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Wet cocoa beans fetch Rs. 47 a kg

In May last year, the price was Rs. 33 a kg ,

Price of dry beans crosses Rs. 165 a kg

MANGLAORE: The price of wet cocoa beans has gone up further, with the peak cocoa yielding season beginning just a few days ago.

Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative Ltd. (CAMPCO) increased the procurement price of wet beans from Rs. 45 a kg to Rs. 47 four days ago, its Managing Director, A.S. Bhat, told The Hindu. The price of wet beans, which was Rs. 42 a kg in mid-January, touched Rs. 45 a kg in March this year. In May last year, the price was Rs. 33 a kg, and since then it has been going up gradually.

Mr. Bhat said that the recent spells of rain in several parts of Dakshina Kannada might help increase the cocoa yield. The peak yielding seasons are between April and July and October and December. The period between January and March is the off season. Normally, the price of agricultural produce comes down during the peak season. But cocoa prices are going up. Mr. Bhat attributed it to higher demand.

Mr. Bhat said the domestic demand for dry cocoa beans was estimated at 25,000 tonnes a year against the domestic supply of between 10,000 tonnes and 12,000

tonnes a year. The international price of dry cocoa beans now ranges between Rs. 150 a kg and Rs. 155. In the domestic market, the commodity fetched between Rs. 150 and Rs. 160 a kg a fortnight ago, but it has now reached between Rs. 165 a kg and Rs. 170. Traders still find this price more attractive than importing cocoa from international market in view of the import duty.

Mr. Bhat said that the cooperative would distribute one lakh cocoa seedlings at subsidised rate to farmers during 2010-11.

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Food inflation eases to 16.61 %

NEW DELHI: With the arrival of rabi crops in the markets and expectations of a normal monsoon, food inflation eased to 16.61 per cent for the week ended April 17 from 17.65 per cent in the previous week, raising hopes of some relief for the common man from the raging price spiral in the months ahead.

However, even as food inflation softened by over one percentage point, ostensibly owing to a cool-down in speculative activities on IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) reports of a normal monsoon this year, economic analysts apprehend that the pressure on prices might hold sway till June as a result of the inflationary spread to manufactured goods.

Clearly, much would depend on the IMD's initial forecast coming true as the projections by the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on overall growth and headline inflation for the current fiscal are based on a normal monsoon and further moderation in prices of food articles.

“The outlook is further brightened by the fact that a normal monsoon is predicted

this year...Indications of softening of food inflation are clearly visible...It is expected that this decline will continue in the coming months uninterrupted,” Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday while initiating the discussion on the Finance Bill.

During the week, snapping the rising food inflation was lower prices of masur, jowar, fruits and vegetables which eased by two per cent and wheat by one per cent even as other edibles such as moong and urad among pulses and fish (inland) turned dearer.

On a year-on-year basis also, potato prices slumped by 28 per cent owing to a glut in various parts of the country while onions also turned cheaper by 10 per cent. On the contrary, the price of pulses ruled higher by about 30 per cent, milk by 22 per cent and fruits by about 10 per cent as compared to the previous year.

Even as food prices have begun to soften, the government's concern is to contain the overall inflation by checking its spread to manufactured items and other non-food segments. The WPI-based headline inflation in March was 9.9 per cent, way above RBI's fiscal year-end projection of 8.5 per cent. For the current fiscal, the apex bank has estimated overall inflation to come down to 5.5 per cent by March 2011.

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Farmers demand uninterrupted power supply for agriculture

Erratic supply affecting even allied units

KRISHNAGIRI: Erratic supply of power affects irrigation for agriculture, said

farmers at the monthly grievances meeting held at the Collectorate on Thursday.

Members of Thamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam said farmers couldn't irrigate their crops because of erratic power supply. Mr. Lokabiram of the Sangam said, agro industries depending on agriculture such as poultry, milk dairies too are unable to run their units.

Farmers said even the self-finance pump set connections were pending with the TNEB for many years. Some farmers expressed their hardship in getting fodder for animals at reasonable rates and demanded the District Milk Federation to consider to supply the same with subsidy.

Ramagounder, State vice-president of the Sangam demanded the authorities to provide equipment for Milko Test and scanners for testing the milk at Milk Cooperative Societies. He said, this will drastically bring down the loss incurred to farmers in quality test at the District Milk Producers Federation (Aavin).

Farmers thanked the district administration and the government for arranging early settlement of their dues as requested by the farmers in the earlier grievances meetings.

They thanked the government for allocating Rs. 50 crores for constructing a check dam at Ennekolpudur and extension of Left Main Canal of the KRP dam.

V. Satyamurthy of Aalapatti asked the district administration to immediately stop cutting of old banyan trees at Aalapatti. Ten to 15 poultry units operating in and around Berigai are polluting the entire area. This resulted in air pollution and posed a grave health hazard to residents, said S.V. Venkatachalam, president, Krishnagiri Horticulture Federation.

V.K. Shanmugam, Collector, presided over the grievances meeting. P. Prabhakar, District Revenue Officer, K. Rajan, Deputy Director, Agriculture participated.

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Ornamental fish culture units planned

CHENNAI: Ornamental fish culture units in 23 places in the State will be started under the World Bank funded programme 'Integrated Agriculture Modernisation and Water bodies Restoration and Management,' said A. Sukumaran, Commissioner of Fisheries here on Thursday.

Speaking at a two-day seminar on 'Technology and Trade prospects in Ornamental Aquaculture' organised by the Tamil Nadu Veterinary Animal Sciences University, he said under the programme each farmer would be given Rs.2 lakh to develop and run the units.

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Admission process for TNAU courses begins on May 9



P. Murugesha Boopathy

Admission process of TNAU	
Date	Category of admission
09.05.2010	Issuance of application
31.05.2010	Last date of issuance and receipt of application
16.06.2010 to	Counselling session for Phase I - 150 candidates /
20.06.2010	Session (300 candidates / day)
29.06.2010	Counselling for Special reservation - Ex-serviceman / Physically handicapped / Sports quota / Vocational stream
30.06.2010 onwards	General category - Phase II counselling
22.07.2010	Registration of course and classes start

COIMBATORE: The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) will begin the admission process for its 12 undergraduate programmes on May 9, Vice-Chancellor of the university P. Murugesu Boopathi told a press conference here on Thursday.

There were 1,224 seats, Mr. Boopathi said adding that the university and its 10 constituent colleges in Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchi, Killikulam, Periyakulam, Kumulur and Mettupalayam would follow the single window system for admission. "There are five basic courses and seven self-supporting courses. The fee for the basic courses is only Rs. 6,000 a semester. The fee for the self-supporting courses is Rs. 32,000 a semester".

Courses

The B.Sc. Agriculture programme would be offered at Coimbatore, Madurai, Killikulam, and Tiruchi. B.Sc. Horticulture would be offered at Periyakulam, B.Sc. Forestry at Mettupalayam, B.Sc. Home Science at Madurai, while B.Tech. in Agricultural Engineering would be offered at Kumular. These were the basic courses.

The B.Tech. programmes in Horticulture, Food Processing, Energy and

Environmental Engineering, Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, and Agricultural Information Technology, and B.S. in Agribusiness Management, would be offered in Coimbatore. These were the self-supporting courses.

Eligibility

The eligibility was Plus-Two with four science subjects, viz., physics, chemistry, mathematics and botany / zoology. The electives could be one of the following: biology, computer science, zoology, statistics, microbiology, biochemistry, home science, nursing, or nutritional dietetics.

The minimum qualifying marks was 55 per cent in open competition, 50 per cent for backward class and backward Muslim, 45 per cent for most backward class and denotified communities, and a pass for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates.

Seats were available under the Non-Resident Indians and industrial sponsorship quota for all the programmes.

Applications could be obtained from the Dean (Agriculture), and Chairman-Admissions, TNAU, or from any of the constituent colleges. The cost of applications is Rs. 600 for general candidates and Rs. 300 for SC/ST candidates. The affiliated colleges at Kalavai, Vellore District, Pollachi, and Elambalur, would also issue the applications. They can also be downloaded from the university website www.tnau.ac.in.

Course benefits

Pointing out that the education provided by the university was world-class, the Vice-Chancellor said it had inked memoranda of understanding with nearly 45 institutions to offer a global edge to the students. The curriculum was revised every four years keeping in pace with the changes.

Referring to the modified infrastructure in the university, Mr. Boopathi said it had incorporated the modern learning environment with the introduction of personal laptops, ICT-enabled lecture halls, Wi-Fi connectivity, e-learning, online examinations, etc.

Special coaching was offered to students preparing for the Civil Services, TOEFL, GRE, IELTS, etc. The university also ensured zero per cent unemployment to those that registered with the Directorate of Students' Welfare, the Vice-Chancellor added.

For details regarding admissions contact 0422-6611210 / 6611322 / 6611328.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/30/stories/2010043052010300.htm>

Technology awareness meet for cotton farmers held

Methods to reduce cultivation cost discussed

Farmers advised to apply organic manure

Officials distribute soil health cards

ERODE: The technological advancements in cotton cultivation and different methods used for reducing the cost of cultivation were highlighted in the technology awareness meeting conducted for farmers under the Field School programme at Michaelpalayam village in Anthiyur block recently.

Field visit

A team of officials led by Joint Director of Agriculture A. Gopal visited the fields of a number of farmers in the village and demonstrated various technologies being used to enhance the productivity of the cotton crop.

Soil testing

Explaining the benefits of soil testing, the team collected samples from various fields.

The samples were analysed free of cost in the Soil testing laboratory of the department in Erode and soil health cards were distributed to the farmers.

Green manure crops

The farmers were advised to cultivate green manure crops, besides applying organic manure in order to correct the deficiency of Nitrogen and micro nutrients, a press release said.

A demonstration on the application of bio fertilisers was also conducted.

The role of beneficial insects and the importance of using organic inputs were also explained to the farmers.

Officials also interacted with the farmers and answered their queries.

BT cotton

A majority of the farmers raised queries particularly on the use of genetically-engineered cotton seeds.

The programme was jointly organised by the Department of Agriculture and Super Spinning Mills, Coimbatore.

Consultant from Super Spinning Mills Palaniappan, Assistant Director of

Agriculture Vasudevan and senior officials were present.

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Rs.10-lakh subsidy for 95 sericulture farmers

It was given under the Catalytic Development Programme

VELLORE: Collector C. Rajendran distributed cheques for about Rs.10 lakh by way of subsidy to 95 sericulture farmers in Vellore district under the Catalytic Development Programme implemented by the Department of Sericulture for the current year, at the Collectorate on Tuesday.

The subsidy included Rs.6.25 lakh to 11 sericulture farmers for construction of separate silkworm rearing sheds.

The subsidy constituted 50 per cent of the unit cost or a maximum of Rs.50,000 per farmer in the case of a shed of 1,000 square feet, or Rs.75,000 in the case of a shed with an area of 1,500 square feet, whichever was lower.

The Collector also gave away cheques for Rs.3.75 lakh, as subsidy to 84 beneficiaries by way of incentive for planting high-yielding mulberry varieties.

G. Chandrasekaran, Assistant Director of Sericulture, G. Palani, Assistant Sericulture Development Officer, and Sekar, Personal Assistant (Agriculture) to the Collector, participated in the function.

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Food inflation eases on arrival of rabi crop

Apr 30 2010

April 29: The food inflation has eased to 16.6 per cent for the week ending April 17 due to the rabi crops entering the market. The food inflation is expected to fall further in the coming days as the supply of essential commodities increases and also due to the likelihood of a good monsoon.

The food prices were high as parts of the country witnessed one of the severest droughts in a decade last year.

“It is the peak season for the arrival of the rabi season. The prices of wheat and pulses are likely to see a dip as their production has been good,” said Mr Badruddin Khan, senior agriculture research analyst at Angel Commodities Broking.

The production of wheat during the rabi crop has been estimated at 82 million tonne and pulses at 10.5 million tonnes.

The shortage of pulses has been a major problem for the government as there are very few countries from which it could be imported.

Mr Khan said that though the prices of sugar had seen a decline due to the steps taken by the government such as putting stock limits, but there is no clarity about the future government policies so it will be difficult to predict how sugar prices will behave in the coming days.

The finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, said on Thursday that the government tried to insulate the weaker sections of the society from high food prices by distributing essential commodities through public distribution system.

“We have set up a group of chief minister’s to improve the PDS system,” said the finance minister. He said the government gave pulses at a subsidised price of Rs 10 per kilogram to help the poor.

However, Mr Mukherjee said that it is not possible to universalise the PDS system as the nation doesn’t have that capacity. “When the PDS can’t reach the targeted people how can we can universalise it. Do we have the capacity for that?” asked Mr Mukherjee. He said that the government took a number of steps to cool food inflation including cutting duties on essential commodities and banning future trading in these commodities. In the previous week ending April 10, food inflation stood at 17.65 per cent.

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<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/business/food-inflation-eases-arrival-rabi-crop-429>



Food inflation eases to 16.61 pct

Agencies Posted online: Thursday , Apr 29, 2010 at 1128 hrs



New Delhi : India's food price index rose 16.61 per cent in the 12 months to April 17, while the fuel price index rose 12.69 per cent from a year ago, government data showed on Thursday.


The rise in food prices was slower than an annual rise of 17.65 per cent in the previous week, while the fuel prices rose faster than the previous week's annual rise of 12.45 per cent.

The primary articles index was up 13.55 per cent year-on-year on April 17.

India's central bank had last week raised key interest rates and banks' cash reserve ratio by 25 basis points each to anchor inflationary expectations.

India's wholesale price index rose an annual 9.90 per cent in March, its fastest pace in 17 months, driven by high food and fuel prices.

hindustantimes

 Fri, 30 Apr 2010

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Friday, Apr 30

Max Min

36.4° | 27.6°

Tomorrow's Forecast



Tstorm






Saturday, May 1

Max Min

35° | 28°

Rain: 00mm in24hrs Sunrise: 05:50
Humidity: 34% Sunset: 18:23
Wind: Normal Barometer: 1008.1mb

Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday May 2	Monday May 3	Tuesday May 4	Wednesday May 5	Thursday May 6
				
34° 28°	35° 27°	36° 28°	37° 28°	37° 28°
Tstorm	Tstorm	Tstorm	Tstorm	Partly Cloudy