of cotton to Rs.6,000 a quintal in view of the sharp escalation in input costs,” said N. Nageswara Rao, district secretary, Telangana Rythu Sangham. In a statement, Mr. Rao demanded that the government relax the CCI norms governing the moisture content in cotton and ensure remunerative prices to the cotton growers.

Appointed adviser to Ministry of Water Resources

The Hindu Shriram Vedire has been appointed as Adviser to Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

The Centre has appointed Shriram Vedire as adviser to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation. He will be advising the ministry on all matters pertaining to the water sector that include Ganga Rejuvenation, inter-linking of rivers, ensuring availability of clean and potable water, and availability of adequate water for agricultural purposes.

Harvesting the veggies of labour

Farming enthusiasts in Thiruvananthapuram are having a field day by growing the vegetables for their table and for their neighbours’ too.

Kitchen gardening, terrace farming, community farming, paddy cultivation and vegetable gardening in schools and other educational institutions... a lot of ground-breaking work is being done in the city and its outskirts, thanks to the key role played by

Krishi Bhavans, State Horticulture Mission and Farm Information Bureau and non-governmental organisations such as Agrifriends and Biotips.

The farmers come from all walks of life, right from pensioners to teachers, techies and homemakers. For instance, Chempaka Kindergarten Annexe I at Pallimukku grows vegetables on the school's terrace. "Our founder Daphne Gomez inspired us to start this. We have a 'Vegetable day' and the children get enthused and involved when they see how vegetables are actually grown. Our teachers buy the produce and the money collected is invested for farming activities," says Monica Augustin, headmistress of the school.

Many of these farmers are now thinking of the next step to encourage more residents to romance the good earth. "I am advocating the concept of 'one hour point', wherein various households under a residents' association cultivate different vegetables and on a particular day they all come together to sell the produce. In fact, I used to sell the produce in front of my home," says V. Unnikrishnan, a former banker.

Home Greens, his one-stop venture for anything related to agriculture, will become functional soon and he is also an active member of Kitchen Gardeners' Forum, which has 20 members, who meet on the second Saturday of every month and exchange information on agriculture-related subjects. His plot is a veritable green house of vegetables and plants with medicinal value. Nearly three cents of land around his house and every available space on the terrace have been turned into green spaces. Among the crops are tomato, lady's finger (especially the long Anakkomban variety), brinjal, cowpea, beetroot, ivy gourd, plantain, tapioca, yams, palak, mango ginger, Surinam cherry, amaranthus... Earlier, he had successfully harvested soya bean, bok choy, and salad cucumber too.

“I am not marketing the produce, but it is a possibility worth exploring. There is no stress or strain and from dawn to dusk, I tend to my plants. Later, I am on Facebook interacting with members of various farming communities,” says Unnikrishnan.

For Syamkumar K., an employee of the Kerala State Electricity Board, farming is a family affair, with his son and daughter pitching in. Since he couldn't cultivate on his three-cent plot, he turned to his 700 sq ft terrace. His labour of love won him the Agricultural Department's Yuvakarshaka award in 2013. Meanwhile, some of the farming enthusiasts are giving shape to new ideas to promote farming. Joji Mathew, a web developer, has introduced the concept of 'weekend farming'.

It seems, self-sufficiency in food might not be an impossible dream to realise. Food for thought!

Many farmers are now thinking of the next step to encourage more residents to romance the good earth

Pre-monsoon rains cheer Ramanathapuram farmers

They have started cultivation on 1.3 lakh hectares

As the farmers of the arid district had suffered drought in two successive years after bumper crops in the year 2011-12, the pre-monsoon rains have brought cheers and rekindled their hopes of a good harvest this year.

The intermittent rains in the last two days before the onset of the much reliable northeast monsoon have brightened the prospects of good harvest as the farmers have begun paddy cultivation on about 1.3 lakh hectares of rain fed areas.

The farmers who had already sowed seeds on about 95,000 hectares were happy that the showers have provided the timely wetting. It has also given them hopes of a good monsoon this year. In the last 24 hours since Thursday morning, the district, however, received 405.20 mm of rainfall with Ramanathapuram receiving the highest rainfall of 61.70 mm followed by Thondi (50.30 mm) and RS Mangalam (49 mm) an average of 25.32 mm, official sources said.

During 2011-12, the farmers had a good harvest after the district had received the total rainfall of 896 mm against the normal rainfall of 827 mm but they suffered droughts in the next two years as the monsoon played truant.

Both 2012-13 and 2013-14 had been disastrous for farmers following the failure of northeast monsoon. In 2012, the monsoon began on a right note and the district received good rains in October, but later there was severe drought and the crops withered at the terminal stage.

During 2013-14, the farmers lost their crops at the germination stage itself.

This year, the prospects appeared to be good, Joint Director of Agriculture N.V. Krishnamoorthy said. Besides paddy, farmers have gone for the cultivation of millets (6,000 hectares), pulses (4,500 hectares) and pulses (4,500 hectares), he said.

S.S. Shaiek Abdullah, Assistant Director of Agriculture (Quality Control), advised farmers to judiciously use fertilisers, especially, urea, when they applied top dressing fertilisers.

Excess application of urea not only invaded pest and diseases but increased the cost of cultivation, he said. Farmers could use 44 kg of urea per acre in rain-fed areas and 64 kg per acre in semi-dry areas, he said. The district has received 1,000 tonnes of urea two days ago and asked for another 2,000 tonnes, he said.

Focus on value addition of products

Emphasising the significance of value addition to agricultural and horticultural produces, The former Vice- Chancellor of Mangalore University M.I. Savadatti has said that it would not only benefit farmers but also lead to job creation.

He was inaugurating a national seminar on 'Wine Industries in India: opportunities and challenges' organised as part of the Hubli-Dharwad Wine Festival here on Friday. Prof. Savadatti said the value addition process would also improve trade and export subsequently.

He said that encouraging value addition to agricultural and horticultural produces was the only of increasing the share of agriculture to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The former Vice-Chancellor of University of Horticultural Sciences, Bangalkot and Liason Officer of Southern Centre of the South Asian Regional Office, Biodiversity International, S.B. Dandin, stressed on the need for the State government to amend the wine policy in accordance with the market dynamics and demand.

Potential

Mr. Dandin pointed out that apart from grapes, fruits such as pomegranate that were grown extensively in northern parts of Karnataka could be used to produce wine of different texture and thereby tap the unexplored potential

TS has data on all 198 varieties of its soil

The Nagpur-based National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS & LUP) has submitted to the Telangana government a 'soil legend', giving details about the characteristics of the 196 kinds of soil in the State.

It contains data pertaining to 114.88 lakh hectares of agricultural land, which was prepared by using Geographical Information System. The information included soil depth, texture, available water, soil drainage and degradation, according to Principal Agriculture Secretary Poonam Malakondaiah.

She told *The Hindu* that the NBSS & LUP had geared up to undertake nationwide soil mapping. The Department of Space was ready with high-resolution satellite data to map the soils on 1:10,000 scale.

The State's data on 114.88 lakh hectares will be useful for the purpose. A pilot project would be launched on November 1 in Gajwel mandal of Medak district, Indravelli of Adilabad and another mandal in Mahabubnagar district.

Rain raises hopes of paddy farmers in non-delta areas

Cultivation is yet to pick up in non-delta region



Farm workers are transplanting samba seedlings in Tiruchi.—
PHOTO: B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Moderate and widespread showers in the city on Friday has raised hopes of farmers in the non-delta areas in the district where agricultural operations could not be taken up so far this year because of lack of water for irrigation.

Almost all rain-fed tanks in the district do not have water to sustain the samba crop. After having skipped kuruvai crop in many areas, farmers are pinning their hopes on the samba season.

Although farmers in the canal-irrigated delta areas were able to take up samba cultivation after the release of water from the Mettur Reservoir, those in the non-delta areas are still waiting for rain to begin agriculture operations.

According to Agriculture Department officials, agricultural operations were in full swing in the delta areas where samba paddy is expected to be raised on nearly 35,000 hectares.

The target would be achieved by the end of this month in the canal irrigated areas, they said. However, they conceded that cultivation was yet to begin in most parts in the non-delta region.

The department was expecting that about 25,000 hectares of land would be covered under samba paddy in the non-delta areas. But so far nurseries had been transplanted on just about 500 hectares because of lack of rains.

The district has recorded a shortfall in rainfall this year too. The district has received 284.70 mm of rainfall till the end of September against the normal average of 405.40 mm for the period.

The district had received about 270.09 mm till September end last year too, affecting samba cultivation badly. However, Agriculture Department officials are still hopeful that coverage would improve this year.

“The monsoon has just begun and there has been some scattered rain. We are expecting that there will be good rainfall and cultivation will pick up by the end of this month in the non-delta areas,” an officer of the department said.

Farmers are pinning their hopes on the northeast Monsoon.

“The rain so far will not be enough even to prepare the field. Unless the monsoon is good, agriculture will be affected in non-delta areas such as Thathaiyengarpet, Marungapuri, Manapparai, Vaiyampatti, and other places,” said Ayilai Sivasuriyan, district secretary, Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam affiliated to the Communist Party of India.

- *35,000 hectares under samba crop in irrigated areas*
- *Officials are hoping that more area will be covered soon*

Coconut prices may slide marginally

The Agro Market Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre (AMI and BPC), Tiruchi, has advised farmers to sell coconut and copra upon harvest as prices are likely to remain stable during November-December.

In an advisory to farmers, the AMI and BPC said the price of coconut at the farm level in Pollachi market is expected to rule in the range of Rs. 15 to Rs. 17 a nut (550 to 600 grams) in November/December.

Citing an econometric analysis of coconut and copra prices at Pollachi and Avalpoondurai markets carried out by AMI and BPC, the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, the advisory said price of coconut would be lower by one or three rupees in other markets in comparison to Pollachi market. Copra is expected to fetch around Rs. 101 to Rs. 103 ar kg at Avalpoondurai regulated market.

Coconut is ruling at around Rs.27,800 a tonne at the Pollachi market. After the Onam festival in Kerala, consumption of coconut oil has come down and shift to palm oil and sunflower oil was noticeable because of the price factor. Industries had also shifted to palm oil due to the comparatively low price. Arrivals from Karnataka will commence from October and from Kerala in January.

As per trade sources, the festival season in forthcoming months will enhance the demand for coconut in domestic market and the price would remain stable. Tamil Nadu stands second in the country in coconut production after Kerala and first in productivity. The expected monsoon will boost coconut production.

Low coconut production during last two years and continuing demand for export has led to increase in copra prices from Rs. 60 to Rs. 75 per kg in 2012 to Rs. 100 Rs. 120 a kg up to August 2013-14.

At present, copra is ruling at Rs 100 to Rs. 104 per kg at Avalpoondurai regulated market in Tamil Nadu. This is due to the decrease of coconut oil price in world market, the advisory said.

- ***AMI&BPC says the price is likely to be Rs.15 to Rs.17 a piece in Pollachi***
- ***Festival season demand may keep the prices stable, say trade sources***

Sugarcane root borer pest attack reported

There has been sporadic attack of sugarcane root borer pest in Vellore district. Agriculture scientists have spotted the pest in a field at R.K. Kandigai in Arakkonam Taluk recently.

This was found after the farmer complained of pest attack at his farm. A field visit showed that the crop was attacked by sugarcane root borer.

“Initially, we thought it to be root grub pest. We went to the field and found that it was sugarcane root borer that was reported in Ambur during the 1980s,” M. Pandian, professor and head, Agricultural Research Station and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Virinjipuram, told farmers on Friday.

He gave a presentation on the pest to the farmers during the grievance day meeting.

80,000 trees in city bear the brunt

Agriculture Minister Prattipati Pulla Rao on Friday took stock of the situation in the aftermath of cyclone Hudhud that damaged thousands of trees.

An action plan should be prepared so as to enable Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu take up his Green Visakha plan, he told an official meeting at GVMC.

Any opportunity to revive trees should be utilised using the knowledge available and technical know-how. Where it was not possible, saplings should be planted. Trees that grow from 8 to 10 ft should be raised.

Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Urban Development, and Special Officer of GVMC D. Sambasiva Rao said in VUDA and GVMC limits 80,000 trees were fully damaged and 1.45 lakh partially damaged. In VUDA limits, 4,000 trees were uprooted and 8,000 partially damaged.

The trees uprooted should be removed and partially affected should be revived using machinery and fertilizer by taking the help of horticulture experts, he said.

Assuring all support from GVMC, Commissioner M. Janaki said trees that withstood adverse weather conditions and natural calamities should be grown.

Saving handloom industry from ill-effects of Bt cotton

Tula reviving chain of traditional cotton production, distribution

For several years now, organic farmers' associations in the State have been worried that Bt cotton had systematically destroyed traditional cotton seeds and farming practices.

Dependence on chemicals for manure, bleaching and dyeing, power loom for weaving, along with the introduction of Bt cotton had not only destroyed the livelihoods of an entire segment of rural population but also taken a toll on the quality of the crop, they pointed out.

Their concerns were answered to some extent by Tula, a non-profit organisation, which has started reviving not only traditional cotton crop but also the entire chain of production and distribution. Tula was launched in Tamil Nadu but success eluded it, says its founder V.R. Ananthoo. "We tried to grow cotton in Madurai. But, as cotton is grown only in a few areas in Madurai and Perambalur

belt, and farmers moved to maize as the weather was not cooperative. We moved to Karnataka three years ago. We are trying to revive not just the fabric but livelihood in the cotton chain – including weavers, spinners and tailors,” he says.

Radhika Ram Mohan, who is associated with the project, says around 35 artisans in Melkote in Karnataka are involved in the work at present. Organic cotton is grown by farmers in northern Karnataka and the produce is brought to Melkote in Mandya district for processing it, spinning and weaving. Spinning and weaving is manual, providing the craftsman some earnings. But, more importantly it helps to maintain a tradition, she says.

Tula, which is holding an exhibition in Kottivakkam on Saturday, has also tied up with tribal groups in Sittlingi in Dharmapuri to create Lambadi embroidery in the garments. The products will also be available at Organic Farmers’ Market in Kasturba Nagar, Adyar. For further details, contact Ms. Mohan on 9884409566.

30 tonnes of vegetables for Vizag

Farmers from Kuppam constituency have decided to send over 30 tonnes of vegetables to the cyclone-affected Visakhapatnam district.

On Thursday and Friday, the farmers pooled up various vegetables including tomato, cabbage, papaya, brinjal, potato and others.

The Kuppam region, which is rich in vegetable plantations, has some of the fine varieties, known for the long storage capacity which will come handy in this situation. Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders had arranged the transport for the donated goods.

Meanwhile, some local youth in Kuppam had launched a door-to-door campaign, seeking donation of clothes, blankets and other provisions for the Hudhud victims.

The local leaders said another two lorries containing vegetables and other relief material would leave for Vishakapatnam in a few days.

Steps to boost rice production

Aiming at self-sufficiency in food grain production, the district panchayat plans to extend paddy cultivation to 54 grama panchayats in the district. This will result in 17,000 hectares in the district coming under paddy cultivation.

Addressing a function to observe International Day for the Eradication of Poverty here on Friday, district panchayat president S. Jayamohan said that all development activities initiated by the district panchayat were also aimed at poverty eradication. The farmers would be ensured fair price for their produce, he said.

Development Standing Committee chairman Biju K. Mathew and district panchayat secretary K. Anil Kumar spoke.

94.1 per cent of cattle vaccination target for FMD achieved in Shimoga

Drive launched to save the cattle from foot-and-mouth disease

FALLING OUT OF LINE
13,666 farmers refuse to get their heads of cattle vaccinated
No compensation will be paid to such farmers for death of cattle due to foot and mouth disease
Some farmers have complained that their cattle had died owing to ill-effects of vaccination
Logistic support to the drive provided by the Karnataka Milk Federation
Services of 155 unemployed youth utilised in the campaign

The Department of Animal Husbandry has achieved 94.1 per cent of the target fixed for vaccination against the foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the district in September.

Of the 6,75,255 heads of cattle in the district, 6,36,032 have been vaccinated. Owing to the vaccination, there will be a decline in milk production for a few days, initially. Because of this reason, many farmers refuse to get their heads of cattle vaccinated. There were 13,666 such cases in the district.

Written statement

The department had taken a written statement from such farmers that they had refused to get their cattle vaccinated on their own will. In case of death of such cattle due to foot and mouth disease, the department will not pay any compensation to owners. Meanwhile, three heads of cattle in the district had died immediately after being vaccinated. Deputy Director of the Department of Animal Husbandry R.R. Raveendra told *The Hindu* that the farmers had complained that the death of their cattle had been caused to ill-effects of immunisation.

Medical test

Medical examination was being conducted into such cases. If it were to be confirmed that the death of cattle had been caused by ill-effects of vaccination, then compensation would be paid to the farmers concerned. Last year, a sum of Rs. 25,000 each was paid as compensation for the death of a head of cattle due to FMD.

Relief

The government had been urged to pay a similar compensation to the owners of cattle that die because of ill-effects of vaccination, Mr. Raveendra said. The Karnataka Milk Federation had provided logistic support for the vaccination drive. In all, 411 personnel, including 256 from the Department of Animal Husbandry, had been deputed for vaccination duty.

At present, 267 posts of different categories were vacant in the department. Owing to the shortage of staff in the department, 155 unemployed youths had been involved in the vaccination drive after providing necessary training to them. The non-departmental personnel were paid at the rate of Rs. 3 each for every cattle vaccinated by them. It was the second round of vaccination undertaken in the district this year. The first round was held in February, he said.

Tobacco growers meet Vardhan

Concerned over the threat to their livelihood from the Centre's move to discourage tobacco cultivation in the country, farmers growing the crop in Mysore region met Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and appealed to the government to give up its "discriminatory" regulations against the cigarette tobacco industry.

About 50 tobacco farmers from the region met Dr. Vardhan, who was in the city on Friday, to apprise him of the commercial unviability of alternative crops in rain-fed areas of Mysore region.

The tobacco farmers, who had gathered under the auspices of Karnataka Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco Growers Federation, also sought to draw the attention of Dr. Vardhan to the government's discrimination against the tobacco used in the manufacture of cigarettes.

Federation president Javare Gowda said the Tobacco Board controls the cultivation and marketing of an estimated 350 million kg of tobacco grown in Karnataka and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, which is used mostly by cigarette manufactures in India and abroad.

However, there is no control on the nearly 500 million kgs of tobacco grown in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, which is used for chewing and beedis.

The government has subjected the cigarette tobacco industry to high taxation, which has forced many consumers to shift to low-priced alternatives like beedis, chewing tobacco, and illegal cigarettes.

Contending that only 15 per cent of the tobacco is consumed as cigarettes in India, Mr. Gowda said more than three lakh farm workers were dependent on tobacco crop in Mysore, Chamarajanagar and Hassan. "It is the only remunerative commercial crop being grown for the last 40 years in these tracts and has become a lifeline of farmers of the region," he said.

The federation opposed any move to amend the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003 that were detrimental to interests of cigarette tobacco manufacturers. Allowing sale of cigarettes only in packages and not in loose form, as proposed, would lead to consumers switching to illegal and cheaper tobacco varieties, the federation said.

Mr. Gowda said Dr. Vardhan gave them a patient hearing, accepted their memorandum and assured them that no hasty decision would be taken. "He said the tobacco farmers' interests will be protected."

Ryots to resist Tobacco Board's move

The Tobacco Board's move to check unauthorised tobacco cultivation has caused flutter among the growers in the northern light soil (NLS) area in West Godavari district. Some farmers are planning to hold a meeting at Gopalapuram Saturday to resist the move. The board has reportedly resorted to impose curbs on renewal of licenses for the tobacco barons to keep the growing unauthorised cultivation under check. Growers say the curbs were aimed against the 'innocent' farmers. The growers were subjected to hardship in getting the Tobacco Board to renew 800 barons because of the curbs. The data available with the Tobacco Board suggest that there were 47,250 growers cultivating FCV tobacco in 1,23,615 ha. against the notified area of 1,14,716 ha in the State. The excess production in the unauthorised area led to a price crash.

Stop arbitrary mining of sand from PWD quarries: farmers

On Friday, farmers in Vellore raised the issue of indiscriminate mining of sand from two Public Works Department's quarries at Periyathottalam and Chinnathottalam.

At the farmers grievance day meeting, N.S. Duraisamy, a farmer from Chinnathottalam said that in the previous meeting, he said that sand was being dug up for 20 feet in the quarries.

“But after that, sand has been dug up for another 15 feet. As per government order, only 36,042 units of sand should be mined from the two quarries but this limit has been exceeded,” he said. While Periyathottalam is located in Ambur taluk, Chinnathottalam is situated in Gudiyatham taluk.

He alleged that sand was being mined and taken in tractors from 2 a.m. when officials were not present to issue bills and demanded closure of the two quarries. “Proper billing is not being done at the quarries. Officials are present at the quarry from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. to bill the sand mined,” he added.

Officials of the PWD denied that sand had been dug up for 35 feet and said they would look into the issue.

‘Ban outsiders in Uzhavar Sandhai’

Selvakumari, another farmer, said that the Uzhavar Sandhai at Gudiyatham was facing plenty of trouble from outsiders. She added that traders from Andhra Pradesh were coming to the Sandhai to sell tomatoes. “Farmers are incurring huge loss due to this,” she added. Collector R. Nanthagopal, who chaired the meeting, directed officials not to allow wholesale traders inside the Uzhavar Sandhai, including at the entrance. He asked officials to take stern action on violators.

Udayakumar, another farmer, said Vellore was yet to get the drought relief. “We have been demanding drought relief for 10 years. The State and Central government should give Rs. 5,000 each per acre as relief. Last year, the relief was announced and a survey was taken. But nothing has been given,” he said.

Crab fattening technology reviewed

A team of scientists from the Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai, led by J. Syam Dayal on Friday inspected the functioning of ‘crab fattening technology’ provided to Yanadi families in Nagayalanka mandal. They also interacted with farmers engaged in aquaculture, apart from visiting a few aqua ponds in Nagayalanka.

INDIAN CITIES

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 94

Wind: normal

Tomorrow's Forecast

Saturday, Oct 18

Sunday, Oct 19

Max

29°



Min

25°

Cloudy

Sunrise: 05:59

Sunset: 05:48

Barometer: 1013

Max

34°

Min

26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday

Oct 20



34° | 26°

Cloudy

Tuesday

Oct 21



35° | 26°

Sunny

Wednesday

Oct 22



35° | 26°

Sunny

Thursday

Oct 23



35° | 26°

Sunny

Friday

Oct 24

35° | 26°

Partly Cloudy

DECCAN Chronicle

Rs 5,000 crore to waiver fund today



This Corporation will pay 20% of the total farm loans to the banks. Picture for representational purpose.

Hyderabad: As the first step towards waiving of the promised farm loans, the Andhra Pradesh government will release Rs 5,000 crore to the agriculture department. The orders will be issued in this regard on Saturday.

This amount, in turn, will be released by the agriculture department to the Farmers' Empowerment Corporation on October 23, a day after the corporation is launched.

The Corporation will start with Rs 1 crore as the capital amount. This Corporation will pay 20% of the total farm loans to the banks. The Corporation has been registered with four directors.