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THE HINDU BusinessLine

Rubber tappers to target higher yield

Kochi, December 14:

The Rubber Board and Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC) have joined hands to impart training and certify skilled plantation workers. The training is being currently provided under PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana) programme. RSDC, set up by the All India Rubber Industries Association and Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation, is focusing on the skill development and training needs of the rubber sector. RSDC chief Vinod Simon said it has signed an MoU with the Rubber Board to impart skill-based training to plantation workers.

The council is conducting training for the role of Latex Harvesting Technician. The exercise will skill and recognise as many as 22,500 candidates as Latex Harvest Technicians for controlled upward tapping and 4,500 candidates for the job role of Low Frequency Tapping.

Turmeric gleams on quality

Erode, December 14:



Spot prices of both the varieties of turmeric improved at Erode on quality arrivals. “The arrival is slowly increasing daily and more than 500 bags of good quality turmeric arrived for sale. The buyers purchased all the fine varieties for their local demand,” said RKV Ravishankar, a trader. Good quality finger turmeric fetched more than ₹9,400 a quintal and the root variety at ₹8,400. The medium variety went for ₹8,200. On Wednesday, 1,800 bags arrived and 75 per cent of the stocks were sold. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association, the finger variety traded at ₹5,614-9,409 a quintal; the root variety at ₹5,266-8,389. Of the arrival of 1,212 bags, 810 were sold.

Rubber gains on covering buys



Kottayam, December 14:

Spot rubber flared up mainly on covering purchases at lower levels on Wednesday. RSS 4 firmed up further to ₹136 (131) a kg, according to traders. The grade improved to ₹134 (131) and ₹131 (128) respectively, according to Rubber Board and dealers. December futures improved to ₹138.10 (133.32), January to ₹143.39 (137.88), February to ₹146.13 (140.51) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) firmed up to ₹155.14 (151.66) a kg at Bangkok. December futures increased to ¥282.3 (₹165.64) a kg on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange. Spot rubber (₹/kg): RSS-4: 136(131); RSS-5: 130 (126); Ungraded: 122 (120); ISNR 20: 122(120) and Latex (60% drc): 83 (82.50).

Imported oils flare up

Mumbai, December 14:

Firm trend continued in imported edible oils tracking bullish overseas futures amid price rise by local refineries. Indigenous edible oils were stable. Liberty traded palmolein at ₹623, super palmolein ₹646 and soyabean refined oil ₹745. Allana's rates: palmolein ₹620, soya refined oil ₹730 and sunflower refined oil ₹745. Golden agri traded palmolein for ₹620 and Emami for ₹615. At Rajkot, groundnut oil *telia* tin was at ₹1,500 (1,480) and loose (10 kg) at ₹950 (930). BCE spot rates (₹/10 kg): groundnut oil 1,000 (1,000), soya ref 730 (728), sunflower exp. ref. 670 (670), sunflower ref. 735 (730), rapeseed ref. 870 (870), rapeseed exp. ref. 840 (840), cottonseed ref. 700 (698) and palmolein 613 (610).



Pulses caught in bear grip as tur arrivals rise

Indore, December 14:

Bearish sentiment in pulse seeds and pulses continued amid slack demand and a rise in arrivals of new tur and moong crops. On Wednesday, tur (Maharashtra) in Indore mandis was quoted at ₹5,100, tur (lemon) at ₹5,150, while tur (Madhya Pradesh) ruled at ₹4,200 a quintal.

Given the rise in arrival of the new crop and adequate availability of imported stocks, a rally in tur appears unlikely.

Tur dal (sawa no.) was at ₹6,500-7,500, while tur dal (full) ruled at ₹8,500-8,900.

Urad (bold) went for ₹5,800, while urad (medium) ruled at ₹5,300.

Moong ruled stable with moong (bold) at ₹4,800, while moong (medium) ruled at ₹4,200. Moong dal (medium) fetched ₹5,300-5,400, moong dal (bold) got ₹5,500-5,700, while moong mongar ruled at ₹5,400-5,500.

Weak demand at higher rates and a robust crop report dragged chana by ₹500 a quintal with chana (bold) in Indore mandis being quoted at ₹9,600, while chana (desi) ruled at ₹4,200.

Dealers in North Indian hubs grab Karnataka pepper

Kochi, December 14:

Dealers in the main trading hubs in north India, such as Delhi, Jaipur, Gwalior and Indore, were buying low bulk-density Karnataka pepper at ₹690 a kg delivered at their doorsteps, market sources told *BusinessLine*.

They said Karnataka's pepper growers were reportedly liquidating their stocks following which dealers have slowed buying. On the terminal market, two tonnes of High Range pepper were traded at ₹702/kg.

Spot prices remained unchanged at ₹67,900 (ungarbled) and ₹70,900 (garbled) a quintal. December, January and February contracts on the IPSTA stayed steady at ₹73,000, ₹65,000 and ₹60,000 a quintal. Export prices were at \$10,925 a tonne c&f for Europe and \$11,175 for the US.

CMFRI provides guidance to Bangladesh's marine fisheries sector

Kochi, Dec 14:

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) extended a helping hand to Bangladesh by providing technical support to improve its marine fisheries sector.

CMFRI imparted technical guidance in the area of marine fish stock assessment to the neighbouring country as part of the follow up of the recommendations of the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) on cooperation in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.

CMFRI, the largest marine fisheries research institute in India, extended its support to Bangladesh to develop necessary manpower and expertise in the area of marine fish stock assessment, a significant tool for conserving the fishery wealth.

In association with the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), CMFRI exclusively trained the selected fisheries officials of that country on methods of stock assessments of tropical fishes.

A total of 12 middle-level officials from the Bangladesh Fisheries Department, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute in Mymensing and the Institute of Marine Science and Fisheries, University of Chittagong were trained at the CMFRI headquarters in Kochi.

A Gopalakrishnan, Director, CMFRI said the training was aimed at helping them develop necessary manpower and expertise in marine fish stock assessment and encourage research in the area. The training would be helpful to develop the data collection system for generating necessary fishery and biological inputs towards the conservation and sustainable management of their marine fishery resources, he said.

The participants felt that the training was much effective that the innovative ideas in the area of fish stock assessment would help them utilise for the sustainable harvest of fishery wealth in Bangladesh. They also viewed that the technical guidance rendered by the CMFRI was a valuable support to Bangladesh to conserve and manage Hilsa, a popular fish variety in Bangladesh.

Business Standard

Demonetisation: Farmers finding it tough to repay crop loans, Odisha CM to PM

Currency chest branches of commercial banks are unable to provide notes to DCCBs to cope with demands of farm families at PACS



The demonetisation drive of the Union government has hit the [farmers](#) in [Odisha](#) hard who now face hardship in repaying crop loans and making payments towards [insurance](#) claims.

With the prevailing restriction on district central cooperative banks (DCCBs) for exchanging old currency, such banks are facing a severe liquidity crunch, chief minister [Naveen Patnaik](#) said this in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The [currency](#) chest branches of commercial banks are unable to provide [currency](#) notes to DCCBs to cope with demands of farm families at PACS (Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies) level for their [Rabi](#) operations.

Moreover, PACS are treated at par with individuals in respect of withdrawal of funds from their accounts with DCCBs to meet the credit requirement of their farmer members. Consequently, they are unable to cater to the demand for crop loans, procurement proceeds and [insurance](#) claims pertaining to [Kharif](#) 2015.

"We are finding it difficult to transfer the procurement price of paddy from the apex state cooperative bank account to the farmers' accounts held in different nationalised banks, cooperative banks and RRBs (regional rural banks) if it is a Jan Dhan account. Such transfers were rejected in many cases causing enormous hardship to the farmers", Patnaik stated in the letter.

He has sought availability of adequate [currency](#) notes with the DCCBs by [currency](#) chest branches of commercial banks. Also, the limit imposed on credit withdrawals by PACS can be lifted so that such organisations can cater to the credit requirement of their farmer members, he said.

Wheat import duty might return with new crop

Production in the 2015-16 crop year, marketed in 2016-17, has been estimated at a little over 93 million tonnes

The recent decision to remove the import duty on wheat could be temporary, with restoration likely once the new crop comes into the market from April 1.

"The decision was taken to stabilise the price, rising due to low stocks in government godowns," said a senior official. Once stocks reach comfortable levels, he said, the duty could be restored.



The duty was 10 per cent, lowered a few months earlier from 25 per cent. Wheat flour prices in retail markets had risen by Rs 5 a kg in recent months.

Production in the 2015-16 crop year, marketed in 2016-17, has been estimated at a little over 93 million tonnes, well above the expectation of 90 mt.

The Centre's procurement for 2016-17 fell to 23 mt as against the target of a little over 28 mt. Less stock in the government's own warehouses, estimated to be around 16.5 mt on December 1, was another reason for removing the tariff.

Drop in food inflation drags WPI lower

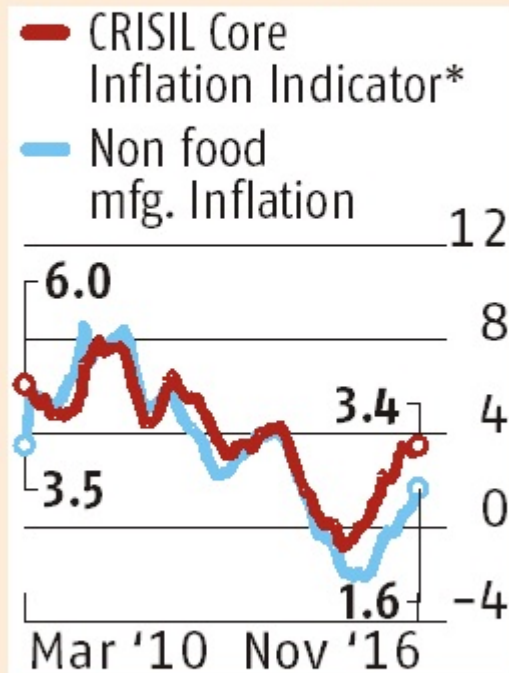
Wholesale Price Index-based inflation (WPI) slipped for the fourth consecutive month to 3.2% in November

Wholesale Price Index-based inflation (WPI) slipped for the fourth consecutive month to 3.2 per cent in November from 3.4 per cent in October. Food inflation saw a sharp fall as fresh supplies entered the market and demand was hurt by the cash crunch. The surprise, however, was that core inflation indicators reared up in November suggesting that although the cash crunch caused by the demonetisation exercise is curtailing consumer demand, it is yet to reflect in wholesale pricing. The CRISIL Core Inflation Indicator (CCII) rose 20 basis points (bps) over the October number, while non-food manufacturing inflation was up 60 bps. Meanwhile, the impact of rising global oil prices and weakening rupee was reflected in fuel and power inflation, which was up 90 bps in November.

Food inflation (primary plus manufactured) slipped further and at 4.4 per cent in November, is nearly 760 bps down from its peak in July, driven by base effect. But a bumper kharif crop is also helping ease food inflation. In November, inflation in fruits and vegetables declined to (-) 11.8 per cent, compared with (-) 1.9 per cent in October. Inflation in protein-based items (milk, eggs, meat and fish) has also been easing.

CORE NUMBERS

Rising core inflation suggests demonetisation impact is yet to be felt at the wholesale level



*CII removes base metal prices from WPI manufacturing index
Source: Ministry of industry and commerce, CRISIL Research

WPI - Core Numbers

The CCII, meanwhile, has been more stable. This indicator offers a better perspective on core inflation as it negates the effect of volatile categories. It excludes base metals as their prices are mostly determined by global demand-supply dynamics and volatility in exchange rates, rather than just domestic conditions. This exclusion causes a variance between CCII and non-food manufacturing inflation. Rising core inflation suggests demonetisation impact is yet to be felt at the wholesale level.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Team from Indian council of agricultural research visits Gadvasu to review grants



The monitoring and review team of the education division of [Indian Council of Agricultural Research](#) (ICAR) visited Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and [Animal Sciences University](#) (GADVASU), Ludhiana.

The five-member team comprised Dr Gautam Kalloo, former vice-chancellor, Dr M B Chetti, ADG, ICAR and former dean Dr S R Maloo, [Ashish](#) Roy of the National Academy of

Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad and Suresh Chandra of the Central Institute of Fisheries Education. An interaction was held under the chairmanship of GADVASU V-C Dr A S Nanda.

Dr Simrat Sagar Singh, dean, Postgraduate Studies elaborated on the salient features of the Vet varsity, like faculty strength, research projects, financial status, students' position, services and collaborations with other national and international institutes.

The meeting was aimed at reviewing and monitoring the development grant provided by ICAR to the university for development of infrastructure and physical facilities.

ADG Dr M B Chetti said the institute is utilizing funds and grants optimally. "We are doing our best to develop GADVASU as an institute of international repute. With more financial aid, we will be more capable and equipped to serve the farming community with better facilities," he said.

He also urged ICAR to come forward with grants for new institutes and universities like GADVASU so that the ranking of the state veterinary university is maintained for the benefit of livestock, fisheries and poultry.

Dr Chetti said the education division of ICAR would revise grants for the Centre for Advance Faculty Training (CAFT) as well as summer or winter schools, almost doubling the existing grant.

To encourage students, junior research fellowship will be revised with the inclusion of new categories. More students and disciplines may be covered in this fellowship, he said.

Punjab Agricultural University experts discuss climate change effects on agriculture

An important high level meeting was held at the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) on Wednesday to discuss the impact of climate change on agriculture.

The vice chancellor, BS Dhillon was the Chief Guest, while senior university officers, Manjit Singh (Director Research), RS Sidhu (Director Extension), Ashok Kumar (Additional Director of Research), GS Buttar (Additional Director of Extension), LK Dhaliwal (Director, School of Climate Change), Deans and Heads of various Departments participated in the day long discussions.



PAU authorities said that The experts deliberated on how the university's research works should be planned, keeping in mind the current climate change pattern and its effects on agriculture. They added that The main cause for concern, according to experts, is the increase in minimum temperatures and relative humidity levels across the globe as this has led to evolution of new species of insects, pests and development of new plant diseases.

"Discussions on multi disciplinary research activities were also held. Scientists also pondered on research related highlights from the recently concluded international conference held at PAU", said the Spokesperson for PAU.

"A special presentation on the School of Climate Change was given by PK Sidhu."

Survey potato fields for timely management of late blight: Punjab Agricultural University

Experts at Punjab Agricultural University on Wednesday said that congenial weather conditions are prevailing for outbreak and spread of late blight in the major potato producing districts of Punjab like Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, SBS Nagar, Ropar, etc.

PS Sekhon, Head Department of Plant Pathology, Punjab Agricultural University, informed that the temperature range of 11-18°C coupled with RH >90 per cent is highly favorable for the development and spread of the disease.



"The disease can be recognised from the presence of water soaked dark brown colored lesions on the leaves exhibiting cottony growth of the fungus on the under surface of the leaves. Presently cultivated varieties of potato may lead to more disease development as the potato varieties cultivated in Punjab are susceptible to late blight", HOD Plant Pathology informed.

Sekhon advised that wherever the symptoms of late blight have yet not appeared, the farmers can go for preventive spray of contact fungicides like Indofil M-45, Kavach and Antracol @ 700g per acre.

"The systemic fungicides like Melody Duo or Ridomil Gold or Curzate M-8 or Sectin 60 WG @ 700g per acre or Revus 250 SC @ 250ml or Equation Pro @ 200ml per acre in 200-250 litres of water should be sprayed only on those fields where symptoms of late blight have already appeared in the fields. If the weather conditions remain favorable for late blight, then the spray of systemic fungicides may be repeated at 10 days intervals", Expert said.

Sekhon informed that PAU has uploaded Web Based Decision Support System on PAU web site. In the current weather condition, the farmers should regularly check the advisory for late blight of potato on above web site for its effective and economic management.

DECCAN Chronicle

Food must not be packed in newspapers

Printing inks, colours and impurities harmful to health.



Nutritionists back a warning given by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) that food must not be packed in newspapers.

Hyderabad: Nutritionists back a warning given by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) that food must not be packed in newspapers. Packing in or serving food on newspaper could be hazardous to health. The FSSAI has warned that eating such food could cause slow-poisoning because of cancer causing agents and microbes in newsprint and directed Commissioners of Food Safety in all states to launch awareness drives and discourage street vendors from packing cooked foods in newspapers.

On its website, the FSSAI has said, “Wrapping food in newspapers is an unhealthy practice. Consuming such food is injurious to health even if it has been cooked in a hygienic atmosphere.” Senior nutritionist Madhu Lata said, “Newspapers have printing inks and harmful colours,

pigments, binders, additives and preservatives. These can have an effect on the body. It is harmful for a person to regularly consume food supplied in newspapers. Often, mirchi bhaji, samosa, idli, vada and other snacks are delivered in newspapers. Even if they are clean and healthy in preparation, the packaging makes them harmful.”

The presence of pathogenic micro-organisms is also a cause of concern since the newspapers go through various channels before reaching the vendor and hence poses a potential risk to human health. Another nutritionist, S Usha, said, “The increasing problems of the digestive track like indigestion, ill-effects on endocrine system and deficiency of vitamin B 12 are linked to presence of chemicals in the body. What foods we have and how we take it are important.