

Date: 06.07.2015

# THE HINDU

## **Tiruchi farmers float company**

A group of farmers in Tiruchi has come together to form a company in a bid to reduce cost of cultivation by pooling in resources, optimising subsidy schemes and marketing strategies. The company floated by the farmers of Thuraiyur will take up agro-based activities.

This is the first company to be established in the district under the aegis of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The company, with 800 farmers as members including 350 women, has established two shops for selling cattle feed at Konapadhai and Senappanallur. Members have been roped in from 11 villages in the district where milk production is a major occupation.

“We have been producing 1,500 litres of milk a day and supplying it to a private dairy,” says A. Thangaraj, director of the company. He has plans to start more farm-related operations in food processing.

Inaugurating the company formally at Thuraiyur on Saturday, K.S. Palanisamy, District Collector, said that it would be mutually beneficial for farmers and consumers. Cultivation cost would be reduced to a great extent as farmers could make bulk purchase of agricultural implements.

The company would also act as a bridge between farmers and government departments in implementation of various subsidy-based schemes. The consumers would benefit as the farm products would be sold at a fair price without the intervention of middlemen, he said.

K.V. Rao, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Chennai, said NABARD had sanctioned a grant of Rs. 10 lakh to the company to meet the initial expenses and stabilising business.

The company could utilise the funds for business planning, mobilisation of producers, registration, development of management system, capacity building, training and exposure visit and business operations. NABARD had extended support to 110 companies in different parts of the State so far. It has planned to support 40 more companies during the current financial year.

## **Cotton auctioned**

Cotton was auctioned for Rs. 60 lakh at the Konganapuram branch of the Tiruchengode Agricultural Producers Cooperative Society near here on Saturday.

While BT variety fetched a price between Rs. 3,700 and Rs. 4,400; the DCH variety fetched between Rs. 4,700 and Rs. 5,301. About 4,000 cotton bags were auctioned for Rs. 60 lakh on the occasion, society sources said.

About 300 bags of sesame seeds were auctioned for Rs. 15 lakh.

*About 4,000 cotton bags were auctioned for Rs. 60 lakh*

## **2,600 tonnes of imported urea arrives in Salem**



Workers in the process of unloading urea that arrived at Salem Railway Goods shed on Sunday.- PHOTO: E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

About 2,600 tonnes of imported urea for distribution to the farmers through the primary agricultural cooperative and credit societies in Salem and Namakkal districts arrived here by a special goods train on Sunday.

The stock from Oman, a Gulf country, was imported by the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) Limited.

## TANFED

The entire stock which arrived in 42 goods wagons was handed over to the regional office of the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation (TANFED), one of the members of the IFFCO, S. Arulmani, Field Officer, IFFCO, said.

To enable farmers commence farming operations without any delay, the TANFED shifted about 1,100 tonnes to the 400 and odd primary agricultural cooperative and credit societies in Salem and Namakkal districts through lorries on Sunday.

The rest of the stock will be supplied to the societies.

The rest 1,500 tonnes will be stocked in the godowns of the Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation in Salem and Namakkal, Mr. Arulmani said.

The urea stock supplied by the TANFED has to be sold to the farmers at the government rate of Rs. 270.50 paise per bag fixed by the government.

**“TS, AP likely to receive more rain than the country’s average”**



Director in-charge of India Meteorological Centre, Hyderabad, Y.K. Reddy, says monsoon will gather strength by the third week of July.– Photo: Rohit P.S.

After receiving bountiful rains at the start of monsoon, rainfall in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh has significantly reduced. Director in-charge of India Meteorological Centre (IMC), Hyderabad, Y.K. Reddy, tells **ROHIT P.S.** that the two States will have to wait two more weeks but can expect to receive more rains than the country's average this monsoon.

**How much rainfall can be expected in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh this year?**

For south India, which includes both the States, monsoon is predicted to be 92 per cent normal. It could, however, be eight per cent higher or lower. The monsoon is not yet active over Telangana though rainfall was 300 percent higher in the first week of June, compared to the same week last year. Some districts this year have recorded negative rainfall. Monsoon is expected to strengthen in the third week of July. It must be noted that geographical distribution of rainfall and the duration of monsoon is just as important as quantity of rain for agriculture.

**Does heavy rainfall in the last two weeks of October, as witnessed in the city and elsewhere in the region during the past few years, suggest changing climate?**

Rains were recorded in the recent past in the month of October, well after monsoon was said to have ended in September. Observations about changing rainfall patterns have been made and now they have to be studied. The climate is changing and it is important to determine how much of this change can be attributed to human activity.

**How hot was this year's summer compared to the last few years? Can extended hot weather temperatures be attributed to changing climate?**

Extended summers have been seen in the past. Our records show that Nellore witnessed heat wave conditions for a month in 1964. Many other Indian cities have also experienced heat wave spells much longer than what we experienced this year. This summer, we had 12 days of heat wave though we were not expecting it to last that long. Three locations in the State broke temperature records. While there is climate change, only studies in this region can tell us how much of this change is natural.

### **Does the IMC have plans to study climate in the region?**

The Government of India plans to set up climate monitoring stations across the country. These stations will measure more parameters than weather and rainfall stations. While details about the number and location of such stations in AP and Telangana are yet to be finalised, the project aims to monitor climate and collect data in urban Hyderabad.

### **Are there other plans to expand existing measurement network to improve weather monitoring?**

We currently have seven automatic rain gauges, two automatic weather stations (AWS) in Hyderabad and 29 manual observatories as well 35 AWS across the State. We also make limited use of the State government's equipment at various locations. Our use of State government apparatus is limited due to differences in calibration practices. We intend to train government personnel in our calibration methodology to make greater use of the equipment.

### **New farm insurance scheme soon**

The Centre is working on a new farm insurance and income scheme to help increase earnings of farmers, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Sunday.

Addressing a farmers' rally in Modha village here, Mr. Singh said the Centre was committed to improving infrastructure in villages and initiating development programmes.

The Minister said the State government was yet to provide relief to hailstorm-hit farmers, though the Centre had released funds for the purpose.

"I wonder why relief has not reached the affected farmers despite the Centre releasing funds to the State as per our federal structure," he said adding that the Centre had even relaxed norms for relief to farmers affected by heavy rain and hailstorms.

Mr. Singh said steps also needed to be taken to improve the law and order situation in the State, and offered to deploy additional central security personnel, if required.



## **Generating jobs**

Noting that unemployment was a major issue in rural areas, he said the Centre had formed Mudra Bank with Rs. 20,000 crore to provide initial financial support to all those striving for self-employment opportunities.

He also highlighted the social and economic scheme of the Centre such as the Atal Pension Yojana and Jan Dhan Yojana.

## **Coconut farmers' fears on price fall allayed**

The Coconut Development Board (CDB) has called upon coconut farmers not to feel apprehensive about the recent fall in the price of raw coconut and value-added products. In a statement, the CDB authorities said that the price fall was only temporary.

The CDB has dispelled rumours that an increase in production of coconuts in Tamil Nadu is the reason for the price fall of coconuts in Kerala. Terming the rumours baseless, the statement said that the production in the country's main coconut producing States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh has decreased when compared to the previous year.

## **Not to sell**

The statement asked coconut farmers not to sell their produce at throw-away price fearing further price fall.

“Coconut farmers’ organisations should concentrate on procurement of produce and primary processing to tap the opportunities of the coming festival season.”

The price of raw coconuts fell from Rs.36 a kg last month to Rs.27 and the price of coconut oil from Rs.165 a kg to Rs.120.

The CDB statement attributes the price fall to the “sluggish movement of the goods as a result of the start of monsoon season and also the end of the main harvesting season in Kerala.”

## **11 p.c. growth**

When compared to May 2015, the export of coconut and coconut value-added products registered 11 per cent growth in June 2015. Apart from this, the import of copra and coconut oil to India was comparatively very low. It is expected that the

market will overcome this temporary price fall and the prices will be stable by the arrival of the festival season, the statement added.

***The price of raw coconuts fell from Rs.36 a kg last month to Rs.27 and the price of coconut oil from Rs.165 a kg to Rs.120.***

### **‘Ensure fair price for farm produce’**

The Union and State governments should work in tandem to find a permanent solution to the problems of farmers and ensure that they get a fair price for their crops, Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation chairman D. Basavaraj has said.

He told presspersons here on Sunday that the government should form committees to study the condition of farmers; systematically frame policies; and convince farmers on the steps taken by the government to protect their interests. By doing this, the government could stop farmers from committing suicide, Mr. Basavaraj said.

Farmers have lost hope even on safeguarding their farm land owing to the Union government’s move to acquire land for industrial purposes by bringing amendments to the land acquisition Bill.

The government had also stopped declaring minimum support price for many crops. The Union government should withdraw such steps in the interest of farmers, he said.

Though the Congress government was providing loans up to Rs. 3 lakh without interest to farmers and up to Rs. 10 lakh at 3 per cent interest, farmers were taking loans from moneylenders too. Unable to pay the heavy interest, they were resorting to drastic steps.

***Govt. told to form committees to study the condition of farmers***

### Software for collating data on students, teachers, schools developed



It will also store the school location and information about RTE quota admission and infrastructure.

The mass database programme for students, teachers and schools of the state, including a child tracking system as prescribed under the RTE, has been developed. The training programme for this will be held next week and the data entry process will be completed by October, according to officials.

The software was developed by National Informatics Centre and is named SARAL (Systematic Administrative Reforms for Achieving Learning by Students). As per the government resolution of July 3, the best part of the software is that after the entire data is entered into the system, there will be no need of re-entering it every year.

“All the students will be linked by Aadhaar card and hence every student will have a unique identification number. The same will be the case with teachers. So once the entire data is entered, there will be no need to repeat the same exercise every year. All that the school will have to do is update information,” said an official from the Zilla Parishad.



Saral will solve the problems of collecting data of private schools in the state. It will also store the school location and information about 25 per cent admission and infrastructure, helping the government to keep a check on compliance with RTE norms and school mapping.

The data of students' progress in academics and extra curricular activities will be updated every 6 months. Parents can keep track of the child's progress without going to the school and getting a progress report. They can also take a print of the report card and get it signed from respective teachers. If a student leaves a school and joins another, there will be no need of a transfer certificate as information can be directly shown at another school. The entire process will be online and errors in actual number of students who drop out or are enrolled can be detected.

The database, a brainchild of former education commissioner S Chockalingam, will have an extensive record of data pertaining to school education in the state in three categories – student, staff and school database. The last date to fill in the information is October 1 of this year. “We have training at district level for block education officer and technical officers on Monday and Tuesday. The block level training is on July 9 and 10. Once the system is fully developed, it will be a one stop solution for all information regarding students, teachers, non teaching staff and schools. This will not only save the time of teachers, otherwise engaged in mundane clerical work every year, but also introduce transparency,” said the official from ZP.

### **‘Foodies’ are actually healthier**



Adventurous eaters, known as “foodies”, are often associated with indulgence and excess. However, a new Cornell Food and Brand Lab study shows just the

opposite, adventurous eaters weigh less and may be healthier than their less-adventurous counterparts.

A nationwide US survey of 502 women showed that those who had eaten the widest variety of uncommon foods — including seitan, beef tongue, Kimchi, rabbit, and polenta — also rated themselves as healthier eaters, more physically active, and more concerned with the healthfulness of their food when compared with non-adventurous eaters.

“They also reported being much more likely to have friends over for dinner,” said lead author Lara Latimer, PhD, formerly at the Cornell Food and Brand Lab. “These findings are important to dieters because they show that promoting adventurous eating may provide a way for people, especially women, to lose or maintain weight without feeling restricted by a strict diet,” said coauthor Brian Wansink.

He advises, “Instead of sticking with the same boring salad, start by adding something new. It could kick start a more novel healthy life of food adventure.”



### **Gourd farmer tastes sweet success**

HUBBALLI: Can't stand the taste of bitter gourd? How about tucking into a palya made of its close cousin - the spine gourd - instead? The sweet variant from the gourd family has been a windfall for Ningayya Guruvayya Hiremath. The 42-year-old farmer of Soorashetti Kopp village in Dharwad district has harvested a good yield of spine gourd from just 5-6 guntas of his 1.20-acre land.

The path to the success that Hiremath reaped was, however, riddled with a bounty of misgivings and naysayers. "I discovered some spine gourd growing in the wild in the adjacent forest.

When I decided to sow it on my farmland in 2008, many farmers advised me against it. There's a myth that farming spine gourd only brings bad luck. An agricultural scientist felt that the yield would be bleak, suspecting that the land was unsuitable for such a crop," explains the farmer. "But, nature had a surprise in store for me."

To counter any possible loss, a cautious Hiremath started with baby steps - he sowed spine gourd along with sapota. "The plants soon bore fruit. I was ecstatic!" he recalls.

Egged on by the success of his mixed crop cultivation, he approached researchers from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (USAD), hoping to get tips on improving the yield. "They asked me to sow plants with 'male' and 'female' gametophytes together to better the chances of pollination," he says.

Hiremath's wife, Girijavva, 38, says the family now gets about 40 kg of gourd in a week during the harvest season between July and September. The USP of cultivating spine gourd, she explains, is that the plant doesn't need much care. "We grow it along with crops like sapota, tur dal and soyabean. It needs nominal water supply."

Ismail, a vendor in Hubballi, says the vegetable has slowly found its niche in the market. "It's true that not many people know about the spine gourd, but the vegetable has its own clientele who wait for the harvest season. Many consumers pre-book their orders and we deliver the vegetable as soon as we receive it from Hiremath."

SM Hiremath, a horticulture specialist at Krishi Vignan Kendra, Saidapur, says the farmer was felicitated for his innovative cultivation method by the UASD at its Krishi Mela in 2013. "Every part of the spine gourd has medicinal value. Ailments like fever, jaundice, diabetes, tuberculosis, cardiac and breath-related problems can be tackled by the regular intake of the vegetable."

#### [Kumble - Sweet 'Jackfruit Wraps' from Kerala](#)



*Jackfruit is one of the most widely popular fruits in India. Unlike the spicy sabzi, this Kerala recipe is a sweet culinary delight.*

**Cooking Time:** 1 and a half hour

**Serving:** Depends on the number of leaves. With the current measurements you can make at least 20 of them.

**Ingredients:**

15 to 20 Malapathrum leaves/large bay leaves (if you cannot source these leaves then you could use foil as well as banana leaves)

1 cup roasted rice flour

2 cups of jackfruit pulp

Black jaggery syrup (to taste)

Salt (to taste)

3 cardamom (crushed)

half spoon cumin powder

**Method:**

1. Wash the leaves and pat them dry.
2. Mix all the ingredients well and keep it aside for at least an hour.
3. Take the leaves and shape them like cones.
4. Fill these cones with the mixture and seal them in the shape of a flattened samosa.
5. Steam the cones for 20 to 25 minutes.
6. They are ready to be served hot. Can be consumed even at the room temperature or cold as well.

## 5 healthy Indian teas



*Tea and spices — two things we can't live without yet are forced to part with in summers.*

How about five healthy chai and masala combinations those are tasty and beneficial. Sip on your favourite cuppas without having to settle for bland green teas or staid iced teas.

**Cardamom Tea:** It could be the best way to start your day with. It not only boosts digestion, relieves headache and stomach cramps but also has a cooling effect on body. Diuretic properties of cardamom also make it a great detoxifying agent cleansing the body.

**Cinnamon Tea:** Very few know that humble dalchini actually has one of the highest antioxidant content among herbs and spices. It also helps you fight cholesterol levels. A report published in *Annals of Family Medicine*, a reputed medical journal, stated cinnamon consumption resulted in reduced cholesterol levels. You may want to round off your summer lunch with a cinnamon tea.

**Saffron Tea:** You've heard of saffron scented milk, desserts and dishes but how about a kesar chai this summer! Not only is the taste sinfully addictive but *The Encyclopedia of Healing Foods* lists saffron as a herb with potential health benefits. Apart from imparting unmatched taste to the tea, saffron also has anti cancer properties, antioxidants that can reduce cardiovascular diseases and ability to protect vision cells. Evening snacks will taste a lot better when wolfed down with saffron tea!



**Cumin Tea:** If summers mean sleeplessness then look no further than cumin tea. These humble seeds known for their sedative properties have a soothing effect on the body. Cumin also helps in absorption of iron from food. Cumin powder mixed with a mashed banana and had at night is actually one of the most popular home remedies to beat insomnia.

**Chamomile Tea:** There's no better digestive and soothing ale than chamomile tea. Round off your dinner with cup of this tea known to relieve anxiety and stress. While benefits of green tea are well documented, chamomile tea is fast emerging as the best solution for skin related problems. Cooled chamomile tea bags can be used to reduce dark circle and soothe puffy eyes.

### **Got PCOS? Here's what you should eat and avoid!**

*Millions of women around the world suffer from Polycystic Ovary Syndrome or PCOS as it is more popularly known as. And while medicines will help to a great extent, it is your diet that will be of great help.*

The condition is said to affect women when there is an imbalance of sex hormones, which in turn lead to irregular periods, cysts in the ovaries, excessive acne, increase in hair growth on the body or face, and in worst case scenarios, inability to get pregnant. At times, PCOS can also be a hereditary problem.

Health experts say that eating a healthy diet, packed with fresh fruits and vegetables, is one of the best ways to manage PCOS because weight gain is one of the biggest symptoms of the ailment.

Make sure you limit your consumption of saturated and trans fat because this will lead to excessive weight gain, high cholesterol and high BP. Instead consume healthy unsaturated fats, which are available in canola and olive oil, avocados and different types of nuts.

Another thing you need to increase is your fibre intake — this will keep your blood sugar levels and cholesterol in check. Foods like oranges, pears, spinach, broccoli, oats, brown rice, quinoa, figs, lentils, chickpeas, wheat bran, flaxseeds and almonds are packed with fibre, so make sure you include them in your diet.

Another important item to include in your diet is protein — found in chicken, certain fish, soy, nuts, milk or legumes. Foods to stay away from are those, which contain too much salt, sugar and refined flour like white bread and rice, soda, sugary or fizzy drinks, salty and fried food and chocolate. It is also advisable to stay active and exercise at least five times a week.

## Healthy alternatives to junk food

*Eating healthy has a number of benefits — from keeping a check on body weight, stimulating brain chemicals to improve mood to combating diseases. But what keeps us away from following a diet chart is the common notion that what's good for our health may not appeal our taste buds.*

Giving an insight into why people crave junk food, nutritionist Ryan Fernando says, "People tend to eat food with higher quantity of fat and sugar when they are stressed out. Craving often results from a lack of essential and balanced minerals in the body. Portion-control could be an effective way to control to keep a check on consumption of unhealthy food. One should also be wary of processed food items and beverages, as they may contain a high amount of sugar and preservatives that may cause harm to our physical well-being. Echoing a similar thought, health expert Ranjani Raman says, "It is important to watch what children eat, as they more attracted to packaged food that is easily available in the market." Here are a few healthy alternatives that you can use to make tasty tidbits at home:

### **CORN**

Commonly known as bhutta, corn is rich in carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and other minerals. Sweet or baby corn can be used in salads, soups as well as in sandwiches. Mix it with chaat for a lip-smacking treat with loved ones.

### **MULTIGRAIN BREAD**

These can be good and wholesome food for your kids as well as elderly people at home. Low-calorie and sugar-free baked items like wheat biscuits and high-fibre cookies could be yummy alternatives to bakery products, which contain more sugar.

### **FRESH JUICE**

Ditch artificially sweetened drinks for freshly made fruit and vegetable juices at home to maintain good healthy and supple skin. Lassi and tender coconut could also work wonders for your skin and ease digestion.

### **RICE NOODLES, WHOLE-WHEAT PASTA**

A plate of thin rice noodles, peppered by your favourite vegetables can taste better than the ones you eat at restaurants. Try home-made pasta and wheat pizza crust without butter or cheese to give a tasty surprise to your taste buds.

### **MASALA PAPAD**

Everyone can have their own recipe when it comes to eat masala papad. The choice of salads and spices to spread on this thin crust is yours. Different types of khakras could be a perfect combination with your evening tea or coffee.

## **STARTERS OR APPETIZERS**

Get rid of packaged frozen ready-to-cook snack items like French fries, nuggets, corns and opt for home-made crispies like potato chips, onion rings and different varieties of salads.

## **PUFFED RICE**

Plain or roasted puffed rice could be a delightful evening treat. Spice it up with crushed papri, sprouts, mint and tamarind chutney at home.

## **HOME-MADE SWEETS**

Puddings made at home with nuts and dry fruits like almonds and pistachios as toppings could be your sweet somethings at home.

## **Exercises you can do at your work desk**



*Does sitting for long hours at work affect your spine or make your back stiff? Follow these simple stretching exercises to release the stress.*

**Shoulder shrugs:** This exercise helps release stiffness in your neck and shoulders. Inhale deeply, grip your shoulders with your fingers and lift them up to your ears. Hold for five seconds and release. You can also move them in circular motion to relieve stress.

**Hand circles:** While at your desk, clench both fists and stretch your hands out in front of you. Rotate your wrists, clockwise and then anti-clockwise for five minutes each.

**Leg extensions:** Beneficial for your abs and legs, practise leg extensions at work twice a day. While you're sitting, extend your legs straight out in front of you, so they are parallel to the floor. Flex and point your toes downward in front of you. Repeat this five times.

**Back hug:** Cross your arms and place your right hand on the left shoulder and the left hand on your right shoulder. Inhale and exhale deeply, hold for five seconds and release.

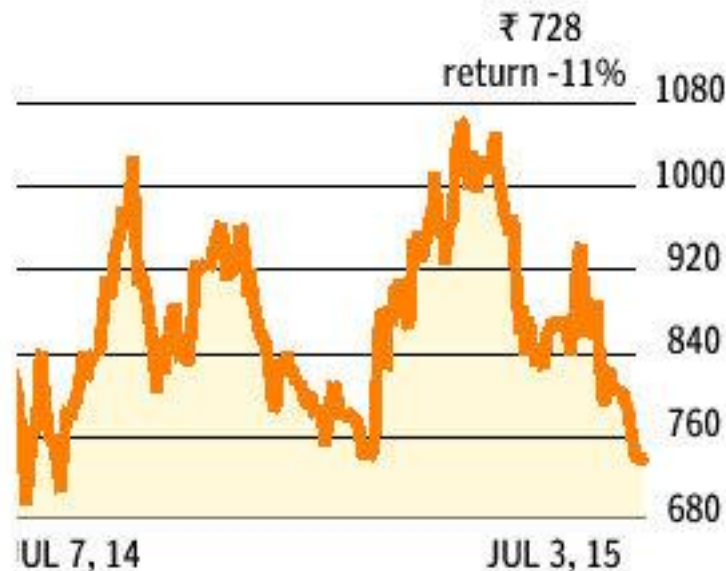
**Neck stretch:** Stand straight with feet apart. Entwine your fingers and hold the nape of your neck. Look upwards toward the ceiling and stretch your neck.

**Arm raises:** Using your water bottle as a dumbbell, hold it in your right hand. Bending your elbow, raise your arm overhead. Repeat on with other hand. You can do this exercise even while sitting at your desk.

# THE HINDU BusinessLine

## Kaveri Seed Company: a good time to sow

Sharp correction in stock prices, healthy growth prospects are positives



### BL Research Bureau:

The share price of Kaveri Seeds, the country's leading seed producer, has fallen over 28 per cent since March.

The sharp fall began after the Maharashtra Government decided to reduce the maximum retail price of cottonseed by Rs. 100 a packet.

But the cut in cottonseed price is unlikely to affect Kaveri's profitability materially for two reasons. One, the distribution channel may share a portion of the revenue loss.

Two, cottonseed sales in Maharashtra account for an estimated 16 per cent of the company's cottonseed sales and about 10 per cent of the company's overall sales.

Hence, the impact of this move on Kaveri's profitability may be limited.

Given the healthy growth prospects for other crops such as maize, rice and bajra, as well as for cottonseed, outside Maharashtra, the sharp correction provides a good buying opportunity for investors with a two/three-year investment horizon.

At the current price, the stock trades at an attractive 11 times its 2015-16 earnings.

Kaveri has a strong presence in the hybrid cotton segment — with a share of 16 per cent. This is expected to increase to 19 per cent in 2015-16, aided by higher realisation in other key cotton-growing States such as Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. This should compensate for the decline in cotton hybrid seeds in Maharashtra.

After a sedate 2014, which saw corn acreage fall by almost 20 per cent in key growing States, the area under the crop is expected to improve this year.

Kaveri is planning to launch corn hybrids, particularly in central and north India. This should help the company gain market share in the current year.

### **Growth potential**

Other segments, such as bajra, rice and micronutrients, are also growing at a healthy pace. Given that the hybridisation in rice is less than 10 per cent, the growth potential is quite significant. The company expects its rice seed sales to grow at 20 per cent-plus in the current year.

However, further price cuts in the cottonseed segment, if they happen, can affect Kaveri's near-term prospects.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated July 6, 2015)



## **Jaitley sees GST, Land Bills as key to improving investment climate**

Achieving rapid economic growth of 8-10% will help eliminate deprivation:  
FinMin



### **New Delhi, July 5:**

Ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has pitched for the passage of GST (Goods & Services Tax) and Land Bills for improving environment for investments.

Commenting on the Socio Economic and Caste Census, Jaitley said that there is an ambitious programme to increase public investment in roads, railways, rural infrastructure and connectivity.

“At the same time, the Government is creating the conditions for greater private investment: implementing the GST and creating a common market, reforming the

land law, easing the costs of doing business, and unblocking stalled projects to improve the conditions for investment,” he said in his Facebook post on Sunday.

The Government aims to implement GST from April 1 next year, but it has very less time for completing the legislative process — once Parliament approves the Constitution Amendment Bill, it needs to be rectified by at least 50 per cent of the State Assemblies, to become an Act. This has to be followed by passing of three more laws.

However, the principal Opposition Congress has made it clear that until the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and the Chief Minister of Rajasthan Vasundhara Raja resign following the Lalit Modi episode, it will not allow smooth running of the monsoon session.

On the Socio Economic and Cast Census, he said that growth and economic reforms will help the poor as do targeted schemes. He also felt that that higher growth is needed to uplift life in rural area.

“The way to eliminate deprivation is to achieve rapid economic growth of 8-10 per cent so that good jobs are created for all Indians quickly. That is why the government is promoting investment,” he said.

His remark was in reference to Census data, which painted a grim picture of the rural India and revealed that one out of three families living in villages is landless and depends on manual labour for livelihood.

Jaitley emphasised on targeting schemes and policies to re-inforce the effects of growth on alleviating deprivation, and also to help those who may be left out. Citing the example of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), he said that research by the office of the Chief Economic Adviser showed that about Rs.12,700 crore (25 per cent) will be saved this year from this scheme.

“If we can be careful in our design and implementation, we can extend DBT to other commodities, so that the poor get more money to spend for their upliftment,” he said.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated July 6, 2015)

# Business Standard

Dry weather forces monsoon to take a rain check

**Monsoon likely to revive this week**



Dry weather since end-June has wiped out all surplus in southwest monsoon, and rains between June 1 and July 5 are barely normal at 206.7 millimeters.

The surplus in almost all the regions of the country has come down in the last few days and if rains do not return in the next few days, things might start getting worse.

In northwest India, the monsoon so far is just five per cent above normal, while in central and southern India, it is two per cent above normal.

In east and northeast India, rainfall is four per cent below normal. The quantum of rains in east and northeast India is higher than other regions and hence, any let-up in cloudburst pulls down the percentages.

In June, the first of the four-month southwest monsoon, the rains were 16 per cent above normal. This enhanced the sowing of kharif crops, given that more than 90 per cent of the country received above average rainfall.

The last data from the department of agriculture showed the total area sown under kharif crops so far has been almost 57.5 per cent more than last year over 30.60 million hectares.

The area under coarse cereals, which till now was less than last year's, improved during the week due to good rainfall over eastern India, where maize is grown in large quantities. [Coarse cereals](#) have been planted over 4.37 million hectares as against 2.89 million hectares during the same period last year.

Rice, which is the biggest foodgrain grown during the kharif season, was sown over 5.40 million hectares, up from 5.35 million hectares sown in the same period last year.

But since then rains have taken a break, which has reignited fears of overall below-normal monsoon season this year. Rains in the week that ended July 2 were almost 14 per cent below average across the country, the first weekly drop this season.

However, there was some hope on the horizon as the [India Meteorological Department](#) (IMD), in its last weekly update, has said that rainfall activity would be above normal over the northwest, central and some parts of eastern India during July 6-10.