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## Hydraulic platform for mango canopy

Staff Reporter



**EASY OPERATION:**A farmer demonstrating the hydraulic platform for mango canopy management at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore.

COIMBATORE: Two major operations done regularly in a mango orchard during off-season are harvesting and pruning. These operations require manual labour to the extent of 15 to 20 labourers an acre. Hence, the use of this machine will save labour and cost of production for farmers, P. Murugesha Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, said here recently.

He was speaking during the demonstration of the modern imported hydraulic platform for mango canopy management. It was attended by representatives of the Tamil Nadu Mango Growers Federation, Government horticultural officers from various districts and scientists and students of the university.

The demonstration was held as part of the university's scheme "Value Chain on Mango and Guava for Domestic and Export Markets" funded by the National Agricultural Innovations Project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

N. Kumar, Dean (Horticulture), TNAU, said that pruning was done for the vegetative parts to induce reproductive buds. It was done every year to get a regular crop from mango. It was important for restraining the exuberant vegetative growth of mangoes to manageable sizes and forms. K. Soorianathasundaram, Head, Department of Fruit Crops, TNAU, said mangoes were harvested using sticks and hooks having containers which was not an efficient system. This resulted in much loss and damage of the fruits. Mangoes had to be carefully picked manually for export purposes. Hence, this machine would serve as an ideal substitute, he added.

T.N. Balamohan, Professor (Fruit Crops), TNAU, stated that the cost of the hydraulic platform was around Rs. 12 lakh including the attachments. The working height of the platform was 21 feet. The towing speed of the machine was 24 km an hour. This multi-purpose machine could be used to cut branches of any size for better regulation of the tree canopy. He also added that it could be used for harvesting the fruits efficiently without any drudgery. The machine was amenable for use in rough terrain without causing any damage to the trees. For details, Mr. Soorianathasundaram on 0422-6611269; or e-mail to [fruits@tnau.ac.in](mailto:fruits@tnau.ac.in).

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### Heavy rain at Siruvani Dam



Long wait: A view of the waterspread in the Siruvani Dam. -

COIMBATORE: An excruciating wait for heavy rain in the catchments of the Siruvani Dam seemed to have ended on Friday morning. The dam recorded 95 mm rain for 24 hours till 8.30 a.m. that day.

This was the heaviest rainfall so far since the onset of the South West Monsoon in July. The rainfall had been largely in single digit, barring the occasional spells of 45 mm, 42 mm and 35 mm between July 28 and the second week of this month.

The catchments in Kerala (where the dam also is located) were under a thick cloud cover. The Siruvani stream near the catchments was in spate. "There is heavy inflow to the dam from the falls that bring water from the upper reaches of the Siruvani hills," Assistant Executive Engineer of Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board S. Sampath Kumar said on Friday.

When fears of a scarcity triggered by a rainless phase late last month were pointed out, the official had then said that the dam could fill up even if the monsoon revived towards the second or third week of August.

"It does appear to be a revival of the monsoon. But, we fervently hope that the heavy rain continues," Mr. Sampath Kumar said, not wanting to sound too confident because of the situation so far this year. It was about 30 ft on Friday, as against the full reservoir level of nearly 51 ft.

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## Cooperative society for jasmine farmers mooted

*Proposal for market at Uthapanakanoor waits for clearance*



**Working out:**A section of farmers at grievance day meeting in Madurai on Friday.

MADURAI: Collector C. Kamaraj has mooted the idea of forming a cooperative society of farmers to facilitate export of jasmine.

During a discussion at the monthly farmers' grievance redressal meeting on Friday, the Collector asked the Joint Registrar of Cooperatives, Ravikumar, to study the feasibility of such a society. Mr. Kamaraj said that the society could be tied up with foreign buyers of jasmine without having to depend on middlemen.

Officials expressed apprehensions of whether farmers would be willing to give their produce for export since they gave it only when the price of flowers falls drastically. "They would not sell them for export during marriage seasons when the price hits the roof," one of them said.

The price of the flower was highly volatile and fluctuations were to the extremes, another officer said. The Collector said a proposal for a jasmine market at Uthapanakanoor had been sent for the Government's clearance.

Farmers wanted a cold storage facility near the Madurai airport to enable export. Some traders were exporting flowers to Sri Lanka and Gulf countries, a farmer said.

The Collector also ordered a team comprising District Revenue Officer, Public Works Department engineers and an official from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, to inspect the Tiruvalavayanallur in Vadipatti Taluk, where a chemical factory was said to have encroached upon the tank.

A farmer from the village, N. Ramesh, complained that the chemical factory had encroached upon some 20 acres of the tank and was letting its effluents into the water body. "People were having itching problems on bathing in the tank," he said. Besides, he said the factory was drawing huge quantity of water from a private land for its daily use. It would affect the ground water level, he added.

On the irrigation front, the Collector said that as against the average annual rainfall of 313 mm between January and August, the district had recorded only 264.86 mm of rainfall in the said period.

District president of Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam K. Devaraj wanted the district administration to provide light and shoes for the farm hands employed in the flower farms since they were facing the danger of snake bites. District Revenue Officer Dinesh Ponraj Oliver and Joint Director (Agriculture) P. Sankaralingam, were present.

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**Distraint proceedings against farmers decried**

*Administration urged to refrain banks from such practice*



**redress meet:Farmers voicing their concerns to G.S. Ramadasu, District Revenue Officer.**

PUDUKOTTAI: A cross-section of agriculturists who spoke at the 'Farmers' Grievances Day' meeting held here on Friday, urged the district administration to direct the banks to refrain from distraint proceedings against farmers who had not repaid their farm loans. Initiating a discussion in this regard, S. P. Muthukumar, District secretary of the CPI-led Tamizhnadu Vivasayigal Sangam, said the farmers were put to great hardship as a few banks had resorted to attachment proceedings at a time when harvest was yet to be taken up.

He also complained that apart from police personnel, a few banks utilised the services of

goondas, to threaten the farmers.

G. S. Ramadasu, District Revenue Officer, who presided over the meeting, said banks had resorted to stricter proceedings only in accordance with the guidelines stipulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

Soon, a group of farmers, including RamaTheerthar of Melapanaiyur; A. Ramasamy, president of the Pudukottai District Kallanai Kalvai Ayacutdars Federation and A. Lakshmana Kumar of Virachilai appealed to the official to impress upon the Centre to grant more time till the harvest of the standing crop was completed, to repay the dues. The District Revenue Officer assured the farmers that he would look into the matter.

#### Unauthorised sand quarrying

A few farmers expressed serious concern over the quarrying of sand at unauthorised sites on the river bed in parts of the district and urged the district administration to initiate urgent action in this regard. M. K. Ramakrishnan, a farmer of Pudukottai, alleged that sand quarrying on unauthorised sites posed a threat to groundwater table in the South Vellar region. Mr. Ramadasu instructed the Public Works Department officials to immediately look in to the matter.

Another farmer V. Veeriah of Avudaiyarkovil pleaded for checking the unauthorised quarrying of sand at Sevittandi Endal village in the Vellar basin.

A. M. Nagendran, Revenue Divisional Officer, Aranthangi, said the Revenue officials kept a vigil against unauthorised quarrying of sand in the river beds.

He appealed to the farmers not to hurl allegations against Revenue officials and desist from furnishing false information.

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August 20, 2010**

**Russia plans first grain imports in 11 years after fire damage**



AP A running boy looks at burning grass in a village east of Moscow. The fires have destroyed provincial towns and villages, and together with the drought have cost Russia a third of its wheat crop. File photo

Russia now faces its first major imports of grain in 11 years as a result of the heavy damage on crops inflicted by the massive fires this summer, the newspaper Vedomosti reported Thursday.

The newspaper cited agriculture industry experts in its report, which said that above all the Central Asian country of Kazakhstan was expected to be the chief grain supplier.

Russia's grain needs are 76 million tons annually. Last year the huge country harvested 97 million tons and exported some 20 million tons.

But after the massive fire damage, projections for this year are for a harvest of something over 60 million tons. On August 15, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin ordered a stop on exports, with the ban to stay in effect through December 31.

By official accounts, Russia's farm sector has so far harvested some 40 million tons of grain. The country is believed to have emergency reserves of over 20 million tons.

But, as the Moscow Times newspaper reported, it is expected now that Russia will have to import grains for its beer industry.

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### **Maharashtra's first DNA lab for seeds in Pune**



Social worker Anna Hazare inaugurated Maharashtra's first DNA laboratory for seeds in Pune on Friday. Called the 'DNA fingerprinting and hybridity testing laboratory,' it works exactly the way a DNA lab works for humans.

"We will use this technique to recognise the true-to-type seeds. If some manufacturers wrongly claim that a seed is a hybrid of a parent seed, we will be able to check the DNA component in the tissue of any part of the plant and the parent seed, and detect quality," agricultural officer D.N. Bhor told *The Hindu*. Thanks to this initiative, farmers would be wary of buying low-quality seeds. This technique could also help in some court cases against manufactures, Mr Bhor said.

Agricultural Minister Balasaheb Thorat was present. Mr. Hazare also inaugurated the 'Ideal Village Scheme.'

Published: August 19, 2010 15:10 IST | Updated: August 19, 2010 23:31 IST NEW DELHI,  
August 19, 2010

### **Food inflation edges down**





The Hindu Cheaper vegetables, especially potato and onion, pushed down food inflation by over a percentage point to 10.35 per cent during the week ended August 7. Photo: Sushil Kumar Verma

Though easing a tad from 11.40 per cent in the last week of July, food inflation remained in double digits at 10.35 per cent for the week ended August 7, mainly because the fall in the prices of vegetables such as potatoes and onions was largely offset by the rise in prices of cereals.

As per the WPI (wholesale price index) data released here on Thursday, the 1.05 percentage point decline in the price spiral can also be attributed to the high base effect as food inflation during the like week a year ago was at 14.18 per cent. However, despite the downtrend, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to continue with its tight money policy stance as the prime objective is to bring down the headline WPI inflation to tolerable levels as it remained way above at 9.97 per cent in July. The apex bank is scheduled to unveil its first mid-quarterly review on September 16.

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## Weak global cues keep edible oil in check



Mumbai, Aug. 20

Edible oil prices continued to decline on weak world market cues and sluggish demand at the local level.

Crude palm oil October futures on Malaysia's derivatives exchange declined for the fifth consecutive day during the week.

In the Mumbai market, prices of most edible oils declined in the range of Rs 4-7 for 10 kg. The Malaysian market closed lower.

Soya bean futures fell on the Dalian Commodity Exchange on large supplies. In the absence of fresh demand, bearish news from abroad continued to affect market sentiment.

The decline in Malaysia's palm oil exports put pressure on overall sentiment. There was talk that Indonesia may revise its export tax on crude palm oil to 6 per cent from the current 3 per cent in September.

Market sources said that a leading refinery continued its buyback offer for palmolein. On Friday, it bought back about 1,500 tonnes in the price range of Rs 454-455. With this, the refinery purchased 3,000-3,200 tonnes of palmolein in last two days.

About 100-120 tonnes of resale trade took place in the range of Rs 460-462. One ship carrying 22,000 tonnes of CPO is expected to berth in the next two to three days.

Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 465 and soya refined at Rs 485, Mewa had offered palmolein at Rs 468 but the response was very poor. Malaysia's September crude palm oil futures ended 36 ringgit lower at 2,706 (2,742) Malaysian ringgits (MYR) a tonne.

Indore NBOT soya oil futures also dropped sharply. NBOT September futures were Rs 492.20 (Rs 498.60) .

On the Mumbai commodity exchange, spot rates were: Groundnut oil Rs 855 (Rs 860), soya refined oil Rs 485 (Rs 490), sunflower expeller refined. Rs 535 (Rs 540), sunflower refined Rs 580 (Rs 585), Rapeseed refined Rs 570 (Rs 575), Rapeseed expeller refined Rs 540 (Rs 545), Cotton refined Rs 498 (Rs 505) and palmolein was at Rs 462 (Rs 466) for 10 kg.

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Onion dives on dwindling demand

<b>What's happening at Lasalgoan</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Arrivals#</b>	<b>Modal price*</b>
Aug 16	1,254	931
Aug 17	1,212	925
Aug 18	1,235	851
Aug 20	1,500	790

Arrivals in tonnes; Price in Rs/quintal

Chennai, Aug. 20

The onion market on Friday ceded all that it gained at the beginning of the week as domestic and export demand faded.

The modal price for onion ended at Rs 790 a quintal in Lasalgaon, the hub of onion trade in Maharashtra, against Rs 831 last week.

Prices for quality and bigger ones touched a high of Rs 1,056 on Tuesday, before the fall began. On Friday, the highest price was Rs 972.

The higher prices witnessed early this week also prompted growers to bring out the produce they have been holding. As a result, arrivals were over 1,500 tonnes on Friday. Through this week, arrivals have been over 1,200 a quintal every day (see Table).

Higher arrivals on Friday were also a reason for the price fall, according to traders.

“Onion prices have weakened because the demand witnessed in the last few days has dwindled,” said Mr Madan Prakash, Director of the Chennai-based Rajathi Group of Companies, which exports onion.

“Last week, there was demand, especially for the Raksha Bandhan festival from Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana. That was a small perk up demand. With consignments having reached those places, demand has come down,” he said.

Karnataka crop

Moreover, the new Karnataka crop is also adding to the pressure on the market.

“Karnataka traders are quoting the prices a little higher. If it comes down a bit more, even exporters could lap it up,” a trading source said.

Buyers in and around Malaysia are not interested in buying onion at higher prices. Exports during April-July dropped 28.5 per cent to 5.68 lakh tonnes (lt), valued at Rs 579 crore, against 7.94 lt valued at Rs 867.79 crore during the same period a year ago. In July, the shipments dropped over 50 per cent to 1.02 lt.

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## Rotting foodgrains: House panel pulls up FCI

*Critical of the 'lackadaisical manner of handling the issue' by Govt'.*

– Kamal Narang



Wheat stocks from last year's crop at Karnal mandi in Haryana (file photo).

New Delhi, Aug. 21

A House panel has pulled up the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the Government for letting a large quantity of foodgrains lying in open and letting them rot, especially “in a country where incidents of hunger and malnutrition are still reported.”

In a report on food subsidy and its utilisation, tabled by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on food, consumer affairs and public distribution, Mr Vilas Muttemwar, in Parliament on Friday, the Committee criticised the “lackadaisical manner of handling this issue by Government/FCI.”

Even as the Plan panel has liberally allocated huge funds to FCI for construction of godowns every year, a large quantity of foodgrains is destroyed for want of adequate covered capacity of godowns in the procuring States, it observed.

New strategies needed

It also faulted the recommendation of the High Level Committee (HLC) of FCI which gave its nod for construction of storage godowns for a capacity of 127.65 lakh tonnes in various parts of the country with a major part being in the granary States of Punjab and Haryana as

being “not practical due to the very high cost of land in these States.”

It called for a different approach in these twin States which are the major wheat and rice producing States and where the problem of storage supervenes every year. It asked the Food Ministry to create storage capacity in these States and also in other States where non-cultivable land is available in a decentralised and time-bound fashion by using the modern scientific technology.

#### Storage, transit losses

Estimating the storage losses of foodgrains at Rs 228.39 crore and transit losses another Rs 182.46 crore in 2009-10, the Committee said that due to poor maintenance of godowns, a large quantity of valuable foodgrain is lost every year. The Committee did not accept FCI's alibi that physical verification of the depots with a capacity of 10,000 tonnes in a year and depots with less than 10,000 tonnes capacity once in two years could not be conducted due to the shortage of manpower.

It said such physical verification is “very essential which should be conducted frequently so that any damage to foodgrains from insects, rats, moisture could be detected timely.”

#### Poor data on poverty

Even as the food subsidy has ballooned from Rs 31,260 crore in 2007-08 to Rs 68,198 crore (budgeted) in 2010-11 due to the widening gap between minimum support price (MSP) and central issue price of wheat and rice purveyed to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families, the Committee was surprised to note that the Government has no “updated data of the population living below the poverty line”.

Though poverty estimates had been made by other committees such as Arjun Sengupta Committee, Saxena Committee and Tendulkar Committee, the requirement of foodgrains and subsidy is still decided on the basis of survey made by the Planning Commission, which is the lowest poverty estimate in the country based on poverty estimates of 1993-94.

Even as the Government was working on a National Food Security Bill, which is “obligatory

on its part to provide a minimum food security to all,” it should work on revising poverty estimates based on the present day wage and expenditure level to determine the number of AAY and BPL families.

In this context, the House panel said bluntly that “the distribution of foodgrains at subsidised rates involving huge public expenditure would be a futile exercise until and unless the benefits of targeted public distribution system (TDPS) reach the poorest of the poor.”

Taking a dig at the drive to eliminate bogus ration card without ensuring that no eligible applicant was denied a ration card, the Committee quipped wryly that “since July 2006 the government has detected 174.10 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards from 23 States but they do not have the data of poor persons who have not been issued the ration card.”

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### **Overseas buying aids rice rally**



Karnal, Aug. 20

Overseas demand lifted the price of Basmati variety by Rs 100 a quintal to Ts 5,300 levels, which is the highest in the recent past. The non Basmati variety also witnessed an upward

trend.

On Friday, Pusa-1121 (steam) ruled at Rs 5,100-5,300 a quintal. Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted at Rs 4,100-4,200 while Pusa-1121 (raw) quoted at Rs 5,100-5,300. Pusa (sela) quoted at Rs 3,200 a quintal and Pusa (raw) ruled at around Rs 4,000.

Basmati sela ruled at Rs 6,100-6,150 a quintal, while basmati raw was quoted at Rs 7,200-7,250.

The Sharbati sela variety ruled at around Rs 2,850 and Sharbati steam quoted at Rs 2,950-3,050. Permal (PR) sela was at Rs 2,100-2,250; PR (raw) at Rs 2,200-2,300; and PR (steam) at around Rs 2,400. Broken such as Tibar ruled at Rs 3,550-3,650 a quintal, Dubar at around Rs 2,900, and Mongra at Rs 2,150.

Mr Amit Kumar, proprietor, Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told Business Line that the rice market witnessed a rally this week with a jump of Rs 150-200 a quintal. Traders expect another rally of around Rs 500 by the end of August, he said.

According to traders, due to the flood in Pakistan, Indian traders got some contracts, especially from Dubai. This is the prime reason behind the sudden price rise .

On Friday, around 2,000 bags (60 kg each) of Govinda paddy arrived in the market. The early variety paddy ruled at Rs 1,010-1,015 a quintal. Because of incessant rain and low procurement, the arrivals and prices of paddy have dropped.

A stock of around 200 quintals of Pusa-1121 was offloaded by local traders at Rs 2,100-2,150. The stock was lifted by the rice millers.

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**Selling pressure pulls down sugar**





Mumbai, Aug. 20

Spot sugar prices at the Vashi market declined by Rs 5-6 a quintal on Friday because of selling and lifting pressure of time-bound contracts at mill level.

Lifting of sugar by buyers against their time-bound purchase/contracts arrested their fresh buying, and resulted in price decline of Rs 10-15 in naka and tender delivery rates also.

Arrival and demand at local level were satisfactory.

No fresh demand

Mr Ashok Kataria, a wholesaler, said that local festival demand is slowly increasing. This will be the supporting factor for the price movement.

So far, mills have sold a good amount of this month's free sale quota. So there is not much pressure on them.

Over the last two days very limited sale offer came from mills. In the absence of fresh demand, naka and mill tender rates quoted lower, but there was not much response.

On Thursday, mills came forward with offering tenders but no big deals happened. Traders' lifting the goods of time-bound contracts from mills kept fresh buying at a bay, said market sources.

On Friday, the total arrival at the Vashi market was 40-43 truckloads (each of 10 tonnes)

and the lifting was at 35-36 truckloads.

Mills were offering tenders at the rate of Rs 2,490-2,530 for S-grade and Rs 2,530-2,570 for M-grade (including excise) for 100 kg. According to the Sugar Merchants Association, on Friday spot market rates were: S-grade: Rs 2,575-2,620 (Rs 2,580-2,620); M-grade Rs 2,606-2,660 (Rs 2,608-2,660) Naka delivery rates: S-grade Rs 2,550-2,570 (Rs 2,560-2,590) and M-grade Rs 2,570-2,640 (Rs 2,590-2,650) a quintal.

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### **Turmeric follows futures, crashes**



Erode, Aug. 20

Prices of spot turmeric crashed by Rs 400 a quintal following a fall in price of turmeric futures.

In the regulated market, the finger variety was sold at Rs 14,294 a quintal on Friday. This is Rs 230 a quintal less than the price on Wednesday. The root variety was sold at Rs 13,969 a quintal against Rs 14,456 a quintal sold on Wednesday. This is also Rs 487 a quintal less than previous price. Of the 1,439 bags that arrived in the market, 996 were sold.

In the private market, the turmeric price declined by Rs 400 a quintal. The finger and root varieties were sold at Rs 13,800 against Rs 14,200 a quintal sold on Wednesday. Only

3,000 bags were sold against arrival of 7,500 bags.

Mr R.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association, said, "Turmeric futures improved some days back, but on Friday the prices fell by Rs 1,800 a quintal. This reflected in the spot sales also. Because of the fall in prices, farmers are reluctant to sell their produce, expecting an increase in the artes and holding back their stock."

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### **Slack offtake stumps jeera**



Rajkot, Aug. 20

Jeera prices on spot and futures market are under pressure on lack of export demand and profit-taking by traders.

According to market sources, price will remain under pressure as exporters are looking for some more drop.

Jeera August futures on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) were traded at Rs 14,062, down by Rs 163 a quintal.

Jeera September futures were down by Rs 123 to Rs 14,645, with an open interest of 15,114 lots. At the Unja mandi, jeera traded at Rs 2,321-2,750 for 20 kg. Arrivals were

2,000 bags of 60 kg at Unja.

Analysts said, "Profit-taking by speculators at prevailing levels and weak domestic and export demand pulled down jeera prices at futures trade. Weakening exports demand, as overseas buyers waited for further fall in the prices, further influenced the market sentiment."

According to analysts, subdued export demand for jeera led to the fall in prices in the futures market here but falling stocks and lower output in Syria and Turkey capped losses.

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### **Pepper futures marginally down on bearish sentiment**

G.K. Nair Kochi, Aug. 20

Pepper futures, after fluctuating wildly, closed marginally down from the previous close.

The tight supply situation is evident now from the open interest for August outstanding position. Market sources told Business Line that 1,403 tonnes are going to be opted for delivery,.

There was no selling on the spot. There were sellers even at Rs 204/kg even as there were buyers at this rate.

August contract on NCDEX was down by Rs 117 to close at Rs 20,601 a quintal.

September and October declined by Rs 95 and Rs 65 respectively to close at Rs 20,795 and Rs 20,997 a quintal.

Total turnover dropped by 2,686 tonnes to 21,744 tonnes. Total open interest was down by 210 tonnes to 18,132 tonnes.

Open interest for August, which matured today, dropped by only 360 tonnes to 1,403 tonnes while September and October moved up by 34 tonnes and 61 tonnes respectively.

In the primary markets, the Onam holiday mood was prevalent. There were no sellers at the prevailing prices and that shows that the growers had liquidated much of their stocks when the prices were ruling between Rs 150 and Rs 160 a kg.

Spot prices ruled steady at previous levels at Rs 19,900 (ungarbled) and Rs 20,400 (MG 1) a quintal in the absence of buyers and sellers. The dealers who are holding small stocks are also not selling as the replenishment of it, they claim, is difficult.

Indian parity in the overseas market remained at \$4,900 a tonne (c&f) above the other origins.

In fact, the markets will remain inactive in the coming days because of the week-long Onam festival. On Monday, everything, including banks, will remain closed for Onam.

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### **CTC teas steady on quality concerns at Kolkata sale**

Kolkata, Aug. 20

Assam CTC leaf teas sold irregularly around last rates following quality, while dusts were irregularly lower, according J Thomas & Company Pvt Ltd, tea auctioneers. Dooars were barely steady and tended easier.

Tata Global and Hindustan Unilever were active. Western India sections operated on the better sorts. Bolder brokens and grainy fannings saw some enquiry from the exporters. There was fair support from local dealers and other internal sections.

Orthodox whole leaf grades were firm to dearer while brokens were irregularly lower following quality. Fannings tended easier. West Asia shippers were the mainstay of the market. CIS exporters were quiet. Hindustan Unilever was selective. North India operated on the cleaner, well made, bolder whole leaf grades. Local dealers operated primarily on the smaller brokens and fannings.

Few best liquoring Darjeeling whole leaf grades were slightly lower but the remaining whole

leaf were firm to dearer.

Brokens declined in value while fannings were firm and occasionally dearer. Tata Global Beverages and Hindustan Unilever were active with improved enquiry from the traditional exporters. Local buyers operated primarily on the broken grades.

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### **Pulses drop on fall in imported seed prices**

Indore, Aug. 20

Pulses continued to witness a downtrend with a fall in domestic demand in the upcoming festival season. Downtrend in prices of imported pulse seeds has also contributed to the decline in its prices.

Among pulses, the major fall was witnessed in moong dal. Its prices at the Indore mandi on Friday quoted Rs 700 less at Rs 5200-5300 a quintal. Chana dal witnessed a decline of Rs 25 at Rs 2650-2675 a quintal, masor dal quoted at Rs 3800-3850, also down Rs 25. Tur dal (markewali) quoted Rs 100 less at Rs 6100, while urad dal also quoted Rs 100 less at Rs 5600-Rs 5700 a quintal.

At the Mumbai port, tur (lemon) quoted at Rs 3650 a quintal, peas (matar) – Rs 1671 and Australian gram quoted Rs 2265 a quintal. WiThe Indore mandi on Friday witnessed an arrival of around 1,300 bags of new moong and it was sold down Rs 500 at Rs 4,000-Rs 4,500 a quintal. Chana raw (kanta) also witnessed a decline at Rs 2200-Rs 2210 a quintal, down Rs 10.

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# Business Standard

Tuesday, Aug 21, 2010

## **Sugar closes quiet on some support**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 21, 2010, 15:11 IST**

Sugar prices closed unchanged in the national capital today, as prices moved in a limited range on alternate bouts of trading and settled at last levels.

Marketmen said adequate stocks position, compared to the ongoing demand, mainly held sugar prices unaltered.

Following are today's rates in Rs per quintal:

Sugar ready M-30 2,740-2,840 and S-30 2,730-2,830

Mill delivery M-30 2,550-2,670 and S-30 2,540-2,660

Sugar mill gate prices (excluding duty): Kinonni 2,700, Asmoli 2,690, Mawana 2,630, Titabi 2,640, Thanabhavan 2,620, Budhana 2,620 and Dorala 2,625

## **Edible oils turn weak on sluggish demand, global cues**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 21, 2010, 12:23 IST**

Snapping a six-week long rally, edible oils fell back on the oils and oilseeds market during the week under review on less buying by millers as well as retailers at existing higher levels amid weakening global trend.

A few oils in the non-edible segment also showed some weakness due to reduced offtake by consuming industries.

Trading sentiment turned bearish after palm oil futures in Malaysia recorded their biggest-weekly decline in more than 10 months, as rival soybean oil tumbled on expectations of higher US crops and Asian importers slowed purchases.

Meanwhile, palm oil futures for November delivery contract fell 2 per cent to USD 810 a metric tonne on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange, the lowest price since July 30.

The commodity slumped 6.4 per cent this week.

Besides, fall in demand from millers and retailers at existing higher levels, dampened the trading sentiment, traders said.

Adequate stocks positions and lower trend in producing regions was another factor behind the fall in prices, they added.

In the national capital, groundnut oil (Gujarat), which met with resistance and fell by Rs 200 to Rs 8,400 per quintal and groundnut solvent refined lost Rs 25 to Rs 1,450-1,460 per tin.

Mustard expeller oil (Dadri) declined by Rs 100 to Rs 5,250 per quintal and its pakki and kachi ghani oils enquired lower by Rs 5 each to Rs 710-865 and Rs 865-965 per tin on lack of buying support from local parties.

### **Edible oils remain down on stockists selling, weak global cues**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 20, 2010, 15:56 IST**

The slide in select edible oil prices continued for the third straight day and lost up to Rs 200 per quintal in the wholesale market today on increased selling by stockists, triggered by a weakening trend in global markets.

Subdued demand from millers and retailers at existing higher levels also kept pressure on the oil prices. A few oils in the non-edible section, also showed some weakness on sluggish demand.

Meanwhile, palm oil futures for November-delivery went down by 2.3 per cent to \$808 a metric tonne on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange, the lowest intra-day price since August 3.

In the edible section, groundnut mill delivery suffered the most by losing Rs 200 to Rs 8,400 per quintal, while groundnut solvent refined lost Rs 25 to Rs 1,450-1,460 per tin on



reduced offtake.

Cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) also lost Rs 50 to Rs 4,600 per quintal.

Soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) and soyabean degum (Delhi) oils fell by Rs 130 and Rs 40 to Rs 4,900 and Rs 4,700, while crude palm oil (ex-kandla) shed Rs 10 to Rs 4,130 per quintal on lower global trend.

In the non-edible section, linseed oil lost Rs 50 to Rs 4,150 per quintal on subdued demand from paint units. Neem oil also lacked buying interest from soap units and traded lower by Rs 50 to Rs 3,750-3,850 per quintal.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Oilseeds: mustard seed 2,500-2,600 and groundnut seed 2,100-2,850  
Vanaspati ghee (15 litres tin) 750-860

Edible oils: Groundnut mill delivery (Gujarat) 8,400, groundnut Solvent refined (per tin) 1,450-1,460, Mustard Expeller (Dadri) 5,250, Mustard Pakki ghani (per tin) 715-870, Mustard kachi ghani (per tin) 870-970, Sunflower 6,300

Sesame mill delivery 5,950, soybean Refined mill delivery (Indore) 4,900 Soyabean degum (Delhi) 4,700, Crude Palm Oil (Ex-kandla) 4,130, Cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) 4,650, Palmolein (RBD) 4,870, Rice bran (phy) 3,750 and Coconut (per tin) 1,050-1,080

Non-edible oils: Linseed 4,150, Mahuwa 4,050, Castor 7,800-7,900, Neem 3,750-3,850, Rice bran 3,300-3,400 and palm fatty 3,225-3,300

Oilcakes: groundnut de-husk 800-850, sesame 950-1,150, Mustard (new) 1,025-1,050, Mustard 1,200-1,210 and Cottonseed 1,075-1,175

**'Milk price rose by up to Rs 7 a litre in the four metros'**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 20, 2010, 15:51 IST**

Milk prices have increased by up to Rs 7 per litre in the four metros during last three years due to rising production costs, Parliament was informed today.

In Mumbai the milk has become costlier by Rs 7 to Rs 24 a litre since July 2007, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, K V Thomas said in a written reply to Rajya Sabha.

In Delhi, milk price during the same period shot up from Rs 18 a litre to Rs 24 a litre. The rise was of Rs 6 a litre and Rs 4 a litre in Kolkata and Chennai respectively during the span, the Minister added.

"The wholesale price index (WPI) of milk has increased by 19.03 per cent in last one year. Prices of milk have been increased due to increase in cost of production," Thomas said.

In a separate reply, he said, milk production generally increased during the month of October to March known as "flush season" and decreased during months of April to September known as "lean season". Thomas said sale price of milk is decided by the state milk federations and district milk unions. About steps to control price of milk, he said the department of Dairying was monitoring the milk situation in the country with the objective of ensuring availability of milk in the domestic market at a reasonable price.

During March this year, the government allowed NDDDB (National Dairy Development Board) to import 30,000 tonnes of milk powder and 15,000 tonnes of butter oil and anhydrous milk fat (AMF) at zero per cent duty for use by milk federations and Metro Dairies to maintain supply of liquid milk to consumers at a reasonable price, he said. Milk production was 112 million tonnes in the country in 2009-10.

### **Wheat futures marginally up on spot demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 20, 2010, 14:15 IST**

In a range-bound trading, wheat futures rose marginally by Rs 1.20, or 0.09 per cent, to Rs 1,270.80 per 100 kg, supported by a firm demand at spot markets.

However, ample stocks at spot markets followed by bumper crops, restricted gains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange counter, wheat for delivery in October contract moved up by Rs 1.20, or 0.09 per cent, to Rs 1,270.80 per 100 kg, with an open interest of 18,220 lots. Wheat for delivery in September contract also edged higher

by Rs 0.40, or 0.03 per cent, to Rs 1,253 per 100 kg, with an open interest of 29,710 lots. It ended 0.13 per cent higher at Rs 1,252.60 per 100 kg in yesterday's trade. Analysts said rise in wheat futures was attributed to pick up in demand at spot markets from flour mills and stockists but a bumper crop and adequate stocks at the physical markets, limited upside.



Sat, 21 Aug 2010

## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Clear

**Saturday, Aug 21**

Max Min  
33.8° | 26.5°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 79%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:57

Sunset: 18:27

Barometer: 1006.0

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

**Sunday, Aug 22**

Max Min  
33° | 25°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Monday

Aug 23



30° | 26°

Rainy

Tuesday

Aug 24



29° | 26°

Rainy

Wednesday

Aug 25



28° | 25°

Rainy

Thursday

Aug 26



29° | 25°

Rainy

Friday

Aug 27



29° | 26°

Rainy