THE HINDU

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Raid reveals misuse of subsidised fertilizer

Agriculture department zeroes in on chemical firm

Huge Haul: Agriculture department officers during a raid at Kumaran Chemicals in Karaikal on Friday.

Photo: B. Velankanni Raj

Alleged diversion of subsidised potassium chloride meant for agricultural purposes into industrial needs has been revealed during a raid carried out on the premises of Kumaran Chemicals here on Friday. Earlier, following a tip-off of extensive use of electricity by the company, the agricultural department had conducted inspections and found violations in book-keeping of raw material claimed to be legally procured.

The company has been involved in conversion of potassium chloride into match-grade potassium chlorate for match industries. Potassium chloride is procured for agricultural purposes at a subsidised rate of Rs.5,000 per tonne, while the one used for industrial purposes is purchased at Rs.30,000 per tonne. The fertilizer control order debars misuse of notified fertilizers provided to farmers with a subsidy at the production point .

Over 15 tonnes of red potassium chloride invoiced as purchased from the Indian Potash Limited in November 2009, was found within the plant. However, the feeding units and the spill-over throughout the plant revealed use of white potassium chloride that has been off the records. There were no stains of red potassium chloride and it has pointed to hoarding of subsidised raw materials elsewhere, and transported to the plant site at night. While the supervisor said no production was being carried on, records of electricity bill to the tune of Rs.8.5 lakh per month revealed violations. A few months ago, 10 tonnes of potassium chloride and one tonne of potassium chlorate were seized from the company.

A few months ago, the CBI narrowed in on two other Madurai-based chemical companies - Vaigai Industries and Karaikal Chlorates, for alleged circumventions of fertilizer control order and misuse of agricultural subsidy for industrial purposes. While the inspector has the power to seize only raw materials, under the Arms Act, Deputy Collector, Revenue is the licence issuing authority and can revocate licences. According to the Deputy Collector Revenue, officials from the CBI will scrutinise the records on Saturday.

Water level

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Water level in the Periyar dam on Friday stood 116.10 feet (136 feet) with an inflow of 593 cusecs and a discharge of 600 cusecs. The level in the Vaigai dam was 25.33 feet (71 feet) with an inflow of 186 cusecs and a discharge of 41 cusecs. The combined Periyar credit stood at 1,109 mcft.

Manjalar dam recorded 26 mm of rainfall followed by Veerapandi 12, Sothuparai dam 10, Idayapatti 5.2, Vaigai dam 4, Shanmuganadi 2, Peranai and Thaniyamangalam 1.5 mm each and Periyar dam 1 mm.

Published: July 10, 2010 00:00 IST | Updated: July 10, 2010 06:32 IST Tirupur, July 10, 2010

Farmers demand facility to procure raw coconut

They want more copra procurement centres in Tirupur

Demands for infrastructure to procure raw coconut, a new Uzhavar Sandhai at Palladam and steps to stop illegal drawing of irrigation water for industrial purposes dominated the proceedings at the grievances meeting conducted by district administration for farmers here on Friday.

C. Mahokaran, a progressive farmer and district secretary of Tamil Nadu Farmers Association, pointed out that despite an order issued by the Central Government last year, the authorities concerned were yet to make any arrangements to procure raw coconut from the district.

“We now have only procurement facilities for copra but not for raw coconut,” he said.

He added that unless the coconut farmers get attractive rates for their produces, there was every chance of them getting migrated to other crops.

Southern Coconut Growers Association secretary S. K. Mayilsamy wanted the administration to increase the number of copra procurement centres in the district considering the increase in demand for the same over the last many months.

“With the procurement rate of copra increased from Rs. 36.60 for a kg to Rs. 44.50 a kg last year, the sector had witnessed a boom and hence, the need for more procurement centres,” he said.

The procurement of copra is presently done by National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation (NAFED). Farmers from Palladam and nearby areas asked for a Uzhavar Sandhai at Palladam so as to avoid traveling all the way to Tirupur South Uzhavar Sandhai.

Collector Samayamoorthy assured them that possibilities of setting up the facility in the region would be explored immediately.

“We are now in the process of setting up a Uzhavar Sandhai at Kangayam,” he added.

Weighing machines

Mr. Samayamoorthy added that a proposal had been sent to replace all the old weighing machines at Tirupur South Uzhavar Sandhai.

P. Babu, a farmer from Palladam, came up with a plea to stop the rampant illegal drawing of water from irrigation wells at Pongalur region for industrial purposes.

hindustantimes

Press Trust Of India
New Delhi, July 09, 2010
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Sugar decontrol decision depends on production next year: Pawar

Hoping to take advantage of good sugar production and lower prices, Food and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar today favoured ending government's role in fixing sales quota on industry.

Stating that industry associations have been demanding decontrol, he said a decision on this could be taken if there is good production in the next crop year starting October.

The minister, however, assured that the government would continue to fix the support price of sugarcane for farmers.

The government controls the sugar sector right from fixing the support price of cane to allocating the monthly quota of sugar that mills sell in the open market.

"Industry bodies have written to us saying that this is the time when the government should consider (on decontrolling the sector). We are dicussing and assessing the entire situation," Pawar said on the sidelines of a sugar conference.

He said the government will have an estimate of sugarcane planting and sugar output of 2010-11 by September first week. Sugar year runs from October to September.

"Based on the assessment, we will take a final decision (on decontrolling sugar sector) and recommend to the Cabinet. Till then, we will not recommend," Pawar said categorically.

Asked whether the ministry would propose full decontrol or it would be in a phased manner, he said, "One thing is for sure, the right to fix the support price of cane for farmers will definetely be with the government."

Earlier addressing the conference, Pawar pointed out that the sugar sector is the only industry under the government control and said this is a right time to withdraw controls as output during next crop year would be on higher side and prices will be reasonable.

"I honestly feel this is the time where the government, NFCSF and ISMA (industry bodies) should sit together and take some of the major policy decisions. My thinking behind is that this is the only industry in the country which has too much controls from the government side.

"And the time has come from the government side to give a second thought about this approach. If we have to give a second thought, we have to withdraw the government controls on sugar industry and give a full freedom to those who are managing the industry like others," Pawar observed.

Noting that the next crop year would be a good year for both consumers and farmers, the minister said some "drastic decision" could be possible to take. "Definitely, we are ready to discuss with NFCSF and ISMA and take a collective decision, which will show a new path to the sugar sector".

Pawar said the country would have enough sugar production next crop year to meet the annual demand of 23 million tonnes. India is estimated to produce 18.5 MT in 2009-10 crop year.

http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/569762.aspx

Kolkata, July 10, 2010

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Need to boost production to achieve food security: FM

Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Sunday said that the government will enact a legislation to provide subsidised wheat and rice to poor, but to make it a success there is a need to boost production and strengthen delivery system.

"We are committed to ensure Food Security Act and to make successful, we need to produce more, procure more and strengthen delivery mechanism for making accessible and affordable," Mukherjee said while addressing a conference on extending green revolution to eastern region of the country.

The UPA government has promised to enact a National Food Security Act, under which it promises to provide 25 kg of foodgrains every month at Rs 3 per kg to families below poverty line.

The National Advisory Council, headed by UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, is looking into the various aspects of the draft food security bill and will advise the government. The issues under discussion include raising the number of beneficiaries as well as the quantity.

Mukherjee said there would be no dearth of funds for agriculture sector especially from the strategic initiatives for food security of the country.

The Finance Minister recognised that Rs 400 crore allocated for extending green revolution in six eastern states was "not adequate".

Mukherjee emphasised the need to ensure benefit of the scheme (Green revolution) reaches in time to reap maximum benefit before the Kharif season.

While presenting the Budget 2010, Mukherjee had announced a proposal for providing Rs 400 crore under the 'Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana' for extending green revolution to the Eastern Region of the country comprising Bihar, Jharkhand, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and West Bengal.

Green revolution envisages adoption of new seed varieties, farm machines, nutrients, pesticides and knowledge based intervention as developed for different agro climatic zones to achieve the objective to increase the productivity and production.

http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/570269.aspx

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather

Partly Cloudy	**Saturday, Jul 10** Max Min 33.9° | 25.2°
Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs	Sunrise: 05:48
Humidity: 74%	Sunset: 18:39
Wind: Normal	Barometer: 1006.0

Tomorrow's Forecast

Rainy	**Sunday, Jul 11** Max Min 33° | 24°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jul 12	**Jul 13**	**Jul 14**	**Jul 15**	**Jul 16**
31° | 27°	31° | 26°	30° | 27°	31° | 27°	30° | 26°
Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy

Business Line

Date:10/07/2010 URL: http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/10/stories/2010071053451800.htm

Decision on sugar decontrol in September

Mr Sharad Pawar

Our Bureau

New Delhi, July 9

The Union Food and Agriculture Minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, on Friday, said that this was the "right time" to work towards decontrolling the country's sugar industry.

"This is the only industry that has too many controls from the Government's side. The time has come to give a second thought about this approach. We have to withdraw government controls and give full freedom to those managing this industry just like in others," Mr Pawar told presspersons at the sidelines of the Golden Jubilee function of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories here.

The Minister noted that the country's sugar production in the 2010-11 sugar season (October-September) is likely to be sufficient to meet the domestic demand of 23 million tonnes (mt). If the coming season is going to be good for both farmers and consumers, it would be possible for the Centre to take a "drastic decision," he added.

No blank cheque

According to Mr Pawar, the Centre would be in a position to make a reasonable estimate of sugarcane planting and sugar output for the season by the first week of September. "Based on the assessment, we (the Ministry) will take a final decision and recommend to the Cabinet. Till then, we will not recommend," he stated.

At the same time, the Minister made it clear that even in a de-controlled regime, mills would not have the freedom to decide on cane prices. "One thing is for sure — the right to fix the support price of cane for farmers will definitely be with the Government," he added.

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A novel attempt using drip irrigation for paddy

COST-SAVING SYSTEM.

Chennai, July 9

An initial experiment in the use of drip irrigation in paddy cultivation by Jain Irrigation has demonstrated significant savings in water and power.

The experiment conducted by Jain Irrigation, the country's largest manufacturer of drip irrigation systems, at its farm in Udumalpet near Coimbatore, showed that paddy yield was comparable to that of conventionally flood irrigated field. But under drip irrigation, the volume of water used was just about a third of that used in flood-irrigated field, apart from the reduction in power cost. The initial results are encouraging and the next step for the company is to focus on raising productivity, say officials.

The company was showcasing its study to a group of journalists it had taken recently to its farm.

Dr P. Soman, Senior Vice-President – Projects, Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd, said the demonstration of the reduced water use to get comparable output of paddy was a significant outcome of the study. Paddy is a water intensive crop and over the next two decades, scientists project a nearly five time growth in annual paddy demand to about 533 million tonnes. This would have to be achieved in the face of stiff competition for water.

Jain Irrigation conducted the study on a 27-cent (about a fourth of an acre) plot in which it cultivated ADT-45 variety of paddy under conventional conditions and under drip irrigation. The study showed that against a potential yield of 4 tonnes an acre estimated for the particular variety, it harvested an equivalent of 3.8 tonnes an acre under drip irrigated conditions and 3.4 tonnes under conventional flood irrigated conditions.

But the volume of water used with drip irrigation was 32.4 lakh litres an acre against 104 lakh litres under conventional irrigation, he said. The electricity used for drip irrigation was about half that of the conventional pumping. Subsequent studies are under way to look at increasing yields under drip irrigation systems.

While the results are encouraging, it will be a few years before the company is able to bring this technology to farmers, he said. The cost of cultivation would be a major disincentive. For instance, farmers would have to spend about Rs 57,000 an acre to set up the drip irrigation system which would be effectively used to cultivate paddy for about 10 seasons. There are also other costs relating to the changes in cultivation practices, such as mulching, that need to be adopted to enable drip irrigation.

This has to be considered against the backdrop of farmers getting free power for agriculture in States such as Tamil Nadu, he said. Also, drip irrigation for paddy is not covered under subsidy.

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Major damage to paddy unlikely from rains

Flood waters beginning to recede in Haryana, Punjab.

“Rains are a problem only in the pre-harvesting stage for paddy, whereas right now it is only transplanting that is taking place.”

New Delhi, July 9

The rice trade does not see any major threat to the paddy crop in Haryana and Punjab from the recent floods in two granary States.

Incessant rains, along with breach of the Sutlej Yamuna Link and Hansi-Bhutana canals, have affected a large area, stretching from Karnal, Kaithal, Kurukshetra and Ambala districts in northern Haryana to Sangrur, Patiala and Fatehgarh Sahib in South-East Punjab. This is a belt that also grows much of the country's basmati varieties that fetch around $3 billion in export revenues.

Transplanting stage

“Rains are a problem only in the pre-harvesting stage for paddy, whereas right now it is only transplanting that is taking place. At this point, for any damage to happen, the crop has to remain submerged for over 3-4 days. Thankfully, it has stopped raining and the flood waters are already beginning to recede,” said Mr R.S. Seshadri, Director of Tilda Riceland Pvt. Ltd.

Options available

Echoing a similar view, the President of the All-India Rice Exporters' Association, Mr Vijay Sethia, noted that even if some damage may have happened in isolated fields, farmers can resort to re-planting. “In basmati, you can transplant right until July end,” he added.

During the whole of June, Punjab received a mere 34.5 millimetres (mm) of rain, against its normal quota of 40.8 mm for the month with the corresponding figures being 19.7 mm and 42 mm for Haryana.

However, the first eight days of this month has seen Punjab getting 62.3 mm (against the normal 39.9 mm for the period) and Haryana 76.9 mm (32.2 mm). As a result, the cumulative rainfall during the current monsoon season has turned surplus for both the States.

WELCOME SPELL

“I believe the overall impact of these rains would be only positive. Paddy, after all, needs water. And given that this belt has had very little rains in the recent period, the current spell is all the more welcome,” Mr Sethia pointed out.

Damage control

Haryana has targeted a total paddy area of 11.50 lakh hectares (lh) for this kharif season, including 7 lh under non-basmati and 4.5 lh under basmati varieties. Till July 1, the non-basmati coverage had touch only 50 per cent (3.5 lh), courtesy inadequate availability of water and electricity to run tube-wells.

But with the arrival of the monsoon rains, sowing gathered pace, with the non-basmati acreage touching 80 per cent of the target. Farmers also began transplantation of basmati in a big way. The extent of damage caused by the subsequent heavy rains and breach of major canals is still not fully known.

Mr Seva Singh, Secretary of Haryana's Bharatiya Kisan Union, claimed that the 3-4 feet of standing water in the fields has destroyed the transplanted paneeri (saplings) in many areas. Fresh paneeri can be planted only after the water is drained out from the fields and it would take a month or so to initiate new sowing.

“According to our survey 50 per cent of the crop sown in Ambala and Kurukshetra has been spoilt,” the farmer leader said.

(With inputs from Our Correspondent in Karnal, Haryana)

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Raw jute output may touch 115-120 lakh bales

High price, favourable weather encourage growers.

Kolkata, July 9

Raw jute production has witnessed a substantial rise, higher than anticipated, thanks to better price for raw jute and favourable weather conditions.

33% rise

Based on estimates available, the raw jute production is likely to be 115-120 lakh bales (of 180 kg each)in 2010-11 against the earlier estimate of 107 lakh bales, an increase of more than 12 per cent.

The increase is almost 33 per cent over the production of 90 lakh bales last season.

“Higher prices and good weather, adequate water, sunlight and humidity are the key reasons for the excellent crop this season,” said Mr Manish Poddar, Chairman of Indian Jute Mills' Association.

The ex-Kolkata, TD-4 variety of raw jute price of Rs 3,300 a quintal is believed to have encouraged farmers to increase its cultivation this year.

The jute sowing season is typically between March and April, while the harvest begins in June-July.

minimum support price

The Union Government had hiked the minimum support price for raw jute for the 2010-11 season by 14 per cent. The Government had fixed the MSP for TD-5 grade of jute ex-Assam at Rs 1, 575 a quintal, almost Rs 200 a quintal more than that in the previous season.

The increase in MSP of raw jute also seems to have encouraged the farmers to step up investment in jute cultivation and, thereby, increase the production of the agri commodity this year.

“The harvest is expected to commence by the third-fourth week of July,” Mr Poddar told Business Line.

Based on initial estimates, it was expected that the raw jute production would be close to 107 lakh bales.

However, it has currently been raised to 115-120 lakh bales. With a carryover of about 12 lakh bales from 2009-10 and likely import of three-to-five lakh bales, the total availability is likely to be about 135 lakh bales, said a senior official.

domestic consumption

Taking the domestic consumption of raw jute for this year at same level as that of 2009-10, i.e. ten lakh bales and likely export of two lakh bales, the net raw jute availability for mill consumption will be 123 lakh bales, which would be just about sufficient to meet mill requirements if mills run at full potential, the official pointed out.

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New arrivals may put pressure on onion

What's happening at Lasalgaon

Date	Arrival	Min Price	Max Price	Modal Price
July 1	8,645	201	841	651
July 2	18,650	200	800	611
July 5	16,207	201	788	621
July 6	19,185	191	791	610
July 7	14,510	200	768	591
July 8	12,310	201	801	621
July 9	14,250	200	801	641

Arrivals in tonnes, prices in Rs/quintal

M.R. Subramani

Chennai, July 9

Onion prices continued to rule stable this week but they are seen under pressure in a fortnight's time with the arrival of the crop in Karnataka.

In Lasalgaon, most of the trades this week were done above Rs 600. On Friday, most of the trades took place at Rs 641 a quintal against Rs 621 on Thursday. Arrivals have been steady this week at the market (see table).

According to Mr Madan Prakash, Director of the Rajathi group of companies that exports the vegetable, the onion crop in Karnataka, is likely to hit the markets by the month-end or early August. “Usually, the crop arrives after the middle of August but this time there is early arrival,” he said.

This is likely to cast pressure and a fall in the rates is round the corner. “We may not see any significant rise in the prices as seen last year,” Mr Madan Prakash said. During the same time last year, most of the trades were done around Rs 631.

One of the reasons why onion prices are tending to rise this year is the farmers' ability to hold back their produce, looking for better prices. Farmers in Maharashtra have got subsidy to construct their own warehouses and it is coming in handy for them to hold back their stocks.

Export demand is stable with shipments taking place to Malaysia and Dubai. “Once the new crops come, exporters will go for it rather than the old stocks in Maharashtra. However, the big varieties in Maharashtra will be bought for destinations such as Dubai,” Mr Madan Prakash said.

Onion exports during the first quarter of the fiscal are 4.31 lakh tonnes, valued at Rs 431 crore, against 5.88 lakh tonnes worth Rs 630 crore during the same time a year ago.

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Bull run continues in pepper futures

Strong demand, limited availability.

G.K.Nair

Kochi, July 9

Pepper futures continued their upward run on strong demand amid limited availability and likely buying interest by Vietnam-based exporters from India.

All the contracts moved up. Reports of firmer Vietnam market also aided the price rise. Exporters and inter State operators were buying. Ready pepper availability was limited and small quantities were traded at Rs 180-184 a kg depending upon the area of production, trade sources told BusinessLine.

Stockists who have been holding pepper for long, i.e., five years and above, were ready to sell Rs two below the July price. Meanwhile, leading exporters value added pepper, mainly from grinding industry, and dealers who do the processing for the exchange were on a buying spree.

They bought about 75 tonnes of pepper yesterday and on Friday also good quantities were being traded. Exchange pepper is bought for value addition and export, mostly by the grinding industry, they said. In the international market, Indian parity is competitive and, therefore, orders could come for MG 1. But, the only impediment is undercutting by Indonesia, export sources said.

Availability

At the same time, apprehensions are also raised by the exporters about the availability of the material from the exchange after making commitments with the overseas buyers. Since sterilisation of pepper could be done at a comparatively lower cost in Vietnam, exporters based there might eye Indian pepper, given the competitive price at present, and the availability, they said.

The wide gap between the July and August contracts has prompted the July position holders to switchover to August. July contract on NCDEX went up by Rs 176 to close at Rs18,669 a quintal. August and September contracts increased by Rs183 and Rs 165, respectively, to close at Rs18,959 and Rs19,140 a quintal. Total turn over dropped by 5,865 tonnes to 17,237 tonnes. Total open interest moved up by 217 tonnes to 19,454 tonnes.

July open interest dropped by 607 tonnes. August increased by 701 tonnes, while that of September moved up by 84 tonnes. Spot prices on strong buying support and in tandem with the futures market trend moved up by Rs100 to close at Rs18,000 (ungarbled) and Rs18,500 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market on Friday was at $4,250 a tonne (c&f) and remained competitive. An overseas report said the black pepper market remained steady. Brazil and Indonesia were the most sought after origins as there were some sellers there who would discount their market depending on bid levels, it said.

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Soyabean rules flat on limited plant offtake

Our Correspondents

Indore/Rajkot, July 9

Soyabean prices ruled stable on Friday on lower demand and plants limiting their purchase. Soyabean was quoted at Rs 1,830-1,850 a quintal, same as Thursday.

In the futures, too, the prices were stable. The arrivals were bbout 5,000 bags, up 2,000 over Thusday.

The prices are expected to gain in the next few days with the monsoon playing truant and the area under soyabean seen lower.

Traders here feel that with erratic monsoon and expected decrease in acreage of soya bean crops, the price of soya bean is likely to witness fluctuation in the coming days.

In Rajkot, castor futures on Rajkot Commodity Exchange increased by Rs 45 a quintal to Rs 3643 Castor gained mainly on export demand, especially from China and Europe.

In the spot market, castorseed was quoted at Rs 3,477.50 a quintal.

According to a Rajkot-based trader: “The prices are increasing on demand from China. But prices could drop next week on profit-booking. This trend will not sustain for long since there is too much speculation.”

Good rains across the country is also expected to bring down prices.

"The prices could fall Rs 40-50 a quintal by next week," said Mr Raju Pobaru, President, Rajkot Commodity Exchange.

Reuters reports: Rapeseed prices Jaipur witnessed an easy trend, traders said on Friday.

The total arrivals of rapeseed in Rajasthan were estimated at 47,000-55,000 bags of 85 kg each.

At Alwar, the prices ruled at Rs 2,515-2,565 a quintal against Rs 2,520-2,570 on Thursday.

Date:10/07/2010 URL: http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/10/stories/2010071052961700.htm

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China warms up edible oils market

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, July 9

The edible oils market witnessed an upward trend on Friday.

Expectations that oilseeds buying by China in the global market is set to rise substantially in the coming months supported market sentiment.

At the local level, the thin supply position in indigenous oils due to the end of the season offered supporting. Arrivals of oilseeds are expected to begin from September-end only. On Friday, except for groundnut oil, all the oils rose by Rs 2-5 for 10 kg in the Mumbai market.

Soya oil, sunflower, rapeseed, cotton and palmolein were up by Rs 2-5 for 10 kg on the back of local demand and firmness in the international market.

Chinese imports

Market sources said in the international market, soybean demand, especially from China, and the outlook for a tighter old-crop balance sheet in Friday's US Government reports buoyed prices.

China imported an estimated 6.45 million tonnes of soybean in June and is likely to import 95 lakh tonnes in July and August, the China National Grains and Oils Information Centre said on Thursday.

Malaysian palm up

Malaysia's BMD crude palm oil future ended higher by 12–14 ringgits.Indore NBOT soya oil futures also showed an upward trend. August-10 was quoting at Rs 449.30.

In the spot market, groundnut oil ruled steady at Rs 775. Soya refined oil quoted at Rs 433, sunflower expeller refined at Rs 430, sunflower refined oil at Rs 480, rapeseed refined oil at Rs 535 and rapeseed expeller at Rs 505, cotton refined at Rs 437 and palmolein at Rs 407.

Oil extraction's prices were steady at previous levels.

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Bulk buyers drive turmeric up

Our Correspondent

Erode, July 9

The price of finger and root variety turmeric improved in the regulated market on Friday on heavy demand from bulk purchasers. In the private turmeric market, the price was stable. In the regulated market, out of the 1,292 bags of turmeric that arrived, 1,248 were sold. The finger variety fetched Rs 14,674 -15,055 a quintal which is Rs 96 more than Wednesday's rate.

Similarly, the root variety was sold at Rs 14,510-14,996 a quintal on Friday, Rs 60 higher than Wednesday's price.

In the local private market, the price remained stable on Friday. However, sales improved a little. The finger variety was sold at Rs 14,700-Rs 14,800 a quintal, while the root variety fetched Rs 14,500-Rs 14600 a quintal.

Of the 7,500 bags (of 75 kg each) that arrived in the market, 4,000 were sold. Prices ruled at the same level at the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society and Gobichettipalayam Cooperative Marketing Society. In these places, about 3,500 bags were bought by bulk purchasers for sale in the North India.

On NCDEX, July contracts gained Rs 266 to close at Rs 14,900 a quintal. August contracts closed at Rs 14,680 and September at Rs 14,530.

In Nizamabad spot market, turmeric ended at Rs 14,764.30.

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Sugar rises on higher retail purchase

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, July 9

The sugar market improved on Friday. At Vashi, the spot price ruled steady but Naka and Tender delivery price rose by Rs 5-10. The pressure on mills to exhaust their sugar sale quota by Saturday has eased sharply. Only 10,000-12,000 bags (of 100 kg each) have to be lifted. In the past week, the pressure to sell nearly 40,000-50,000 bags kept the prices on leash.

The prices stablised as retail buying increased and mills were not willing to sell below Rs 2,598 a quintal. If the buying by the stockists increases, the market could see further upside, said Mr Tokershibhai, a wholesaler at the Vashi market.Total arrivals on Friday at the market was about 25–30 truckloads (10 tonnes each), and 30–35 truckloads were lifted. There was a small reduction in the market's inventory stocks.

Friday's spot rate was Rs 2,660-2,720 a quintal for S-grade and Rs 2,710-2,790 for M-grade. Naka delivery rate for S-grade was Rs 2,630-2,660 and for M-grade Rs 2,675-2,720, according to the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association.The mill delivery tender (including excise) was quoted at Rs 2,550-2,580 for S-grade, and Rs 2,600-2,640 for M-grade. Maharashtra ex-mill prices were quoted at Rs 2,490-2,500 for S-grade, and Rs 2,520-2,570 for M-grade.

Bloomberg reports: Sugar futures rose on Friday with Liffe whites hitting a four–month peak boosted by the temporary shutdown of Brazil's No. 2 port Paranagua and a Thai tender to buy 100,000 tonnes.Liffe August white sugar touched $623.50 a tonne at 1230 GMT, up $17.70 or 2.9 per cent.ICE October raw sugar futures were up 0.27 cent at 17.36 cents a lb.

Business Standard

Monday, Jul 12, 2010

Govt to form task force for promoting hybrid rice varieties

Press Trust of India / Kolkata July 10, 2010, 14:30 IST

The government today announced creation of a central task force to promote hybrid rice varieties, with a view to boost the production of the grain."The proposed task force would finalise the strategies for hybrid rice promotion in special emphasis on PPP model of seed production, procurement and marketing," Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar said while addressing the two-day workshop on 'Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern States'.

The production of rice per hectare from the cultivation of hybrid seeds is estimated to be higher at 3.27 tonne, compared to 2.27 tonne per hectare from the non-hybrid seeds.

At present, total area under hybrid rice cultivation is very low in the country. The government has decided to promote hybrid rice seeds in view of a slump in rice output last year due to scanty rains.

In 2008-09, the country's rice output declined by 10 per cent to 89.31 million tonne on account of the poor monsoon. The large adoption of hybrid rice seeds would help the government to achieve the rice production target under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM).

NFSM, launched in 2007, aimes at increasing the rice production by 10 million tonne by 2011-12.

Pawar, who is keen to replicate the Green Revolution achieved in Punjab and Haryana in the eastern states, also suggested the "formation of an empowered group of ministers (EGOM) at the state level to ensure timely supply of farm inputs to farmers."

According to the official data, sowing of kharif rice has begun in most parts of the country. Rice has been planted in 46.46 lakh hectares as on July 1, compared to 45.43 lakh hectares in the same period last year.

Wheat dara declines on increased supply

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 10, 2010, 14:44 IST

Wheat prices declined up to Rs 25 per quintal in the wholesale grains market today on increased supply against reduced offtake from mills.The government's decision to release five millions tonnes of grains in the open market also kept pressure on the grain prices.

Elsewhere, other grains continued to trade in a tight range on lack of worthwhile buying activity and settled around previous levels.

Traders said increased supplies in the market following the government's decision to release five million tonnes of grains in the open market led to a fall in wholesale wheat prices.

Wheat deshi fell by Rs 25 to Rs 1,725-1,825 while wheat dara (for mills) declined by Rs 15 to Rs 1,225-1,230 per quintal. Atta chakki delivery traded lower by the same margin at Rs 1,230-1,235 per 90 kg.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Wheat MP (deshi) 1,725-1,825, wheat dara (for mills) 1,225 -1,230 chakki atta (delivery) 1,230-1,235, atta Rajdhani (10 kg) 175, Shakti bhog (10 kg) 175, Roller flour mill 630- 650 (50 kg), Maida 755-785 (50 kilos) and Sooji 810-830 (50 kg)

Castoroil improves further on sustained industrial demand

Press Trust of India / Mumbai July 10, 2010, 16:02 IST

Castorseed bold and castoroil commercial improved further at the oils and oilseeds market here today due to persistent demand from shippers and soap manufacturers.

Castorseed futures also firmed up on renewed export enquiries. Meanwhile, groundnut oil, refined palmolein and linseed oil ruled steady in the absence of market moving factors.

In the non-edible section, castorseed bold rose by Rs 15 per 100 kg to Rs 3,615 from overnight's closing level of Rs 3,600 and castoroil commercial edged up by Rs 3 per 10 kg to Rs 753 as against Rs 750 previously.Linseedoil were stable at Rs 495 per 10 kg.Turning to the futures section, castorseed's August contract resumed higher at Rs 3,627 and shot up further to close at Rs 3,667 from yesterday's closing level of Rs 3,612, showing a smart gain of Rs 55 per tonne.Moving to edible section, groundnut oil and refined palmolein both closed unaltered at Rs 775 and Rs 407 per 10 kg each, respectively.

Sugar closes quiet on thin trade

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 10, 2010, 16:01 IST

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

Marketmen said sporadic buying and adequate stocks position, mainly held sugar prices unaltered.

Following are today's rates in Rs per quintal:

Sugar ready M-30 2,800-2,900 and S-30 2,790-2,890
Mill delivery M-30 2,650-2,750 and S-30 2,640-2740
Sugar mill gate prices (excluding duty): Kinonni 2,750, Asmoli 2,750, Mawana 2,700, Titabi 2,680, Thanabhavan 2,660, Budhana 2,650 and Dorala 2,680

Almond declines on sluggish demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 10, 2010, 16:44 IST

Almond prices declined by Rs 100 per 40 kg in the national capital today on sluggish demand from retailers and stockists.

Adequate stocks position followed by increased arrivals from overseas markets also weighed on the prices.

Almond (california) prices fell by Rs 100 to Rs 10,500 per 40 kg and its kernel also eased by Rs 5 to Rs 365-370 per kg.

Traders said sluggish demand from retailers and stockists against fresh arrivals, pulled down almond prices on the wholesale dry fruit market here.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per 40 kg:

Almond (California) new Rs 10,400, Almond (gurbandi-new) Rs 4,600-4,700, almond (girdhi) Rs 2,200-2,300 and Abjosh Afghani Rs 7,000-16,000
Almond kernel in per kg (California) Rs 360-365, almond kernel (gurbandi-new) (kg) Rs 300-375

Chilgoza raw-new (1 kg) Rs 500 Chilgoza (roasted) (1 kg) Rs 825-875 Cashew kernel 1 kg (no 180) Rs 485-490 Cashew kernel (no 210) Rs 460-470 Cashew kernel (no 240) Rs 370-380 Cashew kernel (no 320) Rs 360-370 Cashew kernel broken 2 pieces Rs 245-285 Cashew kernel broken 4 pieces Rs 220-260

Cashew kernel broken 8 pieces Rs 180-240 Copra (qtl) Rs 5,200-5,400 Coconut powder (25 kg) Rs 1,800-1,900 Dry dates red (qtl) Rs 2,800-7,000 Fig Rs 6,000-16,000 Kishmish Kandhari local Rs 7,000-7,500 Kishmish Kandhari special Rs 12,000-20,000

Kishmish Indian yellow Rs 3,700-3,900 Kishmish Indian green Rs 4,600-6,000 Pistachio Irani Rs 820-860 Pistachio Hairati Rs 1,260-1,310 Pistachio Peshawari Rs 1,390-1,440 Pistachio Dodi (roasted) 520-600 Walnut Rs 90-165 Walnut kernel (1kg) Rs 300-500

Red chilli recovers on tight supply

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 10, 2010, 16:48 IST

Red chilli staged a comeback with prices recovering by Rs 100 per quintal in the Capital today in view of tight supplies amid fresh buying support from retailers and stockists.

Red chilli prices rose by Rs 100 to settle at Rs 5,100- 9,100 per quintal.

Traders said fresh buying support from retailers and stockists followed by rising domestic demand pushed up red chilli prices on the wholesale market here.

Following are today's quotations (per quintal):

Ajwain 14,000-19,000, black pepper common 20,200-20,300, betelnut (kg) 85-105, cardamom brown-Jhundiwali (kg) 725-740 and cardamom brown-Kanchicut (kg) 825-950

Cardamom small (kg): Chitridar 1,200-1,360, cardamom (colour robin) 1,450-1,470, cardamom bold 1,480-1,500, cardamom extra (bold) 1,610-1,630 and cloves (kg) 290-370

Kabli gram eases on thin trade

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 10, 2010, 14:46 IST

In restricted activity, kabli gram prices traded lower by Rs 50 per quintal in the wholesale pulses market today on subdued demand against adequate stocks position.

Traders said sufficient stocks, against sluggish demand at existing higher levels led to a decline in wholesale kabli gram small prices.

Meanwhile, public sector trading firm PEC has floated a tender to sell 1,000 tonnes of imported pulses in the domestic market. Kabli gram small lost Rs 50 to Rs 3,000-4200 per quintal.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Urad 5,400-5,950, Urad chilka (local) 6,250-6,650, best 7,150-7,450, Dhoya 7,250-7,350, Moong 5,500-5,900, Dal moong chilka local 6,200-6,600, Moong Dhoya local 6,300-6,500 and best quality 6,700-6,900

Masoor small 3,250-3,450, bold 3,450-3,700, Dal Masoor local 4,000-4,100, best quality 4,300-4,600, Malka local 4,150-4,200, best 4,300-4,400, Moth 5,800-6,100, Arhar 4,350-4,450, dal arhar dara 5,400-5,800

Gram 2,175-2,250, gram dal (local) 2,450-2,475, best quality 2,650-2,750, besan (35 kg) Shakti bhog 1,050, Rajdhani 1,050, Rajmah chitra Pune 3,300-3,900, China 3,400-3,900, red 3,400-3,500

kabli gram small 3,000-4,200, dabra 2,700-2,800, imported 4,500-4,900, lobia 3,700-3,800, peas white 1,750-1,850 and green 1,950-2,150

Gur ends flat on some support

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 10, 2010, 16:00 IST

Gur prices remained unchanged in the national capital on restricted buying against adequate stocks position.

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

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

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Chakku Rs 2,800-2,900, Pedi Rs 2,940-3,040 and Dhayya N.T., shakkar Rs 3,100-3,200
In Muzaffarnagar: Raskat Rs 2,050-2,100, chakku Rs 2,400-2,575 and Khurpa N.T
In Muradnagar: Pedi 2,700-2,750 and Dhaya N.A

Palmolein, soyabean up on firming global trend

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 10, 2010, 14:27 IST

Prices of palmolein and soyabean oil rose upto Rs 20 per quintal in the wholesale oils and oilseeds market of the national capital today on steady inflow of buying by vanaspati millers amid firming global trend.

Sentiment remained better after palm oil advanced for a second day in Malaysia amid concern wet weather in the US may affect planting of soybeans, crushed to make a substitute.

Meanwhile, palm oil futures for September delivery rose 0.4 per cent to $720 a metric tonne on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange.

Marketmen said besides firming trend in global markets, continued buying by vanaspati millers also led to a rise in palmolein and soyabeans oil prices.

In the edible section, soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) strengthened further by Rs 20 to Rs 4,520, while palmolein (rbd) gained Rs 10 Rs 4,210 per quintal on firming global trend.

Coconut oil also traded higher by Rs 10 to Rs 1,030-1,060 per tin of 15 litres.

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) 720-830

Edible oils: Groundnut mill delivery (Gujarat) 7,600, groundnut Solvent refined (per tin) 1,270-1,280, Mustard Expeller (Dadri) 4,920, Mustard Pakki ghani (per tin) 685-840, Mustard kachi ghani (per tin) 840-940, Sunflower 6,300, Sesame mill delivery 5,850

Soybean Refined mill delivery (Indore) 4,520 Soyabean degum (Delhi) 4,320, Crude Palm Oil (Ex-kandla) 3,650, Cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) 4,200, Palmolein (RBD) 4,210, Rice bran (phy) 3,750 and Coconut (per tin) 1,030-1,060

Non-edible oils: Linseed 3,950, Mahuwa 4,000, Castor 7,300-7,400, Neem 3,700-3,800, 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

Menthol rises on fresh buying

Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 10, 2010, 16:50 IST

Menthol prices rose by Rs 5 per kg in the national capital today on fresh buying by consuming industries amid tight stocks.

Fall in supplies from producing belts and firming trend in futures market also supported the prices.

Menthol bold crystal, menthol flake and mentha oil prices rose Rs 5 to Rs 895, Rs 855 and Rs 785 per kg, respectively.

Marketmen said fresh buying support from pharma and other consuming industries against tight stocks, attributed to rise in prices.

Elsewhere, prices of other chemicals ruled steady on scattered deals.

Following are today's quotations:

Ammonium chloride (50 kg), Rs 1,500-2,400, acetic acid (1 kg) Rs 36-38, ammonia bicarb (25 kg) Rs 450-500, boric acid technical (50 kg) Rs 3,750-4,150, borex granular (50 kg) Rs 2,000-2,500

Caustic soda flake (50 kg) Rs 950-1000, citric acid (50 kg) (China) Rs 2,600-3,000, citric acid deshi (50 kg) Rs 2,550-2,950, camphor slab (1 kg) Rs 320, camphor powder (1 kg) Rs 310, glycerine (1 kg) Rs 110-120, hexamine (1 kg) Rs 80

hydrogen peroxide (1 kg) Rs 33-35, mercury (34.5 kg) Rs 64,000, menthol bold crystal (per kg) Rs 895, menthol flake (1kg) Rs 855 and mentha oil (1 kg) Rs 785

Paraffin wax (1 kg) Iran Rs 68-75 Paraffin wax (1 kg) China Rs 100-110 Paraffin wax (1 kg) Indian Rs 85 Residue wax (p tonne) Rs 41,000 Soda ash (50 kg) (Tata) Rs 925

Soda ash (50 kg) (Gujarat) Rs 900 Soda ash (50 kg) (DCW) Rs 900 Soda ash (50 kg) (Birla) Rs 900 Soda Hydro Sulphate (1 kg) Rs 65-75 Sodium hydro sulphite (1 kg) damosha Rs 85 Sodium hydro sulphite (1 kg) china Rs 58

Sodium hydro sulphite safolite (1 kg) Rs 110-125 Sodium silicate (Qtl) Rs 1,000-1,150 Sodium nitrate (50 kg) Rs 1,650-1,900 Sodium nitrite (50 kg) Rs 1,900-2,000 Sodium bio-carbonate (50 kg) Rs 1,025 Stable bleaching powder (25 kg) Rs 350-400

Tartaric acid france (1 kg) Rs 440 Thymol (1 kg) Rs 510 Titanium dioxide (1 kg) Rs 100-110 Oxalic acid (pcpl) 50 kg Rs 1,900-2,000