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## Minister urges farmers to utilise technologies extensively

*Releases 13 new crop varieties, two new implements*

*Farmers told to make use of the subsidies extended by the Government*

*Five farmers received Velaan Semmal awards*



**A DAY FOR FARMERS:** Minister for Agriculture Veerapandi S. Arumugam (second right) releasing new crop varieties at the Farmers' Day at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore on Wednesday. Agricultural Production Commissioner and Agriculture Secretary K. Nanda Kishore (third left ) is seen receiving them.

**Vice-Chancellor P. Murugesu Boopathy (second left), Commissioner for Agriculture**

COIMBATORE: Farmers and their wards who have completed Standard X can pursue a three-year degree course in agriculture – Bachelor in Farm Technology (B.F. Tech.) – in the distance education mode at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University or in any of its constituent colleges from this year, Veerapandi S. Arumugam, Minister for Agriculture, said here on Wednesday.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the two-day Farmers' Day organised at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

He said that since even the children of the poorest of labourers too desired to get an education and not take up agriculture, it was decided by the State Government as early as 1996 that use of machines was the only solution for addressing the labour shortage.

**Water scarcity**

“Fear of water scarcity in five to 10 years is looming large. Hence farmers should extensively make use of technologies like System of Rice / Sugarcane Intensification by which they can increase the production and also improve their livelihood with limited water resources,” Mr. Arumugam said.

**Subsidy**

Listing out the concessions and subsidies that had been extended to the farmers over the years by the State Government, he urged to put them to good use to increase the quality of farming.

K. Nanda Kishore, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, said new technologies had helped increase the production in the State.

“Rice production has increased from 236.56 lakh tonnes in 2001-05 to 240.02 lakh tonnes in 2006-09. Food grain production has gone up from 287 lakh tonnes in 2001-05 to 318.9 lakh tonnes in 2006-09. Vegetable production has increased from 268.7 lakh tonnes to 290.88 lakh tonnes. Same has been the case for fruits. Total agricultural production has increased from 2,236 lakh tonnes in 2001-05 to 2,450 lakh tonnes in 2006-09. This is all due to the hard work of the State farmers and departmental staff,” he said.

P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor of the university, spoke on the benefits of the research programmes undertaken by the scientists of the university.

#### Exhibition

He urged the farmers to get knowledge about them from the exhibition put up as part of the farmers' meet.

Atul Anand, Agriculture Marketing and Agri-Business Commissioner, said 151 Uzhavar Sandhais were operating in the State. Of these, 22 had cold storage facilities. It was being extended to more Sandhais to benefit the 3,86,000 consumers.

P. Chandra Mohan, Director of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, said good seeds and planting material were essential for obtaining high yield in horticultural crops. High-density planting for mango and cashew had helped achieve a high yield of 12 tonnes a hectare as against the past years.

Also, a large area had been brought under horticulture under the National Horticulture Mission. S. Kosalaraman, Commissioner of Agriculture, said National Food Security Mission would be extended to all districts in the State from the present 12.

The Minister gave away the Velaan Semmal awards to five farmers from as many districts. He released 13 new crop varieties, two new implements, and a new

technology, an annual training calendar, and some hand-outs. He also laid the foundation for new buildings and 12 buildings will come up at a cost of Rs. 1.70 crore.

An exhibition on crop varieties, implements, and technologies, was inaugurated by him.

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## FARMER'S NOTEBOOK

### **Enriched farm yard manure, an affordable alternative for ryots**

There is no bus service to the village, about 45 km from Tirunelveli



**Better alternative:J.P. Samraj (left), Director, Sands, Tirunelveli with a beneficiary farmer.**

“The last 10 years saw two remarkable developments in the country.

One, the emergence and growth of the IT sector and, two, the number of farmers' suicides,” says Mr. J.H.S. Ponnaya, President, Suviseshapuram and neighbouring development organisation (Sands), Tirunelveli.

“In spite of the claim that rural India shines in prosperity, several villages today continue to suffer from power cuts, drought, lack of proper sanitation facilities, absence of medical centres and schools,” he says.

A visit to Mangulam, a small village situated about 45 kms from Tirunelveli town shows how true it is that villages are ignored.

No bus facility

There is practically no government bus service to the place.

Schools, medical and sanitation facilities just don't seem to exist there. In case of emergency, farmers need to travel about 20 km to a neighbouring small town called Thisayanvilai. The men work as farm labourers and women spend their noon time rolling beedis.

Debt ridden

Till some years back almost all the residents of the village carried thousands of rupees as debt to the retail fertilizer shops in the town.

“Monsoon failure and yield loss made repayment difficult, and increased the interest rate for repayment. If we do not repay in one year, the amount doubles in the ensuing year. For raising even small crops such as chillies or tomatoes, we require the favourable disposition of the shop owner to offer credit,” says Mr. M.D. Annadurai, a farmer.

Mr. J. P. Samraj, Director, Sands says:

“Since our organisation works for the upliftment of rural people we selected Mangulam and some more small villages as part of a project.

“Being a major agriculture belt, we thought that if an alternative to costly fertilizers could be found, it would greatly help these small farmers and prevent them from

getting into more debts. Initially, we trained about 1,000 farmers to make their own enriched farm yard manure (EFYM) and supplied the necessary inputs.”

#### Making the manure

The manure is made from mixing one cart of cow dung, 5 kg of super phosphate, potash and urea each, one quarter bag of field soil (soil taken from the field) and a handful of calcium mixed well, and shade dried for 15 days and used.

“One cartload of this manure is sufficient for an acre and farmers started making their own inputs.

In due course many of them started saving some money as they did not buy fertilizers from the local shop,” explains Mr. Samraj.

Farmers in Kazhuvloor, Eranthai, Vijayanarayanam and Vijayaachambadu villages in Nanguneri taluk and Perunkannankulam and Vadivammanpatti villages in Radhapuram taluk have been using this manure for more than a year.

Says Mrs. Ranjitha Packiyam, a farmer from Kazhuvloor:

“I used this enriched manure for my paddy crops in an acre and found it helps good growth.

Previously I spent more than Rs. 1,500 for buying the inputs. But today, after I started making my own manure I am able to save nearly Rs.1,000.”

Another farmer Mr. T. Suyambu Rajan from Vijayanarayanam village says: “I applied this manure to my three acre plantain crops, and find that the crops are growing well.”

#### Less expense

“When farmers say they are able to save some money, we are happy that this

method is helping them. Our country's agriculture is going through a critical phase today.

A cure for this can be surely found if both media and society become more sensitive to the farmers' problems and take a proactive stand on the issue," says Mr. Ponnaya.

For more information and personal visits readers can contact Mr. Mr. J. P. Samraj, Director, Sands, Suviseshapuram (via) Ittamozhi-627652, email: sands\_suviseshapuram@yahoo.com, phone: 04637-278173, mobile: 9659318609.

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## **Management of papaya mealybug in cassava**

Pappaya mealybug ( *Paracoccus marginatus*) causes severe economic damage in cassava yield.

The mealy bugs are white to pink in colour and measure 3-4 mm in length. Adult females are oval and somewhat round, dark green to almost black in appearance.

Mature female lays eggs in an egg sac of white wax, usually clusters on the twigs, branches, or bark of the host plant. Eggs are creamy white in colour and slender in shape.

Egg development takes between 3 and 9 days and nymphs called crawlers hatch which are very mobile. Non-infected plants can be infected from infected plants as juvenile mealybugs can crawl from an infected plant to another plant.

Crawlers

Small 'crawlers' are readily transported by wind, rain, birds, ants, clothing and vehicle and may settle in cracks and crevices, usually on new plants.

The wax, which sticks to each egg, also facilitates passive transport by equipment, animals or people. The female mealybug is not active and unable to fly.

In fact, humans help in transport of these bugs. Infested growing points become stunted and swollen. Heavy clustering of mealybugs can be seen under leaf surface giving the appearance of a thick mat with waxy secretion. They excrete copious amount of honey dew that attracts ants and helps in development of black sooty mould which inhibits the plant's ability to manufacture food.

## Management

Crop residues in previously infested fields should be removed and burnt.

Field borders should be free from weeds and debris.

Enhancing the natural enemies' activities such as coccinellids and blue butterflies (*Spalgius apius*).

Crawler is the most susceptible stage to identify easily to manage the insecticides under field conditions.

Plant protection products are of limited effectiveness against mealybug because of its habit of hiding in crevices, and the waxy covering of its body.

Most granular insecticides are ineffective, therefore systemic insecticides are used to control heavy infestations.

Spray profenophos 50 EC at 2 ml/l (or) dichlorvos 76 EC at 2 ml/l (or) acephate 75 SP at 2g/lit, chlorpyrifos 20 EC at 2ml/l (or) Imidacloprid 17.8 SL at 0.5 ml/l (or) Thiamethoxam 25 WDG at 0.5 g/l in 2ml/litre of water at 7 days interval.



S. VIJAY ,*Plant Protection*

Saraswathi Krishi VigyanKendra,KarurTamil Nadu

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**Pomegranate seed remover Is there any machinery for deseeding pomegranate?**

Vikas Khatra,Punjab

Mr. Uddhab Bharali, in Assam has developed a pomegranate deseeder which separates the outer hard skin and the thin inner membrane without damaging the seeds. Using this machine one can easily deseed 50-55 kg of pomegranates in an hour. Mr. Uddhab Bharali can be reached at email: [ukbharali@yahoo.co.in](mailto:ukbharali@yahoo.co.in), mobile: 09435189642.

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**Agriculture-based CO<sub>2</sub> emissions pinpointed**



Satellite remote sensing, computational resources and national inventory datasets pinpoint agricultural-based carbon emissions nationwide (U.S.) linking ground-based estimates and atmospheric measurements.

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## **Veggie prices spiral on low yield, poor supply**

Jun 10 2010

June 9: Eating vegetables has now become a costly affair. Vegetable prices at the Koyambedu wholesale market in the city have skyrocketed over the past 10 days. The wholesale prices of all vegetables have gone up by at least 25-30 per cent and retail prices by 40-50 per cent. "Carrot was available at Rs 20-22 a kilo a week ago but now it is Rs 30," said lawyer Sudha Ramalingam. "Beans now cost Rs 50 and tomatoes are dearer by Rs 10 a kilo." The cost of a bunch of kothamalli (coriander leaves) is now Rs 15, she added.

Koyambedu wholesale market committee member V.R. Soundararajan attributed the rise in veggies prices to poor arrivals from the farms. "We usually have around 400-450 lorries entering the market every day but now only 350 lorries arrive at the market," he said.

He attributed the shortage in supply, and consequent hike in prices, to low agricultural yield. Ominously, the prices are likely to go even higher. "The prices could go up by another 15 per cent unless arrivals pick up dramatically. This trend

could last till the end of July,” he told DC.

T. Rathipriya, a mother of two in Saidapet, said her children’s teachers wants them to carry two vegetable curries in their lunch boxes every day. “True, that’s good for their health, but it’s getting to be very expensive,” she said. It’s not just households, even students in hostels are concerned about these rise in prices.

“I spend at least Rs 180 a day on my food. Now I’m worried that hoteliers will hike their prices,” says S. Arthi, an engineering student, who lives in a hostel at Pallavaram.

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**Source URL:**

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/chennai/veggie-prices-spiral-low-yield-poor-supply-235>

## **THE TIMES OF INDIA**

### **Global warming affects reign of the king of fruits**

R Vasundara, TNN, Jun 10, 2010, 05.14am

CHENNAI: Indian summers are synonymous with that king of fruits, mango. The first trickle of fruits of the season arrives in the last week of March and peaks in the month of May. By the third week of June, the flood of mangoes in the market dies down to a trickle. This, at least, used to be the pattern of the mango season. However, agriculturists say that climate change and freak showers have considerably reduced the mango production over the years.

Areas in Chennai like T Nagar, Pondy Bazaar, Mylapore market and Koyambedu, which used to be packed to bursting with mangoes from April itself earlier, now sell mangoes only

in the month of May. The delay apart, even the number of mangoes being sold in Chennai each year has come down. According to B Ramya, a market project analyst for Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU), Koyambedu market received at least 20,000 tonnes of the Banganapalli variety of mangoes last year. "But this year, the total number of Banganapalli mangoes brought into Chennai is not more than 1,000 tonnes," she said.

VG Chittarasu, president of the Tamil Nadu Mango Growers' Association, attributes this to the decrease in the yield of mangoes per acre over the past few years. "Four years ago, the yield averaged around 4 tons per acre," he said. "But since then, it has decreased to 2 tons per acre. In fact, this year, the yield was only half to one ton per acre."

The change is not merely in the yield, but also the ripening time. With each passing year, mangoes have begun to arrive in the market only late into the summer. "Earlier Chennai markets would be flooded with the Senthuram variety by the last week of March," said Chittarasu. "May would be the time for Thotapuri and June would usher in the Neelam variety. This would mark the end of the season." However, nowadays, Senthuram does not hit the market until mid-April and continues through the month of May. Thotapuri now arrives only in the month of June.

VC Soundarajan, a farmer from Palani and the former president of the TN Mango Growers Association, attributes these problems to erratic weather due to global warming.

"Nowadays, it's raining when it should be sunny and excessively hot when it should be raining," he summarised. "Due to excessive heat during the flowering time, there has been very little flowering this year." According to him, the imbalance in the weather also means that fruits are no longer ripening uniformly. "Four to five years ago, we used to sell Alphonso in the month of January itself. Now due to the climate change, that is impossible," he said.

M Vijaykumar, the project director for Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Federation, said the

excessive heat and rain during the month of November in AP destroyed the December crop. "We usually have flowering during the months of November and Decemeber," he said. "But this year, that was destroyed due to bad weather conditions. Surprisingly, there were no buds in January either. So the second round of flowering which takes place in February yielded only 10% of the crop. Whatever mango stock that we have now has come from a late flowering in March."

## Business Standard

Thursday, Jun 10, 2010

### Soymeal exports down 41%

Press Trust Of India / New Delhi June 10, 2010, 0:47 IST

Owing to an increase in soybean arrivals in the markets, India was expected to export about a million tonnes of soymeal between June and September, an expert has said.

For the first seven months of the 2009-10 oil year, (October–September) soymeal exports stood at 1.6 million tonnes, down 41 per cent compared to the corresponding period previous year.

"Now there is sufficient bean in the market as arrivals have picked up. If this continues, then perhaps we will be able to ship eight-ten lakh tonnes of soymeal from June-September in the best situation," Soybean Processor Association of India (Sopa) Spokesperson and Coordinator Rajesh Agarwal said.

He added that an increase in arrivals was likely to lower prices of soybean and make it viable for processing units to produce soymeal.

### Lift restrictions on better quality non-basmati exports: Trade body

Newswire18 / New Delhi June 10, 2010, 0:45

IST



The government should lift curbs on superior non-basmati rice exports as domestic supplies are seen way above buffer stock needs, Vijay Setia, president, All India Rice Exporters Association said. The government had banned export of non-basmati rice in 2007 to contain price rise, but has been selectively allowing exports of small quantities via diplomatic channels.

“This is the right time for the government to take decision on lifting the ban on superior non-basmati rice, not consumed by the poor, as the country has adequate supplies,” Setia said.

On Monday, a senior official said that owing to good procurement, the government’s food grain stocks had swelled to a new eight-year high of 60.43 million tonnes on June 1 compared to 53.5 million tonnes last year.

The official said the government’s rice stocks rose to 25.3 million tonnes as on June 1, up from last year’s 20.4 million tonnes.

Even after accounting for monthly consumption of around 3 million tonnes under state-run welfare schemes, the government would have more than double of its June 1 buffer stock requirement of 9.8 million tonnes.

Setia said expectations that the next rice crop would be better also supported an end to the export ban. According to government data, the kharif paddy acreage—boosted by timely onset and progress of monsoons—stood at 6,23,000 ha till last week, up nearly six per cent on year.

As of now, rice output in the new crop year is seen better than this year’s 89.3 million tonnes, on hopes of a good monsoon.

## **Basmati rice**

Setia said that though the area under common grades of paddy was likely to rise in the kharif season, basmati acreage was expected to be similar to year-ago levels.

“It is difficult to predict the area under basmati rice for 2010-11 season because sowing is yet to commence. But I am confident that the area will be similar to last year’s,” he said.

In 2009-10, basmati was planted over around 1.6-1.7 million ha. Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are the main basmati producing states in the country. Setia said basmati output and exports too were seen around last year’s levels. India produced around seven million tonnes of basmati rice in the year ended Mar 31, as against five million tonnes in 2008-09, and exported around 3.2 million tonnes.

## **Supply crunch to make pepper expensive by 27%**

George Joseph / Kochi June 10, 2010, 0:37 IST



Due to a supply crunch in the global black pepper market, the commodity may see a stronger bullish phase in the coming days.

Vietnam, the world’s largest producer of the spice, has shipped 60 per cent of its total production till now. In May, it exported 60,000 tonnes and by June, exports are estimated to be around 70,000 tonnes.

Illegal exports to China are estimated to be around 10,000 tonnes. Apparently Vietnam is now having a stock of around 30,000 tonnes for the second half of the year.

The next harvesting season starts in Indonesia, followed by Brazil. In Indonesia, harvesting will begin by July and the crop size is estimated between 22,000 tonnes and 25,000 tonnes. In Brazil, where harvesting begins by September, production is estimated to be 30,000 tonnes.

According to the US market sources, the production in Brazil might fall due to old pepper vines and drought.

So the supply situation in the global pepper market will be tight in the second half of the current year. Majority of the growers in Kerala are not releasing the stock as they expect a price tag of Rs 200 a kg by September-October. The current local market price is at Rs 152 a kg for un-garbled and Rs157 a kg for garbled variety. As natural rubber and nutmeg have become much dearer, growers cultivating rubber, nutmeg and pepper are not in a hurry to release the stock. So the supply of pepper is rather very weak in the local market.

Vietnam is also not in a hurry to clear off the stock as there is uncertainty over their currency valuation. Now they offer the highest price tag of \$3,550-3,600 a tonne and India quotes \$3,500. Indonesia which is actively clearing off the old stock now offers \$3,300-3,500 a tonne and indication price from Brazil is \$3,450-3,500 a tonne. According to top exporters of the commodity, the stock position in Vietnam would be thin by August and there might be strong bullish trend in August-November as the next crop season in India begins by December.

Exporters also indicate that imports would be less in the coming months since prices in Vietnam are higher than the Indian counters. According to them the uncertainty over the currency valuation, especially the rupee-dollar parity and the concern over the value of the euro affects the Indian market badly.

The European buyers are not active in the global market although this is the best period to accumulate pepper. The economic turmoil in the European economies persuade them not to stock much volume. This is the only factor, that slowed down overseas demand and is likely to affect the prices. But the weak supply condition strongly indicates a bull run in the pepper market by August.



## Jowar remains firm on stockists buying

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 9, 2010, 17:00 IST

Jowar prices spurted by Rs 300 per quintal in the wholesale grains market today on hectic buying by stockists. Traders said frantic buying by stockists in anticipation of further rise led to a sharp rally in jowar prices.

In the national capital, jowar yellow and white remained in keen demand and jumped by Rs 300 each to Rs 1,450-1,525 and Rs 1,950-2,000 per quintal.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Wheat MP (deshi) 1,750-1,850, wheat dara (for mills) 1,240-1,245 chakki atta (delivery) 1,250-1,255, atta Rajdhani (10 kg) 175, Shakti bhog (10 kg) 175, Roller flour mill 650-670 (50 kg), Maida 740-770 (50 kilos) and Sooji 780-800 (50 kg)

Basmati rice (Lal Quila) 9,300, Shri Lal Mahal 9,300, Super basmati rice 9,000, Basmati common 5,250-5,350, rice Pusa-(1121) 4,550-5,050, Permal raw 1,725-1,775, Permal wand 1,825-1,975, Sela 2,025-2,075 and Rice IR-8-1,550-1,575, Bajra 950-960

Jowar yellow 1450-1,525, white 1,950-2,000, Maize 980-990, Barley (UP) 1000-1020 and Rajasthan 1,080-1,090

## THE HINDU Business Line

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### Area under sugarcane, groundnut may rise in AP

*Coverage of cotton likely to decline 25%.*

K.V. Kurmanath,Hyderabad, June 9

With weathermen forecasting a normal monsoon, Andhra Pradesh is expecting to cover the lost ground and achieve the total cropped area of 124 lakh hectares, 12 lakh hectares (lh) more than last year. As it witnessed one of the worst performances last year, the State could register 108 lh of cropped area, resulting in severe reduction in agricultural production.

Though it aims at better acreage this year, Andhra Pradesh will lose about one-fourth of its cotton acreage this year, with official estimates pegging the area at 11 lh against 15 lh last year. The cotton area, was at 14 lh in 2008-09.

An official of the Agriculture Department attributed the reduction in area to the failure of monsoon last year. "Despite increase in area last year, the production dropped to 28.83 lakh bales against 35.69 lakh bales in 2008-09. This might have resulted in the lesser acreage this year. But we expect that this will improve significantly with the weather holding good promise," he said.

#### Gains

The Agriculture Department, however, anticipates a significant gains in the sugarcane area this year . The area is pegged at 2.40 lh this year against 1.58 lh last year, an increase of 80,000 ha. Proportionately, the production level is expected to be at 2.08 crore tonnes against 1.22 crore tonnes in 2009-10 and 1.53 crore tonnes the year before.

#### Other beneficiary

The other major gainer would be groundnut. The Department expects that the groundnut area will touch 18 lh this year against 13 lh in 2009-10 and 17.66 lh in 2008-09. The production level would be at 17 lakh tonnes against 10.27 lakh tonnes in 2009-10.

Going by the figures, the farmers are going in for a higher acreage of redgram or arhar, hoping to get better returns following the unprecedented prices for the commodity last year. This year, the farmers are expected cover the pulses in 5.05 lh and produce 2.30 lakh tonnes. This is against with last year's 4.66 lh coverage area and 2 lakh tonnes production.

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## **Bullish sentiment helps pepper futures bounce back**

G.K. Nair,Kochi, June 9

Pepper futures remained highly volatile as usual and after heavy fluctuation resultant from the sell calls, the market moved up in the afternoon on bullish sentiments and rather in correction, market sources said.

The market moved up on buying support as exporters were covering exchange delivered pepper to meet their requirements, they said. More exporters are likely to cover June delivery when it matures on the 18th, they said. "It is going to be a testing period for the exchange", they said. A sell call in the morning said : "Pick of the Day: Pepper June NCDEX: Sell in the range 15720 -740 targeting 15400 then 15300 with stop loss at 15950" Despite this sell call from a major expert analyst of the brokers, the market moved up implying that the analysts were sending out advices "either without knowing the ground realities or not following them and the fundamentals", a market source told Business Line.

As the Indian parity remained competitive following the decline in futures coupled with weakening of the rupee, the US brokers are said to have shown interest to buy from India provided the market did not fluctuate violently.

As the availability of ready pepper has come down, primary market dealers were covering from the investors at below spot price, they said. At the same time, “we don't have much exportable surplus with us”, they said.

June contract on NCDEX was up by Rs 97 to close at Rs 15,739 a quintal. July and August also moved up by Rs 48 and Rs 18 respectively to close at Rs 15930 and Rs 16,150 a quintal.

Total turnover dropped by 1,813 tonnes to 8,136 tonnes. Total open interest moved up 129 tonnes indicating additional purchases. June open interest dropped by 419 tonnes to 6,118 tonnes while that of July increased by 509 tonnes showing good switching over and additional buying.

August open interest moved up by 36 tonnes. Spot prices remained unchanged at previous levels for want of activities at Rs 15,200 (ungarbled) and Rs 15,700 (MG 1) a quintal. In the international market, Indian parity remained at \$3,550 a tonne and was competitive. Indonesia is said to have traded today at \$3,525 a tonne. There is a squeeze in global availability because of a reported decline in the Vietnam output and carryover stocks. If the Indian parity remained competitive at least at the current levels, some more demand could come to India till the Indonesian new crop hits the market by mid/late July or early August, market sources said.

According to a report today, overseas buyers were asking for long positions which, in fact, the Indian exporters are not able to commit for want of sufficient quantity of physical pepper. Therefore, they were offering June/July shipments, they said.

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## **Matsyafed launches food supplement tablets**

*Ties up with CIFT for over-the-counter product.*

Our Bureau, Kochi, June 9

Kerala State Co-operative Federation for Fisheries Development (Matsyafed) in technical collaboration with Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) has introduced Chitosan capsules in the market, claimed to be a natural food supplement against obesity, overweight and high blood cholesterol level.

Chitosan is used as an OTC food supplement all over the world for more than 40 years. Matsyafed has introduced the product as part of venturing into commercial activities and this is a first step by a Government cooperative society in Kerala to the healthcare sector, Mr V.V.Saseendran, Chairman, Matsyafed, said at a press meet.

#### Quality control

The product is extracted hygienically from the exoskeleton of fresh marine prawns, crab and lobsters in technical collaboration with CIFT, which maintains the quality control of the product, he added.

Matsyafed has established a high-tech plant at Neendakara in Kollam district with a capacity to produce 1.5 lakh capsules a day at an investment of Rs 1.10 crore. The company is also in the process of setting up a Glucosamine plant with international standards at Punnappra in Alappuzha district at a cost of Rs 4 crore for producing drugs for arthritis. It is awaiting necessary clearance from the departments concerned in this regard, Mr P.Kesavan Nair, Managing Director, said.

#### Clinical studies

Speaking on the occasion, Dr D.M.Vasudevan, Department of Biochemistry, Amrita Institute of Medical Research, Kochi, said that extensive clinical studies undertaken on various aspects of Chitosan found that the product appeared to be a non-toxic, well tolerated effective natural product in helping people achieve weight reduction,

normal BP and blood cholesterol reduction. Matsyafed, the apex body of 666 primary fishermen cooperative societies, has registered a net profit of Rs 15.46 crore for the first time in its history on a turnover of Rs 314.21crore in 2009-10. This year, the company has set a turnover target of Rs 400crore, Mr Nair added.

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## **TN farm varsity releases 13 new crop varieties**

Our Bureau,Coimbatore, June 9

The release of 13 new crop varieties including four high-yielding vegetable crops and two farm implements marked the annual Farmers' Day celebrations at the Farm Varsity here.

The new crop varieties include TNAU Rice – CO 50, suitable for cultivation as transplanted rice throughout the rice growing areas of Tamil Nadu; Rice TRY 3 for adoption in Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Ramnad districts; wheat COW 2, a reddish grain, resistant to black, yellow and brown rusts and suitable for adoption in Coimbatore, Vellore, Tirupur, Thiruvannamalai, Theni, Dindigul, Erode, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts; sorghum CO 30, a 100 to 105 days fodder crop, suitable for cultivation in all sorghum growing districts in the State except Cauvery delta and the Nilgiris; blackgram CO 6, a short duration crop, tolerant to aphids, stemfly and spotted pod borer; drought tolerant Groundnut Co 6 for adoption in Namakkal district; Sunflower hybrid CO 2having 39.8 per cent oil content; Sugarcane SI 7, moderately resistant to red rot disease; and Coconut ALR 2.

The vegetable crops released were Brinjal VRM 1, with a yield potential of 49.88 tonnes/hectare and suitable for adoption in Vellore and Tiruvannamalai districts; Tomato hybrid CO 3, a 150-day crop with yield potential of 96.2 tonnes/hect; Chilli

hybrid CO 1 and Celery OTY 1.

Farm implements released were the needle type tray seeder for vegetable nursery and a trailer mounted steering for power tiller – trailer system.

**Date:**10/06/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/06/10/stories/2010061053480300.htm>

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## **Andrew Yule launches organic tea**

Kolkata, June 9

Tea division of public sector enterprise Andrew Yule on Wednesday launched new varieties of premium and speciality tea which included green, organic and hand-rolled tea. These varieties are produced by one of its 15 tea estates – Mim – on the borders of Nepal and Darjeeling. The estate's produce has been certified by IMO of Switzerland as organic. Mr Sunil Munshi, Chief Executive of the tea division of the company, told reporters that responses in the domestic and export markets after a soft launch last year of these new products in bulk and packet forms had been good and fetched “substantially” high premium over the usual Darjeeling varieties. “Price levels of these products varied between Rs 1,000 and Rs 10,000 a kg,” Mr Munshi said. During 2009-10, the company sold 4 tonnes of such tea varieties put together. “During the current financial year, we have already sold 3 tonnes and our target for the full year is of 15 tonnes,” he added. — Our Bureau

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## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Cloudy

**Thursday, Jun 10**

Max Min

28.4° | 23.6°

Rain: Trace

Sunrise: 05:41

Humidity: 94%

Sunset: 18:34

Wind: Normal

Barometer: 1002.0

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Tstorm

**Friday, Jun 11**

Max Min

38° | 26°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Jun 12

Jun 13

Jun 14

Jun 15

Jun 16



38° | 27°

38° | 29°

38° | 30°

38° | 28°

38° | 28°

Partly  
Cloudy

Partly Cloudy

Partly  
Cloudy

Partly  
Cloudy

Partly Cloudy