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THE HINDU

70 solar-powered pump sets established in Sivaganga district



Giving some relief to the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco), which found it difficult to provide power connections to farm pump sets, the Department of Agricultural Engineering has established 70 solar-powered pump sets in the district, which could produce 2,800 kw of green energy per day.

The solar-powered pumping system, with 80 per cent subsidy, will provide farmers energy security for irrigation throughout the year. Farmers in the district have taken a lead in setting up solar pump sets as they have water sources such as open and bore wells, suitable for erecting 5 HP AC solar pump sets.

The solar pump sets were operated for about eight hours a day, M. Yuvaraj, Executive Engineer, in-charge (Agricultural Engineering), said, while demonstrating their prowess during a press tour on Tuesday.

He said the 70 solar pump sets would generate 8.40 lakh kw of energy a year.

M. Sellamuthu, a farmer in Manakarai, had an open well but irrigation became expensive as his oil engine consumed a minimum of five litres of diesel a day. He had three and a half acres of land but cultivated just one crop in an acre all these days.

“I never imagined that I could cultivate in summer,” an elated Sellamuthu said. He operated the newly established solar pump set for eight hours a day and was cultivating groundnut, pulses and vegetables in two and a half acres now. The recent summer rain has raised water level in the well and he is set to expand cultivation area by another acre.

Mr. Yuvaraj said that the department had formed a group of 16 farmers of Scheduled Castes and backward classes and helped them rejuvenate a bore well and lay pipelines at a cost of Rs. 6 lakh under the State Balance Growth Fund with 90 per cent subsidy.

Similarly, under the National Agriculture Development Programme, it had been proposed to dig community irrigation bore wells by forming 150 groups of 10 farmers each with total land holding of 25 acres this year.

Each bore well with pipeline facilities would be established at an estimated cost of Rs. 7 lakh for a group with 50 per cent subsidy, he added.

Agriculture continues to be a huge draw among students

Despite a mad rush for engineering and medical courses, agriculture courses continue to keep students under their sway.

“The Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU) in Coimbatore and its seven constituent colleges, which include the Agricultural College and Research Institute (AC and RI) in Madurai, have so far sold more than 21,500 applications this year. While a bulk of the application process has gone online, the AC and RI has set up a special helpdesk on the campus to serve students from rural areas,” said its Dean K. Velayudham. He said that B.Sc. Agriculture remained the most preferred course, followed by Agriculture Engineering.

Arul Anandar College in Karumathur, which offers bachelor’s programme in Rural Development Sciences and master’s programme in Dairy Science and Rural Management, also attracts a steady stream of students. Its Principal S.J. Xavier Vedam said, “Sixty students have been admitted to the bachelor’s programme till date. In the last few years, there has been an increase in number of students who are genuinely interested in studying rural development and agriculture,” he said.

Mr. Xavier said that these courses enabled the students to pursue their interest in agriculture and hone their skills thanks to a job-oriented syllabus. “Many students go on to set up poultry farms, dairy farms and horticulture enterprises as they are exposed to all these subjects,” he said.

Stating that there were plenty of opportunities in the ever-growing agro and food-processing industries, Mr. Velayudham said that many students had become agri-entrepreneurs or had joined leading companies. “Many also shine in administrative jobs in the government or take up civil services examinations,” he said.

Mulching in tuberose for weed management

Tuberose is an important traditional flower of India. It is used both as loose flower and cut flower. The major constraint in tuberose cultivation is weed management and about 70-80 per cent of cultivation cost accounts for weeding.

Plastic mulching is recommended for weed management, if planted under drip and fertigation system.

Raised beds should be prepared at a height of four feet and lateral drip laid out along the centre of the raised beds. Plastic mulch sheet of 40 micron thickness top silver and bottom black should be spread on the raised beds.

Recommended spacing

Bulbs are planted in the holes made at recommended spacing. Use of the plastic mulch reduces the weed management cost to a tune of 80 per cent.

It prevents the evaporation of irrigation water which reduces the irrigation water requirement by 30 per cent.

The cost towards plastic mulching per acre is about Rs 20,000. The crop period is for two to three years and the life of mulch sheet almost extends for the period of 15-20 months. If plastic mulching sheet is not used then weeding must be done once in 20-25 days.

The mulch sheet reduces the weeding cost by 80 per cent. The furrows between the raised beds alone need to be weeded. The furrow space is used

for daily harvest of the flowers and hence the need for weeding in that area is also lesser.

Harvesting

Flowers are harvested daily and about 20 kilograms of flowers can be obtained per acre per day.

The average cost per kg of flower is about Rs.40 which leads to an income of Rs. 24000 per month.

If plastic mulching is not used, about Rs. 6,000 per month will be spent for weeding, which is now saved by the use of plastic mulching.

As a result, the net returns increases by 40 to 60 per cent compared to an unmulched field. The quality of the flowers is also improved since the soil moisture is maintained and the plants are of vigour physiology.

(Dr. K. Indhumathi, Asst Prof (horticulture) and Dr. P. S. Shanmugam, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Papparapatty, Dharmapuri district – 636 809, email: nilaadoss@gmail.com, mobile: 09994672204, Phone : 04342-245860.)

Forest Department conducts first-ever wild boar census in Coimbatore



The Forest Department has conducted an enumeration of the wild boar population in the district using scientific methods following complaints from farmers of an increase in its population and subsequent rise in crop damage.

“While an accurate count of wild boars is not possible, through this census we have found out the concentration of boars in each of the beats in Coimbatore. As many as 1,850 boars were spotted during this exercise,” District Forest Officer M. Senthil Kumar told *The Hindu* here on Wednesday.

He said that the survey was completed recently using the ‘abundance survey’ method that employed both ‘direct sightings’ and ‘indirect evidence collection.’

This involved forest personnel walking along the transect lines traversing all the 19 beats in the six ranges of Coimbatore Forest Division, which spans 69,000 hectares and shares borders with Tirupur, Erode and the Nilgiris besides Palakkad district of Kerala.

The Coimbatore district alone has a forest boundary of 260 km.

The indirect evidence collection involves tracking animal movement through signs such as droppings. Direct Sightings, as the name implies, involves visual confirmation.

They were both carried out separately and collated later.

Boars frequently cause a lot of damage to crops in areas such as Narasipuram in Booluvampatti Range, Solampalayam in P.N.Palayam Range, Thekkampatti and Kallar in Mettupalayam Range, the District Forest Officer said. In fact, hundreds of farmers objected to the rescue of wild boars that fell into an open well at Dhayanur village near Karamadai this January.

The purpose of the survey was to ascertain the extent of the population and take it to the notice of the State government to devise mitigation measures to provide relief for farmers.

Any mitigation measure required such a study to quantify the extent of the problem, he said.

‘No hike in urea price in next four years’

The price of urea, a major fertiliser, will not be increased in the next four years, said Union Minister of State for Petrochemicals and Fertilisers, Hansraj Ahir.

“Come what may, the price of a bag of urea will remain constant at Rs. 268 during the period,” he declared on Wednesday.

The Minister was addressing a press conference here as part of his visit to the district in connection with celebrations on completion of the one-year rule of the NDA government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He later addressed a public meeting in Nirmal where he recalled the achievements of the Union government.

Mr. Ahir said the BJP government was committed to the welfare of farmers.

Mango, jackfruit mela from tomorrow



It is the season to savour the different varieties of mangoes and jackfruits. To help citizens buy organic fruits directly from the farmers, the department of horticulture has organised the annual mango and jackfruit mela.

The mela that will be held at Lalbagh from May 29 to June 26 is set to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The mela, apart from having nearly 100 stalls, will also have an exhibition of varieties of mangoes.

M. Kamalakshi Rajanna, chairperson of Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation, said that the aim was to take the carbide-free fruits directly to consumers without the involvement of middlemen.

Despite the vagaries of weather, the State expects the production of the mangoes to reach around 7 lakh tonnes this year, though the yield has reduced by 20 to 30 per cent compared to the previous year, she said.

“The corporation aims to help growers adopt a scientific approach for cultivation and reduce the risks for traders in export. A specialised team of experts has been formed to explore the opportunities in the global market and improve the standards of the fruits,” Ms. Rajanna added.

Mango and Jackfruit Mela

When: From May 29 to June 26

Between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Where: Lalbagh

Varieties of mangoes: Alphonso, Badami, Baganapalli, Raspuri, Mallika, Sindhura, Malagoa, Thothapuri, Neelam, Amrapali, Kesar

Summer showers obviate need for fodder depots

The periodic spells of rain in the district during summer months have helped the Animal Husbandry Department in not operating fodder depots this year.

Cattlerearers have been able to tide over the summer month. According to Animal Husbandry department sources, there is adequate availability of green fodder, and hence, the need to procure straw from harvest sites has not arisen.

Last year, the department sold paddy straw as cattle feed at subsidised cost to farmers through veterinary hospitals in Bhavani, Perundurai, Elumathur, Polavakalipalayam, Nambiyur, and other places.

The department used to procure paddy for Rs. 10 per kilogram and sell the same for Rs. 2.

The fodder depots served the purpose of preventing distress-sale of cattle by the rearers. This year, in the wake of the summer showers, there will be no shortage of green fodder until the rainfall season later this year, Animal Husbandry department officials said.

Construct check dams across Bhavani: farmers

Farmers in the district have called upon the Public Works Department to construct a series of check dams across the Bhavani river to harness water for irrigational use during summer months.

The check dams will serve twin-purposes of preventing water accruing from the monsoon rains from draining into the sea and recharging groundwater, according to farmer organisations in the Thadapalli-Arakankottai and Kalingarayan ayacut areas.

Study

According to sources, the Water Resources Department is in the process of studying scope for augmenting water storage in canals and rivers Statewide, for recharge of aquifer. Farmers in the district have already represented their plea for formulation of suitable project proposal to the Public Works Department.

With the demand for drinking water increasing phenomenally due to pace of urbanisation, such check-dams would also pave way for the government to device combined drinking water schemes to cater to the urban population, farmers say.

‘Price of urea will stay constant’

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Mr. Ahir said the BJP government was committed to the welfare of farmers. He said that keeping the cost of urea constant would help to contain rising investment on agriculture. The Union Minister of State further said that the

government was committed to reviving all closed fertilizer and pharmaceutical manufacturing units across the country. Among the eight such factories is the Ramagundam fertilizer factory in Karimnagar district and Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited at Hyderabad in Telangana, he added.

Mr. Ahir said the government would open 3,000 generic medicine stores across the country this year.

A bus driver masters the art of hiving wild honey bees



Udayan, a temporary bus driver with the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) was finding it difficult to make both ends meet.

All agriculture universities across the country have Krishi Vigyan Kendras with them to reach out to the farmers and act as a bridge of knowledge transfer from the lab to the land and vice versa.

But in the present scenario, more than knowledge sharing or imparting, it is becoming increasingly important to help a farmer earn more, so that agriculture is sustainable both for himself and to the society at large.

Challenge

“It is not necessary for a farmer to own large areas of land to earn better income. In fact revenue generation is possible even from a few cents. To make it possible is both a challenge and an art which only few kendras have

been able to achieve and one among them is the one attached to the Central Plantation and Crops Research Institute in Kasargod (CPCRI),” says Dr. T.S. Manoj Kumar Programme Coordinator.

Mr. Udayan, a temporary bus driver with the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) was finding it difficult to make both ends meet as his monthly income was only around Rs. 8,000.

Maintaining a family of four in today’s economic situation is no easy task. His 60 cents of ancestral land is densely packed with diversified crops such as coconut palms, pepper, banana, betel leaf and different vegetables along with a milch cow.

Racking his brain as to how to earn some extra income he accidentally happened to read in the local dailies about training programmes on stingless bee keeping (Meliponiculture) being organized by the Kendra.

“Curious and excited he contacted us to explore the possibility of starting meliponiculture as a microenterprise since land was one of the major barriers in taking up agri enterprises involving cultivation of crops,” says Dr. Manoj.

Usually bee keeping means rearing bees with stings in wooden boxes and training is given on the art of handling the insects and honey extraction.

No easy task

Once completed the participants can collect the queen bee and the box paying a amount and start establishing the colonies in their field or garden.

But collecting bees from the wild called hiving is not so easy. It is an art which requires patience and skill and only some gain mastery over it.

Immediately after attending the training programme, Mr. Udayan started his venture with the confidence that he can practice hiving. He had noticed small bees going in and out of bamboo poles in a nearby forest land. He wanted to hive natural colonies from the forest areas and contacted a former trainee of the Kendra for help. He arranged bee boxes of standard specifications and started hiving natural colonies.

Enterprise

Together they initiated their enterprise with five colonies. They started locating colonies first by observing bees and later hiving it at weekly intervals. From their experience, they found that in large areas with wild vegetation, small bees prefer to colonise in dried bamboo poles as compared to hollows or cavities of wild trees.

“Now, they are able to collect five to seven colonies a week. At present, there are around 95 colonies in their unit. They have sold 65 colonies at Rs.1200 per colony and around 25 kg of honey at rate of Rs.1,500 per kg thereby earning Rs.1,15,000 in the last six months,” explains Dr. S. Leena, Chief technical officer.

The honey is marketed under brand name called Unique honey and is quite popular since it is extracted from stingless bees (also called dammer bees) is natural and medicinal in quality.

Their duo’s success of hiving bees from the wild was widely reported in local media which inspired several youth in the region to approach the Kendra for similar training.

“Kasaragod has been declared an organic district by the government and under organic cultivation; initially it takes three to four years for the yields to stabilise. The only way to encourage better yield is by raising honeybees. It has been recorded by us that honey bees in a garden have been helping to get 30 to 40 per cent more yield over a period of time,” explains Dr. Leena.

Proposal

The Karadka panchayath has submitted proposal for a project on creating honey village with the objective of establishing one colony in every homes which is a similar idea like every home must grow a sapling.

To know more about this interested readers can call Mr. Udayan, Panoor kochi house, Karaduka P.O., Muliya (via), Kasaragod 671 542, mobile: 8547994801 and Dr. S. Leena, Chief Technical Officer (Entomology), mobile: 09446062182, phone: 04994-232993.

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Banana auction

Banana arrivals showed an improvement at the weekly auction held at the Integrated Market Complex for Banana at Thiruchendurai in the district on Tuesday. A total of 805 bunches were sold at the auction. Forty-one banana growers participated in the auction. Top quality rasthali variety fetched a maximum of 190 a bunch, poovan Rs. 165, pachaladan Rs.170, Elatharasi 135 and karpooravalli Rs.175 a bunch. The next auction at the market would be held on June 2.

Fungi help resolve mushroom 'tree of life'



Genetic material from fungi collections helped researchers resolve the mushroom 'tree of life,' a map of the relationships between key mushroom species and their evolutionary history.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

PM Narendra Modi launches new channel for farmers offering weather information, new agricultural techniques



PM launched DD Kisan, which will telecast special programmes on weather, farmer issues, commodities markets, new farming techniques among others.

On the day his government completed a year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told a farmers' gathering in the capital that his government would do its best to improve their lives. Invoking former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri's efforts to energise agriculture, he said there was a time when India even imported wheat but it was the Shastri's call to farmers that changed everything.

"His language was accessible. Our farmer brothers made sure that the country never went hungry after that." Steering clear of commenting on the proposed land bill that has earned the opposition's wrath, the PM added that the government was investing crores on satellites and the biggest beneficiaries of the project would be farmers for there will be accurate weather information now.

To the Farmers' Rescue

PM MODI TOLD a farmers' gathering that govt was investing crores on satellites for their benefit

HE STRESSED that move will help farmers access accurate weather info now

HE ALSO LAUNCHED a 24-hour channel for farmers, DD Kisan

THE CHANNEL will show programmes on weather, farmer issues, commodities markets, new farming techniques every day

We need to make agriculture viable and dynamic so that we can attract the youth that is running away from becoming farmers

Prime Minister NARENDRA MODI

The PM also launched a 24-hour channel for farmers, DD Kisan, which will telecast special programmes on weather, farmer issues, commodities markets, new farming techniques among others every day.

The channel has been launched with the tagline, Badalte Bharat ki Shaan and will be considerably different from DD Krishi Darshan run by the regional centres of DD, said officials. The PM said the channel could also be used to telecast stories of the most successful farmers of every tehsil so that others

learn from them. Modi urged the farmer community to invest in timber cultivation that can give them wood to sell for furniture markets.

"There are many in the country who suffer from malnourishment. Our protein largely comes from pulses which are imported. Lets make a promise to ourselves that by 2022 when the country celebrates its 75th anniversary, we will be self reliant in the production of pulses."

"We need to make agriculture viable and dynamic so that we can attract the youth that is running away from becoming farmers." Information on changes in global markets that influence prices of grains should be taken to farmers through DD Kisan. Prasar Bharti chairperson A Surya Prakash said channel will focus on generating exhaustive reports on weather, market among other things which will be beneficial to farmers.

[Mah govt to provide weather reports to farmers](#)

The Maharashtra government plans to enlist the support of private Marathi television channels to provide information about weather conditions and rainfall reports to farmers.

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has said that the state wants to provide such reports in simple, non-technical language to the state's farmers. This will help them make changes in the crops they plan to plant, he said. As of now, around 10 lakh farmers are provided weather information through SMS, he said.

Fadnavis said that besides SMS services, the state should use radio and television services to help the state's farmers with information on the weather. He said that gram-panchayats should be provided with LED screens to relay weather information. He also said that television channels should reserve a time slot in which such news can be conveyed to farmers.

Tech mission on coconut: Rs. 21-cr projects cleared

The Project Appraisal Committee on Technology Mission on Coconut has cleared 19 projects with an outlay of Rs. 21 crore and subsidy of Rs. 4.25 crore.

Of these, 13 projects were for processing and product diversification, while one for market promotion and the remaining were research projects.

Under the sub-component 'Processing and Product Diversification', six projects are for desiccated coconut powder unit for processing 2 lakh nuts per day; one virgin coconut oil unit for processing 15,000 nuts a day; two tender coconut water preservation and packaging units with a capacity to process 30,000 tender coconuts per day; two coconut shell charcoal manufacturing units, one shell powder unit, ball copra unit etc and one market promotional programme for establishment of 70 integrated coconut points.

The 45th meeting of the PAC on Technology Mission on Coconut was held under the chairmanship of TK Jose, Chairman, Coconut Development Board.

In Kerala, a virgin coconut oil processing unit with a capacity to process 15,000 nuts/day was sanctioned. In Karnataka, a tender coconut water processing unit, desiccated coconut powder processing unit, coconut shell charcoal units were sanctioned.

In Tamil Nadu, two desiccated coconut powder units, one tender coconut water unit, a coconut shell powder unit were sanctioned.

Coconut oil slips on slack buying

Copra and coconut oil prices decreased at Erode markets for want of demand and higher arrivals.

“Every day huge quantity of coconut is brought to Erode from Pollachi and Kerala and the local copra farmers buy it for Rs. 24,500 and Rs. 29,000 a

tonne. Since the harvest is in full swing, more quantity is expected which may pressurise the prices of copra and coconut oil,” said RM Palanisamy, a trader.

Expecting further decrease in coconut oil, many buyers from North India have kept away from placing new orders.

The price of the coconut oil was down to Rs. 1,750-1,810 for 15 kg.

Copra went for Rs. 8,300-8,500 a quintal. Also, biscuit firm buyers were resorting to other cheaper alternatives such as sunflower oil and palm oil. Palm oil was sold for Rs. 498/10 kg.

Experts urge Kerala farmers to take up vannamei shrimp cultivation



Fishery experts have called upon Kerala’s farming community to take a proactive role in Vannamee shrimp cultivation, the most sought after species in the overseas markets.

A group of scientists from Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA), Mpeda explained the farmers on the formalities and guidelines to be followed to acquire licence to carry out vannamei farming.

The farmers were also handed over the technology and introduced to various procedures in this regard.

As many as 30 shrimp farmers selected from different parts of the State were given training on the procedures of the farming practices at an induction programme organised by KUFOS in Puthuvypeen.

The university decided to extend the farming of this exotic shrimp variety after reviewing the success of trials in brackish water ecosystem.

Speaking on the occasion, KUFOS Vice-Chancellor B Madhusoodana Kurup asked the farmers not to be sceptical on vannamei shrimp farming, considering its market potential in the US to fetch more earnings with its higher meat yield.

Many of the maritime States such as Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu took advantage of introduction of vannamei more than six years back.

Vannamei production in India is three lakh tonnes, which is expected to cross five lakh in 2016, he said.

The trail farming being initiated by KUFOS is heading towards a success and Kerala is likely to witness a vannamei revolution within a period of five years, provided the active involvement of farmers in the process, he added.

Kerala was a model in shrimp farming in the past, but was far behind with the introduction of vannamei shrimp culture.

The status review of the trail culture has proved that the species is suitable to the conditions of the State, KK Vijayan, Director, CIBA, said.

Rice exports to remain healthy in 2015-16

Competitive pricing, quality to drive shipments; exporters await signals from violence-hit Nigeria



Indian shipments of non-basmati rice in the current financial year are likely to remain at last year's levels, mainly due to its competitive pricing and superior quality against major exporters such as Thailand and Vietnam.

However, lack of clear signals from Nigeria, one of the large buyers of Indian par-boiled rice could dent the prospects, exporters said.

Thai prices up

According to data provided by the All India Rice Exporters Association (AIREA), the country exported 11.65 million tonnes (mt) of rice in 2014-15 of which non-basmati varieties accounted for 7.87 mt.

Thailand exported around 11 mt over the same period but has a \$10/tonne premium over Indian varieties in the 25 per cent broken rice and par-boiled rice segments, and were \$40 more expensive in 100 per cent broken rice segment according to quotations earlier this week.

“Increased prices in Thailand have an impact on non-basmati rice. We touched 7.8 mt last year and should be at the same level in 2015-16 as well,” said a senior Government official.

Experts stated that overseas sales could increase, particularly with decreasing domestic prices and a depreciating rupee making exports cheaper in dollar terms against a strong Thai baht.

Nigerian market

Further, with China importing the bulk of Thai rice, India's traditional non-basmati markets in Africa are likely to benefit domestic exporters. Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Liberia and Benin, are African nations that purchased the largest share of Indian non-basmati rice.

“Despite a new government in place, Nigeria is yet to spell out its policy on rice purchases. If Nigeria resumes imports from India, our exports will reach 7 mt, or else they will be lower at around 5.5 mt,” said BV Krishna Rao, Managing Director of Pattabhi Agro Foods Ltd, a large exporter.

Indian rice shipments to the violence-hit Nigeria had slowed down since December last year amidst fall in crude price and a weak currency.

“The rice inventory in Nigeria is low and shipments could pick up if there is clarity on the policy,” Rao added. India accounts for close to half of the 2.5 m t of parboiled rice that Nigeria imports.

“With the problems in Thailand – which competes with Indian non-basmati varieties in Africa – exporters here should do better in the upcoming year. Around 9-9.5 mt will likely be exported,” said Tejinder Narang, a grains trade analyst.

“Thailand also serves the Chinese market where demand pushes their prices up. As a result, the focus towards Africa gets deleted,” he added, stating that China granting access to Indian exports of non-basmati was politically reliant.

Sluggish activities

The industry expects rice output to be 2-3 mt more in 2015-16 than the 102.54 mt registered last year according to Government data. Non-basmati varieties are likely to make up 95 mt of the output.

Meanwhile, the shipments have turned sluggish as the prevailing heat wave in Andhra Pradesh over the past few days has hampered the loading operations at Kakinada, the major port for non-basmati rice exports.

“Loading operation is being carried out only in the night at the anchorage port due to the prevailing heat wave,” Rao said adding that the disruption was temporary.

Wheat buying up 5 lakh tonnes

The procurement of wheat by government agencies has surpassed the 2013-14 mark by 5 lakh tonnes (lt).

“Wheat procurement during the current marketing season has crossed the last year mark...till May 6 this season, 267,06,313 tonnes of wheat has been procured by Government agencies in various wheat growing States,” said the statement released by the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution here on Wednesday.

Procurement during the previous year is estimated at 262.86 lt. For the 2014-15 season, Punjab procured over 98.66 lt of the foodgrain, while neighbouring Haryana crossed its procurement target for the season by lifting 67.55 lt.

Among other important wheat-growing States, agencies in Madhya Pradesh picked up 72.61 lt, while 15.63 lt had been procured in Uttar Pradesh and 11.81 lt in Rajasthan.

Production in 2014-15, according to the third advance estimate, is expected to fall to 907.8 lt from the record output of 958.5 lt the previous year.