

12.01.2017

THE HINDU BusinessLine

Farm distress: Telangana's food output drops as paddy area shrinks



Foodgrain output down 28.7% as paddy area shrinks

In the recent numbers released by the National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB), Telangana stood second only to Maharashtra, with 1,400 farmers and farm labourers ending lives in the year 2015-16.

The State had accounted for nearly 10 per cent of all 12,000 farm suicides reported that year.

The latest numbers gathered by the Telangana government corroborated the serious distress in the farm sector.

The agriculture sector declined by 13.3 per cent in 2015-16. Obviously, this impacted the income levels of farmers, pushing them to the extreme step.

Hit by a second straight year of rainfall deficit, the State reported 14 per cent less rainfall than the average 713 mm. As a result, the government had declared 231 mandals drought hit.

According to the advance estimates released by the State's Economics and Statistics Department, Telangana's foodgrain production fell 28.72 per cent to 51.45 lakh tonnes against the average production of 72.18 per cent.

Though both the kharif and rabi seasons were hit by the adverse weather conditions, it is the disastrous rabi impact that dragged foodgrain production numbers down.

The rabi output was down by 42 per cent at 15 lakh tonnes against the normal production of 27 lakh tonnes as groundwater levels dropped because of deficient rainfall. The data compiled by the department showed that poor rainfall affected the area sown. “The gross area sown was down at 48.93 lakh hectares against the normal area of 53.51 lakh hectares, declining 7.94 per cent.

Shrinking acreage

While agriculture and its allied sectors had shown a decline of 1.1 per cent, the standalone agriculture sector declined by 13.3 per cent during the year.

Farmers had to cut down on the paddy area due to non-availability of water. The paddy area fell by 3.69 lakh ha to 10.46 lakh ha. The area under maize too saw a decline to 5.73 lakh ha from the average 7 lakh ha.

“The year (2015-16) was a difficult year for agriculture. The contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to the Gross Value Added at current prices is 14 per cent as against 16.1 per cent in 2011-12,” the report said.

Ministry leaning towards second generation ethanol from agri waste: Pradhan

Coimbatore, Jan 11:

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry is gearing up to move towards second generation ethanol from agriculture waste.

Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State – Independent Charge, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said the country is moving heavily towards ethanol blended fuel, although for the present, it is committed to procuring from sugar industries.

“Nevertheless, we are also contemplating second generation ethanol from agriculture waste, ethanol from rice straw, from different biodiversity, through chemical processes and using alternative technology.

“Incidentally, towards this move, we laid the foundation for one such plant in Punjab on December 25. We are planning 11 more such pilot plants in different parts of the country, including one in Tamil Nadu,” he said in reply to a query.

The Punjab project is expected to become operational in two years, he said without further elaboration.

“This will help tide over the deficit in ethanol supply from the sugar industry. We can blend up to 10 per cent, but the supply of ethanol from sugar mills is just 5–6 per cent of the requirement,” he said.

Centre looking at selling pulses via PDS

With 8 lakh tonnes of pulses in its buffer stock, the government today said it is considering to distribute dals through ration shops at non-subsidised rate.

“We have lot of pulses in our buffer stock. Some states like Karnataka want to sell pulses through the Public Distribution System (PDS). We will examine the proposal,” Consumer Affairs Secretary Hem Pande told PTI.

Karnataka government has asked 10,000 tonnes of pulses for PDS purpose, he added. Asked if the Centre will offer the buffer stock of pulses to States at a subsidised rate, the secretary said, “If at all we decide to offer pulses to States, it will be for sale via PDS as non-PDS item and rates will be not be subsidised.” The states can further subsidise it at their cost, he added.

Already some States like Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh are distributing pulses through PDS at a subsidised rate. It is not known whether it is sold on a regular basis.

On retail pulses prices, the secretary said that the rates are cooling down due to good domestic production.

Against the target of 20 lakh tonnes for this year, the Central government has created a buffer stock of 8,00,000 tonnes so far both through domestic procurement and imports. Out of which, 4.06 lakh tonnes of pulses been imported.

The buffer stock of pulses is being created so that it can be supplied in the open market to curb price rise.

Volume up at Coonoor tea sale

Coonoor, January 11:

For Sale No: 2 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auction to be held on Thursday and Friday, a volume of 14.18 lakh kg has been catalogued. This is as much as 4.38 lakh kg more than the offer at last week's auction.

Of this, 9.38 lakh kg belongs to leaf grades and 4.80 lakh kg, dust grades. As much as 12.84 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 1.34 lakh kg, orthodox variety.

In the leaf counter, only 78,000 kg belongs to orthodox while 8.60 lakh kg, CTC. Among the dusts, only 56,000 kg belongs to orthodox while 4.24 lakh kg, CTC.

Homedale Estate's Red Dust, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped the Dust auction and the entire CTC market last week when Oswal Tea Traders bought it for 241 per kg. Homedale Estate's Super Red Dust, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers (216) and Darmona Estate's Super Red Dust, auctioned by Paramount Tea Marketing (215) followed it.

NDDB, Arunachal Pradesh in pact to promote dairying

With a view to promote dairying and rural livelihoods in the State, Arunachal Pradesh has signed an MoU with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) during the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2017.

A State government delegation led by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, and including Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, Parliamentary Secretary PD Sona, and Chief Secretary Shakuntala Gamlin participated in the Summit. It also met NDDB Chairman Dilip Rath at Anand on Tuesday in this regard, NDDB said in a release here.

Rath said that NDDB will provide managerial and technical support to co-operative institutions. NDDB will conduct a study related to milk production

and consumption to identify areas of intervention and a breeding policy will be prepared to enhance milch animal productivity.

Sugar's bull run comes to a halt



Uptrend in sugar market took a breather and ruled steady after rising about 150-200 a quintal this month. Arrivals, local dispatches and volumes remained normal. Futures prices weakened. At Vashi, arrivals were stable at 60-61 truck loads and local dispatches were at 59-60 loads.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates: S-grade 3,770-3,862 (3,770-3,862) and M-grade was 3,800-4,050 (3,820-4,050). *Naka* delivery rates: S-grade 3,790-3,850 (3,790-3,850) and M-grade 3,850-3,940 (3,850-3,940).

Limited buying holds oils steady



Edible oils witnessed thin volatility on need-based demand. On the BCE, groundnut oil lost 10, while palmolein increased by 1. All other edible oils

were unchanged. Liberty's rates: palmolein 635, super palmolein 656 and soyabean refined oil 730. Ruchi traded sunflower oil for 707.50.

At Rajkot, groundnut oil *telia* tin declined to 1,480 (1,500) and loose (10 kg) dropped to 930 (950).



Kerala to implement National Food Security Act from April

There was a cut in the quantity of rice for the state after National Food Security Act came into force, he said. The state would get only 14.50 lakh metric tonne in place of 16.50 lakh metric tonne which it was receiving, he pointed out.

Kerala government would start providing food articles to ration card holders across the state under the National Food Security Act from April one. Process to make the Public Distribution System more transparent had already started and new ration cards would be distributed in March, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies P Thilothaman told reporters on Thursday. He said state would ask the Centre to restore the rice quota of the state to 16.50 lakh metric tonne per annum for distribution under PDS. This would be taken up with the Union Food Minister Ramvilas Paswan during the meeting to be held at New Delhi on January 16, he said.

There was a cut in the quantity of rice for the state after National Food Security Act came into force, he said. The state would get only 14.50 lakh metric tonne in place of 16.50 lakh metric tonne which it was receiving, he pointed out.

Referring to UDF Opposition criticism that PDS in the state has collapsed, Thilothaman said problems in the distribution of food articles through ration shops has ended. Distribution of ration articles for the last month was expected to be completed by January 14 and supply of articles for the current month has also started, Thilothaman told reporters here.

State faced problems in the PDS after there was a reduction in the quantity of food articles following the implementation of National Food Security Act, he pointed out. However, the state was now able to supply rice and wheat, to

persons in Antyodaya Anna Yojana list and priority list category and also to non-priority list group, he said.

Stating that stern action would be taken against corruption, he said officials recovered nearly 100 tone of spoiled rice kept for distribution under PDS from a private mill in Kottayam.

A total of 1.87 lakh metric tonne paddy was procured from 53078 farmers at a price of Rs 22.50 per kg in the first season so far. Out of a total of Rs 420.76 crore due to farmers under this account, an amount of Rs 184.78 crore was disbursed so far, he pointed out.

Dry Weather: South Side Story

Extended dry weather in Tamil Nadu and southern Karnataka could have a production impact, especially in milk and sugar where supply conditions are already tightening.



It's been a good monsoon — but not for TN, Karnataka and Kerala

For all the good news with regard to the southwest monsoon — normal this time, after back-to-back failures — there's one bit of bad news that hasn't received adequate attention. The northeast monsoon — critical to the southern peninsula, particularly Tamil Nadu — has been a disaster, with overall rainfall

for the season (October-December) turning out 45.2 per cent below normal. This is the worst since the 48.3 per cent deficit recorded in 2011.

For Tamil Nadu, Kerala and southern Karnataka, the poor northeast monsoon rains come as a double whammy. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, south interior Karnataka and coastal Karnataka had already reported respective rainfall shortfalls of 19 per cent, 34 per cent, 21 per cent and 21 per cent even during the southwest monsoon (June-September). The corresponding deficits of 62 per cent, 61 per cent, 70 per cent and 63 per cent reported for the northeast season only make matters worse. Tamil Nadu, not surprisingly, has declared drought.

ALL-INDIA AREA-WEIGHTED AVERAGE RAINFALL (in mm)

	2016	2015	2014	2013
WINTER (JAN-FEB)	17.9 (-56.76)	38.1 (-79.7)	46.7 (14.18)	51.4 (25.67)
PRE-MONSOON (MAR-MAY)	131 (-0.38)	183.6 (39.62)	131.1 (-0.15)	103.8 (-20.94)
MONSOON (JUN-SEP)	862 (-2.87)	764.8 (-13.83)	781.7 (-11.86)	937.4 (5.69)
POST-MONSOON (OCT-DEC)	69.7 (-45.20)	97.8 (-22.96)	85.2 (-33.02)	150.0 (17.92)
ANNUAL (JAN-DEC)	1,080.6 (-9.01)	1,084.3 (-8.70)	1,044.7 (-11.94)	1,242.6 (4.75)

Note: Figures in brackets are normal long-period average rainfall

Extended dry weather in Tamil Nadu and southern Karnataka could have a production impact, especially in milk and sugar where supply conditions are already tightening.

There is no such problem of moisture deficiency in the main rabi belt of northern and central India. The current cold wave, triggered by widespread rain/snowfall activity over the western Himalayan region, should help the standing wheat, mustard and chana crops. While the northeast monsoon rains were bad in these regions as well – causing concerns till early this month – the fact is that the situation is far better than in 2015 and 2014. Those two years saw both the southwest and the northeast monsoon rains fail.

Rubber growers see fortunes rising despite demonetisation

The above increase — linked mainly to rising global crude oil prices, which have also made synthetic substitutes such as styrene butadiene rubber more expensive — has cheered growers here.



A labourer taps rubber from a tree at a plantation in Kottayam, Kerala. (Express Photo by Shaju Philip)

This is one crop that seems to have bucked the demonetisation blues. Since November 8, the day the [Narendra Modi](#) government announced the outlawing of all existing Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denomination currency notes, prices of natural rubber have gone up from Rs 117 to Rs 143 per kg for first-grade ‘RSS-4’ sheets traded in Kerala’s Kottayam market.

The above increase — linked mainly to rising global crude oil prices, which have also made synthetic substitutes such as styrene butadiene rubber more expensive — has cheered growers here. In the recent past, they have witnessed RSS-4 prices in Kottayam swing from Rs 240-plus in February 2011 to a low of Rs 91 per kg in February 2016, before the current recovery that has, coincidentally, happened post-demonetisation.

At Pala, Kanjirapally and other high-range areas of Kottayam in the central Kerala rubber heartland, growers have managed to overcome the impact of demonetisation, thanks not only to improved realisations but also the prevailing

practice of marketing their produce. Although tapping of trees is done every alternate day, most farmers sell natural rubber sheets, processed from the extracted milky latex, only once or twice in a month. When prices go up, farmers hold back their produce in the expectation of making gains from delaying sales.

“Since we were anyway used to receiving money once a month, it (demonetisation) did not really hit us. So long as prices are good, which they are now starting to be, we have had no problems accepting payment by cheque,” says Balachandran Pillai, a rubber grower from Chenappady village in Kottayam’s Kanjirapally block.

Moreover, growers have been cutting costs by resorting to sale of latex, as opposed to rubber sheets. Production of the latter entails extra expense on labour and formic acid (for coagulation of the latex into sheets). At peak rubber sheet yields of 7 kg per acre, labour costs alone — at Rs 2 per tree and 150 trees per acre — work out to Rs 300 or Rs 43/kg. If only latex is produced — in which case, growers have to just add small quantity of ammonia to prevent its premature coagulation — the labour cost can be contained within Rs 1.5 per tree.

“Many farmers here had shifted to selling latex even prior to demonetisation. I have myself been selling only latex in the last two years. The latex procuring firms pay once a month. The last payment I got was for November. For December, it should come next week,” adds Pillai.

Jose Jacob, a 600-tree grower from Chirakkadavu, a village near Kanjirapally town, notes that in the initial days following the notes ban, there was an issue with encashing cheques issued by traders. “They would have accounts in banks different from ours, which meant that the encashing of cheques took time. But now, traders have started directly crediting payments to farmers’ accounts,” he points out.

THE HINDU

Some fodder banks to go, new goshalas to come up

The Zilla Panchayat has resolved to close down those fodder banks that are not functioning satisfactorily and set up goshalas (cow sheds) to take care of the cattle till the end of the ensuing summer.

At a Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) review meeting here on Wednesday, chairman of Standing Committee (Social Justice) Beerihundi Basanna and chairman of Standing Committee (Agriculture and Industries) Dayananda Murthy alleged that fodder banks were not functioning properly and there were instances of fodder banks even not having fodder.

They demanded that goshalas be set up across the district and steps be taken to take complete care of the cattle, including their health.

ZO CEO Shivashankar also endorsed the views expressed by the two. The CEO said that he had also received a number of complaints about unavailability of fodder in several fodder banks.

He directed the Deputy Director of the Animal Husbandry Department to set up goshals and ensure sufficient fodder and water to the animals there. He also asked the official to depute veterinary doctors to take care of the animals that may fall sick during its stay in the goshalas for over 90 days.

The CEO further said that this was the first time that the district was facing severe drought. He directed the Karnataka Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Department to expedite the process of rejuvenating the borewells and laying of pipelines to provide potable water in all the villages in the next 90 days.

“Adopt eco-friendly dyeing methods for clean and green environment”

“Consequences of environmental pollution owing to artificial dyeing colours are on the rise”

A. Sharada Devi, Emeritus Scientist, College of Home Science, Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, has called upon the textile industries to adopt eco-friendly dyeing technologies for clean and green environment.

Addressing the two-day national conference on ‘Emerging strategies in green textiles and sustainable fashion’ organised by the Alagappa Institute of Skill Development here on Tuesday, she said as the country was confronted with pollution issues, it has become imperative for textile industries to adopt strategies for using eco-dyeing technologies.

Consequences

She expressed concern that the consequences of environmental pollution owing to artificial dyeing colours were on the rise.

“Use of eco-friendly products such as natural dye and eco-fabrics would go a long way in addressing the pollution issues,” she said.

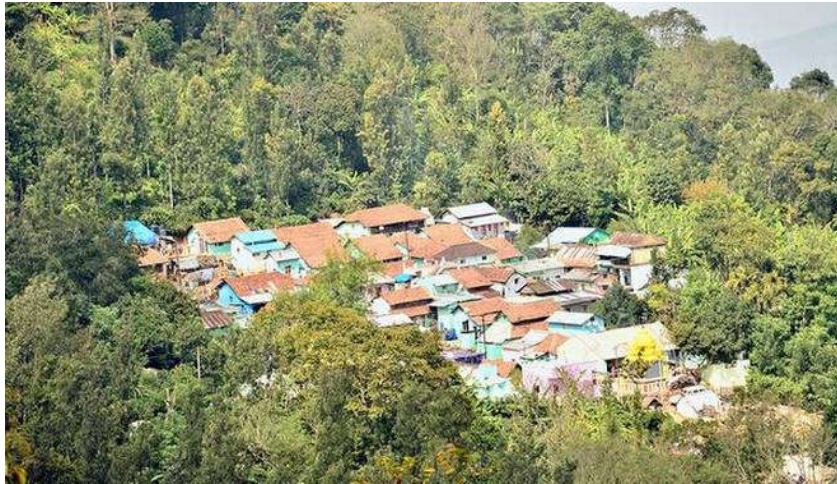
Presiding over the conference, Prof S Subbiah, Vice- Chancellor, Alagappa University, said gone were the days when the European countries dominated the textile sector. A century ago, European countries monopolised the textile sector but now, most of the Asian countries have become hubs of textile industries,” he said.

About 50 per cent of global textile production has come from countries such as India, China, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Indonesia, he said adding the textile industry provided direct employment to more than 45 million people in India. The conference should help the participants to adopt strategies for coming out with natural and organic clothing, which was free from herbicides and pesticides, he said.

T.R. Vijayakumar, General secretary, Tirupur exporters’ association said Tirupur has emerged as the major knitwear export hub and about seven lakh workers contributed to the success of the sector.

By adopting modern technologies, the industries started using recycled water and saved enormous amount of water, he said. Prof P Sivakumar, Dean, Faculty of Education, Alagappa University and K. Mohana Sundaram, Managing Director, Priya Knit Faabs, Tirupur offered felicitations.

Development schemes have not reached Thonimalai



Due to its presence in a town panchayat

It has been a classic case of so near yet so far for residents of Thonimalai, a remote village on Pandrimalai hill of Dindigul district. Though the Kannivadi town panchayat has provided basic amenities, several development schemes have not reached Thonimalai due to its presence in a town panchayat. Merger of Thonimalai with Pandrimalai panchayat on Adalur hill will provide access to several Central and State government schemes, including individual housing, education, rural roads and livelihood schemes, residents feel.

Nestled in Adalur hill at 1,350 metres above sea level, Thonimalai, comprising three hamlets – Thonimalai, Pudhur and Pulaiyar Street -- has a population of more than 500. Agriculture is the main occupation, with coffee, lime and pepper grown as major crops.

Several attempts made by Kannivadi town panchayat to merge Thonimalai, its eighth ward, with Pandrimalai panchayat in the last three decades had been in vein owing to political interference.

Originally, Thonimalai was with the then Kannivadi village panchayat when Thirumalaisamy Reddiyar was panchayat president. When Kannivadi was upgraded as second grade town panchayat in 1964, Thirumalaisamy became president and made Thonimalai its eighth ward. When Kannivadi became a first grade town panchayat in 1969, Thonimalai was still with it.

However, the Kannivadi town panchayat provided electricity, school, cement roads, drinking water and street lights to Thonimalai. But due to its limited funds, it could not improve the standard of life of the people living in the hill. Being a town panchayat, it could not implement Central government schemes meant for rural poor and tribal people

With no transport facility, residents and students of Thonimalai have to trek nine kilometres to reach Pandrimalai Pirivu to board a bus or van to reach Oddanchatram or Kannivadi markets. Agricultural produce too is being transported on horse or two-wheelers till Pandrimalai Piruvu. The plight of sick people is worse.

Over the years, three proposals had been sent to the government to merge Thonimalai with Pandrimalai village panchayat. In 2001, Pandrimalai panchayat too consented to annex Thonimalai.

But the proposals were kept in abeyance owing to political interference.

The Scheduled Caste people living in Pulaiyar hamlet only have got houses, thanks to estate owners. Merger with a rural local body will shower more benefits on Thonimalai, local people say.

Slow and wild for the win



Eat locally-grown food and you could be saving the environment, was the message at the recent Wild and Slow Food Festival at Kotagiri

More than 50 different dishes, prepared from produce procured from the forests by indigenous communities, were served up to crowds anxious to get a taste of some exotic flavours at the wild and slow foods festival, organised by the Keystone Foundation at their campus in Kotagiri recently.

The crowds interacted with members of indigenous tribes, including the Irulas, Kurumbas, Todas and Kotas, who described the peculiarities of each of their dishes.

Pratim Roy, Founder Director of Keystone Foundation, said, “Slow Food is food grown locally, which gains a fair price for the producer and does not have a huge negative footprint on the environment. Food is linked to culture and ecology, is a part of the different seasons and sacred practices of the respective communities where it is grown. So it plays a vital role in local diets, nutrition and even in conservation of biodiversity,” Roy said.

Madhu Ramnath, Co-ordinator for India of the Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP), who was at the festival with delegates of the NTFP-EP from six other countries from Southeast Asia for an international meeting on wild foods, said that tubers form a major part of the diet of indigenous communities in India.

“There are around 20-25 different tubers which form the staple of many tribal communities. These tubers grow in the forests and are also grown on an agricultural scale. They have unique nutrient qualities,” he said. He added that there was an existential threat to wild foods, especially with rampant mining and large government and commercial projects that were displacing tribal communities in many parts of India.

“This is a great effort to rejuvenate the interest in wild foods, which will benefit the general population by allowing them to share in the nutritional benefits of the food, and also empower tribal communities by giving them a sustainable source of income,” said Ramnath. He also said that there were harvest protocols and regulations in place to ensure that the cultivation and harvest of wild foods did not have a detrimental impact on the remaining patches of forests. “Moreover, we are not trying to commercialise the wild foods concept,” he stated.

K. Madhavi, a resident of Achikarai in Masinagudi, and a member of the Irular tribe, said that consumption of forest produce has reduced greatly in the last few decades. “As we are often not allowed into the forests to gather produce, we have come to depend more and more on rations from the PDS,” she said.

K. Mani and C. Jayam, from the Masinam Kulu in Adivasi Colony in Masinagudi, pointed out that ‘pressure keerai, kova keerai and sakkaadu keerai,’ are used by tribal communities to treat high blood pressure, gastrointestinal problems and even joint pain.

A variety of different crops, including legumes, yams, tubers, fruits and varieties of greens and spinaches, all having a unique link to the place where they grew, were showcased at the stalls. “We still have the know-how to find these plants, which serve as both food and medicinal supplements, in the wild,” said Mani.

S. Krishna, a visitor, said, “The key message we should take home from such a gathering is to buy local and buy vegetables and fruits that do not take up a lot of resources in terms of water and soil nutrients.”

Food is linked to culture and ecology, is a part of the sacred practices of the communities where it is grown

Progressive paddy farmer reduces usage of water, reaps profit



In times of drought, bank official-turned-farmer shows paddy doesn't have to be a water-guzzling crop

Contrary to the popular belief that paddy is a water-guzzling crop, this progressive farmer from T. Narsipur in Mysuru district has reaped rich dividends this drought-hit season with just 25 per cent of the normal water usage.

With reduced cost of cultivation, M.K. Kailash Murthy has turned the current agricultural economics upside down at a time when many of his ilk are abandoning the profession because of poor returns and increased expenditure.

For Mr. Murthy, a retired bank official-turned-farmer, experimenting on his 11-acre land at Madarahalli in T. Narsipur has paid rich dividends, and the method adopted by him may perhaps hold the key to reducing water consumption in agriculture without hampering food security.

The normal expenditure on one acre of paddy is Rs. 15,000, but he spent less than Rs. 7,000 and got a yield of 24 quintals, while others around him managed less than one quintal. Mr. Murthy said that with the available water resources of the region, farmers can produce four crops, not one.

“I tried natural farming in paddy cultivation, eschewing chemical fertilizers and insecticides. Irrigation was done once a few days, only to keep the land moist, unlike the traditional practice of waterlogging the field for nearly 120 days and thus wasting precious water. Besides, no organic matter was removed from the field and this increased soil fertility,” said Mr. Murthy, who cultivated the Salem Sanna variety of rice in his experiment.

Unlike conventional agricultural practices which entail maximising the use of chemical fertilizers and preparing the land using heavy machinery such as tractor, Mr. Murthy went for manual preparation as he believed that the organic content in the subsoil would get destroyed by chemical inputs.

“In the long run, soil turns alkaline and becomes unfit for agriculture,” he said, adding that he plans to abandon land preparation for the next season. “I will straight away opt for sowing just to see the results.”

There is enough scientific evidence to indicate that waterlogging of paddy fields results in the release of methane and other gases into the atmosphere, intensifying the greenhouse effect. “We can reduce the emission of gases significantly to address climate change issues and also conserve water,” Mr. Murthy said.

He has also taken up natural farming on his 10-acre plot of dry land at Doddinduvadi in Kollegal taluk of Chamarajanagar district, which is a treasure trove of biodiversity. Mr. Murthy may be contacted on 98801 85757.

DECCAN Chronicle

Godavari water for kharif crop; Krishna delta to get 100 tmc ft water

Nearly 100 work items, both major and minor, are yet to be taken up.



Godavari water flow in RMC helped ground water tables to surge along its course in West Godavari benefitting the farmers to cultivate crops earlier

Rajahmundry: Nearly 100 tmc ft of Godavari river water is to be pumped into Krishna delta to help farmers there to raise crop for ensuing kharif season through Pattiseema lift irrigation scheme.

The water resources authorities have taken up the execution of Polavaram Right Main Canal on a priority basis and plan to finish the work by June. The RMC extends over about 189 km distance from Polavaram Head Works to Budameru Diversion Channel. Nearly 100 work items, both major and minor, are yet to be taken up.

As the land acquisition for the canal works has been done, authorities are taking up the works to ensure that they will be completed by the time the Godavari river starts flooding during June/July. Some contractors have been replaced because they were unable to execute the work fast.

As many as 34 works have been identified to develop new structures on RMC and tenders will be called to execute the works. Cement-concrete work on the canal bed and either side of bunds has to be done to across a distance of about 55 km. This work is meant to avoid seepage of water into the ground and to facilitate quick and free flow of water into the canal and to its destination.

The RMC is designed to carry 8,500 cusecs of water to Krishna delta when all 24 gates of Pattiseema lift irrigation scheme are lifted based on availability of water in the Godavari river.

The water resources authorities say that normally, Godavari river witnesses flood season for 157 days in a year and at times, the number of days may be shrunk to only 136 days or even less than that at some times. As the river starts witnessing adequate quantum of inflow of water, the authorities can start pumping water to Krishna delta through RMC based on the need at Krishna delta.

The authorities say that there was no much inflow of water into Krishna delta from Srisailam and Pulichinthala projects in the last season and Godavari water helped the farmers reap good harvest.

Polavaram Right Main Canal project superintending engineer B. Srinivas Yadav said, “We are going to complete all works related to RMC by June and we are expecting to pump nearly 100 tmc ft of Godavari water to Krishna delta during ensuing kharif season to help farmers reap bumper harvest.”

Andhra Pradesh: Ankapur youths ignore farming

The village is popular in India and abroad for progressive farming.



Ankapur village has set a record in India with progressive farming.
(Representational Image)

NIZAMABAD: The younger generation of progressive farmers in Ankapur village in Nizamabad district are not showing interest in to follow in the footsteps of their forefathers and embrace agriculture as their line of work.

Most of them are settled in foreign countries and metros in the country for higher studies and employment. For last three decades, Ankapur village has set a record in India with progressive farming.

Interestingly, three generations in each family had struggled hard for innovative farming activities and sustained financial growth so far. Changing lifestyles may adversely affect the agriculture in Ankapur in the near future. Ankapur farmers' dilemma came into the limelight as they had sown cash crops instead of traditional cultivation of paddy and sugarcane.

Turmeric, red jowar, vegetables and other crops are major agriculture produces in Ankapur village, which is exported to foreign countries and other states in India. The farmers work 24X7 toiling hard on their fields.

In addition, Ankapur villagers stick to the directives of village development committee for self discipline. Village elders put a strict ban on gambling, liquor and other habits.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is ardent fan of Ankapur village always praises the hard work of villagers in public meetings. He also sanctioned incentives for Ankapur in agriculture equipment.

It is noted that Ankapur is famous for attractive buildings and posh cars. To pursue higher education, the younger generation in the families went to Hyderabad, Vijayawada elsewhere.

Speaking to this correspondent, Ankapur resident Palle Ganga Reddy said that younger generation is mostly settled in US, UK, Australia, New Zealand and other countries.

“Probably we are the last generation to adopt progressive farming in Ankapur” he opined. Replying to a question, he said that there is no alternative to continue our traditional agriculture farming.

Meanwhile, few farmers switched over to other business like construction of godowns and seed factories. On the other hand, farmers and officials from various states and countries are visiting Ankapur to know the progressive farming activities.