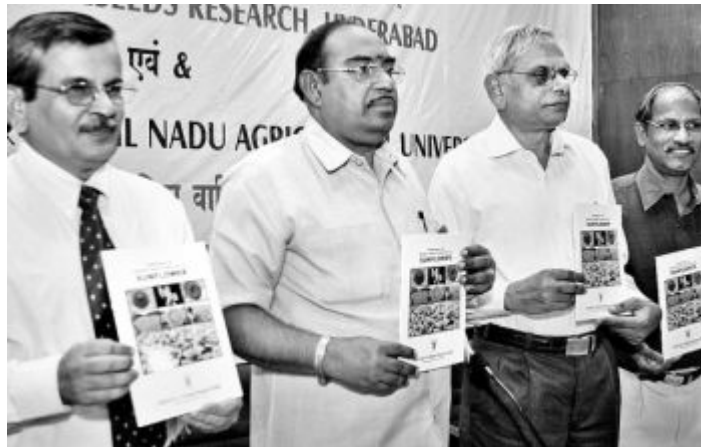


Date:09/04/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/09/stories/2010040954760700.htm>

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## Double oilseed production to achieve self-sufficiency



**FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU (second left), releasing a book at the annual group meeting on oilseeds at the university in Coimbatore on Thursday.**

COIMBATORE: With the increase in population and purchasing power of people, the per capita oil consumption too is rising steadily.

The oil requirement in India is projected to be 18.3 million tonnes in 2015 and 21.8 million tonnes in 2020. To meet the demand, the current production of 29.75 million tonnes of oilseeds has to be doubled in the next 12 years to achieve self-sufficiency, said P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), here on Thursday.

Inaugurating the “Annual Group Meet on Sunflower, Sesame and Niger” at the university, he called for increased cultivation of sunflower, sesame and niger for their

contribution to edible oil production. He added that TNAU had released 43 varieties of oilseeds in sunflower, sesame, and niger, so far.

Mr. Boopathi said India had a huge domestic market for edible oils and a large export market.

V.D. Patil, Assistant Director General (Oilseeds and Pulses), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, said incidence of diseases was a major reason for decline in cultivable area of oilseeds. The main among them were alternaria, necrosis, rust, and leaf spot.

“Union Government is investing much money in addressing this problem; but due to poor technology transfer, the problem is persisting. Quality technologies are available, but they have not reached the farmer.

The proof of this is the huge gap existing between the demonstration plot yield and the farmer's yield,” Mr. Patil said.

Stressing the importance of application of the recommended inputs in right quantities by farmers, he said:

“The energy-rich oilseed crops are starved of energy as the required inputs are not applied.”

He asked the Directorates of Extension Education of all State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras to conduct Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) in farmers' fields. D.M. Hegde, Project Director, Directorate of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad, said edible oil availability in the international market was declining because 20 per cent of the world vegetable oil was being diverted for production of bio-fuels.

Date:09/04/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/09/stories/2010040963931700.htm>

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## Food inflation soars

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Surge in prices of milk, fruits, pulses

RBI may tighten monetary policy

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NEW DELHI: Food inflation soared to 17.70 per cent for the week ended March 27 from 16.35 per cent in the previous week, mainly owing to the surge in prices of milk, fruits and pulses.

With the 135-basis-point spurt in food inflation certain to have its adverse impact on the overall WPI (wholesale price index) headline inflation data for March to be released next week, the general expectation among economic analysts is that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will opt for further monetary tightening measures by hiking its key policy rates on April 20.

The headline inflation, which includes the variations in prices of manufactured goods and other non-food items, for February is already pegged at 9.89 per cent and is expected to go well over the double-digit mark in March. The government's prime concern now is to rein in food inflation so as to check its spread to non-food items.

According to Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) member Govinda Rao, food inflation is now spreading to non-food items and the RBI may have to start tightening the monetary policy. "Tightening the monetary policy is something which may have to be done and that's the only way we can proceed further," he said.

Date:09/04/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/09/stories/2010040952190300.htm>

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## Compensation disbursed to farmers



**S. Varatharajulu (second left), Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle, giving away cheque to an affected farmer at Denkanikottai on Wednesday towards compensation for crop loss due to wild animal attack. V. Ganesan (left), District Forest Officer, Krishnagiri, is in the picture. —**

KRISHNAGIRI: The Forest Department disbursed Rs. 8.14-lakh compensation to 294 farmers in Denkanikottai and Jawalagiri forest ranges at a function held at Denkanikottai on Wednesday.

S. Varatharajulu, Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri circle, presided over the function and distributed the cheques to the affected farmers.

Distributing the cheques, Mr. Varatharajulu appealed to the farmers to cooperate with the department in their mission to drive away wild animals, which enter human habitations and farm lands adjoining the reserve forests.

Cooperation of the farmers and the general public is the need of hour to drive away the wild animals such as elephants, wild bores etc. In many instances, the animals couldn't be driven to the forests due to the non-cooperation of the public, he said.

Crop damage by wild elephants in these ranges is common during October – March.

“Though the department is taking all efforts, crop damages are bound to happen due to the wild elephant herds' migration from the adjoining Karnataka reserve forests,” he added.

V. Ganesan, District Forest Officer, Denkanikottai Forest Ranger M. Ramachandiran and other officials and local farmers participated in the function.

**Date:09/04/2010 URL:**

**<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/09/stories/2010040952530300.htm>**

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## **Technology can boost farm yield, says Villupuram Collector**

VILLUPURAM: Collector R. Palanisamy has said that agricultural productivity can be increased substantially through the use of integrated water management practices and modern technology.

He was visiting Avvaiyarkuppam fodder farm, Villukkam fish farm, Nattarmangalam, where the System of Rice Intensification was adopted and Keezhmampattu, where vegetables were being raised through precision farming with the technological backing of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, on Thursday.

According to Mr. Palanisamy, his point had been proved in Varaganathi sub-basin areas, which come under the TN-IAMWARM (Tamil Nadu—Irrigated Agriculture

Management and Water Bodies Restoration and Management) project being implemented with World Bank aid.

The district administration had created several facilities to enable farmers to stay abreast of technological innovations that could be profitably used to increase production, he said. For instance, automatic weather recording stations had been put up in all 22 panchayat unions in the district to provide data on temperature and rain. The functioning of eight departments in the agriculture and allied sectors were coordinated to derive maximum benefits under the project, Mr. Palanisamy said.

Executive Engineer (PWD, water sources) Sugumar Krishnamurthy, Joint Director (Agriculture) K. Ramalingam and Personal Assistant to Collector (Agriculture) R. Chakravarthi were present.

**Date:09/04/2010 URL:**

**<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/09/stories/2010040962770500.htm>**

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## **Tirunelveli farmer wins contest**



**eco-friendly:R. Devadoss, farmer, with the paddy.**

COIMBATORE: Tirunelveli farmer R. Devadoss has won the State organic paddy yield competition the Agriculture Department conducted recently. Of the 13 certified organic

farmers who participated from across the State, the farmer harvested 11,215 kg a hectare to win the first prize. He will get a cash award of Rs. 50,000.

Mr. Devadoss, a retired Colonel, told The Hindu over phone that he adopted 'Zero Budget Farming' to cultivate 'Kitchedi Samba' variety. He planted the crop on November 9, 2009 and harvested on April 3, 2010.

He used farmyard manure, a few organic concoctions and micro organisms to boost yield. "Use of organic manure considerably reduced the production cost, improved the quality of produce and nurtured soil fertility." He explained the quality of produce improved in the sense that it was chemical-free.

"Organic or natural farming ensured elimination of inputs from outside the farm, which was what 'Zero Budget Farming' was all about, good health to consumers and reduction in global warming," he added. After retirement, he took to farming and converted to organic farming after listening to experts. "I attended Subash Palekar's lectures a few years ago in Coimbatore and switched over to natural farming. Nammalvar's teachings also helped me."

Sources in the Organic Certification Department, Coimbatore, said though the yield might appear to be marginally less vis-à-vis chemical farming it was not because when the paddy was thrashed not a single grain went waste. The normal, accepted wastage was around 20 per cent.

The State Government decided to conduct the competition to promote organic farming. It issued an order in September 2009, wherein it said: In Tamil Nadu majority of the organically cultivated fields was under horticulture and plantation crops. Paddy and millets occupied limited area, to increase which the Department of Organic Certification would incentivise the farmers through the paddy cultivation competition and other similar methods.

Under the National Agriculture Development Plan the Department allotted Rs. 85,000, which would be given as prizes. The first prize winner would get Rs. 50,000, the second Rs. 25,000 and the third Rs. 10,000.

**Date:**09/04/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/09/stories/2010040951770300.htm>

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## **Milk producers stage demonstration, demanding price increase**

*They also seek government grant at the rate of Rs. 2 per litre*

VELLORE: Members of the Tamil Nadu Milk Producers Association and the Tamil Nadu Primary Cooperative Milk Society Employees Association, affiliated to the Centre for Indian Trade Unions, staged a demonstration near the Collectorate here on Wednesday, demanding an increase in the price of milk supplied by them to the Vellore and Tiruvannamalai District Cooperative Milk Producers Union. They demand payment of government grant at the rate of Rs.2 per litre of milk supplied by the societies, and allocation of government grant for payment of salary and other benefits to the employees of the Primary Cooperative Milk Societies.

The milk producers demanded a hike in the price of cow's milk by Rs.5 per litre and that of buffalo's milk by Rs.8 per litre.

Their other demands were immediate payment of money for the milk supplied by the cooperative societies without any arrears; re-opening of the closed cattle feed units in Chennai, Madurai and Ambur; supply of quality feed at a 50% subsidy; immediate payment of incentive by the Vellore and Tiruvannamalai Districts Cooperative Milk Producers' Union to the primary cooperative milk societies as per G.O. No.123; maintenance of uniform guidelines for quality control and pricing in respect of the milk supplied by the cooperative societies and the milk sold by private companies; and grant of loans at the rate of Rs.30,000 with a 30% subsidy for purchase of milch cows.



K. Mohammed Ali, State president of the Tamil Nadu Milk Producers Association inaugurated the demonstration. M. Sivaji, Vellore district secretary of the Tamil Nadu Milk Producers' Union presided.

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**hindustantimes**



**Press Trust Of India**

New Delhi, April 08, 2010

First Published: 20:24 IST(8/4/2010)

Last Updated: 20:26 IST(8/4/2010)

## **No immediate plan to lift ban on wheat exports: Pawar**

Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar today there is no immediate plan to lift the ban on wheat exports though a record 82-million tonne production is projected this year and storing the grain could be a problem.

"Many countries have enquired about wheat supplies from India, but the government will take a call later," Food and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar told reporters here when asked expected record wheat output and the possible storage problems.

Wheat production looks extremely good this year. To make storage space for the new crop, the government may not immediately consider lifting the ban on export of wheat, but will instead encourage domestic sales, he said.

"At present, we have enough stock of wheat... We have asked private players to buy," he said, adding that the government would review foodgrain stock situation in June.

Recently, government officials had said wheat output may touch a record 82 million tonnes, higher than the earlier estimate of 80.28 million tonnes, in the 2010-11 season.

As on April 1, the government's wheat inventory stands at 16.12 million tonnes, which is used to meet emergency needs and run a number of welfare programmes.

However, stocks are expected to swell further as the harvest has just begun. Wheat is sown in October-November and harvested from April.

Signalling its confidence about another bumper harvest this year, the government, which banned exports of wheat in early 2007, allowed 50,000 tonnes of overseas sales to Nepal in February.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/528834.aspx>

Chennai - INDIA

#### Today's Weather



Clear

**Friday, Apr 9**

Max Min

35.6° | 26.8°

Rain: 00mm in24hrs Sunrise: 06:01

Humidity: 34% Sunset: 18:21

Wind: Normal Barometer: 1008.1mb

#### Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

**Saturday, Apr 10**

Max Min

36° | 27°

#### Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday

Apr 11



Monday

Apr 12



Tuesday

Apr 13



Wednesday

Apr 14



Thursday

Apr 15



37°   27°	37°   27°	37°   28°	38°   28°	38°   28°
Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny

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## Food inflation: PM sets up working groups of CMs

First Published : 08 Apr 2010 10:57:46 PM IST

Last Updated : 09 Apr 2010 12:36:02 AM IST



NEW DELHI: Seeking greater involvement of States in combating rising prices, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today set up three working groups of chief ministers even as he cautioned that increased output alone will not ensure food security for all.

The Prime Minister met chief ministers and other representatives of 10 states to discuss rising prices of essential commodities and announced setting up of the working groups that will examine in depth the issues of agriculture production, public distribution and reduction of prices.

The group on agriculture production will be headed by Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the one on consumer affairs will be led by Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia will head the group on food and public distribution.

The working groups are required to submit their reports within two months.

Addressing the meeting of core committee of CMs and Cabinet ministers on prices, Singh said the primary concern of the government is to insulate the poor and the vulnerable from rapid rise in prices of food and essential commodities.

He emphasised that food production needs to grow at higher rates but cautioned that higher output alone will not be enough to achieve food security for all.

"For that, we need to look at strengthening of public distribution system to prevent large scale leakages and diversion of foodgrains and also to remedy exclusion and inclusion errors in identification of below poverty line beneficiaries," he said.

The Centre's decision to involve the states in dealing with the price situation comes at a time when there is a blame game on rising food inflation that has soared to 17.70 per cent.

Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi after coming out of the meeting said, "It seems that government of India does not have any concrete solution to deal with the price situation."

Chief minister of Punjab, West Bengal and Bihar are also members of the working group on farm production, while CMs of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are part of consumer affairs working group. Chhattisgarh, Assam CMs and PMEAC Chairman C Rangarajan are members of the food and public distribution group.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar said there were certain suggestions made by some chief ministers regarding the Food Security Bill. But mainly everybody suggested that the list of Below Poverty Line (BPL) should be finalised at the earliest, he said, adding that working group headed by Ahluwalia would look into this issue.

Asked about price situation, Pawar said "by and large trend of foodgrain prices are going down... see the retail prices of sugar and other items, prices are going down."

In fact, he said "as Agriculture Minister I am getting complaints from some of the states like UP that the wheat prices are going down below MSP and that's why government of India should enter the market and at least try to assure minimum support price. This is the trend."

Fortunately, in Rabi season the production has been substantially improved. The area and crop production of wheat will be better than the last year, pulses production has also improved and that's why there is a downward trend, he added.

Giving details of three working groups, Pawar said the first group headed by Hooda will look into how to increase agricultural production and productivity including long-term policies for sustained agricultural growth and issues relating to inputs like seeds, fertilisers.

The group headed by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission will find out ways and means for better and effective delivery of essential commodities to the vulnerable sections of society and augmentation of warehouses and storage capacity.

The Modi-led group on Consumer Affairs will recommend the centre whether there is a need to control the retail prices. Besides, it will also look into better implementation and amendment to Essential Commodities Act.



## Food inflation goes north, hits 17.70 pct

**Agencies** Posted online: Thursday , Apr 08, 2010 at 12:14 hrs

**New Delhi :** Higher prices of milk, fruits and pulses pushed food inflation to 17.70 per cent for the week ended March 27, fueling expectations that RBI may further tighten rates in its annual monetary policy on April 20.

Food inflation in the previous week stood at 16.35 per cent. With prices of essential items rising and fears of food inflation spreading to manufactured goods, the overall inflation for March, data for which is expected next week, is likely to cross the double digit mark.

The overall inflation, which includes variation in prices of food and non-food items, was 9.89 per cent in February.

On an annual basis, pulses became dearer by 32.60 per cent, milk by 21.12 per cent, fruits 14.95 and wheat by 13.34 per cent.

On a weekly basis, the index for food articles rose by 0.9 per cent as fish marine, milk, fruits, masur and vegetables became costlier.

In a bid to rein in inflation, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is holding a meeting of the core committee of Chief Ministers with representations from 10 states and senior Cabinet ministers later in the day.

The core group of chief ministers, set up in February, comprises Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Punjab, Gujarat, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Besides CMs, the other members of the committee are Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Food and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar and Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

To check inflation from spreading to non-food items, the RBI last month raised key short-term lending and borrowing (repo and the reverse repo) rates by 25 basis points to five per cent and 3.5 per cent, respectively.

General inflation has already surpassed RBI's March end projection of 8.5 per cent.

Recently, RBI governor D Subbarao had also said that the apex bank will continue its exit from monetary stimulus policy to check high inflation and ensure sustainable growth.

## **DECCAN** **Chronicle** *On The Web*

Published on Deccan Chronicle (<http://www.deccanchronicle.com>)

### **Output of sugar to rise: Pawar**

Apr 09 2010

New Delhi, April 8: The government on Thursday said India's sugar production may touch 18.1 million tonnes in the current season ending September. This is a 13 per cent increase over the earlier estimate of 16 million tonnes.

However, the output is still short of India's annual demand of 23 million tonnes.

"The sugar output may touch 18.1 million tonnes in the current season," food and agriculture minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, said.

In the beginning of the season, the government had estimated sugar production at 16 million tonnes against 14.7 million tonnes in the last season.

According to official data, the country is estimated to have produced 16.7 million tonnes of sugar in the first six months of the 2009-10 season.

Going by Mr Pawar's estimates, as much as 1.4 million tonnes of sugar is likely to be produced in the remaining period of the sugar season, which runs from October to September.

The minister has been indicating a possible rise in sugar production in the last few weeks after receiving positive trends from the country's top two sugar producing states

— Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh — where cane yields have increased, boosting crushing in mills.

While the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF) recently revised sugar output estimates to 18 million tonnes after the mills reported that they are able to crush more due to the increase in the supply of sugar cane.

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**Source URL:**

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/business/output-sugar-rise-pawar-574>

## **Food inflation up, rate hike expected**

Apr 09 2010

April 8: Food inflation rose by 1.35 per cent to touch 17.7 per cent in the last week of March.

With the overall inflation also expected to cross double digits, economists are expecting a tighter monetary policy from the RBI in the current fiscal.

“We expect the RBI to hike interest rates by 100-125 basis points in the current fiscal year,” said Mr Indranil Pan, chief economist of Kotak Mahindra Bank.

This will hike the price of owning a home and car for the middle class as banks will be pressurised to hike their lending rates.

However, Mr Pan felt that food prices are generally coming down.” Variation in a week doesn’t mean too much,” he added.

High food prices is turning into a huge political issue for the government. Left parties led by the CPI(M) on Thursday held demonstrations across the country.

The heads of CPI(M) Mr Prakash Karat and CPI, Mr A. B. Bardhan courted arrest during protest rallies. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, his senior cabinet colleagues and chief ministers of 10 states on Thursday met to discuss measures to be taken to control the price rise.

The RBI has been tightening the monetary policy to control inflation.

Last month RBI suddenly raised the repo and the reverse repo rates by 25 basis points

each as inflation crossed its estimate of 8.5 per cent.

“Now it (food inflation) is spreading to non-food items which implies that the RBI may have to start tightening the monetary policy.

Tightening of the monetary policy is something which may have to be done and that’s the only way we can proceed further,” Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council member, Mr G. Govinda Rao, said.

In a report, Goldman Sachs said that it disagrees with the view that high inflationary trends in India is temporary, driven by food prices, and will decline sharply as the winter crop hits the market.

It said that it’s not just food prices — core inflation is also rising. The rise in the prices of commodities like oil, steel are putting upward pressure on inflation.

“We are therefore increasing our 2010-11 inflation forecasts to 7.5 per cent from 6 per cent,” said Goldman Sachs.

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**Source URL:**

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/business/food-inflation-rate-hike-expected-575>