

### Free cattle protection camps planned



**Helping hand: M.Chandrasekaran, Collector, at the cattle camp in Tiruvarur on Tuesday.**

TIRUVARUR: Under Tamil Nadu Government's special cattle protection scheme, 140 cattle protection camps will be conducted in Tiruvarur district this year at a cost of Rs 5.88 lakh said M.Chandrasekaran, Tiruvarur district collector on Tuesday.

Inaugurating a cattle protection camp at Moongilkudi village in Tiruvarur district, Chandrasekaran said there are 2,47,336 cows, 6217 buffaloes, 5975 sheep, 3,22,879 goats and 2,63,923 chicken in Tiruvarur district. The camp helps farmers from villages where there are no veterinary services to avail facilities such as artificial insemination, vaccination and deworming. A total of 1533 cattle were treated and free fodder slips were also distributed in the camp.

An exhibition was organised by Uzhavar Payirchi Maiyyam, Tiruvarur at the camp. Prizes were distributed to farmers who reared the best cattle. M.Palaniappan, Regional Joint Director, Animal Husbandry, and other officials participated.

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## **Inflation rate to decline at 9.6 pc in Q2 of current fiscal.:CMIE**

Latest forecasts promise good news on the inflation front. India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation is projected to come down to 9.6 per cent in the second quarter ending September 2010, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) said in its monthly review here.

WPI inflation in the June 2010 quarter was 10.6 per cent, compared to barely 0.5 per cent in the same period a year-ago.

The decline is projected to continue in the subsequent two quarters too, to 8.1 per cent and 6.5 per cent in the quarter ending December 2010 and March 2011, respectively, CMIE said.

The decline will be partly brought about by a high base in the second-half of the preceding fiscal year. The other factors that are expected to keep inflation down include an expected surge in the 2010 kharif crop production and an increase in sugar output.

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## **Forest officials seize 8.4 tonnes of PDS rice**

Tirupur: The forest officials seized 8.4 tonnes of PDS rice smuggled in a lorry near Tamil Nadu – Kerala border in the district on Tuesday evening. The lorry driver was arrested in this connection.

Forest department officials told The Hindu that the lorry was intercepted near Chinnar check post by a team of officials led by Forest Ranger V. A. Saravanan following a chase while it was heading to Munnar in Kerala.

The suspicion first came when the driver speeded away the lorry at the previous check point while the officials were inspecting the stock.

According to the forest officials, the driver first told them that poultry feed was stacked on the lorry. But a detailed check of a few gunny bags in random revealed that it contained rice lifted from the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the State.

Before the officials could inspect the remaining bags, the driver escaped with the vehicle only to be caught later. The forest officials said that the rice seized was later handed over to the revenue officials.

### Spotted deer rescued

A male spotted deer aged around five years was rescued from a well situated in the middle of an agriculture farm at Valakundapuram near here on Tuesday.

Forest officials said that the one-metre-tall deer, weighing around 30 kg, accidentally fell into the 15-feet-deep well on the coconut farm premises owned by Rangasamy.

A team led by Forest Ranger V.A. Saravanan rescued the deer from the well and later released the animal into the reserved forest at Chinnar. The deer suffered only minor bruises in the incident.

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### **ICRISAT offers training on sweet sorghum enterprise**

The NutriPlus Knowledge Center, a research platform within the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)'s Agri-Science Park supported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, is offering an entrepreneur development workshop on establishing and managing a commercial Sweet Sorghum Syrup enterprise for Food Applications from September 27 to October 1, 2010 at ICRISAT in Patancheru, near Hyderabad. This will be conducted in collaboration with ICRISAT's Global Theme on Crop Improvement.

Sweet sorghum is a multipurpose crop for the simultaneous production of grain for food, sugary juice for making syrup, jaggery or ethanol; bagasse and green foliage for fodder, biomass for production of bio-gas, organic fertilizer and the manufacture of paper.

ICRISAT Director General William D Dar says, "Sweet sorghum is a smart crop. It could help developing countries to save valuable foreign exchange on importing fuel, which could be ploughed back into its own rural economies. With proper management, smallholder farmers can improve their incomes by 20% compared to alternative crops in dry areas in India."

Following this, the NutriPlus Knowledge Center has already developed a number of value-added food products from sweet sorghum juice and these are ready for commercialisation by prospective entrepreneurs.

The proposed workshop, the first of its kind, is being organized to bring awareness about the potential of sweet sorghum among prospective entrepreneurs and to enable them to start their own business enterprise based on this crop.

The workshop will deal with harvesting of sweet sorghum and processing of juice to syrup, setting up processing units in micro/ small and medium levels, including potential sources of funding, technology involved, quality control & business perspective. There is no fee involved, but the number of participants is restricted to 25 and will be based on selection.

Interested participants may register by sending their detailed bio data to [a.poshadri@cgiar.org](mailto:a.poshadri@cgiar.org) (Phone: 04030713784, Mobile: 09492828965) along with a self-written statement on the topic, "Why I want to be a food product entrepreneur" on or before 26 August. The minimum qualification required is graduation in any discipline. Maximum age limit is 35 years. ICRISAT encourages women entrepreneurs to come forward to participate in the training course.

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Wed, Aug 18, 2010 | Updated 07.33AM IST

18 Aug, 2010, 12.46AM IST, Bloomberg

## India rice output may set record

NEW DELHI: India, the world's second-biggest rice grower, may have a record harvest this year as increased planting offset drought in the East of the country. Production may total 100 million tonne in the year ending June 2011, compared with 89.3 million tonne a year ago, said Vijay Setia, president of All India Rice Exporters' Association. Output was a record 99.2 million tonne in the year ended June 30, 2009, according to the farm ministry.

"It will be a bumper crop this year as overall rains have been good and the government has distributed hybrid and good quality seeds," Setia said in an interview from Karnal.

A record harvest may prompt the government to lift a two-year-old restriction on exports at a time when global demand is expected to increase as surging wheat prices encourage buyers to switch to rice. Rice exports from Pakistan, the world's third-largest shipper, are expected to slump after a flood damaged crops in areas accounting for 90% of agricultural output.

Indian farmers had planted 27.4 million hectare of rice as of August 13, compared with 25.1 million hectare a year earlier, the farm ministry said last week. The condition of the crop in 16 out of the 19 major rice-growing states is "normal," the ministry said. Crop conditions are "poor" in Bihar and "satisfactory" in Kerala and West Bengal, the biggest grower, it said.

"According to preliminary reports we expect a 75% loss in rice production," Ashok Kumar Sinha, Bihar's agriculture production commissioner, said on Monday. The harvest may not be affected

by drought in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and UP, agriculture minister Sharad Pawar has said.

### Sugar drops on sluggish demand on Tuesday

17 Aug, 2010, 04.38PM IST,PTI

MUMBAI: Sugar prices dropped further at the Vashi wholesale market here today due to reduced offtake from stockists and bulk consumers coupled with adequate stocks positions.

Small sugar quality (S-30) declined by Rs 20/30 per quintal to Rs 2,570/2,600 from Monday's closing level of Rs 2,590/2,630.

Medium sugar quality (M-30) also fell by another Rs 20 per quintal to Rs 2,590/2,660, as against Rs 2,610/2,680 yesterday.



Wed, 18 Aug 2010

### Weather

Chennai - INDIA

#### Today's Weather



Rainy

Wednesday, Aug 18

Max Min  
34.2° | 26.1°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 79%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:56

Sunset: 18:29

Barometer: 1002.0

#### Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Thursday, Aug 19

Max Min  
32° | 25°

#### Extended Forecast for a week

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Aug 20	Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24



30° | 26°  
Rainy



30° | 27°  
Rainy



31° | 26°  
Rainy



31° | 27°  
Rainy



31° | 27°  
Rainy

# Business Standard

Wednesday, Aug 18, 2010

## Potato futures rise on increased buying

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 17, 2010, 17:08 IST



Potato prices rose by Rs 5.80, or 1.57 per cent, to Rs 376.20 per quintal in futures trade today, as traders increased their positions on hopes of rise in demand in the spot market.

Restricted arrivals from producing regions also supported the uptrend.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange platform, potato for October contract rose Rs 5.80, or 1.57 per cent, to Rs 376.20 per quintal, with a trading volume of 1,353 lots.

Similarly, potato for delivery in September contract inched up by Rs 4.90, or 1.33 per cent, to Rs 373.10 per quintal, with an open interest of 1,899 lots.

Marketmen said increased buying by traders on expectations of pick-up in demand in spot market to meet the festive demand pushed up potato prices at futures market here.

## Turmeric futures up on tight supply

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 17, 2010, 17:01 IST

Turmeric prices rose by Rs 284, or 2.01 per cent, to Rs 14,390 per quintal in futures trading today on tight supply in the spot market against increased demand.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange counter, turmeric for August-month rose by Rs 284, or 2.01 per cent, to Rs 14,390 per quintal, with an open interest of 4,915 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in October gained by Rs 14, or 0.11 per cent, to Rs 13,062 per quintal, with a business turnover of 720 lots.

Analysts said restricted arrivals in the spot market, against increased demand mainly led to a rise in turmeric prices at futures trade.

# THE HINDU Business Line

Business Daily from THE HINDU group of publications

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## India wins 'Ponni' rice trademark row in Malaysia



Different grades of Ponni rice on sale



G. Srinivasan

New Delhi, Aug. 17

India has won the battle for 'Ponni' rice in a Malaysian court.

The Malaysian High Court in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday ruled that a local firm, Faiza Sdn Bhd, should not use the 'Ponni' label for its rice products, on an application by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and four others. The judgment, quoted by Malaysian news agency Bernama, said that 'Ponni' rice was produced along the Cauvery river in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and that Faiza did not have the right to register it as its own trademark.

The judgment termed the entry of 'Ponni' in the register of trademarks as "...wrongfully made..."

Exporters of this premium non-basmati rice variety, mainly from South India, should heave a sigh of relief. Trade sources here told Business Line that before the ban on non-basmati rice, from April 1, 2008, India was annually shipping close to 1.5 lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice including premium 'Ponni' and 'Sona' varieties to major destinations including Europe and West Asia as also Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia.

A positive development

The APEDA Chairman, Mr Asit Tripathy, said: "It is a positive development. We have succeeded in preventing somebody from appropriating this brand, and as and when the ban on non-basmati rice export is lifted, Ponni rice exporters would benefit."

Mr P. Vishnu Kumar of Vishnu Kumar Traders Pvt Ltd (the firm is one of the respondents in the case), Secretary, South India Rice Exporters Organisation, hailed the Malaysian court decision as "a victory to 'Ponni' rice growers and exporters, thanks to the timely action taken by the Indian authorities" to fight the usurping of a variety that has its origins in the Cauvery delta. In the light of the victory, New Delhi, he said, should consider lifting the ban on premium non-basmati rice variety such as 'Ponni', or at least allowing export of

small consumer packs.

Commerce Department officials said it is time also to get 'Ponni' registered as a certification of trademark or geographical indication (GI). For this, standards needed to be evolved just as for basmati rice, for Ponni's aroma, length and characteristics. Sans such standards, onslaughts on traditional farm varieties, as had also happened on turmeric and neem, could not be averted. [geeyes@thehindu.co.in](mailto:geeyes@thehindu.co.in)

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### **'Wheat export prospects exist'**

New Delhi, Aug 17

Even as the Food Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, recently ruled out removing the ban on wheat exports, the Commerce Ministry on Tuesday referred to the high international prices and said the Government could consider allowing export of the commodity. India is the world's second biggest grower of wheat.

"As of today, yes, domestic prices (of wheat) are lower than the international prices, so the prospect of a commercial export exists," the Commerce Secretary, Dr Rahul Khullar, told reporters.

"The fact that you are sitting on a silo of wheat just means that yes, you can offload some of it, depending on how bad the situation is for other wheat suppliers," he said.

Mr Pawar had said there is no move to lift the ban on wheat exports as the priority was to keep the domestic prices in check and to provide foodgrains to the poor at subsidised rates.

Huge stock

As on July 1, the country has a wheat stock of 33.58 million tonnes, which is nearly double

the buffer volume. However, there is a concern that there is not enough space for storage of the grain.

The global wheat prices surged following Russia's (the third biggest producer of wheat) announcement of a ban on grains exports in the wake of its worst ever drought in several decades damaging its crops. Floods in Canada had also brought down wheat supply.

Besides, dry conditions in Europe and drought concerns in Kazakhstan have also hit global supplies of wheat. Ukraine is also planning restrictions on wheat export.

Dr Khullar said, "The question to be asked today is how much further will they (global wheat prices) go up given what is happening in Russia, Ukraine and Canada."

India's wheat production was a record of 80.71 million tonnes in the 2009-10 crop year ending June, as against last year's 80.68 million tonnes.

Wheat exports were banned in early 2007, while the import of the item was made duty-free to boost its availability in domestic markets. To meet its buffer stock requirement, India imported nearly seven million tonnes of wheat in 2006 and 2007.

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### **Registration for cotton export to begin on Sept 1**

*Meet with Farm Ministry to decide on quantity to be shipped.*

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*Restrictions lifted*

*Registration from Sep 1 to facilitate exports from Oct 1*

*Meeting on Sep 1 to find out how much can be exported*

*Duty to be levied when export reaches the decided limit*

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Our Bureau

New Delhi, Aug 17

The Commerce Secretary, Dr Rahul Khullar, said on Tuesday that cotton exports would be allowed from October 1 without any restrictions, when the new crop starts arriving in the market .

Though there will be no export tax on cotton, the only condition will be that contracts for exports need to be registered with the Textile Commissioner, he told reporters, adding that the registration process will be simple.

“Cotton exports will be on OGL (Open General Licence) from October 1, which means cotton exports are unrestricted and free. What exact amount will be exported, so that the domestic industry is not affected, will be decided when we get more accurate figures,” Dr Khullar said.

He said the Textile Commissioner will start registering contracts for exports from September 1 so that traders can export cotton when the crop arrives in October. “The reason for the time gap is otherwise people will run around at the last minute trying to register contracts,” he said.

Another meeting

The Ministries of Commerce, Textiles and the Agriculture Ministry will have another meeting on September 1 to assess the total domestic demand, prices and the estimates of production so that the Government can figure out the quantity that can be exported, he said.

“Later when you get a much more reliable figure of cotton crop, then we will decide on how much will be exported,” he said, adding that cotton exports will continue unrestricted till it reaches the amount that can be exported.

“When it (cotton exports) starts getting close to that (amount that can be exported), which

is some time in the next year, then we will levy an export duty," he said.

The current export restrictions are essentially till September 30.

The Directorate-General of Foreign Trade had, on May 21, moved cotton exports from "free" to the "restricted" list, with shipments being permitted only against licence.

Even prior to that, on July 22, 2008, the DGFT had stipulated that all export contracts be registered with the Textile Commissioner prior to shipment.

On April 19 this year, the Textile Commissioner announced a suspension of registration of all export contracts "till further orders."

## Ban

The virtual ban on exports has come under attack for being against the interests of the country's cotton growers.

Cotton exports have become highly attractive following a spurt in international prices. During the 2008-09 season (October-September), 35.14 lakh bales valued at Rs 3,838.85 crore were shipped out of the country.

In the current season till April 2010, 73.76 lakh bales have been exported of an estimated total crop size of 292 lakh bales.

The surge in exports led to heavy lobbying by the textile industry, following which the Centre clamped the restrictions on shipments.

However, according to a report by the International Cotton Advisory Committee, India's cotton exports are likely to fall by 14 per cent to 1.2 million tonnes in 2010-11 marketing year (October-September).

## Local demand

Industry sources also say a major local demand would limit cotton exports in 2010-11.

The country's cotton production is likely to increase slightly at 5.1 million tonnes in 2010-11

as against the previous 5.01 million tonnes.

The domestic demand is expected to go up to 4.59 million tonnes as against the earlier 4.25 million tonnes.

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### **Higher import prices perk up urad, tur**



Indore, Aug 17

Urad dal and tur dal prices increased following a spurt in prices of imported pulses on the Mumbai market. Urad dal in the spot market ruled at Rs 5,900-6,000 a quintal, up Rs 200 from Monday. Similarly, tur dal perked up by Rs 150-200 to Rs 5,800-5,850 a quintal.

Prices of imported pulses on the Mumbai market were:Urad Mumbai – Rs 5,175, peas – Rs 1,681 a quintal, Australian gram – Rs 5,291 and Masoor Mumbai – Rs 3,511 a quintal.

Compared with imported pulses, prices of moong and chana dal ruled stable and slipped from Monday's rates. With demand limited in chana dal, its prices in the spot market fell by Rs 50 to Rs 2,625-2,650 a quintal.

The main reason for declining trend in chana dal has been attributed to rise in coverage of

pulse seeds in the country to 87.36 lakh hectares compared with last year's 75.84 lakh hectares.

Besides, the decline in raw chana (kanta) prices in the spot market on Tuesday to Rs 2,225-2,230 a quintal also contributed to the fall in chana dal prices.

Masoor dal and moong dal remained stable. Masoor dal quoted at Rs 3,825-3,850 and moong dal at Rs 6,000-6,100 a quintal.

PTI reports: Masoor and its dal prices gained Rs 50 a quintal in the wholesale pulses market in New Delhi on retailers' demand.

Masoor small and bold remained in demand and increased to Rs 3,300–3,500 and Rs 3,500–3,750 a quintal respectively.

Dal masoor local and best quality increased by a similar margin to Rs 4,000–4,100 and Rs 4,300–4,600 a quintal respectively.

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### **Good demand fuels cardamom prices**

G.K. NairKochi, Aug 17

Cardamom prices moved up marginally on good buying support and limited arrivals at the auctions held last week in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

There was no auction on Sunday on account of the Independence Day.

From last Monday's auction average of Rs 1366.60, individual auction average moved up to above Rs 1,400 and in fact, it oscillated between Rs 1,400 and Rs 1,460 a kg, trade sources said.

Last week total arrivals stood at 120 tonnes against 92 tonnes in the previous week, they said. Non-availability of exportable quality cardamom was said to have kept the export

buying very thin, export sources told Business Line. According to them, the growers because of the high prices were not picking fully ripe capsules so as to increase their income. But, these immature capsules when dried up would shrink losing its boldness in the absence of sufficient number of seeds. Hence, they were buying only small quantities.

According to Mr P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, this situation may change when the harvesting reaches its full swing next week. The festival season in north India and non-availability of carryover stocks with the upcountry dealers coupled with supply squeeze from the lone other producer of small cardamom in the world, Guatemala, is expected to create good demand in the coming days, he said.

#### Arrivals

Total arrivals during the current season from August 1 to August 14 stood at 232 tonnes. Of this, 230 tonnes of cardamom were sold. Arrivals and sales during the same period in the previous season were 246 tonnes and 242 tonnes, respectively. Weighted average price as on August 14 was Rs 1,398 a kg, up from Rs 684.25a kg same day last year. Prices for graded varieties in rupees per kg on Monday were: AGEB 1,660– 1,670; AGB 1,515- 1,525; AGS 1,490 – 1,500; AGS1- 1,480 – 1,490. Prices quoted in the open market in Bodinayakannur were: AGEB 1,635-1,645; AGB 1,495-1,505; AGS 1,475-1,485 and AGS 1 -1,420-1,435 a kg.

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#### **Dwindling supply bolsters coconut**





C.J. Punnathara

Kochi, Aug 17

The strong uptrend in coconut oil prices prolonged into this week as demand continued to outpace supply.

This being the strongest demand season of the year due to Onam festivities, demand continued to outstrip supply, Mr Prakash B. Rao, President of the Cochin Oil Merchants Association (COMA), said.

Rains have hampered conversion to copra in Kerala and domestic arrivals are down to a trickle. Moreover, as the price between the Kerala and Tamil Nadu markets has narrowed down, copra arrivals from Tamil Nadu are also lower.

Coconut oil prices ruled firm at Rs 5,850 a quintal, up Rs 100 from last week. Copra prices also ruled strong at Rs 3,950 a quintal. NAFED is the major source of copra for the local millers and offtake from its warehouses is reportedly strong.

NAFED should be having a stock between 6,000 and 8,000 tonnes, sources in the market said. The firm trends are expected to continue another fortnight.

Correction seen

However, given the quick rally in prices, market sources expected a correction, partly on account of profit booking. Traders, too, were perturbed at the price rally stating that it is bad for the market as adulteration becomes rampant when the price differentials between coconut oil and other competing oils widen. They said that neither the farmer nor the trade benefits from the unbridled rise in prices.

They pointed out that price of competing oils has not been keeping pace with the rapid spurt in coconut oil prices. Palm oil prices were quoting at Rs 4,400 a quintal, while palm kernel oil fetched Rs 5,600. They said that an upside limit of Rs 6,000 a quintal for coconut oil would maintain stability and avert adulteration in the current market.

Prices remained firm in the Kerala market as industrial buyers were present even in this predominantly consumer market, Mr Rao said. The industrial demand was evident in both Tamil Nadu and Kerala, nurturing the tempo in prices. The firm price trends are likely to persist until January when the peak production season begins and continue until June-July next year.

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### **Wheat rises as arrivals from U.P. peter out**



Karnal, Aug 17

Wheat prices have begun to rise this week following a drop in arrivals from Uttar Pradesh

On Tuesday, the dara variety ruled around the levels of Rs 1,200 a quintal.

On the other hand, due to uncertain weather and low arrivals the desi wheat varieties ruled firm.

Tohfa variety of Madhya Pradesh ruled around Rs 2,210 a quintal. Lok-1 was quoted at Rs 1,825, kitchen queen new marka around Rs 2,100, Angoor variety at Rs 2,140-2,150 a quintal, Nano variety at Rs 2,070 and the Kangan and Parle-G variety at around Rs 2,180.

On condition of anonymity, wheat traders told Business Line that the stock was arriving illegally, without paying tax, in the market but the Haryana Agriculture Marketing Board (Market Committee) has started imposing the tax system strictly.

Following this, the traders are dragging their feet from the procurement as after paying the tax the stock gets costlier.

Because of this, there is not much buying in the market and with buying being low, arrivals have dropped, they said. They said that the Board collects eight per cent tax, two per cent market fees, two per cent Haryana Rural Development Fund and four per cent VAT. If a trader pays these levies, then the prices could touch Rs 1,300 a quintal. Chakki owners are also out of the market as buying at these levels there could trigger a rally in the prices of flour too and most of them do not have license as well, they added. Around 150 quintals stock arrived here on Tuesday. In first half of this month, wheat prices dropped from the peak witnessed last month at the Karnal grain market terminal.

On Tuesday, the market ruled at Rs 1,200, whereas it ruled around Rs 1,170 for most part of last week. The market board's move to levy taxes has also affected the rice arrivals. Only 1,500 bags (60-kg each) of Govinda paddy arrived here in the market. The early variety paddy ruled around Rs 1,025 a quintal.

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**Selling pressure dissolves sugar**



Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Aug 17

Spot sugar prices declined for the second day on the Vashi wholesale market. In the absence of local retail and upcountry demand, prices declined further by Rs 20-30 a quintal at on Tuesday. Selling pressure from stockist also continued at naka and tender delivery trade.

Seeing the possibilities of good demand, mills are not willing to sell at lower levels, said Mr Hemant Vora, a leading wholesaler.

Mills have managed to sell about 8,000-10,000 bags (100 kg each) only to local traders in the price range of Rs 2,470-2,490 for S-grade and Rs 2,528 /Rs 2,550 for M-grade. Total arrival at Vashi market was at 34-35 truckloads (10 tonnes each) and lifting was lower at 25-28 truckloads. Mills offered tenders at Rs 2,470-2,490 for S-grade and Rs 2,500/2,550 for M-grade (including excise).

According to the merchants' Association spot market rate for S-grade was Rs 2,570-2,600 (Rs 2,590/2,630) and M-grade at Rs 2,590-2,660 (Rs 2,610/2,680). Naka delivery rate: S-grade Rs 2,530-2,560 (Rs 2,550/2,575) and M-grade Rs 2,560-2,625 (Rs 2,600/2,650) a quintal.

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### **Potato research body gets nod to open centre in Bengal**

Kolkata, Aug 17

The West Bengal Government has received permission from the Union Government to set up Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) centre in the State to facilitate research and selection of suitable varieties of potatoes to be grown in the State. "We have got permission to set up a CPRI centre in the State. This will come up in west Midnapore district and will be under the aegis of the Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya," said Mr Naren De, State Agriculture Minister.

## Picking up varieties

The centre, once established, would enable the selection of suitable varieties of potato to be grown in the State, according to Dr Bir Pal Singh, Director, CPRI. "The biggest issue for the State at present is that there is no specific variety of potato which is grown exclusively based on the agricultural and climatic conditions and specific requirements of the State. The varieties such as Jyoti, Pokhraj and Chandramukhi, which are being cultivated at present, are not best suited," Mr Singh said, while talking to newsmen on the sidelines of a seminar on potato crop management and processing organised by the West Bengal Cold Storage Association here on Tuesday. Potato varieties such as Surya, Pushkar and Sailaja among others should be grown in the State and evaluated under specific conditions, he pointed out.

The CPRI, Mr Singh said, was also keen on developing a breeding programme for the State based on its specific requirements.

The availability of seeds was yet another issue that had to be addressed, he pointed out. West Bengal currently imports its seeds from Punjab which adds to the cost of cultivation and puts a pressure on margins. "Seed import cost accounts for about 40-50 per cent of the total cost of cultivation. The State can have these seeds grown here, CPRI is ready to work as a knowledge and consultancy partner for the same," he said.

Potato processing was another important area that needed urgent attention, according to Mr Swapan Kumar Mondal, President, West Bengal Cold Storage Association. "The concept of potato processing has picked up over the last few years, in order to encourage further development in this regard, CPRI should add few more varieties of potatoes which are best suited for processing," Mr Mondal said.

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**Pepper futures hit upper circuit on buying support**

G.K. NairKochi, Aug 17

Pepper futures on Tuesday hit the second circuit levels on bullish activities coupled with good buying support and limited availability.

Leading exporters are said to have covered an estimated 40 tonnes of 7-8 years old pepper at Rs 192 a kg and this factor is claimed to have activated the market. Bull operators took over this phenomenon and pushed the market up by 4 per cent from the previous close, market sources told Business Line.

Besides, according to trade sources, the north Indian stockists who bought earlier at low prices are said to be holding inventories for three-four months for catering to the festival season demand and after that for the winter they may have to cover from the market generating fresh demand.

August contract on NCDEX shot up by Rs 773 to close at Rs 20,095 a quintal. September and October increased by Rs 783 and Rs 792 respectively to close at Rs 20,355 and Rs 20,591 a quintal.

Total turnover increased by 4,487 tonnes to 21,196 tonnes. Total open interest increased by 734 tonnes to 17,817 tonnes indicating additional purchases. August open interest dropped by 1,032 tonnes to 2,886 tonnes.

September shot up by 1,550 tonnes showing switching over and additional buying while October was up by 143 tonnes. Spot prices on strong demand and in tandem with the futures market trend increased by Rs 400 to close at Rs 19,400 (un-garbled) and Rs 19,900 (MG 1) a quintal.

Vietnam, which had already exported 83,121 tonnes during Jan-Jul 2010, apart from 10,000 tonnes in border trade, was quoting firmer. Indian parity after the upsurge in the futures market was at \$4,550 a tonne (c&f) and remained much above origins.

Black pepper prices quoted for different origins in dollar per tonne c&f New York were MG 1asta – 4,500-4,600; Vietnam 500 GL – 3,900 (fob); Vietnam asta - \$4,550; Lampong 500 GL – 3,700 (fob); Lampong 550GL -3,800 (fob); Lampong asta -3,900 (fob); Sri Lanka 500 GL-3,600-3,625 (fob); Sri Lanka 550 GL – 3,675-3,700 (fob); Brazil B2 500GL – 3,900 (fob)

Aug/Sep; Brazil B1 560 GL – 4,000 (fob) Aug/Sep and Brazil asta – 4,100 (fob) Aug/Sep.V

Vietnam white pepper was quoted at \$6,000 and that of Muntok at \$6,000-\$6,050 a tonne (c&f).

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**<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/08/18/stories/2010081851231700.htm>**

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### **Groundnut oil steady on limited stocks**



Rajkot, Aug 17

Despite the upcoming festival season, groundnut oil prices have remained stable in the last two days.

Cotton oil, however, has come down slowly during the same time.

Groundnut oil ruled steady at Rs 1,445-1,450 for 15 kg new tin in Rajkot. Groundnut oil in the 15-litre tin traded at the level of Rs 1,345-1,350.

Groundnut oil sold “loose” decreased by Rs 5 to Rs 850-855 from the previous close of Rs 855-860 for 10 kg.

Local traders said: “This is the all-time high in the groundnut oil price. Buyers are waiting for a drop in prices. On the other hand, other edible oils such as cotton, palm oil are

available almost at half the rate, so who will buy groundnut oil?"

Cotton oil is available at Rs 765-770 for a 15-litre tin. It has come down Rs 10-15 in the past few days.

Millers said, "We have no stock of groundnut for crushing. Availability is very poor in the market. In this condition, price will not come down, but it is also true that there is not enough demand. Overall price will be stable in present level for some time."

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