

Online edition of India's National Newspaper Saturday, June 12, 2010

Date:12/06/2010 URL:

http://www.thehindu.com/2010/06/12/stories/2010061251590300.htm

Kuruvai crop on 5,012 hectares

Like last year, it may be restricted to pumpset-irrigated areas



INITIAL STAGE: Farm workers transplanting the kuruvai paddy using pumpset for irrigation in Thanjavur on Friday. —

THANJAVAUR: Kuruvai transplantation is going on in pumpset-irrigated areas in Thanjavur district.

According to Agriculture Department officials, the crop has been transplanted so far on 5,012 hectares. With the possibility of opening of Mettur Dam on the traditional date of June 12 ruled out this year, Kuruvai may restricted only to pumpset-irrigated areas in Thanjavur district this year as was the case last year. It is expected that another 15,000

hectares may be covered this year in pumpset-irrigated areas this year. "In total, we expect the coverage to be around 20,000 to 22,000 hectares this year," said P. Lognanathan, Joint Director of Agriculture.

Out of the 5,012 hectares covered so far in the district, the crop has been raised under System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in 1,800 hectares. "We expect at least 60 per cent of the total coverage to be under SRI this year," said Mr. Loganathan. To achieve this, the Department had planned awareness campaign and training for all the village panchayat presidents in the district on June 14 and June 16, he added. Farmers have raised mostly ADT36 and ADT 43 varieties of paddy.

Last year, as Mettur dam was opened on July 28,

Kuruvai coverage was restricted only to pumpset-irrigated areas in the district and the coverage was 22,458 hectares. Normal Kuruvai area in the district was 45,000 hectares.

Date:12/06/2010 URL:

http://www.thehindu.com/2010/06/12/stories/2010061252540500.htm

'Include farm activities under job scheme'

Tirupur: The Central Government should take steps to include farm activities too under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to overcome the acute labour shortage experienced in the agriculture sector, according to Tamil Nadu Agricultural Labour Welfare Board chairman K. Chellamuthu.

"If the sector was brought under the ambit of MGNREGS, the farmers are even ready to share the expenditure incurred for disbursing wages to workers at the rate of Rs. 100 a day per person on a 50:50 basis," he told reporters here on Friday.

Mr. Chellamuthu pointed out that it was the migration of farm labourers for other works covered under MGNREGS that had aggravated the labour shortage in agriculture and its allied sectors, which eventually resulted in heavy production loss in crops like pulses in the State during the last financial year.

He said that the Board had plans to introduce a scheme soon by which skill development training would be imparted to children of farm workers and thereby make them 'future assets' for the agriculture sector.

"We will teach them the techniques to use some of the latest agriculture implements and equip them on progressive farm practices," he added.

On welfare schemes, he said the Board planned to disburse educational, medical and maternity assistances, among other benefits, worth Rs. 200 crore to the agricultural labourers and their family members during the current financial year. "At present, the Board has a membership of 1.75 crore workers and small farmers spread over 75 lakh families," he added.

Date:12/06/2010 URL:

http://www.thehindu.com/2010/06/12/stories/2010061261060200.htm

Farmers raise complaints about functioning of sandhai

Tirupur: Complaints pertaining to the functioning of Tirupur South Uzhavar Sandhai and demands seeking better facilities for livestock care dominated the proceedings at the grievances meeting conducted by the district administration exclusively for farmers here on Friday.

A section of farmers registered with the Tirupur South Uzhavar Sandhai pointed out that the authorities concerned had allocated some antediluvian weighing machines to them at the stalls on the premises and hence, it was becoming increasingly difficult to measure the vegetables sold inviting wrath from the consumers.

Similarly, lighting facilities on its premises was not maintained properly causing

difficulties to the sellers who come there as early as on 3 a.m every day.

Another group told the Collector C. Samayamoorthy that the purpose of setting up

uzhavar sandhai in Tirupur South area had become meaningless as many commercial

traders of vegetables and fruits were continuing with their sales at the entrance of the

uzhavar sandhai every day despite the matter being taken to the notice of officials

concerned on many occasions in the last few months.

"This is, thus, affecting the sales of small and marginal farmers who are utilising the

space offered under the uzhavar sandhai scheme," P. Shanmugasundaram, a farmer

from Elavanthi village, pointed out.

The other grievance was that the farmers registered with the Tirupur South Uzhavar

Sandhai was allowed to occupy the stalls only an hour or so before the sales start

forcing them to wait outside the campus for long hours.

A group of farmers engaged in cattle rearing requested the Collector to start a

veterinary sub-centre at Iduvai.

Joint Director of Animal Husbandry Francis Samuel Mohan clarified that since a

veterinary hospital was located 3 km away at Mangalam, a full time sub-centre could not

be opened at Iduvai. "But, we will explore the possibility of setting up a 'visiting centre' to

offer veterinary care once in a week once the posts of livestock inspectors at the

veterinary hospitals in the district were filled," he added.

Date:12/06/2010 URL:

http://www.thehindu.com/2010/06/12/stories/2010061263900600.htm

Hire farm machines for low rent

THENI: From now on, farmers in certain areas in the district can hire farm equipment

and machinery for low rent from the service centres owned by Primary Agriculturists

Cooperative Banks.

Six PACBs in the district have opened service centre and bought farm equipment to

supply to farmers here Friday.

Inaugurating one of the centres at Veerapandi, Collector P. Muthuveeran said that the

state government had advised primary agriculturists' cooperative banks to open service

centres to hire farm equipment to farmers at concession charges. To begin with, such

service centre had been opened at Kombai, Odaipatti, Lakshmipuram, Veerapandi,

Cumbum and Dombuserry.

Farmer member of the bank as well as other farmers at respective villages could hire

farm equipment at nominal rent. For example, PACB at Veerapandi will hire its tractor

for Rs.250 per hour. Similarly, each society had purchased several equipment and

machines for the convenience of farmers.

The hiring charges will be much less than the charges fixed by private suppliers. The

PACB at Veerapandi has plans to buy more equipment in the months to come.

Date:12/06/2010 URL:

http://www.thehindu.com/2010/06/12/stories/2010061252150400.htm

Mettur dam not to be opened today

CHENNAI: The government has decided not to open the Mettur dam for irrigation on

Saturday (June 12), the scheduled date of opening.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting held a few days ago, after considering

the present water level of the dam, low storage in reservoirs in Karnataka and the trend

of rainfall during the early phase of the south-west monsoon, according to senior officials. It was decided to review the situation after the water level reached 90 feet.

Taking note of the realisation of nearly four tmcft in the last 10 days, the officials attributed it to local rainfall.

On Friday, the level stood at about 80 feet with storage of around 42 thousand million cubic (tmc) feet. The inflow was about 6,800 cubic feet per second (cusecs).

Date:12/06/2010 URL:

http://www.thehindu.com/2010/06/12/stories/2010061250490200.htm

Incidence of papaya mealy bug reported during surveillance

COIMBATORE: The pest surveillance undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has reported incidence of papaya mealy bug in fruit crops, vegetables, mulberry and cotton.

According to a release from the university, the survey was conducted in parts of Coimbatore and Erode. If the expected rains were received, then it could result in washing out of the mealy bug or decline in the population. But, in areas where there was no rain, farmers are advised to adopt certain Integrated Pest Management (IPM) measures immediately to control the spread of the bug.

Removal of alternate weed hosts, pruning of infested branches and burning them, spraying of botanical pesticides like neem oil, fish oil, and rosin soap, profenophos 50 EC or chlorpyriphos 20 EC or dimethote 30 EC, etc., are recommended. It is also suggested to drench soil around the collar region of the crop with chlorpyriphos 20 EC at two ml / litre of water to prevent ant activity and movement of crawlers of mealy bug.

Monitoring the incidence regularly and looking for emergence of crawlers besides taking up control measures at initial stages on a war footing and co-operative manner for effective control of the pest are the other remedies.

For details and suggestions, farmers can call the Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU, on 0422-6611237.

Date:12/06/2010 URL:

http://www.thehindu.com/thehindu/mp/2010/06/12/stories/2010061251251100.htm

How to make...Mango payasam

A sweet dish with the season's favourite



Mango Payasam is a simple and easy-to-cook dessert that I learnt from my grandmother. It is highly nutritious and wholesome too.

What you need Mango, ripe - 1 Milk - 3 cups Raw rice - 50 gm Sugar - 150 gm For garnishing Roasted cashews and raisins - 10 each Ghee, for roasting - a little Saffron strands - 3-4 Cardamom powder - 1/4 tsp

Cooking instructions

Boil rice in a cup of milk in a pressure cooker.

Peel the mango, cut into small pieces and grind finely.

Boil the remaining milk in a pressure pan till it is reduced to one-and-a-half cups.

Add the mango paste, the boiled rice and sugar and stir well for a few minutes.

Garnish with roasted cashew and raisin, cardamom powder and saffron strands.

Serve hot or cold.

Have a traditional recipe your grandmother taught you? Do send it to us by email at mygrandmasrecipe@gmail.com or by post to grandmasrecipe, MetroPlus, The Hindu, 859-860 Anna Salai, Chennai-2 with the following and it may be published:

- · a brief note of the dish and how you learnt the recipe;
- · ingredients and cooking instructions; a high resolution picture of the dish;
- a two-line note about yourself with a picture;
- · your address and phone number
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By Express News Service
11 Jun 2010 03:34:56 AM IST

388kg sea cucumber seized

THOOTHUKUDI/CHENNAI: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials on Wednesday seized sea cucumbers weighing around 388 kg, from a fivemember gang allegedly trying to smuggle the rare species to Sri Lanka, at Arumuganeri in Thoothukudi. Based on intelligence reports, DRI officials at 7 pm intercepted a jeep moving in the area.

The officials located 12 plastic cans containing boiled sea cucumbers in the jeep. The gang members T Mariappan, K Moosa, Keyton Kumar, M Mohammed Asarudeen and Manshoor Ali illegally caught the sea cucumbers and processed them for smuggling to Sri Lanka. In another incident, the DRI arrested a person and seized electronics goods worth Rs 2 crore at Chennai airport here on Wednesday.

Based on intelligence inputs, the DRI officials intercepted a passenger S Basheer Ahmed (36) of Chennai, who arrived by flight SQ 528 from Singapore on the night of June 9 at the airport. © Copyright 2008 ExpressBuzz

Business Standard

Industry disappointed with new MSP for oilseeds

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 11, 2010, 18:27 IST

Expressing disappointment over "only 2-9 per cent" hike in the minimum support price for oilseeds, the edible oil industry asked the government to reconsider the decision and raise it in line with pulses.

"We are greatly disappointed with the government's decision to raise the support price for

oilseeds by only 2-9 per cent, while they have given 15-30 per cent hike for pulses," Solvent Extractors' Association president Ashok Sethia said in a statement.

Terming the hike as "stepmotherly treatment" to the oilseeds sector, Sethia said that both oilseeds and pulses are in short supply and need support in the form of a higher MSP to encourage their production in the country.

"Oilseeds production and acreage are going down or have remained stagnant for the last five years and imports of oils have risen over 100 per cent in the same period. They have reached alarming levels, becoming a threat to the food security of the nation," Sethia said.

India imported a record 8.6 million tonnes of vegetable oils in the 2008-09 oil year (November-October) and is expected to import nine million tonnes this year. At the same time, production of oilseeds declined to 25.4 million tonnes in the 2009-10 crop year against 27.7 million tonnes in the previous one.

"There is still time for sowing, and we urge the government to reconsider the support price for oilseeds and raise it in line with pulses," Sethia said.

However, the Soyabean Processors Association of India (SOPA), a leading industry body, felt satisfied with the increase in the MSP of oilseeds.

"We are content with the hike in MSP. It is good enough to encourage farmers to grow more oilseeds, and since it is partly in tune with industry recommendations, we think it is a balanced decision," Soyabean Processors Association of India (SOPA) spokesperson and coordinator Rajesh Agarwal said.

Yesterday, the government announced the MSPs of kharif crop for the 2010-11 season, raising that for oilseeds by Rs 45-200 a quintal over the previous year. For soyabean, it was raised by Rs 50 to Rs 1,440 a quintal.

The zero duty on import of edible oils and only 7.5 per cent on refined oils has increased their inbound shipments.

The retail prices for cooking oil is at a comfortable level of Rs 50-60 per litre.

Mentha oil rises on fresh buying support

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 11, 2010, 16:32 IST

Mentha oil gained Rs 1.30 or 0.17 per cent to Rs 756 per kg in futures trade today, as traders created fresh positions on pick up in demand in spot markets.

Restricted arrivals from Chandausi in Uttar Pradesh and fresh enquiries from the pharmaceutical units also supported the uptrend in futures market.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, mentha for June-month contract gained Rs 1.30 or 0.17 per cent to Rs 756 per kg, with an open interest of 2,936 lots.

The oil for delivery in July contract also traded higher by a rupee, or 0.13 per cent to Rs 763.80 per kg, with an open interest of 1,984 lots.

Marketmen said fresh buying by traders followed by pick up in demand at spot markets against restricted arrivals from arrivals from Chandausi in Uttar Pradesh helped mentha prices to gain fresh ground at futures market.

Edible oils down on sluggish demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 11, 2010, 16:24 IST

Select edible oils remained weak and traded up to Rs 50 per quintal lower in the wholesale oils and oilseeds market today on slack demand at existing higher levels. However, non-edible oils remained flat on lack of enquiries from the consuming industries.

Traders said fall in demand at existing higher against adequate supply mainly led to a fall in select wholesale edible oil prices. In the edible section, mustard expeller(Dadri) oil fell Rs 50 to Rs 4,750 per quintal on reduced offtake.

Soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) and soyabean degum (Delhi) oils declined by Rs 20 and Rs 10 to Rs 4,400 and Rs 4,300, while palmolein (rbd) and crude palm oil (ex-kandla) lost Rs 10 and Rs 20 to Rs 4,180 and Rs 3,700 per guintal.

In line with a weakening trend, cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) oil declined by Rs 30 to Rs 4,020 per quintal.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Oilseeds: mustard seed 2,500-2,600 and groundnut seed 2,100-2,850.

Vanaspati ghee (15 litres tin) 720-830.

Edible oils:

Groundnut mill delivery (Gujarat) 7,100, groundnut Solvent refined (per tin) 1,160-1,170, Mustard Expeller (Dadri) 4,750, Mustard Pakki ghani (per tin) 665-820, Mustard kachi ghani (per tin) 820-920, Sunflower 6,300, Sesame mill delivery 5,800

Soybean Refined mill delivery (Indore) 4,400 Soyabean degum (Delhi) 4,300, Crude Palm Oil (Ex-kandla) 3,700, Cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) 4,020, Palmolein (RBD) 4,180, Rice bran (phy) 3,750 and Coconut (per tin) 960-990

Non-edible oils:

Linseed 4,000, Mahuwa 4,000, Castor 6,850-6,950, Neem 3,600-3,700, Rice bran 3,200-3,300 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

Crude palm oil futures fall on profit-taking

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 11, 2010, 15:12 IST

Crude palm oil prices turned weak and lost Rs 3 or 0.82 per cent to Rs 364.50 per 10 kg in futures trade today on profit taking by speculators, driven by a weakening trend at spot markets.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for August contract fell Rs 3, or 0.82 per cent to Rs 364.50 per 10 kg, with an open interest of 627 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in current-month June contract lost Rs 1.80, or 0.49 per cent to Rs 367.30 per 10 kg, with a business turnover of 1,487 lots.

Market analysts said profit-taking by speculators, driven by weak demand in spot markets led to a fall in crude palm oil prices at futures market.

Turmeric rises on tight supply

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 11, 2010, 17:42 IST

Turmeric prices rose by Rs 100 per quintal in the national capital today, on tight supplies amid pick up in local and exports demand.

Restricted supplies from the producing regions and a firming trend in futures trade, also supported the rise in prices.

Turmeric prices rose by Rs 100 to settle at Rs 16,300-18,900 per quintal.

Marketmen said increased buying by stockists followed by pick up in domestic and exports demand against tight supplies from the producing belts, mainly pushed up turmeric prices on the wholesale market here.

Following are today's quotations (per quintal):

Ajwain 10,500-15,500, black pepper common 16,900-17,000, betelnut (kg) 85-105, cardamom brown-Jhundiwali (kg) 820-825 and cardamom brown-Kanchicut (kg) 925-1,025

Cardamom small (kg): Chitridar 1200-1,370, cardamom (colour robin) 1,560-1,580, cardamom bold 1,585-1,600, cardamom extra (bold) 1,700-1,720 and cloves (kg) 300-380

Almond prices decline on subdued demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 11, 2010, 17:38 IST

Almond prices declined by Rs 100 per 40 kg in the national capital today due to fall in demand at existing higher prices.

Adequate stocks position on increased arrivals from the overseas markets also weighed on the prices. Almond (california) prices fell by Rs 100 to Rs 10,800 per 40 kg and its kernel also eased by Rs 5 to Rs 365-370 per kg.

Traders attributed the fall in almond prices to reduced offtake by stockists and retailers at existing higher prices against increased arrivals from overseas markets.

Meanwhile, prices of other dry fruits ruled steady on scattered deals.

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

Almond (California) new Rs 10,800 Almond (gurbandi-new) Rs 4,600-4,700 almond (girdhi) Rs 2,200-2,300 and Abjosh Afghani Rs 7,000-16,000

Almond kernel in per kg (California) Rs 365-370, almond kernel (gurbandi-new) (kg) Rs 305-380

Refined soya oil extend losses on subdued demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi June 11, 2010, 16:52 IST

Refined soya oil futures prices went down by Rs 5.45 or 1.22 per cent to Rs 439.70 per 10 kg today on sluggish demand at spot markets against ample stocks.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, refined soya oil for July contract fell Rs 5.45 or 1.22 per cent to Rs 439.70 per 10 kg, with an open interest of 149 lots.

The oil for delivery in June contract also declined by Rs 4.20, or 0.95 per cent to Rs 437.50 per 10 kg, with a business volume of 280 lots.

Market analysts said subdued demand in spot markets against adequate stocks position mainly led to a fall in refined soya oil prices at futures trade.



Date:12/06/2010 URL:

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/06/12/stories/2010061252101500.htm

Kharif area under pulses, sugarcane, cotton rises

Coverage of rice, oilseeds trailing; reservoirs storage level better.



In full swing: Farm workers transplanting paddy in Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu on Friday. Though the delta suffers from water shortage, farmers are using pumpsets to irrigate their fields. –

Our Bureau, Chennai, June 11

The rising trend in the coverage of pulses, sugarcane and natural fibres continues even as sowing activity for the kharif season is picking up pace.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the area under rice and oilseeds is trailing while details on the coverage of coarse cereals are not available yet.

Data released by the Ministry show that the acreage under rice is down to 7.22 lakh hectares (lh) against 7.63 lh during the corresponding period a year ago.

Groundwater

These are early days and rice sowing mainly takes place in Punjab and Haryana. The lower coverage could be attributed to these States asking farmers to cut the acreage in view of the groundwater level dropping alarmingly.

Area under oilseeds trails at 1.03 lh (1.85 lh). So far, farmers have planted groundnut and sunflower. Soyabean is the main kharif oilseed and its sowing will begin later this month.

Farmers are unlikely to begin the sowing of oilseed unless they get adequate rainfall and are sure of follow-up rain.

However, given the huge carryover stocks from last year and rising imports, the area under oilseeds is expected to be lower this time. Industry players are hopeful that higher yield could make up for the fall in the acreage.

Pulses coverage, as anticipated, is on the rise. Till now, one Ih have been brought under the crop with the area under urad almost doubling to 0.21 lh (0.12 lh). Arhar acreage has increased to 0.10 lh (0.09 lh).

Sugarcane sowing has been completed on 42.85 lh (40.75 lh).

Jute acreage has increased to 7.54 lh (6.84 lh), while that of cotton to 11.23 lh (10.6 lh).

The area under cotton is rising, despite farmers in the northern parts — comprising Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan's Ganganagar tracts — going slow in view of the heat wave in May.

Reservoir levels

Meanwhile, water storage offers comfort with the level in the 81 major reservoirs in the country 16 per cent higher than what it was the same period last year. However, it is two per cent lower than the last 10-year average.

The water level as on June 10 was 19.703 billion cubic metres (BCM) against the full reservoir level of 151.768 BCM.

Of the 81 reservoirs, the storage level in 38 is above 80 per cent of capacity. The level in six reservoirs is between 70 and 80 per cent of the normal level, while it is between 50 and 60 per cent in eight others. In 22 reservoirs, the storage level is below 50 per cent of the capacity.

With the monsoon setting in and reaching Mumbai this week, the storage level is expected to rise while sowing activity will gather momentum.

Date:12/06/2010 URL:

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/06/12/stories/2010061251801700.htm

Pepper cools as bears take charge

"Export enquiries were coming in but the buyers were hesitant because of the high volatility and daily price fluctuations in the market."

G.K. Nair, Kochi, June 11

Pepper futures market was volatile as usual and later ended much below the previous close on liquidation and bearish activities.

There was heavy liquidation in June, probably to pull prices down and later cover back. Thus, there was switching over at lower premium to nearby positions, market sources told Business Line.

In fact, the bear operators swung into action to counter the bullish reports floating in the market and pulled the prices down on Friday, they said.

Export enquiries were coming in but the buyers were hesitant because of the high volatility and daily price fluctuations in the market which has been keeping the prices fluctuating everyday, they said.

"In fact, uncertainty was hovering over the market," they said. June contract on NCDEX was down by Rs 393 to close at Rs 15,681 a quintal. July and August contracts fell by Rs 337 and Rs 296, respectively, to close at Rs 15,951 and Rs 16,181 a quintal.

Turnover up

Total turnover increased by 403 tonnes to 10,708 tonnes. Total open interest moved up by 71 tonnes. June open interest on Friday fell by 1,046 tonnes to 4,143 tonnes, indicating heavy liquidation. July and August shot up by 754 tonnes and 363 tonnes, respectively, showing good covering at lower rates, they said.

Spot prices fall

Spot prices in tandem with the futures market trend fell by Rs 300 to close at Rs 15,200 (un-garbled) and Rs 15,700 (MG 1) a quintal. There was some trading in the morning on the spot at Rs 155-160 a kg. As the prices started falling on the futures market, buyers withdrew. Sellers also were not ready to part with their produce at lower levels.

Demand may rise

Domestic demand is expected to pick up in the coming days as the weather conditions improved in the north Indian States, they said. Indian parity in the overseas market remained competitive at \$3,550 a tonne.

Therefore, some orders are expected for nearby shipments, they said. However, much will depend on the availability of ready pepper on the one hand, and the Indonesian prices, on the other, which frequently remained more often used to remain below the Indian parity, they said.

Date:12/06/2010 URL:

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/06/12/stories/2010061252061500.htm

Solvent extractors flay lower support price for oilseeds

Our Bureau, Chennai, June 11

The Centre's move to raise the support price of pulses has drawn flak from the oilseed industry that has been asking for a higher minimum support price (MSP) as an incentive to encourage farmers.

"We are greatly disappointed with the Government's decision to raise the support price for oilseeds by only 2-9 per cent as against 15-30 per cent provided for pulses," Mr Ashok Sethia, President, Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEAI), said in a press release.

The government has increased the MSP for Arhar by 30 per cent. Oilseeds production and acreage has been stagnant for the last five years and vegetable oil imports have increased over 100 per cent during the period.

"We have been asking for incentive for the farmers by way of higher MSP to grow more oilseeds but the Government has decided to ignore our prayer. There is still time for sowing and we urge the Government to reconsider the support price for oilseeds and raise in line with the pulses," he said.

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Weather

Delhi - INDIA

Today's Weather

Saturday, Jun 12

Max Min

41.2° | 26.9°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs Sunrise: 05:22 Humidity: 24% Sunset: 19:18 Wind: Normal Barometer: 1000.0 Tomorrow's Forecast

Sunday, Jun 13

Max Min

Sunny

41° | 27°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Jun 16	Thursday	Friday
Jun 14	Jun 15		Jun 17	Jun 18
\	\\	Ç	٩	-
43° 28°	44° 30°	41° 29°	42° 30°	45° 32°
Sunny	Sunny	Rainy	Rainy	Cloudy

Airport Weather

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs Sunrise: 05:22

Humidity: 24%

Sunset: 19:18

Wind: Normal

Barometer: 1000