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## Streamline agricultural exports, says Minister

TNAU Vice-Chancellor calls for putting in place a detailed action plan



Focus on exports: Minister for Rural Industries and Animal Husbandry Pongalur N. Palanisamy speaking at a seminar on promoting agri exports at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore on Friday. Vice-Chancellor P. Murugesu Boopathi (seated second left) and president and chairman (Southern Region) of FIEO, A. Sakthivel (left), are in the picture. —

PHOTO: S. SIVA SARAVANAN

Even though agricultural exports are taking place in the country and the State, the volume is not something to crow about. They have to be streamlined to bring more income to the farmers, Pongalur N. Palanisamy, Minister for Rural Industries and Animal Husbandry, said here on Friday.

Inaugurating a seminar on “Promoting Agro Exports from Western Zone of Tamil Nadu,” organised jointly by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), he urged the exporters to make farmers aware of what needs to be exported to which country and accordingly store and sell the produce to get a good price. “Day by day the number of people who take up farming is declining. In spite of the various subsidies and loan waivers offered by the government, farming still continues to be uneconomical,” the Minister lamented.

The farmers of Tamil Nadu were finding it difficult to use modern machinery and technologies in their small holdings. Nevertheless, he urged the farmers to make use of the latest technologies like System of Rice Intensification, precision farming, and others to take up sowing of quality seeds and adoption of latest technologies offered by the TNAU to increase their yield manifold.

P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor of the University, said that in order to reduce wastage of agricultural produce and ensure higher returns to farmers, and to attain higher foreign revenue for the country, Indian agriculture had to be transformed by increasing the export of agricultural produce.

“Though Indian exports in agricultural and allied products have increased from Rs.284 crore in 1949-50 to Rs.58,959 crore in 2006-07, India has not attained a prominent position in agricultural exports. This is because most of the agricultural produce are not processed but consumed fresh unlike other countries,” he said.

Pointing out that the share of India in world agricultural trade was less than one per cent, the Vice-Chancellor called for putting in place a detailed action plan that would include identifying potential importing countries, and the demand for each produce in the local, national, and world market.

He also urged the exporters to come forward to engage farmers in contract farming to facilitate better transfer of technologies, usage of quality inputs, better crop management practices, and above all safeguard them from price volatility and ensure guaranteed price for their products.

A. Sakthivel, President and Chairman (Southern Region), FIEO, said that such seminars were being planned to make farmers aware of the export potential their produce had. “Such a seminar was first held in Chennai. This is the second. The third will be held in Madurai. Farmers will be briefed on the finance, export credit guarantee, production technologies, and procedures for exporting.”

The sharing of knowledge and procedures would be an on-going process and would not stop with the seminar, he added. M. Paramathma, Director of Research, TNAU, and N. Ajjan, Director, CARDS, TNAU, spoke.

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, July 24, 2010

## More rice, sugar for festival season

K.V. Thomas inaugurates National Livestock Show and Food Festival



freedom of expression: Union Minister of State for Food and Agriculture K.V. Thomas and Ministers C.Divakaran, Kadannappally Ramachandran, Benoy Viswom, N.K.Premachandran, M.Vijayakumar and K.P.Rajendran release pigeons to mark the inauguration of the National Livestock Show and Food Festival in the city on Friday. — Photo: C.Ratheesh kumar

Kerala will be allotted extra rice and sugar during Onam and Ramzan, Union Minister of State for Food and Agriculture K.V. Thomas said here on Friday.

He was speaking after inaugurating a five-day National Livestock Show and Food Festival at the Kanakakkunnu Palace.

The details of the allotment will only be announced, as is appropriate, in Parliament. Anyhow, the State will see changes in its food grain allocation in six months when the new Food Security Bill becomes law. Then, the number of families in the BPL category will go past the eight-crore mark. Once the Bill is passed, the State will get rice and wheat at Rs.3 a kg, Mr. Thomas said.

## APL rice

Already, the Central government has okayed the allocation of APL rice to the State at Rs.11.85 a kg, against the prevailing market price of Rs.21.

During a recent meeting of Food Secretaries, the Secretary from the State had asked that the State be allocated more rice and sugar for Onam. The Centre had responded favourably.

“Thanks to bumper crops this year, there is a problem with storage of grains in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India. State governments should take the initiative to enhance the storage capacity of godowns. The Centre is ready to cooperate with any such initiative,” the Union Minister said.

The Centre has decided to adopt Chinese technology for setting up modern storehouses for grains. One such proposal relates to the godown of the Central Warehousing Corporation at Kuttanad, he pointed out.

During the last four years, the Centre had readily sanctioned the schemes formulated by the department headed by Minister for Food and Civil Supplies C. Divakaran.

“This is because the department has been meticulous in executing such projects in a time-bound manner and furnishing the fund utilisation accounts in a timely manner.”

### **Cattle from France**

“Recently, Mr. Divakaran submitted a proposal for bringing over a breed of cattle from France. The Centre has taken a favourable decision on this scheme also,” he said.

The Union government has also raised its share of funding for projects relating to development of ports. Now, it is providing 100 per cent of funds for such ventures.

Central funds have been sanctioned for fish markets at Pangode, Aluva, Paravoor and Pathanamthitta. The government of India aims to achieve a growth rate of four per cent in the agriculture sector. Animal husbandry is a major thrust area; a growth rate of eight per cent has been targeted for this sector.

### **Divakaran's plea**

In his presidential address, Mr. Divakaran said Kerala could achieve self-sufficiency in milk by 2011. The Centre should restore the allocation of rice and sugar to Kerala, he added.

Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac, Minister for Water Resources N.K. Premachandran, Forest Minister Benoy Viswom, Devaswom Minister Kadannappally Ramachandran, Revenue Minister K.P. Rajendran and Sports Minister M. Vijayakumar were among those who participated in the inaugural ceremony.

Published: July 24, 2010 00:00 IST | Updated: July 24, 2010 04:32 IST COIMBATORE, July 24, 2010

### **“Land being identified for agri export terminals”**

The State Government is in the process of identifying 100 acres each in Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai, for setting up Agri Export Terminal Markets, Minister for Rural Industries and Animal Husbandry Pongalur N. Palanisamy said here on Friday.

Speaking to presspersons on the sidelines of a seminar on promoting agri exports at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), he said the terminals would include facilities from ground-level to value-addition that would help the farmer get maximum price for his produce.

Conceding that land was difficult to come by, he said that the land which was available was very expensive.

Vice-Chancellor of TNAU P. Murugesu Boopathi said if 100 acres was not possible to acquire within the city limits, a viable area easily accessible from the city like Kancheepuram near Chennai, Virudhunagar near Madurai and Perundurai near Coimbatore might be considered for the terminals.

### **“Turn entrepreneurs”**

“Such facilities will be provided by the government. But, instead of business houses, farmers themselves should turn entrepreneurs and businessmen to utilise these services to enhance their income,” the Vice-Chancellor said.

He further added that if farmers put to full use the technologies introduced by the university, they would be able to increase their yield three or four-fold to enable them export the surplus. High yield and good quality output would ensure that the produce exported was world-class, he added.

### **Cold storage facilities**

Pointing out that cold storage facilities in Pongalur, Hosur, Krishnagiri and Theni had been set up for the benefit of farmers he said private parties should come forward to set up such facilities by making use of the subsidy (35 per cent to 50 per cent) extended by the Government.

Out of the country's agri export revenue of Rs.58,959 crore in 2006-07, Tamil Nadu contributed Rs.8,300 crore.

Published: July 23, 2010 12:15 IST | Updated: July 23, 2010 17:15 IST NEW DELHI, July 23, 2010

### **Economy to grow 8.5 p.c; inflation to ease to 6.5 p.c., says PMEAC**



The Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council on Friday said the economy will grow by 8.5 per cent, up from a projected 8.2 per cent, and inflation will come down from double digits to 6.5 per cent by the end of 2010-11.

The growth projection has been revised upwards on account of prospects of good monsoon, PMEAC Chairman C. Rangarajan said while releasing the economic outlook for the current fiscal.

It forecast a growth of 9 per cent for 2011-12.

In February, the Council had projected a growth rate of 8.2 per cent for the current fiscal.

At the same time, it expected prices to moderate on account of good crop and inflation to cool partly due to base effect and drop significantly by March 2011 from over 10.55 per cent now.

Mr. Rangarajan was speaking to reporters after presenting the Economic Outlook for 2010-11 to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

## **Business Standard**

Monday, Jul 26, 2010

### **Sugar prices up on brisk buying**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 24, 2010, 15:10 IST**

Sugar remained in keen demand for the second straight day in the national capital on sugar mills raising the prices.

Market sentiment turned bullish after mills led by Maharashtra decided to hike product prices in line with a rising cost.

The decision was taken at a meeting organised by the Maharashtra State Sugar Manufacturers Association on Thursday.

They said the hike in cost of production and fuel prices forced the millers to raise the product prices. Emergence of festive demand, among retailers and bulk consumers also boosted the uptrend.

Sugar ready medium and second grades prices moved up by Rs 50 each to Rs 2,850-2,950 and Rs 2,840-2,940 per quintal.

The mill delivery medium and second prices also went up Rs 50 each to Rs 2,750-2,850 and Rs 2,740-2,840 per quintal.

Following are today's rates in Rs per quintal:

Sugar ready M-30 2850-2950 and S-30 2,840-2,940

Mill delivery M-30 2,750-2,850 and S-30 2,740-2,840

Sugar mill gate prices (excluding duty): Kinonni 2,830, Asmoli 2,820, Mawana 2,775, Titabi 2,770, Thanabhavan 2,760, Budhana 2,750 and Doral a 2,760

### **Coconut oil rises on local demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 24, 2010, 14:30 IST**

In restricted activity, coconut oil prices rose Rs 40 per tin in the wholesale oils and oilseeds market today on pick up in local demand amid firming trend at producing belts. In the non-edible section, linseed oil also found some support on increased offtake by paint industries.

Marketmen said pick up in local demand and reports of a firming trend at producing regions, mainly pushed up coconut oil prices. In the national capital, coconut oil gained Rs 40 to Rs 1,070-1,100 per tin.

Among the non-edible section, linseed oil also showed some strength by gaining Rs 50 to Rs 4,050 per quintal on fresh enquiries from paint industries.

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) 8,250, groundnut Solvent refined (per tin) 1,375-1,385, Mustard Expeller (Dadri) 5,250, Mustard Pakki ghani (per tin) 700-855, Mustard kachi ghani (per tin) 855-955, Sunflower 6,300, Sesame mill delivery 5,870



soybean Refined mill delivery (Indore) 4,800 Soyabean degum (Delhi) 4,600, Crude Palm Oil (Ex-kandla) 3,870, Cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) 4,500, Palmolein (RBD) 4,510, Rice bran (phy) 3,750 and Coconut (per tin) 1,070-1,100

Non-edible oils: Linseed 4,050, Mahuwa 4,000, Castor 7,600-7,700, 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

### **Farmers are getting more money for their produce now: Pawar**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 23, 2010, 17:11 IST**

Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar today said that more money was going into the hands of farmers after the increase in procurement prices for wheat and paddy.

"We have to explain it to the people that more money is going into the hands of the farmers... The procurement price of wheat has been increased from around Rs 500 to Rs 1,100 and that of paddy from Rs 490 to around Rs 1000," Pawar said.

He said that three years ago wheat had to be imported in the country and now due to increased prices farmers are motivated to produce more, ending the shortage.

At the same time the increase in procurement prices has led to more money in the hands of farmers, bringing about a change in their lives.

"As a Food Minister, the problem for me is storage," he said, pointing out that there is a shortage of around 150 to 200 lakh tonne of storage space in the country.

Speaking at the national workshop on youth, organised by the youth wing of the NCP, Pawar emphasised on the need for improving the lives of the tribals to root out Naxalism.

"Where does Naxalism take place? In places where there is injustice...Where fruits of democracy do not reach. We have to change the lives of the people living in those areas by strictly implementing the schemes... There is no improvement in the life of the tribals," he said, pointing out that Naxalism is not present in cities like Mumbai and Delhi.

## **Wheat, rice gain on increased buying**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 23, 2010, 15:18 IST**



Firming conditions developed in the wholesale grains market today as wheat, rice and other grains firmed upto Rs 100 per quintal on increased buying from stockists and retailers.

Traders said increased buying by stockists and retailers to meet the coming festival season demand mainly led to a rise in wholesale grains prices.

In the rice section, rice basmati common strengthened by Rs 100 to Rs 5,400-5,500 per quintal. Pernal raw, wand, sela and IR-8 were up by Rs 50 each to Rs 1,800-1,850, Rs 1,875-2,025, Rs 2,100-2,150 and Rs 1,625- 1,650 per quintal, respectively.

Wheat dara (for mills) remained in flour mills demand and traded higher by Rs 5 to Rs 1,240-1,245 per quintal. Atta chakki delivery followed suit and enquired higher by Rs 5 to Rs 1,245-1,250 per 90 kg.

In line with a general firming trend, other grains like bajra and maize rose by Rs 20 and Rs 30 to Rs 1,020-1,030 and Rs 1,070-1,080 per quintal.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Wheat MP (deshi) 1,725-1,825, wheat dara (for mills) 1,240-1,245 chakki atta (delivery) 1,245-1,250, atta Rajdhani (10 kg) 175, Shakti bhog (10 kg) 175, Roller flour mill 650- 670 (50 kg), Maida 780-810 (50 kilos) and Sooji 820-840 (50 kg)

Basmati rice (Lal Quila) 9,300, Shri Lal Mahal 9,300, Super basmati rice 9,000, Basmati common 5,400-5,500, rice Pusa-(1121) 4,400-4,900, Pernal raw 1,800-1,850, Pernal wand 1,875-2025, Sela 2,100-2,150 and Rice IR-8-1,625-1,650

Bajra 1020-1030, Jowar yellow 1,400-1,500, white 2,450-2,500, Maize 1070-1080, Barley (UP) 1,070-1,090 and Rajasthan 1,080-1,090

**Cardamom, clove rise on pick up in demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 24, 2010, 15:50 IST**

In restricted activity, cardamom small and clove prices gained upto Rs 10 per kg in the national capital today on pick up in demand against tight supply.

Marketmen said rising demand, against less arrivals from the producing regions pushed up cardamom small and clove prices.

Cardamom small chitridar, colour robin, bold and extra bold were up by Rs 10 each to Rs 1,200-1,360, Rs 1,450-1,460, Rs 1,475-1,485 and Rs 1,600-1,620, while cloves gained Rs 5 to Rs 295-365 per kg.

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) 740-750 and cardamom brown-Kanchicut (kg) 825-950

Cardamom small (kg): Chitridar 1,200-1,360, cardamom (colour robin) 1,450-1,460, cardamom bold 1,475-1,485, cardamom extra (bold) 1,600-1,620 and cloves (kg) 295-365

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 860-980 Mace-Yellow (kg) Rs 1250-1350

Methiseed Rs 3,200-4,200 Makhana (per kg) Rs 120-160 Nutmeg Rs 410-420 Poppyseed (KG Turkey) Rs 205 Poppyseed (KG MP-RAJ) Rs 205-255 Poppyseed (KG Kashmiri) Rs 185 Red chillies Rs 5,100-9,100 Soya bari pariwar (20 kg) Rs 350-400

Saffron (kg) Irani Rs 1,05,000-1,15,000 Saffron (kg) Kashmiri Rs 1,45,000-1,62,000 Soanf-bold Rs 9,000-15,000 Turmeric Rs 16,500-20,000 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 14,300-14,500 Jeera best Rs 15,300-15,900

**Select dry fruits rise on increased buying**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 24, 2010, 15:29 IST**

Prices of select dry fruits rose by Rs 100 in the national capital today on increased buying by stockists on hopes of rise in demand in the coming festival season.

Marketmen said increased buying by stockists and retailers to meet the upcoming festival season demand pushed up select wholesale dry fruits prices.

Restricted arrivals and higher trend in producing regions further fuelled the uptrend, they said. Almond (california) added Rs 100 to Rs 10,400 per 40 kg, while its kernel traded higher by Rs 2 to Rs 352-357 per kg.

Pistachio Irani gained Rs 10 to Rs 790-830 per kg on higher overseas advices. Copra also seen in demand and went up by Rs 100 to Rs 5,600-5,700 per quintal.

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 2,300-2,400 and Abjosh Afghani Rs 7,000-16,000

Almond kernel in per kg (California) Rs 352-357, 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 490-495 Cashew kernel (no 210) Rs 460-470 Cashew kernel (no 240) Rs 370-385 Cashew kernel (no 320) Rs 360-370 Cashew kernel broken 2 pieces Rs 255-300 Cashew kernel broken 4 pieces Rs 240-270 Cashew kernel broken 8 pieces Rs 195-240

Copra (qtl) Rs 5,600-5,700 Coconut powder (25 kg) Rs 1,750-1,850 Dry dates red (qtl) Rs 2,800-7,000 Fig Rs 6,000-14,000 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 4,800-6,100

Pistachio Irani Rs 790-830 Pistachio Hairati Rs 1,200-1,250 Pistachio Peshawari Rs 1,350-1,375 Pistachio Dodi (roasted) 520-600 Walnut Rs 90-160 Walnut kernel (1kg) Rs 300-500

**Linseed oil firms up further on sustained demand**

**Press Trust of India / Mumbai July 24, 2010, 15:26 IST**

Linseed oil prices firmed up further at the oils and oilseeds market here today due to sustained enquiries from the paint industry.

Castorseed bold and castoroil commercial advanced further due to renewed enquiries from shippers and soap manufacturers.

Refined palmolein edged up on mild buying support. Castorseed futures recovered on fresh export enquiries.

In the non-edible oil section, linseed oil shot up by Rs 15 per 10 kg to Rs 550 from the yesterday's closing level of Rs 535.

Castorseed bold rose by Rs 10 per 100 kg to Rs 3,735 from Rs 3,725 and castoroil commercial moved up to Rs 777 per 10 kg from Rs 775.

Turning to the futures section, castorseed August contract resumed lower at Rs 3,631, but later it hardened to Rs 3,661 before ending at Rs 3,656 from Rs 3,638 previously, showing a gain of Rs 18 per tonne.

Castorseed futures October new contract was traded at Rs 3,767 per tonne. Moving to the edible oil section, refined palmolein inched up to Rs 431 per 10 kg from Rs 430 yesterday.

Groundnut oil, however closed unchanged at Rs 865 per 10 kg.

### **Masoor rises on retailers buying**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 24, 2010, 15:14 IST**

In restricted activity, masoor and its dal prices rose up to Rs 100 per quintal on the back of increased buying by retailers.

Firming trend at producing belts also influenced the masoor prices. Other commodities traded in a range-bound manner in the absence of worthwhile activity and settled around previous levels.

Traders said rise in retailers demand pushed up the wholesale masoor and its dal prices.

Masoor small and bold prices gained Rs 50 each to Rs 3,300-3,500 and Rs 3,500-3,750, while its dal local and best quality traded higher by Rs 100 each to Rs 4,100-4,200 and Rs 4,400-4,700 per quintal.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Urad 5,350-5,900, Urad chilka (local) 6,200-6,600, best 7,100-7,400, Dhoya 7,150-7,250, Moong 5,400-5,800, Dal moong chilka local 6,100-6,500, Moong Dhoya local 6,300-6,500 and best quality 6,700-6,900

Masoor small 3,300-3,500, bold 3,500-3,750, Dal Masoor local 4,100-4,200, best quality 4,400-4,700, Malka local 4,150-4,200, best 4,300-4,400, Moth 5,700-6,000, Arhar 4,350-4,450, dal arhar dara 5,400-5,800

Gram 2,300-2,325, gram dal (local) 2,550-2,575, 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 3,300-3,400

kabli gram small 3,800-5,000, dabra 2,700-2,800, imported 4,500-4,900, lobia 3,700-3,800, peas white 1,950-2,050 and green 2,150-2,350

### **Barley trades higher on increased offtake**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 24, 2010, 14:35 IST**

In an otherwise steady wholesale grains market, barley traded marginally higher by Rs 10 per quintal on increased offtake by consuming industries.

Elsewhere, other commodities continued to trade in a tight range in the absence of worthwhile activity and closed around previous closing.

Traders said increased offtake by consuming industries, led to rise in wholesale barley prices.

Barley gained Rs 10 to Rs 1,080-1,100 per quintal.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Wheat MP (desahi) 1,725-1,825, wheat dara (for mills) 1,240-1,245 chakki atta (delivery) 1,245-1,250, atta Rajdhani (10 kg) 175, Shakti bhog (10 kg) 175, Roller flour mill 650- 670 (50 kg), Maida 780-810 (50 kilos) and Sooji 820-840 (50 kg)

Basmati rice (Lal Quila) 9,300, Shri Lal Mahal 9,300, Super basmati rice 9,000, Basmati common 5,400-5,500, rice Pusa-(1121) 4,400-4,900, Permal raw 1,800-1,850, Permal wand 1,875-2025, Sela 2,100-2,150 and Rice IR-8- 1,625-1,650

Bajra 1020-1030, Jowar yellow 1,400-1,500, white 2,450-2,500, Maize 1070-1080, Barley (UP) 1,080-1,100 and Rajasthan 1,080-1,090

### **Moong, thoor, urad dal prices decline during week end**

**Press Trust of India / Chennai July 24, 2010, 14:31 IST**

Prices of moong dal, thoor dal and urad dal declined while gram dal, sugar and maida went up, and wheat and sooji remained unaltered in the wholesale foodgrains marked during the week under review.

Moong dal opened the week at Rs 8,000 per quintal but declined to Rs 7,900 during the week end. Thoor dal opened on Monday at its previous week's rate of Rs,6,700 per quintal and declined to Rs 6,400 today.

On Monday urad dal opened at its previous week's rate of Rs 7,400 per quinal. However, it firmed up by Rs 200 per and stood at Rs 7,600 on Thursday.

The price declined by Rs 300 yesterday and touched 7,300 ending at the same rate today. Prices of gram dal opened the week at Rs 2,800 and ended the week at Rs 2,850.

Sugar price opened at Rs 2,740 per quinal and settled at Rs 2,800 today. Maida was at Rs 1,670 (90 Kgs) on Monday while it was Rs 1,650 today.

### **Copra prices increase in regulated market**

**Press Trust of India / Erode July 24, 2010, 14:28 IST**

Copra prices have risen by Rs two per kg for fine variety in Avalpoondurai regulated market in the district, one of the biggest copra markets in India, where more than Rs 50 crore worth copra is sold at auctions every year.

In the Friday auction, fine variety copra sold at Rs 33.85 to Rs 36.95 per kg, Rs 2.10 higher than last week's price. All 980 tonnes of fine variety were sold. Purchased by coconut oil crushers of Tuticorin, Kangeyam and also crushers from Kerala.

The second variety was sold at Rs 32.60 to Rs 35.15, which was also about Rs two higher than previous sale price. All 592 tonnes were sold and purchased in bulk by coconut oil crushers.

Officials said 13,837 tons of copra, worth Rs 53.46 crore were sold in 2008-09 and 17238 tons worth rs 51.10 crore were sold in 2009-10.

During the April-June period this year, 3,049 tons worth Rs 9.86 crore were sold. This year farmers expect the copra price to touch Rs 38 per kg, as the demand is high among the millers.

## THE HINDU Business Line

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/06/24/stories/2010062453431700.htm>

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Back **Europe slowdown may hit coffee exports**

*Concern over weak demand for robusta parchment.*

A Srinivas

Bangalore, June 23



The impact of Europe's economic crisis on India's coffee exports has started to show, in the form of weak demand for the robusta parchment variety. Major exporters have expressed concern that despite the spurt in robusta and arabica prices on the London and New York coffee exchanges over the last month, sales have not picked up to the anticipated level.

India produces 15,000-20,000 tonnes of robusta parchment, all of which is exported. While the latest crop was expected to be above 25,000 tonnes, growers said there were feeble inquiries for the same. The debt-hit countries — Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal — account for 34 per cent of India's coffee exports.

Mr M.G. Medappa, General Manager, Balanoor Plantations and Industries, an exporter of premium coffee varieties to Europe, said: "The fact that the rise in international arabica prices is not being reflected in the premium commanded by Indian arabicas is an indication of a problem in Europe. Inquiries from roasters in Europe for Indian coffees have become uncertain. Exporters are forced to work on thin margins. A weaker euro is bound to impact coffee demand."

Industry sources said that even suppliers to regular customers in Europe are under pressure to reduce their prices. While the New York prices of arabicas went up from about 130 cents/lb to 159 cents/lb in the first fortnight of this month, there was no significant change in domestic prices over this period, a reflection of slack in export demand that, in turn, affected the domestic market. Dealers in Europe who have committed to consignments are finding excuses to back out, they said.

Dr N.K. Pradeep, President, Karnataka Growers' Federation, said: "There is sluggish world demand in April and May, when the coffee in India is shifted to the curing works. The gap between the farm gate price and the international price widens during this period. However, this year, the gap is Rs 10 per kg against the usual Rs 6-8 per kg. Even when the market is bullish, the grower gets 20 per cent of the total value of the produce."

#### Price correction

Traders, however, believe that the downward price pressure on Indian varieties is more in the nature of a correction over last year's levels. Mr Suresh Babu of Chaitanya Coffees, a trading concern, said: "Indian planters are holding on to robusta parchment, believing that the present price is too low. Robustas on the London exchange are trading at just over \$1,500 a tonne, against \$2,200 a tonne a year ago. Further, Indian robustas commanded a premium of \$550 last year, which has now fallen to \$400-450 a tonne. There is a demand, but not at last year's prices."

Mr Babu said: "Buyers are ready to buy for December and March shipment but not as yet for July and September shipment."

Mr Amit Pant, Business Manager, Olam Agro India Ltd, said: "Only if there is an institutional crisis in Europe, causing banks to tighten credit to those who are less credit-worthy, would highly leveraged roasters be in trouble. But at present there are no indications of a hit in demand in Europe.

Interest rates in Europe are low. The high prices are — as is often the case — on account of supply-side factors, such as the shortfall in Columbian milds."

Over the last three years, with Columbian milds being in short supply, Indian arabicas have been commanding a high premium over the New York exchange price. "Arabica prices are likely to be good, because the next Columbian crop is not due before the end of December.

Unfortunately, Indian arabicas, which are similar but not the same, are not in a position to benefit because most of the exports are completed between January and June," Mr Pant said.

Mr Alfonso Penagos Consuegra of Penagos Hermanos, a producer of coffee-pulping machines, said: "Columbian coffee producers made a wrong forecast. The next crop should be good. The recession in Europe will not have any impact on coffee drinking, as it did not in the US. People can be seen drinking coffee everywhere."

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## **Back Maharashtra mulls 57 agri-processing clusters**

Rahul Wadke

Mumbai, July 23

The Maharashtra Government is planning to give the agro processing industry a shot in the arm. On the anvil is a separate agro-industrial policy for the State, which aims to attract new investments through offer of incentives and promotion of processing clusters.

According to the draft policy document, the State Government is looking at setting up agri-processing clusters for fruits, vegetables, cashew, cereals and pulses, oilseeds and dairy products. The document has indicated that clusters at 57 locations across the State could be set up.

Each cluster would have support infrastructure for producers and processors. It will promote availability of raw materials and other inputs, access support from the Government, agriculture universities and research institutions, and would, enhance, access to market information. This would help farmers and processors to come together and offer higher value-added products. For example, in districts such as Akola, Washim, Nagpur and Wardha, where soyabean is extensively cultivated, clusters could be set up for oil and solvent extractions units. Similar clusters could be set up for cashew nut growing districts such as Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg. The Maharashtra Principal Secretary (Industries), Mr Azeez Khan, told Business Line that the policy is aimed at creating all the forward and backward linkages in the value chain for farm products.

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### Back Farmers retain stocks to hold onion priceline

What's happening at Lasalgaon				
Date	Arrivals	Min	Max	Modal
July 19	1,614.5	200	797	625
July 20	1,271	200	805	641
July 22	1,217.5	200	760	625
July 23	900	200	751	625

Arrivals in tonnes, prices in Rs/quintal  
Source: NHRDF

M.R. Subramani

Chennai, July 23

Onion farmers held back their produce to prevent the prices falling on Friday as the new crop in Karnataka is set to arrive at least a month early.

The arrivals dropped to 900 tonnes on Friday from the normal 1,600-odd tonnes. It helped the prices to rule stable with most of the trades being done at Rs 625 a quintal. Earlier this week, the arrivals dropped to 1,200 tonnes.

"Farmers are holding to the stocks since they are looking for better prices. Prices, though, are lower than last month," said Mr Rupesh Jaju, an exporter based in Nasik.

#### KARNATAKA CROP

According to sources, the crop in Karnataka is set to arrive a month early next week. The quality of the crop too is good since there has been no pest attack.

"In fact, the news of the early crop in Karnataka has forced farmers to hold back their stocks. The domestic demand for onions in Maharashtra has slowed, especially from West Bengal," Mr Jaju said.

Traders from Kolkata have turned their sights to Karnataka due to logistical reasons also.

Export demand, on the other hand, is constant with demand from West Asia and the Far-East. Onion prices are likely to rule at current levels this month. But prices could rise Rs 100-150 a quintal next month as Karnataka crop is not a big one to make much of a difference to the market.

"Some farmers are looking for prices to scale even higher," Mr Jaju said.

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#### **Back Vegetables, fruit exports suspended**

Our Bureau

Kozhikode, July 23

The fruit and vegetable exporters in the State have suspended export of the commodities for two days, starting Friday, seeking better prices from overseas traders.

The spokesmen of the coordination committee of the exporters said there would be no export from Kozhikode, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram airports for two days as the foreign traders

have refused to increase the prices in line with the rise in the domestic prices of fruits and vegetables, air freight, labour charges and warehouse rents.

They said that the depreciation in the value of the dollar was another factor that had added to the woes of the exporters. The strike was aimed at making the overseas traders realise the situation as well as convince the Government of the need to extend adequate relief to the exporters to tide over the crisis.

The exporting community had been in constant touch with the overseas traders and if they did not cooperate, the export would be stopped indefinitely, they said.

Fruits and vegetables to the tune of 100 tonnes are being exported daily from the State, mainly to the Gulf countries, the UK and France.

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**Back Lower than rest**



Arrivals season: A Khasi girl waits for customer at a roadside shop in Guwahati-Shillong road in Nongpoh, Meghalaya. The fruit season has begun and will last till August end. Pineapples are currently ruling at Rs 300-450 a quintal in Assam, while in other parts of the country they are costlier. –

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## Back Soya continues to gain on global cues

Our Correspondent

Indore, July 23

A spurt in edible oil futures in Malaysia and Chicago continued to impact the domestic edible oil market, especially in soyameal and soya oil.

Soyameal spot delivery quoted at Rs 15,300-15,200 a tonne. It perked up by Rs 300 a tonne, compared with Thursday.

According to an oil trader, Mr Vijendra Maheshwari, the spurt in the domestic edible oil market was mainly due to the heavy rains in Malaysia and a steep rise in global palm oil prices.

The local mandi witnessed the arrival of 3,000 bags (of 90 kg each) against 65,000 bags at the State-level. In the spot market, soyabean quoted at Rs 1,980-2,020, while the plant delivery rate was quoted at Rs 2,070-2,090 a quintal.

Similarly, soya solvent quoted at Rs 428-432 and soya refined oil at Rs 452-455 for 10 kg respectively.

The fluctuating trend in chana continues with its prices going up and down. On Friday, chana kanta (raw) prices fell by almost Rs 50 with prices in the spot market quoted at Rs 2,250 a quintal. Kabuli chana ruled firm at Rs 4,300 a quintal.