

Development works at livestock farm should be completed within two months: Collector

Arun Roy inspects various facilities at the cattle farm



Inspection:Krishnagiri Collector V. Arun Roy (third left) at the District Cattle Farm at Mathigiri in Hosur recently.

KRISHNAGIRI: Collector V. Arun Roy has instructed officials concerned to complete the development works at the district livestock farm in Hosur within two months.

The Collector recently inspected the development work undertaken by the cattle farm management at a cost of Rs. 97.26 lakh under the National Agriculture Development Scheme.

He also inspected the facilities inside the cattle farm such as frozen semen bank, maintenance of bullocks, horses, white pigs and poultry units. V. Gnanaupakaram, Regional Joint Director (In-charge), P. Jayaraman, Deputy Director (In-charge), District Cattle Farm and other veterinary assistance accompanied the Collector.

The sprawling farm on 1641.41 acres called as 'Little England' was established in the year 1824 as Army Remount Depot by the British Army for the purpose of rearing horses. The salubrious

climatic conditions and the scenic beauty of the landscape attracted the Britishers to establish such a big farm in Mathigiri. Later, it was handed over to the Agricultural Department of Govt. of Madras on September 1, 1924 as a Cattle Breeding Station.

It was subsequently taken over by the Madras Civil Veterinary Department on April 1, 1938 with the object to maintaining the purity of the Indian Milk Breeds of Cattle and to conduct basic research on animal breeding. The farm was re-designed as livestock research station.

It was renamed as district livestock farm subsequent to the reorganisation of Livestock Research station on January 1, 1970.

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Fish cultured in cages harvested



CHENNAI: Sea bass, an edible fish successfully cultured in cages by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on experimental basis in Chemmancherikuppam village on East Coast Road was harvested on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters, G. Syda Rao, Director, CMFRI, said a six-metre circular cage was created and a net tied to its bottom. The cage along with the net was dropped to a depth of six metres. It was moored in the sea in February this year.

Dr. Rao said the design for the cage was developed by IIT-Kharagpur. Initially the organisation incurred an expense of Rs.6 lakh. Later, the cage was improvised and the cost brought down to Rs.1 lakh. The net was replaced once a month for better breeding of fish. Nearly three tonnes of fish was harvested from the cage moored in Chemmancherikuppam.

The project funded by the Union Ministry of Agriculture had been introduced in 14 places in the country on trial basis. Apart from Chennai, cages had been moored in Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari districts.

Each cultured bass fish would grow up to two kilograms and the price would range between Rs.200 to Rs.300 per kilogram, depending on the demand.

This alternative employment generation would come as a boon for the fishing community during the 47-day ban on fishing.

State Fisheries Minister K.P.P. Samy told reporters the technology had helped raise edible fish on a large scale.

He would explain this to the Chief Minister and soon it would be introduced among the fishing community in the State.

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Agricultural societies on the verge of collapse: CPI (M)

The State Government has not taken any constructive step to protect the 22,000 cooperative societies in the State which were in the verge of a collapse, Communist Party of India (Marxist) has said.

Addressing reporters here on Monday, the party's State executive committee member, K. Balakrishnan, said that election to the cooperative societies had not been held for nine years.

“This is against the spirit of cooperative movement. The Government has cited a case pending in the Supreme Court against dissolution of an elected body for not conducting the polls. But, there is no stay on the conduct of election,” he said.

In the absence of an elected body, the cooperative societies were being run by officials. Alleging that large-scale irregularities had taken place in the societies, he sought action against the administrators for the cooperative sugar mills facing an accumulated loss of Rs. 1,034 crore.

After participating in a one-day seminar organised by the party here on Cooperative movement and its present state, Mr. Balakrishnan said that the party would soon organise a conference to highlight the need to protect the cooperative movement. Employees of cooperative bodies would participate in it.

The conference would seek conduct of election to all cooperative bodies. “A separate election commission must be formed for conducting the election in a fair manner without any influence by the ruling party. All the members must be issued identity cards,” he said.

Over 4,200 primary agricultural cooperative societies were not able to give fresh crop loans to farmers due to lack of funds. He said that the State Government had claimed to have released Rs. 5,000 crore out of Rs. 7,000 crore agricultural loan that was waived off. “But, these funds have only reached the district central cooperative banks and not the rural banks. The central banks have adjusted the fund against the outstanding dues of the rural banks,” he said.

Farmers were forced to take loans from usurers and faced the danger of losing their agricultural lands to them, he added. Several societies were not able even to disburse salary to the employees for many months.

The party State secretary, G. Ramakrishnan, addressed the seminar in which former directors, office-bearers and employees participated.

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By Anita Saluja

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Resolution on price-rise after 38 years



NEW DELHI: After 38 years, the Lok Sabha would again be placing on record the government's failure to contain rising prices of essential commodities due to the pressure of the Opposition, which stalled both the Houses of Parliament for a week.

It was way back in 1972 that the Centre was pressured into bringing in a resolution under Rule 342 (which does not have voting but entails the sense of the House) on the price-rise issue.

The resolution at that time was harsher than the one agreed upon this time. It had stated, "That this House do consider unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities and government inability to check the rising trend." Later, a resolution was read out by the then Speaker G S Dhillon.

Sources informed that the Rule 342 has been used very rarely and that too on occasions where the government had felt the need to take the sense of the House to send out an important message from Parliament.

For example, it was in 1986 (Congress government) and then in 1997 (UF government) that the unanimous resolution were brought under Rule 342.

While in 1986, the resolution was brought on the situation in South Africa, in 1997, on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebrations of Independence, a resolution was brought on the need to adhere to democratic traditions of the country.

Forcing the UPA Government to bring in the resolution on the issue of price-rise, the BJP-led Opposition is claiming victory of sorts, especially because it was extremely reluctant to buckle under pressure on the issue, which is dearest to the aam aadmi.

All the contentions of the government that the price-rise issue is not an event of recent occurrence has been torn to pieces.

"It is not the Commonwealth that we want to include. Why are you afraid of the common man?"

asked Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Arun Jaitley, in the meeting with leaders of the Opposition parties, poking fun at the government's reluctance to incorporate the word "aam aadmi" in the resolution!

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Business Standard

Wednesday, Aug 04, 2010

Tea production in June declines on rain, pest attacks

BS Reporter / Kolkata August 4, 2010, 0:42 IST



Tea production in June was affected severely by rain and pest attacks, the latest figures released by the Tea Board show.

While in May, the region witnessed a production of three million kg against the corresponding period last year. June saw the maximum crop loss in both Assam and West Bengal.

The decline in June was 13 million kg for Assam and two million kg for West Bengal, resulting in an overall decline of 15 million kg. In May, the drop was to the tune of three million kg.

"Tea estates in Assam have also reported that production in July has also been adversely impacted due to continuing heavy rain and the slow recovery of estates from the severe helopeltis pest attack during May and June," said the Indian Tea Association (ITA).

However, Indian tea exports have registered an increase of nine million kg in January-June vis-à-vis last year. While exports from north India have declined by two million kg, unit price realization saw an increase of Rs 70 lakh a kg.

Exports from south India have increased by 12 million kg, however with lower unit price realisation.

Overall during January-June, total exports from India registered 84 million kg with forex earning at Rs 1,036 crore against 75 million kg valued at Rs 984 crore last year.

ITA expects exports scenario to remain bright for the rest of the year. Egypt, Russia, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan are major importers of Indian tea.

Tomato prices remain high despite improved supply

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 3, 2010, 16:42 IST

Tomato prices continue to remain sky high at about Rs 40 a kg in retail markets here despite decline in wholesale prices of the crop on improved supplies.

Tomato was available today at wholesale price of Rs 20 a kg in Azadpur mandi (Asia's biggest vegetables market), Rs 10 a kg less than it was a week back, Vegetables Traders Association President Surendra Kohli said.

Wholesale traders Jagdish Prasad and Surendra Kumar also quoted similar prices of the produce. Wholesale prices have come down due to improved supply from Bangalore, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh, they added.

Decline in wholesale price of tomato notwithstanding, retail prices of tomato, one of the vegetables with wide usage in Indian culinary tradition, are ruling sky high at Rs 40 a kg in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

Kohli and Kumar blamed retailers for charging more from consumers despite handsome fall in the wholesale prices. "Retailers are trying to earn extra bucks on the false pretext of crisis which though has improved," Kohli said.

Kumar said that wholesale prices of tomato would further dip in next 3-4 days with more arrival of the crop from Maharashtra, Bangalore, Himachal Pradesh and Uttrakhand.

Due to incessant rains, supply of the crop had been meagre earlier resulting in shortage of almost 60-65 per cent in the Azadpur market.

The price of tomato fluctuated between Rs 45-50 a kg in the retail market here in the past fortnight.

Rain in Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Bangalore had added to the crisis, according to traders. The country produced over 11 million tonnes of tomato in 2008-09, according to National Horticulture Board data.

Sugar prices drop further on good supply

Press Trust of India / Mumbai August 3, 2010, 16:24 IST



Sugar prices dropped further at the Vashi wholesale market here today due to poor demand from retailers amidst good supplies from the mills.

Medium sugar quality (M-30) declined further by Rs 20/40 per quintal to Rs 2,550/2,650 from yesterday's closing level of Rs 2,590/2,670.

Small sugar quality (S-30) also fell by Rs 5/25 per quintal to Rs 2,535/2,600 as against Rs 2,540/2,625 previously.

Following are today's closing rates per quintal, with previous rates in brackets:

Small sugar (S-30) quality Rs 2,535/2,600 (Rs 2,540/ 2,625) and Medium sugar (M-30) quality Rs 2,550/2,650 (Rs 2,590/2,670)

Moderate recovery in select copra prices

Press Trust of India / Mumbai August 03, 2010, 16:43 IST

Prices of Copra Rajapur and Copra Kozhikode recovered moderately in an otherwise lacklustre spices market here today due to fresh demand from stockists and retailers.

Copra Rajapur Mumbai rose by Rs 50 per quintal to Rs 5,800 from overnight's closing level of Rs 5,750, and Copra office Kozhikode also moved up by Rs 25 per quintal to Rs 3,750 as against Rs 3,725 yesterday.

Other spices ruled steady.

Following are today's closing rates in rupees, with the previous rates in brackets:

Black Pepper (per kilo) 231/245 (231/245), ginger bleached (per kilo) 240 (240), ginger unbleached (per kilo) 260 (260)

copra office Alapuzha (per quintal) 3,850 (3,850), copra office Kozhikode (per quintal) 3,750 (3,725), copra Rajapur Mumbai (per quintal) 5,800 (5,750) and copra edible Mumbai (per quintal) 4,800 (4,800)

Chilli, jeera falls on subdued demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 03, 2010, 16:14 IST

Red chilli and jeera prices fell by Rs 100 per quintal each in the national capital today owing to weak local and export demand at existing higher prices.

Adequate stocks following increased arrivals from producing belts also weighed on the prices. Red chilli prices fell by Rs 100 to settle at Rs 4,800- 8,900 per quintal.

Jeera common and jeera best quality also declined to Rs 14,200-14,500 and Rs 15,300-15,800 against previous closing of Rs 14,300-14,600 and Rs 15,400-15,900 per quintal, respectively.

Marketmen said sufficient stocks following increased arrivals from producing belts mainly pulled down chilli and jeera prices on the wholesale kirana market here.

Expectations of higher sowing following better weather also put pressure, they said.

Following are today's quotations (per quintal):

Ajwain 14,000-19,000, black pepper common 22,500-22,700, betelnut (kg) 85-105, cardamom brown-Jhundiwali (kg) 830-840 and cardamom brown-Kanchicut (kg) 940-1050

Cardamom small (kg): Chitridar 1,200-1,300, cardamom (colour robin) 1,380-1,400, cardamom bold 1,430-1,440, cardamom extra (bold) 1,590-1,560 and cloves (kg) 320-400

Chirounji (new) (kg) Rs 410-450 Dry mango(raipur) Rs 6,000-8,500 Dhania Rs 3,100-8,500 Dry ginger Rs 22,000-25,500 Kalaunji Rs 10,000-11,800 Mace-Red (kg) Rs 1200-1400 Mace-Yellow (kg) Rs 1500-1600 Methiseed Rs 3,200-4,200 Makhana (per kg) Rs 120-160

Nutmeg Rs 520-550 Poppyseed (KG Turkey) Rs 200 Poppyseed (KG MP-RAJ) Rs 200-250 Poppyseed (KG Kashmiri) Rs 180 Red chillies Rs 4,800-8,900 Soya bari pariwar (20 kg) Rs 350-400 Saffron (kg) Irani Rs 1,15,000-1,25,000 Saffron (kg) Kashmiri Rs 1,55,000-1,65,000

Soanf-bold Rs 9,000-15,000 Turmeric Rs 16,500-19,600 Tamarind Rs 2,250-2,600 Tamarind without seed Rs 3,800-5,500 Tea (kg) Rs 60-175 Watermelon kernel (Kg) Rs 235 Jeera common Rs 14,200-14,500 Jeera best Rs 15,300-15,800

Gur ends quiet on scattered demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi August 3, 2010, 16:06 IST

Gur prices ended on previous closing levels in the national capital following restricted arrivals against scattered demand.

Muzzafarnagar and Muradnagar market also finished on last levels in the absence of buying support.

Marketmen said small buying activity and sufficient stocks position in the market, mainly held gur prices unaltered.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Chakku Rs 2,900-2,950, Pedi Rs 3,050-3,100 and Dhayya N.T., shakkar Rs 3,100-3,200

In Muzaffarnagar: Raskat Rs 1,950-2,000, chakku Rs 2,550-2650 and Khurpa N.T
In Muradnagar: Pedi 2,850-2,900 and Dhaya N.A

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Tea output down 12% in June; export falls 15%

Production affected by lower rainfall, pest attack.

"The fall in output is higher than industry's expectations. It was expecting 8-10 per cent fall in production."



C J Punnathara

Kochi, Aug 3

The country's tea production in June slipped close to 12 per cent to 104.03 million kg.

The lower production was attributed to lower rainfall, decreased soil humidity and

increased pest attack in some of the major tea growing areas of the country, especially in the North-East.

While most of the country received normal to good rainfall till August, the tea-growing areas of North-East reportedly received deficit rainfall.

S. India contribution

Although North Indian production, including from Assam and West Bengal, was significantly down, the slight increase in South Indian production was unable to make up for the shortfall.

Increased production from Tamil Nadu accounted for the spurt in South Indian production.

Production for the first three months of the current fiscal was, however, up at 338.96 million kg (333.89 million kg).

The shortfall in production from the North Indian plantations persisted into June.

The biggest production losses were reported from Assam, especially from the Assam valley plantations.

However, increased production from South Indian plantations during the first three months was not only able to make up the deficit but also enabled the country to report an overall production increase.

Highest production increases were reported from Tamil Nadu plantations.

Tea export was down in both volume and value in June.

The country's exports fell close to 15 per cent to 12.76 million kg in June 2010, as against 14.95 million tonnes in June last year.

The fall in value realisation was even sharper at 21.5 per cent to Rs 166.96 crore as against Rs 213 crore.

The higher fall in value realisation was also on account of lower unit value realisation. Unit

value realisation for tea fell to Rs 130.84 per kg as against Rs 142.46 per kg last year.

While there was an increase in the value of high-quality teas exported from North India, significant fall in value of bulk tea exports from South India eroded the country's unit value realisation.

Unit value of North Indian exports was twice that of South Indian tea exports in June.

pest attack impact

Reuters reports: A pest attack of helopeltis adversely affected tea gardens in the Assam.

“The fall in output is higher than industry's expectations. It was expecting 8-10 per cent fall in production,” said an official of the Calcutta Tea Traders' Association.

Despite a drop in June production, the country's tea output in January–June stood at 339 million kg, up 1.5 per cent on year due to higher crop in January–April.

The Tea Board chairman, Mr Basudeb Banerjee, told Reuters last month that the country's tea output in 2010 is likely to fall below 2009 level.

“Pest attack is now under control, but it had caused damage in July as well. We are expecting lower output in July,” said a senior Board official, who declined to be named.

India exports CTC (crush–tear–curl) variety of tea, mainly to Egypt, Pakistan and the UK, and the premium orthodox variety of tea to Iraq, Iran and Russia.

In January–June, the country's tea exports stood at 83.9 million kg, 12.6 higher on year, the statement said.

However, average realisation during the period fell by 6.4 per cent to Rs 123.48 per kg.

Tea prices in India have been rising for the past one month due to lower crop in June.

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AP traders' buying fails to sweeten sugar

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Aug 3

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market in Navi Mumbai declined marginally on Tuesday despite good buying on Monday by traders from Andhra Pradesh.

There was a fall of Rs 5-10 a quintal in S-grade and Rs 10-20 in M-grade at the spot level. Profit-taking by stockists pushed down naka delivery price by Rs 5-10 a quintal.

Selling continues

Maharashtra millers continued to sell as they have to fulfil a large free sale quota of 17.50 lakh tonnes this month.

The Government has given strict instructions to complete the quota in one month time frame at the time of announcement of quota.

Last month, millers expected extension for the July unsold quota but the Government did not give any relief.

Therefore, millers are not expecting any major relief from the Centre this month and they have, till now, been continuously selling. Prices may stabilize at the current level and selling pressure from mills may abate if they fall further, said Mr Hiren Dedhia, a wholesale trader.

Local retail demand was as usual. Stockists were concentrating on unloading their inventories. Fresh buying was thin.

Bulk consumer buying was also absent. On Monday evening, Andhra Pradesh traders purchased around 50,000-55,000 bags each of 100 kg. sugar from mills in Sholapur,

Ahmednagar in the range of Rs 2,425-2,500.

Higher rates – about Rs 2,600 in Andhra Pradesh – diverted buyers to Maharashtra. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan traders kept quiet, according to market sources.

On Tuesday, mills offered S-grade at Rs 2,425-2,450 and M-grade at Rs 2,475-2,500 (including Excise). On June 22, the price touched the lowest for the current season at Rs 2,380-2,400 for S-grade and Rs 2,1410-2,480 for M-grade.

Total arrival on the Vashi market was 40-45 truckloads (10 tonnes each) and lifting was 38-42 truckloads.

According to the Sugar Merchants Association, spot market rate on Tuesday for S-grade was Rs 2,535-2,600, (Rs 2,540-Rs 2,650), M-grade at Rs 2,550/Rs 2,650 (Rs 2,590/2,670). Naka delivery rate for S-grade was Rs 2,500-2,520 (Rs 2,500/2,530). M-grade was Rs 2,530-2,580 (Rs 2,535-2,580).

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'High-value farm commodities hold promise'

Our Bureau

Hyderabad, Aug. 3

High-value commodities segment holds promise for the farmers in India. In order to tap this and other opportunities in agriculture, the country needs to bring in reforms to improve input delivery system and link farmers with emerging markets.

Potential

In his Foundation Day lecture on 'Indian agriculture at the cross roads – challenges and opportunities' at the Directorate of Oilseeds Research here, Dr P.K. Joshi, Director of National Academy of Agriculture Research Management (NAARM), felt that there was a huge potential for augmenting agriculture production and income, especially in the high-

value segment.

This would also benefit farmers having small holdings.

Stating that rising incomes, urbanisation and globalisation opened up better opportunities for farmers, he said the country needed to strengthen institutions and agriculture insurance.

Besides, it should promote more research on institutions and agri-governance issues.

Foodgrains

It was projected that the country needed 296.8 million tonnes (mt) of foodgrains in 2020-21 from 211 mt in 2003-04.

The public sector investment on agriculture, which used to be 5 per cent of agriculture Gross Domestic Product (agGDP) in 1980-85, fell to 1.8 per cent in 2001-02. It, however, grew up to 3.34 per cent in 2008-09.

On the other hand, the private sector investment shot up to more than 10 per cent from 5.5 per cent during 1980-85.

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Coonoor tea prices down 31% this year

P.S. Sundar

Coonoor, Aug 3

Prices at the auctions of Coonoor Tea Trade Association are ruling Rs 23 lower a kg compared to this time last year. Prices now average Rs 51 a kg against Rs 74 last year, marking a fall of 31 per cent. Similar trend prevails in respect of both the orthodox and CTC teas.

Orthodox teas average Rs 68 a kg against Rs 90 last year, down 24 per cent. CTC teas are down 30 per cent at Rs 51 a kg against Rs 73 last year.

Exports

On the export front, Pakistan has been picking up cleaner, blacker and bolder teas. It has been paying in a wide range of Rs 34-61 a kg. The CIS has been selecting plainer sorts. Its price range has been Rs 39-62. "Orthodox leaf market was dull this week with many invoices withdrawn despite shedding Rs 1-2 a kg. High-priced CTC leaf eased Rs 2-3 and better liquoring sorts Rs 2-4. ," an auctioneer told Business Line.

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Bitter sweet



Weather impact: Traders grade sweet lime stocks on arrival from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh at the Kothapet Fruit Yard at Gaddiannaram in Hyderabad. The fruit, affected by withering, blight, strong winds and rains, is selling at a high price of Rs 16,000-18,000 a tonne .

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Speculators thrive on fear factors in soya

Our Correspondent

Indore, Aug. 3

Soyabean oil continued to be bullish with a group of speculators making most of the prevailing scenario in international and domestic markets.

The prime reason for prices witnessing a firm trend is the heavy rains in the US that has increased misgivings about damage to soyabean crops there. The other fear factor which the speculators are exploiting is the decline in the coverage of soyabean in the country.

In the physical market, soya refined oil prices on Tuesday quoted at Rs 465-Rs 468 for 10 kg. Similarly, soya solvent prices quoted at Rs 438-Rs 442.

Analysts feel that the uptrend in the speculative market will soon end.

Weak arrivals and higher purchases at plant level have also perked up the soyabean price.

Fear of low production of soyabean has forced plant owners to purchase soyabean at various rates. Against arrivals of 90,000- 95,000 bags last month, mandis in the State are witnessing arrivals of about 60,000-65,000 bags daily. Similarly, arrivals at Indore mandi have also declined from last month's 7000-5000 bags to 3,500-3,000 bags. On the other hand, export of soyameal has also registered a decline of 22 per cent.

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Slowing demand cools groundnut oil

Our Correspondent

Rajkot, Aug. 3

The price of groundnut oil has declined to Rs 1,420 for a tin of 15-kg in Rajkot, pulled down by lower demand. Along with it, cotton oil has also dropped slightly during the last two-three days.

Groundnut oil for a tin came down by Rs 20 in the last two days to Rs 1,415-1,420 from an all-time high of Rs 1,435-1,440. On Tuesday, groundnut oil loose was quoted at Rs 855-860 for 10 kg. In Mumbai, groundnut oil was unchanged at Rs 850.

Cotton oil too dipped by Rs 5-7 a tin. At Rajkot, cotton oil declined down to Rs 750-755, cotton wash price ruled stable at Rs 472-475 for 10 kg.

According to traders, demand has been lower as groundnut oil price reached a new high. People are waiting for prices to come down.

A Saurashtra-based groundnut broker said: "Good rain in the region and increase in sowing area could lead to better groundnut production. Farmers may now come forward to stocks held back by them to sell as they have completed sowing."

According to traders, groundnut oil will drop sharply due to demand slowing. Also, usage of groundnut oil is decreasing every year by 15 per cent. People are now moving to other edible oil, mainly to cotton oil.

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Pepper futures up on bullish activities

G.K. Nair

Kochi, Aug. 3

Pepper futures on Tuesday moved up and ended above the previous close after high volatility created by a "tug of war between the bull and bear operators".

As a result, there were 'wide and wild fluctuations' with the August contract shooting up as high as Rs 19,775 and then dropping to as low as Rs 19,425 a quintal, market sources told

Business Line.

There was no selling pressure on the spot. There were thousands of tonnes of pepper available at 'the click of a button' at the exchange platform, they said. But apprehensions were raised about the quality of the material, they alleged.

There was switching over to nearby positions and additional buying as it is evident from the open interest position. August contract on NCDEX was up Rs 131 to close at Rs 19,668. September and October increased Rs 143 and Rs 123 respectively to close at Rs 19,894 and Rs 21,000 a quintal.

Total turnover dropped 7,059 tonnes to 19,679 tonnes. Total open interest moved up 183 tonnes to 19,672 tonnes. August open interest dropped 376 tonnes. September and October increased by 521 tonnes and 39 tonnes respectively to 8,304 tonnes and 39 tonnes. Spot market prices ruled steady on limited activities at the previous levels of Rs 19,200 (ungarbled) and Rs 19,700 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$4,550 a tonne (c&f) and remained non-competitive as Indonesia and Brazil were reportedly quoting much below the Indian parity.

But most of these reports were unconfirmed, trade sources claimed.

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Lower Pusa-1121 sowing leads rice rally

Our Correspondent

Karnal, Aug. 3

With arrivals from Uttar Pradesh dwindling, rice is witnessing a good rally in prices in the last two days. Apart from low arrivals, lower sowing of Pusa-1121 variety in the region has resulted in the uptrend.

On Tuesday, prices of Pusa-1121 (steam) was quoted at Rs 5,250 a quintal, prices of

Pusa-1121 (sela) around Rs 4,110 a quintal, while the prices of Pusa-1121(raw) at Rs 5,240.

Due to low export demand, a downfall in the prices of Pusa-1121 variety was witnessed last week with prices dropping to Rs 5,200 a quintal.

Pusa (Sela) variety was quoted Rs 3,150 a quintal and Pusa (Raw) ruled around Rs 3,950 a quintal. Basmati Sela ruled between Rs 6,000 and Rs 6,025 a quintal and Basmati Raw ruled around Rs 7,050 a quintal. Low arrivals lifted prices of non-basmati rice too. Sharbati Sela variety ruled around Rs 2,800 and Sharbati steam was quoted at Rs 2,900-3000. Permal (PR) sela was quoted at Rs 1,980-2,130, PR (raw) at Rs 2,050-2,250 and PR (Steam) at Rs 2,210-2,360.

Tibar, Dubar and Mongra –all varieties of Pusa-1121– are broken rice that do not attract any export demand. Tibar ruled at Rs 3,450 a quintal, Dubar at Rs 2,830 and Mongra at Rs 2,050.

On Monday and Tuesday, around 6,000 bags (75 kg each) of early variety paddy, Govinda and 1,121, arrived here. Govinda ruled between Rs 875 and Rs 925, while 1121 fine quality was quoted at Rs 2,300. Rice millers lifted the new arrivals.

Mr Amit Kumar, Proprietor, Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told Business Line that low arrivals lifted rice prices by 50-100 in last two days. Rainfall is the prime reason behind the low arrivals, he said.

Also due diseases affecting Pusa-1121, farmers preferred to sow Basmati variety instead.

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G. K. Nair

Kochi, Aug 3

Cardamom prices fell sharply at auctions held last week in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Some section of the trade spread the word that supply will outweigh demand as the new crop would be better than that of the previous season. This led to the bearish sentiment.

Individual auction average price dropped sharply to Rs 1,343.21 a kg on Sunday last from Rs 1,639.51 the previous Sunday.

Liquidity problem was pointed out as the reason for the slack demand and the fall in prices, market sources in Bodinayakannur told Business Line.

The individual average dropped to as low as Rs 1,178.56 a kg at last Friday's auction and then it recovered on Sunday on good demand, trade sources said.

From Tuesday onwards, the price was on a declining trend despite thin arrivals .

However, the market recovered at the week-end as the arrivals remained thin and on the realisation that the growers will not bring the material to a declining market.

The north Indian dealers have been so far buying as and when needed, not opting to stock because of the high prices that prevailed last season.

With the onset of the festival season starting with Ramadan to be followed by Dusserah and Diwali, buyers from north India were seen active and that in turn made the market bullish, Mr P. C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, told Business Line.

Contrary to expectations, the size of cardamom crop during the current season is likely to be almost same as of the last season , he said. According to growers in Idukki, the main cardamom growing region in the country, the last summer had been dry and the fruit setting did not take place properly and in full size. Therefore, the harvesting has been delayed. However, so far, the weather has been favourable. Picking of the capsules may begin from August 3, , but full swing harvesting will commence only after the end of the Adi month, i.e., after mid-August, he said.

At the auction held by the KCPMC on Sunday, 20.5 tonnes of cardamom arrived and the entire quantity was sold out, he said. There was no export buying as the prices were at

higher levels and secondly, the material arriving was not of export quality, he said. The maximum price was at Rs 1,470 a kg while the minimum was Rs 950 Auction average was at Rs 1,343.21 a kg, he said.

Total arrivals during the last season (August 2009- July 2010) stood at 9,878 tonnes. Of this, 9,771 tonnes of cardamom were sold. Arrivals and sales were 10,363 tonnes and 9,771 tonnes respectively. Weighted average price as on July 31, the closing day of the previous season, was at Rs 879.20 a kg, up from Rs 539.62 the same day last year.

Prices quoted for graded varieties on Monday in Rs/kg were: AGEB 1,620- 1,630; AGB- 1,500- 1,510; AGS-1,480 – 1,490; AGS1 1,460 – 1,470. Prices quoted in the local market in Bodinayakannur were: AGEB- 1,605-1,615; AGB 1,480-1,490; AGS 1,465-1,475; AGS 1 1,440- 1,455. Bulk was being sold at Rs 1,075- Rs1,190 a kg.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/08/04/stories/2010080453212000.htm>

Farm costs panel chief moves to research body

K.V.Kurmanath

Hyderabad, Aug 3

The minimum support prices (MSPs) of various agricultural commodities have gone up significantly in the last two years. The MSP for paddy (common) has gone up to Rs 1,000 in 2010-11 from Rs 645 (without a bonus of Rs 100) in 2007-08, showing a growth of 55 per cent.

The MSPs for tur (arhar) went up by 94 per cent from Rs 1,550 (without a bonus of Rs 40) to Rs 3,000 and moong by 86 per cent from Rs1,700 to Rs 3,170.

But is the increase in MSP the only solution for the problems being faced by farmers?

“MSP is one of the solutions. It cannot be the only solution. There are several non-price factors such as irrigation, seed and inputs that will decide the overall cost of production,”

Prof S.Mahendra Dev, Chairperson of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), told Business Line over phone from Delhi.

New post

Prof Dev has decided to quit as CACP chief to take up a new assignment as the Director of IGIDR (Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research) on August 16.

An RBI-appointed selection committee, headed by its former Governor, Dr Y.V.Reddy, selected him for the post with a rank of Deputy Governor of the RBI.

Hurdles

Though the MSP for paddy is Rs 1,000, farmers in some States such as Bihar are not able to reap the benefits as they get Rs 600 in the market because of lack of infrastructure, proper procurement set-up and access to mandis, Prof. Dev said.

The CACP Chairperson pointed out that a group approach could get better benefits for farmers as it would help aggregate small commodity surpluses the farmers might have.

“With one or two acres, the small farmers might have a surplus of a few bags. But when they join a group, they can bargain for better pricing as they command bigger volumes,” he said.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/08/04/stories/2010080453541900.htm>

Poor arrivals keep coconut oil firm



C.J. Punnathara

Kochi, Aug. 3

As demand continues to hold strong, coconut oil prices continued to rule firm. Prices at the Kochi market opened higher at Rs 5,600 a quintal, up Rs 150 over last week. The firm demand has pushed up price in the Tamil Nadu markets as well. With the convergence of prices between the two southern States, there were hardly any arrivals from Tamil Nadu into the Kerala market last week, sources in the market said.

Onam

The firm price trend is likely to persist next week as well as buying for the Onam festival is on and is likely to be sustained, said Mr Prakash B. Rao, President of the Cochin Oil Merchants Association. The increased demand and lack of arrivals from outside the State is likely to maintain the price trends.

Although the industrial buyers are waiting on the sidelines for the prices to stabilise, price in Tamil Nadu also continued to rule firm. While consumption in Kerala remains stable at 100 tonnes a day, the arrivals from Tamil Nadu have trickled down.

Earlier, arrivals from Tamil Nadu accounted for 30 tonnes a day and the remaining 70 tonnes were from Kerala.

Copra prices also have moved up by Rs 50 to Rs 4,850 a quintal. Firm trends in copra and coconut oil prices are likely to be sustained into the coming week.

Bridging the price gap with coconut oil, palm kernel oil prices also moved up to Rs 5,600. Sources in the market expected the price parity to persist in to the Onam season.

Meanwhile, palm oil prices inched lower by Rs 60 to Rs 4,240 a quintal. Palm oil prices are likely to face downward pressure on account of increased demand for coconut oil during the Onam season as well as increased imports. Reports indicate that increased imports and arrivals can be expected in the market from the middle of the month and pressure on prices is expected to be sustained.

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Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Wednesday, Aug 4

Max Min
32.2° | 27.2°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 55%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 05:54

Sunset: 18:35

Barometer: 1004.0

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Thursday, Aug 5

Max Min
36° | 27°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Aug 6

Aug 7

Aug 8

Aug 9

Aug 10



33° | 27°

33° | 27°

34° | 27°

34° | 27°

34° | 27°

Rainy

Rainy

Rainy

Rainy

Rainy