

A win-win situation thanks to ornamental fish breeding



UAS Dr. Seenappa, Chief Scientific Officer, interacting with the fish breeders of Venkatanahalli village. Photo: UAS

The women earn Rs.3,000-Rs.4,000 a year from backyard rearing Venkatanahalli a peri-urban village, housing 125 residents, close to Bangalore International Airport, is a hub of activity today. The women in the village are actively involved in dairy, goat, sheep rearing, preparation of value added products, petty businesses and making leaf plates. Many support their family in agricultural activities. Prominent among them is Mrs. Narayanamma, an established ornamental fish breeder and role model for many women in the region.

Income generation

“Thanks to the guidelines given to us by the Department of Inland Fisheries Division, University of Agricultural sciences, Bangalore, I earn Rs, 3,000 to Rs. 4,000 a year by growing ornamental fishes in my backyard,” she says.

The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) and IOWA State University of Science & Technology, U.S., funded a training programme on ornamental fish farming modules for rural farm women.

Initial help

“Initially we provided four circular cement rings each of 500-600 litres capacity, live food, production tank of 150 litres capacity, covering net, plastic tubs, hand nets and plankton nets to the women and supplied parent stock of different varieties of fishes such as mollies, guppies, platys and sword tails to enable them to develop their own breeding programs,” says Dr. D. Seenappa, Chief Scientific Officer, Inland Fisheries Division, Main Research Station of the University.

Live feeds

The women learnt to make live feeds such as daphnia, mosquito larvae, earth worms, and fruit flies and dry feeds —pellets, flakes and egg-custard — using locally available inputs. “Initially, feed for the fingerlings consisted of a mixture of 15 grams of cow dung manure and 5 grams of groundnut given in three installments (1-2 gms daily) during the first week and doubled during every subsequent week,” says Dr. Seenappa.

Rearing period

Throughout the rearing period of 40-60 days the women continued to apply the manure on alternate days and partial water exchange (4-5 times) after the first month depending on the water's colour. “All the women harvested about 120-130 marketable sized fish and sold them to buyers at a farm gate price of Rs.3- Rs.5 per fish.

“They harvested 4-5 crops earning about Rs. 3,000 - Rs. 4, 000 a year. The department staff also helped them in marketing by getting an MOU signed between the growers and the buyers,” explains Dr. Seenappa.

Generating interest

Other members in the village got motivated and this resulted in expansion of the activity to over 30 families in the village today in a phased manner investing their own money. The success of Mrs. Narayanamma and her group stimulated several SHGs' from neighboring villages in the past couple of years to try their hands in rural ornamental fish rearing, "as it is emerging as a popular income generating activity among women," adds Dr. Seenappa.

Development schemes

Based on the success rate at rural levels several development schemes/initiatives are also being introduced by the Karnataka government and other institutions in support of popularizing the activity at community levels. The Department of Fisheries supports the SHGs of Venkatanahalli village and other neighboring villages by donating an amount of Rs.10,000- Rs.20,000 per group as one time grant (revolving fund) under the Mahila Swayalambana Yojana.

Marketing link

"Adoption of technologies and linking to local market is crucial to make the venture sustainable. "Seeing the success of these women in earning money, several other farmers are also expressing interest in starting similar breeding units. It is a win-win situation for both the farmers and the Inland Fisheries Division," says Dr. Seenappa.

For more information readers can contact Dr. D. Seenappa, Chief Scientific Officer, Inland Fisheries Division, Main Research Station, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Hebbal, Bangalore, Phone&Fax:080-23515644, mail:drdseenappa@yahoo.co.in, mobile: 9845244458 and for Tamil and English podcast log on to <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/>

Sugarcane institute to launch new website

Published: June 30, 2010 23:26 IST | Updated: June 30, 2010 23:26 IST June 30, 2010

An interactive website portal named CaneInfo developed by the Sugarcane Breeding Institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is scheduled to be launched on July 9th (the site will be available at <http://caneinfo.nic.in> after the inauguration). "It is an interactive and user-centered website that provides a platform for sugarcane growers, cane development personnel, scientists and students to share information and knowledge on sugarcane," says Dr.N.Vijayan Nair, Director, of the Institute.

Two year project

" This website is the culmination of a two-year research project executed with the support of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India under the Technology Information Facilitation programme," he says. "We recognized that only by bringing the user in to the development process can the utility of the website be maximized", Dr. Nair said.

No fee

The free-to-access site has been developed after taking into account the information needs of the target audience. A demonstration on using CaneInfo has been arranged at the institute's auditorium. A few modules available in CaneInfo are: Ask a Specialist forum, where farmers and cane development personnel will be able to post questions of their concern under specific categories. The query will be directed to the concerned expert in the website project team to provide / get the answer

Suitable guidelines

Another forum on OFAS (Online Fertilizer Advisory Service) provides the cane growers / extension personnel to get a suitable fertilizer recommendation for sugarcane. These recommendations are provided based on the soil test report provided by the soil-testing laboratories. An online directory of research institutions and sugar factories provides the location- wise name, address and contact details of sugar factories and sugarcane research stations.

The users have also been given provision for searching the directory, state-wise. Other forums such as discussion board, and suggest a variety have also been included to make it more useful. For more details contact Dr. D.Puthira Prathap, Senior Scientist & Principal Investigator, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore – 641 007 [0422-2472621 ; Extn:238], caneinfo@gmail.com, Phone: 0422-2472621.

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By Express News Service

01 Jul 2010 03:20:39 AM IST

Mettur inflow drops leading to irrigation woes

SALEM: With inflows dropping down to a trickle and no improvement in the storage position being observed over the month, the opening of the Mettur dam for Cauvery Delta irrigation remains uncertain.

PWD officials at Mettur were keeping their fingers crossed, hoping for intensification of the South West Monsoon in Kerala to bring some inflows into the dam.

Opening of the dam for Kuruvai season on the customary date of June 12 was put off as the minimum level of 90 feet needed for the release was not reached. No major change in the situation has been recorded since then.

On June 12, the level in the dam stood at 79.970 feet as against 90 feet — the technical requirement for opening the dam. The storage was 41.825 TMC as against its full storage capacity of 93.5 TMC and the reservoir was getting an inflow of 6790 cusecs.

Since then, the inflow has come down and it was 558 cusecs as of Wednesday. While water level stood at 80.290 feet, the storage in the reservoir was 42.246 TMC.

Fresh release from Karnataka dams seems to be also uncertain as the inflow was less and the storage buildup there too was slow.

According to irrigation records available at the PWD, the Krishna Raja Sagar's level stands at 83.54 feet as against its full height of 124 feet.

The storage is 12.436 TMC as against its full capacity of 45.050 TMC.

Out of an inflow of 3061 cusecs, 1029 cusecs is discharged into the canals for irrigation, while the rest is stored up. The Kabini's storage is 11.01 TMC as against its full capacity of 15.63 TMC. The dam gets an inflow of 3580 cusecs, out of which 250 is let into the river and the rest is discharged into the canals for irrigation. The decision to open the Mettur dam for delta irrigation will depend on the assessment of the monsoon's behaviour, said officials here.

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Business Standard

Thursday, Jul 01, 2010

Rising trend in groundnut oil on better demand

Press Trust of India / Mumbai June 30, 2010, 17:58 IST

Groundnut oil prices continued to rise at the oils and oilseeds market here today on better demand from stockists on the back of lower arrivals from the producing regions.

Refined palmolein held steady in the absence of buying support. Castorseed bold and castoroil commercial firmed up due to persistent demand from shippers and soap manufacturing units. Castorseed futures also edged higher on good export enquiries. Linseed oil ruled steady in the absence of market moving factors.

In the edible section, groundnut oil rose further by Rs 5 per 10 kg to Rs 775 from overnight closing level of Rs 770 while refined palmolein closed unchanged Rs 404 per 10 kg.

Turning to the non-edible section, castorseeds bold edged up by Rs 10 per 100 kg to Rs 3,535 from Rs 3,525 and castoroil commercial also moved up by Rs 2 per 10 kg to Rs 737 as against Rs 735. Linseed oil closed stable at Rs 495 per 10 kg.

Moving to the futures section, castorseed's August contract resumed lower at Rs 3,522 and moved in a range of Rs 3,532 and Rs 3,532 before settling at Rs 3,532 from yesterday's closing level of Rs 3,530, showing a mere gain of Rs 2 per tonne.

Coffee production may rise by 6% next year

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 30, 2010, 17:05 IST



India's coffee production is estimated to go up by 6 per cent to 3.08 lakh tonnes in the 2010-11 crop year starting October, with expectations of better yields from Kerala and Karnataka. According to Coffee Board's post-blossom estimate for the next crop year, 2.08 lakh tonnes would be of the Robusta variety and the remaining, Arabica.

India produced 2.89 lakh tonnes of coffee in the 2009-10 crop year (October-September), of which Robusta accounted for 1.95 lakh tonnes and Arabica for 94,600 tonnes. "The maximum rise in production of coffee this year is expected in Karnataka, followed by Kerala -- where good rains last year helped healthy blossoming and fruit bearing," a senior Coffee Board official said.

The Board hopes that the Chikmagalur, Kodagu and Hassan districts of Karnataka would produce 6,000 tonnes more coffee next year, at 2.19 lakh tonnes, while Kerala produces 65,775 tonnes in 2010-11.

Tamil Nadu is expected to produce 16,500 tonnes of coffee during the ensuing crop year, the Board said, adding that non-traditional coffee-producing areas like Andhra Pradesh and Orissa would produce 6,100 tonnes, up from 5,300 tonnes during the last crop year.

The Coffee Exporters Association of India had earlier said that as the country would get adequate rains, the total coffee production for 2010-11 was likely to reach around three lakh tonnes. India is the fifth-largest coffee producer in the world and the third-largest in Asia.

Sugar prices up marginally on retailers demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 30, 2010, 16:44 IST



Sugar prices closed marginally higher by Rs 10 per quintal in the national capital today on pick up in demand from retailers. Marketmen said fresh buying by retailers and bulk consumers, pushed up sugar prices. Sugar spot medium and second grade prices moved up by Rs 10 each to Rs 2,880-2,930 and Rs 2,870-2,920 per quintal.

Mill delivery medium and second grade price also gained by Rs 10 each to Rs 2,735-2,780 and Rs 2,725-2,770 per quintal. Following are today's rates in Rs per quintal:

Sugar ready M-30 2,880-2,930 and S-30 2,870-2,920

Mill delivery M-30 2,735-2,780 and S-30 2,725-2,770

Sugar mill gate prices (excluding duty): Kinonni 2,700, Asmoli 2,690, Mawana 2,640, Titabi 2,630, Thanabhavan 2,620, Budhana 2,610 and Dorala 2,620

Sugar recovers moderately on fresh buying

Press Trust of India / Mumbai June 30, 2010, 16:23 IST



Sugar prices recovered moderately at the Vashi wholesale market here today due to fresh buying by stockists and retailers. Medium sugar quality (M-30) firmed up by Rs 40 per quintal to Rs 2,710/2,820 from yesterday's closing level of Rs 2,670/2,780. Small sugar quality (S-30) also gained by Rs 30/40 per quintal to Rs 2,680/2,750 as against Rs 2,650/2,710 previously. Following are today's closing rates per quintal, with previous rates in brackets:

Small sugar (S-30) quality Rs 2,680/2,750 (Rs 2,650/ 2,710) and Medium sugar (M-30) quality Rs 2,710/2,820 (Rs 2,670/2,780)

Monsoon lags, may yet cover country on time

Reuters / New Delhi July 1, 2010, 0:05 IST

The vital monsoon rain, running late in the main sugar- and rice-producing regions, is not likely to revive in the next few days, the weather office said, raising concerns about rising inflation.

The government is counting on good rainfall in the June-September season to help control inflation, after the failure of last year's monsoon triggered a sustained rise in prices and made India a large importer of sugar. So far, the monsoon has covered southern India and parts of eastern and central India but has not moved to other areas in the past 11 days as unfavourable weather conditions have inhibited monsoon winds, the weather office said.

"The latest meteorological conditions suggest that monsoon is unlikely to advance (further) during next two to four days," the Indian Meteorological Department said in a statement.

However, the monsoon is likely to likely to advance after four days and cover the entire country on schedule by the middle of July, it said. Rainfall since the start of the season on June 1 has been 13 per cent below normal, but the June-September monsoon is still forecast to deliver slightly more than normal rains, the department says.

Monsoon rains, the only source of irrigation for 60 per cent of Indian farms, are vital for India, which is the world's top importer of vegetable oils and ranks among the top producers and consumers of rice and wheat.

But analysts said the delay was disturbing. "This is not good news," said D K Joshi, chief economist at rating agency Crisil. "July is the most critical month from the agriculture perspective. Maximum rains happen in this month. The key thing to look for are signs of softening in food prices," he said. India's food inflation accelerated to nearly 17 per cent in mid-June, while overall inflation is above 10 per cent. On Monday, trade officials said the sluggish monsoon had slowed soybean planting. However, the planting can quickly gain momentum if rainfall improves in the next 10 days.

THE HINDU Business Line

Business Daily from THE HINDU group of publications

Thursday, July 01, 2010

Date:01/07/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070153101800.htm>

Coffee Board estimates record crop next season

Industry sceptical in view of truant weather.

"There have been pockets of attrition in arabica, due to the white stem borer problem. Irrigated robustas will do well."



Bangalore, June 30

The Coffee Board has estimated a bumper crop of 3.08 lakh tonnes the next season starting November, up 6.35 per cent or 18,400 tonnes over the estimates of 2.89 lakh tonnes made for this season.

Robusta, arabica

Of the 3.08 lakh tonnes, robusta output has been pegged at 2.08 lakh tonnes and arabica the remaining 99,500 tonnes. Robusta output is estimated to be 13,500 tonnes higher than the 2009-10 (post-monsoon) estimates, while arabica output is expected to be 4,900 tonnes higher than in 2009-10. In percentage terms, the rise amounts to 6.92 per cent and 5.18 per cent, respectively, for robusta and arabica.

“A crop of this size has not been achieved in the recent past; besides, last year was a good crop or an ‘on-year,” according to growers and traders. A bumper robusta crop could affect price realisation, given the existing glut in robusta parchment, traders said.

While traders consider the Board's post-monsoon estimates for 2009-10 to be accurate in the case of robusta (1.95 lakh tonnes), on the basis of export shipments, the actuals

could be lower in the case of arabica. This implies that the estimated rise in arabica output this year is actually higher than the latest numbers suggest.

Weather shocks

Mr Anil Bhandari, Coffee Board Member, said: "I am not sure whether 3.08 lakh tonnes will be reached. Arabica may turn out to be 5,000-8,000 tonnes below the post-blossom estimates. We have had spells of bad rain and uneven weather patterns. There have been pockets of attrition in arabica, due to the white stem borer problem. Irrigated robustas will do well, but non-irrigated robustas react very negatively to lack of rain."

Mr Amit Pant, Business Manager, Olam Agro India Limited, said: "While it might be best to wait for the post-monsoon estimate to get a clearer picture, the present numbers appear to be optimistic, in view of the lack of back-up showers and uneven development of the fruit."

Borer menace

Mr Shaji Philip, Chairman, Coffee Committee, UPASI, said: "The fruit is in different stages. This can lead to the big fruit squeezing out the small ones. Berry borer will be rampant. We will be harvesting in October for the first time ever. Harvesting can be a nuisance with such a crop." Dr N K Pradeep, President, Karnataka Growers' Federation, said: "The output this year may be closer to 2.75-2.8 lakh tonnes, with arabica falling short of the estimate by 10,000 tonnes and robusta by another 15,000 tonnes. However, since the exact area of cultivation is not known, the estimate may turn out to be right by default."

Replacement of Arabica

Mr Bose Mandanna, former vice-chairman, Coffee Board, said: "Arabica is being steadily replaced by robusta in India, due to high costs of cultivation, white stem borer and yellow rust problems with arabica. With robusta being grown in 30-40 per cent of the area under coffee, it will be difficult for arabica to achieve the estimate of 99,500

tonnes. Robusta last year was a good crop, an 'on-year'. If you take Kodagu, which produces 40 per cent of India's robustas, the crop will be 15-20 per cent less than last year. The setting of the fruit is not good. In Arabica, only half the area is yielding due to the white stem borer problem."The Board has estimated a 1.23 per cent increase in robusta output in Kodagu this year, compared with the post-monsoon estimate for 2009-10, or 1,110 tonnes more.The Board is upbeat about the prospects in Chikmagalur and Hassan, projecting an output increase of 9.5 per cent and 23.2 per cent, respectively.

"Good and well distributed rainfall during October to March helped in moisture retention for longer period which in turn helped in the production of more bearing wood for the crop during the current season. Further the blossom and backing showers were reported to be good and adequate in almost all the coffee growing zones of Karnataka," it has observed.

Date:01/07/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070153011800.htm>

AP varsity releases aromatic rice

NEW VARIETIES.

Hyderabad, June 30

Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), whose rice varieties cover 25 per cent of all the rice area in the country, has come out with six more varieties for the year, including aromatic variety called Sugandhasamba and Vamsadhara which is tolerant to leaf blight and bacterial leaf blight. These are among the 19 new seed varieties across different crops introduced by the university for the year. The list included three each in groundnut and sugarcane, two in cotton, one each in red gram, field bean, castor and safflower.

Announcing the release of the new varieties in a statement here, Dr P. Raghava Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of ANGRAU, said the university had so far released 371 varieties. "Our

rice varieties are very popular and they constituted 25 per cent of all the rice area in the country,” he said.

Referring to the new rice varieties, he said Sugandhasamba was the first semi-dwarf culture in the State having aromatic, medium slender grains. “It is becoming very popular because of its good cooking quality and aroma,” he said. Besides, at 6-7 tonnes a hectare, it gave 5-10 per cent more than the popular varieties, he added. Incidence of white ears, leaf blast, neck blast and sheath rot was lesser.

The university planned to substitute MTU 2079 variety with Vamsadhara that could give 13.20 per cent higher yields, while allowing late sowings and late transplanting situations in some areas.

Date:01/07/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070152891700.htm>

Castor futures rise to record on export demand

Rajkot, June 30

Castor September contract on Rajkot Commodity Exchange (RCX) hit an all-time high on heavy export demand for China. RCX September contract increased Rs 5 to Rs 3,563 a quintal from Tuesday's close. Castor arrivals in Gujarat are at about 38,000-40,000 bags of 50 kg each. It is for the fourth day that RCX castor contract continued to scale new high.

RCX September contract opened at Rs 3,552, touched a high of Rs 3,569 and low of Rs 3,520 before closing at Rs 3,563. The RCX President, Mr Rajubhai Pobaru, said: “Spot demand has increased due to export demand from China. Moreover, monsoon delay is another reason for the price hike. But profit booking is possible in near future.”

Traders said the prices could drop if the rain comes within a week. Mr Rajubhai said: “Rain is the key factor for castor price.” Exports of castor oil and derivatives are

estimated at over Rs 2,000 crore a year. The global castor derivatives market is estimated to be over \$800 million and is highly dependent on India.

Castor is mainly used by the oil paint and chemical industries. The use of castor has increased in bio-fuel as crude price are ruling higher. Reuters reports: Castor seed prices have jumped by nearly a fifth in the last three months and are set to continue the trend on a drop in output and robust export demand, traders and officials said.

In Gujarat, the biggest producer in the country, prices have increased 18 per cent to Rs 3,375 rupees a quintal in three months. "Export demand continues to be robust and as far as castor oil is concerned, we are bullish," said Mr Atul Chaturvedi, chief executive at Adani Wilmar Ltd. "Demand from European and Chinese markets is strong for castor oil, while South Korea is buying castor oilmeal for fertilisers."

Castor oil exports rose 66.4 per cent in April–May to 83,596 tonnes, while meal exports rose 53.6 per cent to 37,246 tonnes, data with Solvent Extractors Association showed.

"Demand from domestic and overseas buyers is good enough to push up the prices in a short span," said Mr Jatin Patel, a trader based in Dhanera in Banaskantha district in Gujarat. – Our Correspondent.

Date:01/07/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070152871700.htm>

Lower arrivals lift wheat

Karnal, June 30

In the absence of arrivals, especially from Uttar Pradesh, the wheat market witnessed a price rise of Rs 15-30 a quintal. On Wednesday, wheat (dara) was quoted at Rs 1,190-1,210 a quintal. The price in the retail outlets ruled between Rs 1,250 and Rs 1,300 a quintal.

Since the Haryana Government has adequate stocks with it, wholesalers and flour millers expect that the Government will release a quota for the flour mills in the first week of July. The Government could decide on a price of anything around Rs 1,230-1,235 a quintal. Mr Subhash Chand, a wheat trader, said the last time a quota was released by the Union Government for the flour mills it was priced at Rs 1,254 a quintal. At that time, traders in Haryana were not interested in the deal as prices in the local market were lower, he said.

He further said traders were expecting that the Government could try to attract flour millers by setting a lower price around Rs 1,230-1,235 a quintal. Rather than approaching the terminal Karnal grain market, traders in Uttar Pradesh are finding better offers at the Narela Mandi, Delhi, at Rs 1,230-1,235 a quintal, beneficial.

Last week, the Cabinet approved the sale of 50 lakh tonnes of wheat through the open market sale scheme to bulk users such as flour mills. The terms and conditions besides the prices are yet to be decided.

The Food Corporation of India has urged the Centre to fix a lower price so that mills would be encouraged to buy from the stocks with it.

On NCDEX, wheat for July delivery closed Rs 12.60 up at Rs 1,244.20 a quintal.

Date:01/07/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070152901700.htm>

Sugar up Rs 40/quintal on retail buying

Mumbai, June 30

After two days of decline, spot sugar price at the Vashi APMC market rose by Rs 30-40 a quintal. Increased retail buying supported the market sentiment. With the new month starting on Thursday, shopkeepers and stockists were keen to buy at lower level. On good buying by stockists, Naka delivery rate rose by Rs 60-Rs 70 after declining in the

last two days. A trader said month-end pressure of lifting of goods from the mills is down and traders are ready for new buying. Before stockists start their new buying, prices at mill level firmed up sharply.

Spot market price is still lower than ex-mill cost. But due to the small support by retailers, spot price had a limited rise. Arrivals increased and reached 48-50 truckloads (each of 10 tonnes). Lifting was also good. Mumbai local delivery went up to 35-36 truckloads.

From Thursday retail buying will pick up as usual and the price may rise with the support of upcountry buying, the trader said. Today in Vashi spot market, S-grade sugar was traded at Rs 2,680-Rs 2,750 a quintal and M-grade was traded at Rs 2,710-Rs 2,820 a quintal. Sugar Naka delivery price was Rs 2,680-Rs 2,700 and Rs 2,620-Rs 2,760 for S-grade and M-grade respectively.

The mill delivery tender (including excise) was quoted at Rs 2,610-Rs 2,630 for S-grade and Rs 2,550-Rs 2,680 for M-grade. Maharashtra ex-mill prices were Rs 2,510-Rs 2,560 for S-grade and Rs 2,550-Rs 2,600 for M-grade.

Date:01/07/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070152911700.htm>

Supply crunch supports edible oil

Mumbai, June 30

Edible oils ruled firm on Wednesday. Groundnut oil rose by Rs 5 in the absence of the monsoon and the prevailing supply crunch in the producing areas. It touched Rs 775 for 10 kg. This month alone, groundnut oil has increased Rs 70 for 10 kg in the wholesale market. Other indigenous oils such as soya, sunflower and cotton and palm oil ruled steady. Mr Dineshbhai, a trader, said delay in monsoon over the growing areas and non-availability of ready material at the producing centres supported the bullishness

at the consuming centres. Arrivals have been negligible in the last last 15 days. Stockists are also not very active. Therefore, the volume of trade is limited.

Mr Dineshbhai said that only 200-250 tonnes (20 to 25 tankers each of 10 tonnes) of palmolein were traded. Importers were also in a wait and watch mode.

Refined palmolien oil was quoted at Rs 404 for 10 kg, soya refined oil at Rs 425, sunflower refined at Rs 475, rapeseed refined oil at Rs 525 and rapeseed expeller at Rs 495. Cotton refined was steady at Rs 435.

Date:01/07/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070152881700.htm>

Profit booking takes toll on jeera

Rajkot, June 30

Jeera prices have dropped Rs 200 a quintal in the two days on profit booking by traders. In the spot market, jeera prices have dropped Rs 200 to Rs 12,000–12,100 a quintal for the best quality. The price of the average quality ruled at Rs 11,500–11,750 and lower quality jeera price ruled at about Rs 11,200–11,300. Arrivals at the Unja APMC on Wednesday were 7,000 bags of 55 kg each.

Jeera July contract dropped by Rs 271 to Rs 12,730 – 12,739 on profit-booking after prices rose 10 per cent in the last seven sessions. Mr Minesh Patel of Famous Group of Companies from Unja said: “The market is feeling the effect of profit booking but there will be no big drop as stocks are inadequate in the country. Moreover, export demand is expected in the near future.”

A research analyst of Kotak Commodities said: “In view of the anticipated export demand, the fall in the price will be capped. In the present situation, jeera will be supported at Rs 12,500–12,600.” According to Ajay Kedia Commodities, production in 2010 may rise to 2.9 million bags of 60 kg each from 2.7 million bags in 2009.

In the international market, Syria origin jeera was quoted around \$2400a tonne whereas Indian origin was offered at \$2600. Jeera stocks in the NCDEX warehouse stood at 6,904 tonnes on June 28.

Date:01/07/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070152861700.htm>

Lack of domestic buying hits turmeric

Erode, June 30

Turmeric prices dropped by about Rs 150 a quintal in the private market on Wednesday. The finger variety fetched Rs 14,700-14,800 a quintal, while the root variety ruled at Rs 14,500-14,700. Arrivals were 4,500 bags (of 75 kg each) with 2,500 bags being sold. In the Erode regulated market, prices ruled at Rs 15,000, down by Rs 70. Of the 769 bags that arrived in the regulated market, 740 were sold. The finger variety fetched Rs 14,769-Rs 15,289, and the root was sold at Rs 14,667-15,036.

Traders bought in bulk for exports. There was not much individual buying for conversion into powder for local sales. This has brought the prices down in the last two days. "From April 1 to June 30, Rs 54 crore worth of 4,68,896 bags totalling 35,650 tonnes have been sold in the regulated market. ," said Regulated Market Committee officials. In private market, over Rs 100 crore worth turmeric has been sold in the last three months. Mr R.K. Viswanathan, a trader, said there was good demand for Erode turmeric.

Date:01/07/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070153051800.htm>

Delayed sowing



Irregular rainfall: Workers engaged in planting vegetable seeds on a farm near Palakkad in Kerala. Irregular rainfall and scarcity of quality seeds are affecting vegetable cultivation and production in Kerala. Farmers usually resort to indigenous method to produce seeds.

Date:01/07/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070153161800.htm>

'Critical situation' evolving for kharif crops in north-west

Vinson Kurian, Thiruvananthapuram, June 30

A critical situation seems to be developing for kharif crops in north-west India with no signs of a crucial low-pressure area in the head Bay of Bengal any time soon. The monsoon 'low' is not seen developing in the North Bay for at least the next seven days, according to a group of top meteorological experts.

CRUCIAL 'LOW'

In this context, the next one week is going to be crucial for the entire north-west westward from Bihar. July 1 marks the time for transplantation works to start at many places. But as of today, the nurseries are badly in need of rains, which have evaded large parts of the region, the group revealed to Business Line.

It attributed the lack of activity in the Bay to the total dominance of opposing northwesterly flows across the upper and lower levels of the atmosphere. The flows over north-west India are mostly north-westerly round the year except during the monsoon when the seasonal trough materialises and trigger moisture-laden easterly flows from the Bay. But, currently, the north-westerly flows have put up a barrier to easterlies rushing inland, preventing conducive conditions for 'low' developing in the Bay. The rogue north-westerly flows may take their own time to fade away, which could prove crucial in the final analysis.

NOT CONVINCING

None of the top international models are hinting any possibility of the 'low' formation over the next seven days, even if the north-westerlies were to start to buckle in the interregnum.

The inference is that the evolving condition over the Bay of Bengal is not dynamically suitable for formation of a potential 'low.' Normal or excess rains for August and even September fail to carry any conviction if the July does not behave, the group warned. This is despite the prospect of monsoon flows picking up, as expected, over the Arabian Sea from Thursday.

The reviving flows may have cascading impact on the flows over the Bay as well, but the dominance of the hot north-westerly flows is so entrenched that it would not allow the required churn to be triggered in the Bay. At best, the strengthening southwesterly flows over the Bay may set up convergence with the northwesterly flows.

The convergence is expected to throw up an upper air cyclonic circulation over northwest Bay but it may not have much purchase given the contra-indicating presence of the northwesterlies. India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in an update on Wednesday that an upper air circulation is expected to form in the northwest Bay by Thursday.

The IMD also said that a western disturbance - that sets up thunderstorms, dust storms and thundershowers - would impact the plains of northwest India during the next three days. Forecast until Saturday spoke about the possibility of isolated rain or thunderstorms over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and west Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, the IMD has warned that heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected to occur over Kerala, coastal Karnataka, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura during the next two days. Fairly widespread rain or thundershowers are likely over Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the North-East, West Bengal, Sikkim, Jharkhand, coastal Karnataka, Konkan, Goa, north Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Lakshadweep.

Scattered rain or thundershowers have been forecast over Bihar, east Uttar Pradesh, Uttarkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. Scattered rain or thundershowers are likely over Madhya Maharashtra, Vidarbha, interior Karnataka, Orissa and Chhattisgarh on Thursday and may scale up thereafter.

Date:01/07/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070153081800.htm>

Higher volume at Coonor tea sale

P.S. Sundar, Coonor, June 30

An analysis of the listing by brokers shows that a volume of 19.71 lakh kg will be offered for Sale No: 26 of the auctions of the Coonor Tea Trade Association (CTTA) to be held on Thursday and Friday.

This is the second highest volume so far in 2010. The previous high was 21.23 lakh kg offered on May 6. That time, the volume increased because of the closure of Teaserve's e-auction. Now, Teaserve is independently conducting manual auctions. The volume is

more now because of increased offer from CTTA members, including re-offer of unsold teas. This week's volume is 53,000 kg more than last week's offer and as much as 2.79 lakh kg more than the offer this time last year. Of the 19.71 lakh kg on offer, 13.27 lakh kg belong to leaf grades and 6.44 lakh kg to dust grades.

Date:01/07/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/07/01/stories/2010070151461900.htm>

Pepper bounces back on buying support

G.K. Nair, Kochi, June 30

Pepper futures bounced back after high volatility on Wednesday and ended above the previous closing on good buying support amid limited availability. "It is the claims of bull operators and the counter claims by the bear operators that are keeping the market on high volatility and consequently unstable prices. At the same time, one has to admit that there is a scarcity of material," market sources told Business Line. Limited availability in the primary markets appears to have forced the domestic buyers to buy from investors farm grade pepper at a discount.

Meanwhile, all the overseas markets were firm and the Indian parity at \$4,075 a tonne is almost competitive. Overseas buyers cued by the decline on Tuesday were said to be holding back hoping that the prices might decline further. But, it did not happen.

Upward swing in other origins today also aided the futures market to move up. July contract on NCDEX went up by Rs 134 to close at Rs 17,950 a quintal. August and September also increased by Rs 140 and Rs 119, respectively, to close at Rs 18,120 and Rs 18,277 a quintal. Total turnover dropped by 3,105 tonnes to 15,928 tonnes. Total open interest moved up by 272 tonnes.

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Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Jul 1

Max Min

36.6° | 27.0°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Sunrise: 05:45

Humidity: 75%

Sunset: 18:39

Wind: Normal

Barometer: 1002.0

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Friday, Jul 2

Max Min

35° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Jul 3

Jul 4

Jul 5

Jul 6

Jul 7



35° | 28°

34° | 28°

34° | 28°

34° | 28°

33° | 28°

Rainy

Rainy

Rainy

Rainy

Rainy

Airport Weather

Delhi

Delhi

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs Sunrise: 05:26

Humidity: 42%

Sunset: 19:23

Wind: Normal

Barometer: 0996

