

**Date:**17/06/2010 **URL:**

**<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/06/17/stories/2010061757430100.htm>**

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## Forest dept plans bio-fencing to combat man-animal conflict

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*A thorny bush will keep pachyderms at bay and even wild boar It has been found that the bush can scare away elephant and wild boar*

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Coimbatore: The forest department in Coimbatore is planning to have bio-fencing along the forest boundaries, especially in conflict-prone pockets, using *Cylindropuntia Ramosissima*, a thorny bush that will keep pachyderms at bay and even wild boar.

Coimbatore Division has a 340-km forest boundary of which 250 kms are identified as man-animal conflict-prone.

The department as such has 120 kms of solar electric fencing besides 10 kms of trial Elephant Proof Trenches (EPT). With male elephants damaging solar electric fencing, the forest department plans to supplement measures to avert man-animal conflict by planting the thorny bush along the forest boundary, especially in the outer ring of EPTs and the solar fence.

Conservator of Forest, Coimbatore Circle, R. Kannan and District Forest Officer I. Anwardeen have asked the Coimbatore and Periyanaickenpalayam range officials to raise 10,000 seedlings of *Cylindropuntia Ramosissima* for trial in the first phase.

Cactus variety

The bush has two sheets of thorns popping out in all directions and each thorn is found to be at least two inches long. It has been found that the bush can scare away elephant and wild boar as it happened in Perur Chettipalayam area. This cactus variety would be planted along side the EPTs and solar fencing, officials said. The characteristics and growth pattern of these bushes are now under study.

Conflict-prone pockets

Bio-fencing will commence in a phased manner in all the conflict-prone pockets.

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## **NABARD to advance release of Potential-Linked Credit Plan**

Tirupur: Following the recent directive from the Reserve Bank of India, the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has commenced the preparation of Potential-Linked Credit Plan 2011-12 for Tirupur district to ensure its release before August 31 instead of conventional October end.

The recommendation for early release of PLCP was suggested by the 'high-powered committee on Lead Bank Scheme' set up by the Union Government and headed by RBI Deputy Governor Usha Thorat.

The NABARD Assistant General Manager, R. Sankaranarayanan, who is entrusted with the PLCP preparation, told 'The Hindu' that advanced release would enable quicker consolidation of data projected in various PLCPs across the country and use it the same effectively during the drafting of Union Budget 2011-12.

Mr. Sankaranarayanan said that the PLCP for Tirupur would highlight the innovative agriculture programmes in the district which needed better credit support during the next

financial year and incorporate the details of agriculture sub-sectors where government should give additional attention.

“We will also allocate a chapter to air the response of farmers on the credit support available from the banks, input supply and difficulties faced to market their agricultural produces,” the Assistant General Manager added. The PLCP, according to him, will act as a base document for the compilation of Annual Credit Plan by banks and also could be used as a ‘one-stop’ data manual for browsing information on banking profile, agriculture status and infrastructure developments in agriculture and its allied sectors in the district.

The PLCP had gained greater significance in the recent years since the banks were using the data in it to identify in advance the farm activities that offers potential for overall development of the district.

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### **“Agriculture improved from attaining self-sufficiency”**

KARUR: Agriculture has improved from attaining self-sufficiency to cashing in on surplus production with value addition, thanks to the monumental efforts made jointly by the farmers, governments, agencies and other stake holders over the past several years. For the fruits of the gains to be fully harvested the various schemes should reach the rural masses, Collector J. Uma Maheswari said here on Tuesday.

Addressing the awareness programme on the “Scheme for Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure” by NABCONS, NABARD and Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Union Ministry of Agriculture, she underlined that earlier farmers were aiming at self-sufficiency and were directing their efforts towards that end. With the advent of mechanised farming and introduction of recent technologies in

various stages of cultivation, farming has leapfrogged into a veritable business activity if done in the proper fashion.

Agriculture has reached proportions including export of surplus value added products that have fetched the farmers and dealers pretty good returns, she added, pointing out that all those were due to coordinated efforts made by the stakeholders. More could be achieved if the banks, governmental agencies and voluntary organisations created an awareness among the rural masses on the various benefit schemes available to the farmers thereby creating a conducive ground for profitable agriculture using welfare schemes, Dr. Uma Maheswari said.

The programme saw participation by bankers, farmers, NGOs and co-operatives. NABARD Assistant General Manager A. Parthiban, Lead District Manager K. Chandrasekaran, Joint Director of Agriculture Jagadeesan, Deputy Director of Horticulture Kandasamy, representatives from commercial banks, Tiruchi District Central Cooperative Bank and Pallavan Grama Bank besides progressive farmers.

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## **Chemically ripened mangoes worth Rs.75,000 destroyed**

*If consumed, they will cause vomiting or symptoms of diarrhoea*



**HEALTH HAZARD:** Municipal officials who seized the mangoes ripened using chemicals at a godown in Pudukottai on Wednesday.

**PUDUKOTTAI:** In a surprise raid on a mango godown in the town on Wednesday, municipal officials destroyed about one tonne of the fruits ripened using chemicals likely to cause vomiting or symptoms of diarrhoea.

The Municipal Commission K. Balakrishnan, who led the team of officials, told presspersons that the raid formed a preventive action against the incidence of the diseases among the residents of the town.

Since it was the first offence committed by the trader, the municipality did not initiate any legal action against the trader, he said.

The fruits were immediately destroyed at the municipality's compost-yard.

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**Dairy farms to come up at Kadayal, Agastheeswaram**

*“Steps will be taken to fill vacancies in the department”*



**MOTIVATION: Minister for Dairy Development U. Mathivaanan handing over incentive to a milk producer.**

Nagercoil: There are 50 dairy farms in different parts of the district which are run by various women's organisations. It has been decided to set up two such farms in the district, one at Kadayal and another at Agastheeswaram, said the Minister for Dairy Development, U. Mathivanan.

Speaking to press persons here on Wednesday, he said that each of the women's organisations consisting of 25 members had been given assistance for purchase of 50 milch animals under Integrated Dairy Development Programme. The cost of each milch animal was about Rs. 30, 000. They would be given 50 percent subsidy to initiate a 'white revolution.' It had been decided to set up 120 more dairy farms in different parts of the State to increase milk production and enhance socio-economic status.

The Government had installed 160 'Bulk Milk Coolers' in different parts of the district. In these coolers, 2,000 to 10,000 litres of milk could be stored by milk producers. The purpose of installing such coolers was to reduce the need of the milk producers' union to go to various villages with milk tankers to collect milk both in the morning and evening. The transportation charges could be reduced considerably with the setting up of such coolers. The union could collect the stored milk in the evening. Bulk milk coolers would also be set up in Kanyakumari district on demand.

He further added that there were lot of vacancies in the Department of Dairy Development, particularly Livestock Inspectors. This would be brought to the notice of the Chief Minister, M. Karunanidhi, and necessary steps would be taken to fill these vacancies. Regarding the transportation of milch animals, inseminated cows, that had attained the dry period from Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts to Kerala via Kaliyakkavilai, the Minister said that as there were no restrictions or laws to stop the transportation of cattle to Kerala.

Earlier, speaking in a function organised by Kanyakumari District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union (Aavin) in connection with distributing margin amount (incentive) to the tune of Rs. 15 lakh to milk producers, the Minister said that the Dravida Munnetta Kazagham had been implementing various welfare and development programmes for the benefit of milk producers. The incentive amount was given to milk producers in Coimbatore and Tiruchi last year and it was distributed to the milk producers of Kanyakumari district in the current year in order to motivate them to produce more milk.

The Government was not only keen to ensure the welfare of milk producers but also that of their wards. It was evident from the scheme that if the milk producers paid Rs.1 per day the Government would give Rs.1 lakh in the case of the death of the respective milk producer. Moreover laptops were given to the wards of milk producers, who had scored high marks in the public examinations, said the Minister.

Tourism Minister N. Suresh Rajan said Aavin in the district had earned a revenue of Rs. 84.81 lakh during 2009-10. All the demands of the milk producers would be brought to the notice of the Chief Minister. In Kerala, the price of milk per litre was Rs. 24 where as in Tamil Nadu it was only Rs. 22.

Members of Legislative Assembly A. Rajan, R. Leema Rose, T. Theodare Reginald, John Joseph, chairperson of district panchayat, Ajitha Mano Thankaraj, R. Bernard, vice president of Tamil Nadu Fishermen Welfare Board, and DRO Kalaiselvan spoke.

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## **Milk producers upset**

Nagercoil: Milk producers from different parts of the district who came here on Wednesday to receive incentive from Dairy Development Minister U. Mathivanan were upset over the Minister's remarks regarding transport of cattle to Kerala.

A milk producer from Manikettipottal near Ethamozhi said the Government should ban transport of cattle or enact a law to prevent 'cattle drain' similar to 'brain drain.' In Kerala, the cost of the milk was a little more. The procurement rate of milk in co-operative societies in Kerala was also higher. So milk producers in border areas preferred to sell milk to co-operative societies of Kerala. Milk producers said that artificial insemination programme was very successful in Kerala and birth rate was also high. Loan given by the Kerala Government for purchase of milch animals was also very high. Many artificially inseminated milch animals were purchased for cheaper rate from Tamil Nadu and sold for a lucrative price in Kerala. There was no objection to transport of cows which attained dry period, aged bullock and buffalos to slaughter houses in Kerala. But if transport of milch animals and artificially inseminated cattle from Tamil Nadu to Kerala was not banned, there was a possibility of scarcity of milk.

The Government should give subsidized cattle feed to milk producers, said Vilavancode and Thiruvattar MLAs John Joseph and Leema Rose respectively.

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## **Control of coconut leaf beetle**

The insect is brown in colour

Both the larvae and adults of the Coconut leaf beetle ( *Brontispa longisimma*) inhabit the developing spears where they cause decay and drying of affected parts which prevent the tree from bearing fruits. When the infestation reaches the pith, the palm eventually dies.

Recently the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects, Bangalore, has sensitised the Plant Protection Scientists and Quarantine officials to be vigilant against this alien pest.



## Emergency measures

If the pest is noticed anywhere, apart from treatment of affected palms, emergency measures have to be taken to prevent its spread.

The beetle is generally brown in colour with bright orange thorax. The damage symptom caused by this pest is almost similar to that of coconut black headed caterpillar.

## Burnt appearance

If the tree is seen from far, the dried fronds appear burnt. But the only way their damage can be differentiated is that, coconut leaf beetle attacks the top young fronds while black headed caterpillar prefers middle and lower fronds. At present, mechanical, biological and chemical methods are employed to eradicate this pest. In young palms, cutting down and burning of the affected plants is recommended. For older palms, chemical control should be applied by using systemic pesticide injected into the trunk of the palm.

## Biological method

Biological method, involves the use of natural predators such as earwig, green muscardine fungus, and white muscardine fungus to paralyze and eventually kill the pest.

The eggs of this beetle are difficult to detect because they are inserted in between leaflets. So, there is a need for thorough inspection of planting materials intended for transport to uninfected areas. With the movement of international passengers carrying palm seedlings inadvertently and import of various palm seedlings, the risk of this pest entering our country is more. Hence, scientists, farmers, quarantine officials, coconut industry stakeholders must join hands in preventing the entry of this pest. DR. A.

*SUGANTHI Assistant Professor Entomology, TNAU Vellore, Tamil Nadu*

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<http://www.thehindu.com/thehindu/seta/2010/06/17/stories/2010061750171500.htm>

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### **Farm Query** Training programme

Is there any training programme, course material or information available on ripening of fruits?M. Salma,Pollachi, Tamil Nadu

You can contact the Professor and Head, Department of fruit crops, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam (East): 625604, email: [fruitspkm@tnau.ac.in](mailto:fruitspkm@tnau.ac.in), phone: 04546-231726, fax: 231319 for your details.

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### **Fern may show how to remove arsenic in soil**



Isolating a gene that allows a type of fern to tolerate high levels of arsenic, Purdue University researchers hope to use the finding to create plants that can clean up soils and waters contaminated by the toxic metal.

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## Stay off white rice, experts advise

Jun 17 2010

June 16: Don't consume white rice, warn international diabetologists after a three-year study showed that the foodgrain has much higher glycaemic index than brown rice. The glycaemic index is a measure of the effect of carbohydrates on blood sugar levels.

The intercontinental study, the findings of which have been published in the latest edition of Archives of Internal Medicine, was carried out by several experts. China's Frank Yu and Walt Willette of the Harvard School of Public Health were the lead investigators of the team. V. Mohan, of the Diabetes Speciality Centre, Chennai, who was also part of the team, pointed out that the fibre content of white rice is lower than that of brown rice.

"The incidence of diabetes in India is high because white rice is a staple in most communities. Our study has found that people who consume brown rice are comparatively well guarded against diabetes," he said.

The paper concluded that replacing white rice with any kind of whole grain including brown rice or whole meal bread, oats or pasta is associated with a reduction of blood sugar levels by up to 36 per cent, said Sudha Vasudevan, lead nutritionist in the study. The team compared diabetes risk in 200,000 people, by looking at how much white or brown rice they ate, and making adjustments for age and other lifestyle factors.

A doctor who was part of the study said outer bran of the brown rice has the potential to reduce blood sugar levels while consumption of fruits with a high glycaemic index like mangoes contributes to an increase in the incidence of diabetes. **Source URL:**

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/chennai/stay-white-rice-experts-advise-727>



## Food inflation seen rising further: Montek

Agencies Posted online: Wed Jun 16 2010, 11:40 hrs

**New Delhi** : India's food inflation could rise in the next two weeks, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, said on Wednesday.

Food prices rose an annual 16.74 per cent in end May, adding upward pressure on headline inflation.

## Business Standard

Thursday, Jun 17, 2010

### Project to modernise sugar mills

BS REPORTER / Chennai June 17, 2010, 0:47 IST

The Tamil Nadu government has launched a Rs 1,125.63 crore programme to modernise 12 sugar mills and co-generation of 183 megawatt (Mw) power. The programme was launched at the weekend.

A sum of Rs 849.36 crore was sanctioned for installing cogeneration power units in 10 cooperative sugar mills and two public sector mills and the remaining Rs 276.27 crore for the modernisation of the mills, said the chief minister in his address.

He also inaugurated works at various mills simultaneously in Namakkal, Villupuram, Madurai and Thanjavur districts through videoconferencing from the secretariat here.

“The state government is committed to the welfare of cane farmers, the government sanctioned

the payment of Rs 2,000 per tonne of sugarcane as procurement price this year,” he noted.

Of the proposed 183 Mw, 63 Mw was earmarked for the use of the mills and the remaining 120 Mw for the state. On completion of the co-generation component in 18 months, the Electricity Board would get power from the mills.

Besides, the programme would benefit nearly 100,000 cane farmers and provide employment to 1,200 persons, he added.

Three of the 10 cooperative sugar mills, in Villupuram district, would have the installed capacity of 48 Mw.

They would generate revenue to the tune of Rs 72.80 crore annually through the sale of power and within eight to nine years they could recoup the investment.

M S Shanmugham, Thanjavur district collector added, the mill earned a profit of Rs 30 crore last year.

Madurai Collector C Kamaraj, added that the Rs 110.28-crore modernisation package for National Sugar Mill, Alanganallur will increase the operations of the mill which has a crushing capacity of 2,500 tonnes of sugarcane a day. Power generation at the mill, would make its financial position comfortable, he added.

## **Govt allows sugar exports to EU**

**Press Trust Of India / New Delhi June 17, 2010, 0:22 IST**

With the production outlook improving and prices stabilising, the government has allowed export of 10,000 tonnes of refined sugar to the European Union (EU) despite restrictions. The relaxation has been given by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade and the exports would be undertaken by trading firm, Indian Sugar Exim Corporation during the 2009-10 season ending September. In February, the government was forced to withdraw its decision to permit exports to EU due to a strong objection from the opposition parties as sugar was selling at Rs 50 a kg.

Though sugar prices have dropped significantly to Rs 32 a kg, the exports to EU would be matched by an equivalent quantity of imports from anywhere in the world to ensure domestic supply was not disturbed. India enjoys duty-free export to EU up to a fixed quantity, under a 'preferential quota' arrangement.

## **Sugar hits 10-month low on slack demand**

**Reuters / Mumbai June 17, 2010, 0:21 IST**

Spot sugar hit a fresh 10-month low on Wednesday as millers trimmed prices to buttress demand, dealers said. Weak demand has left millers with significant stocks of free sale sugar. The government fixes the amount of sugar that each mill can sell in the open market every month.

"Millers are struggling to sell non-levy sugar quota. Despite a sharp drop in prices, demand is not picking up due to the monsoon season," said Harakhchand Vora, vice-president of the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association. Demand from bulk buyers—typically beverage and ice cream makers—reduces with the end of summer as lower temperatures cut demand for these products.

In Kolhapur, a key market in the top sugar producing state of Maharashtra, the price of the most traded S-variety sugar fell 0.7 per cent to Rs 2,475.65 a quintal, the lowest since August 1. The price has fallen nearly 38 per cent since a record high of Rs 3,972 on January 7, owing to an upward revision in output estimate and government curbs like stock limit on bulk consumers. The government hasn't taken any step to discourage imports and that is weighing on sentiments, Vora said.

India is unlikely to impose an import tax on overseas purchase of sugar in the next 10-15 days as global prices of the sweetener are on the higher side, Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar said on Monday.

Sugar stocks at the end of sugar year 2009-10 may stand at 4.9 million tonnes, the Indian Sugar Mills Association said in a statement on Monday.

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## Potato, onion rise as growers hold back stocks

*Demand from North-East.*

Shobha Roy,Kolkata, June 16

Spurred by good demand from neighbouring Assam and other North-Eastern States, the price of potatoes inched up on Wednesday. The wholesale prices of potatoes (Jyoti variety) rose Rs 15-20 a quintal to Rs 380-420 a quintal up from Rs 360-400 last week, according to Mr Patit Paban De, Member, West Bengal Cold Storage Association.

Despatches rise

“There has been an increase in the volume of potatoes being despatched to other States, particularly Assam and other North-Eastern States. This has brought some positive sentiment in the market and prices have risen,” Mr De told Business Line.

The unloading ratio from cold storages has also been lower over the past few days, thereby curtailing the fall in prices due to excess supply , he pointed out. Close to 58 lakh tonne of potatoes have been stored in the 403-odd cold storages across the State.

“Last week, farmers were anticipating fall in prices and were looking at selling in large quantities. However, this week the sentiment is positive due to a pick-up in

demand from other States; so they want to hold on for a while for prices to firm up. This also explains why the release from cold storage has been lower,” Mr De said.

The cost of production is about Rs 300 a quintal and the cost of cold storage is about Rs 160-180 a quintal (Rs 110 a quintal is the actual storing cost for the entire season of about nine months or part thereof, while the rest Rs 50-80 is spent on sorting and grading of potatoes after release).

However, the prices would remain range-bound in the days to come as the demand would continue to remain at these levels, Mr De observed. “There might be a slight movement of about Rs five-to-ten a quintal, but largely prices will remain range-bound,” he said.

### **Rain in Maharashtra aids trend**

M.R. Subramani

Chennai, June 16

Onion prices have increased by at least Rs 50 a quintal in the last couple of weeks, with farmers holding on to their produce in the hope of getting better prices.

On Wednesday, the Lasalgaon auctions sold between Rs 500 and Rs 800 a quintal, depending on the quantity of the produce. Most of the trades were done around Rs 575, as against Rs 525 a fortnight ago. Some traders quoted around Rs 650 a quintal.

“There are three factors behind the rise in onion prices,” said Mr Rupesh Jaju, a Nasik-based exporter.

“One, farmers are holding back their produce. The Maharashtra Government had come up with a scheme to subsidise storage infrastructure. Under this project, farmers have received money depending on their land holdings and the previous



season's production. The amount ranges between Rs 75,000 to over Rs 1 lakh," Mr Jaju said. "Most farmers have their own storage infrastructure and are now holding back their produce, looking for an improvement in prices. This is the main reason for the rise in prices," he said.

"Domestic demand has been constant but we are seeing export demand. This is the second reason for the rise. We are getting enquiries from West Asia and the Far-East nations. From West Asia, there is good demand from Saudi Arabia and Dubai. Some enquiries are coming in from Singapore too," Mr Jaju said.

"We are getting enquiries from Sri Lanka," said a Thane-based exporter.

Onion exports have gained during the last few years. Last fiscal, 18.14 lakh tonnes were exported against 17.83 lt the previous year. However, in the first two months of this fiscal, the shipments have dropped 40 per cent to 2.51 lakh tonnes. Foreign exchange earnings too have slid to Rs 258 crore against Rs 391 during the same period a year ago.

Onion exports are checked by the Government fixing a minimum export price (MEP). This keeps the domestic prices on leash. For June, the MEP is \$200 a tonne.

Onion production for the season ending this month is estimated at 95 lakh tonnes against 85 lakh tonnes last season.

The third reason for the surge in onion prices is the rain under the influence of the monsoon. "There is a fear that the rain in Maharashtra could have affected the small crop due to be harvested in August. This has pushed up the prices," Mr Jaju said.

"The rain has also resulted in a drop in arrivals. Once the weather clears, there could be a drop in prices," said the Thane-based exporter.

“There is no worry on availability. Stocks are aplenty with both growers and traders,” Mr Jaju said.

The kharif onion arrival is in December, while the rabi arrival is during March-April.  
Rabi

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## **Farmers earn more from organic cotton: Survey**

Hyderabad, June 16

Greenpeace, the non-governmental organisation, has claimed that farmers get more income if they cultivate organic cotton instead of Bt cotton.

The NGO, which conducted a survey in three top cotton growing districts of Warangal, Karimnagar and Adilabad in Andhra Pradesh, said that the net income of organic cotton farmers is Rs 6,000 an acre, while Bt cotton farmers earned only Rs 2,000.

“This is due to the higher cost of pesticides. Though the incomes are almost at the same levels of Rs 11,000, organic farmers register more net income because they spent less on pesticides. Their cost of production was only Rs 4,600, while Bt cotton farmers spent Rs 9,000, giving them lesser net incomes,” Ms Reyes Tirado, who works for Greenpeace Research Laboratories at the University of Exeter in the UK, said.

She was here to release the report “Picking Cotton – The choice between organic and genetically-engineered cotton for farmers in South India”.

Yields

Presenting the findings of the report here on Tuesday, she said there was not much difference in yields. “The small yield increase in Bt and chemically-intensive cotton farms does not translate into income benefit for the farmers due to high cultivation costs,” she said.

Greenpeace activists conducted the survey in three districts by talking to 27 farmers with small holdings — 15 Bt cotton farmers and the rest organic farmers. “In the dry year of 2009-10, the economic livelihood (net return after repaying debts) for Bt cotton farmers is negative. On the average, they end up owing Rs 7,136 an acre. The higher costs of cultivation make them very vulnerable to financial insecurity and failure,” she said.

Demands

She alleged that the availability of non-Bt seed was almost absent, denying choice to the farmers. While demanding a ban on Bt cotton cultivation, the NGO asked the Government to support organic cotton and ecological farming.

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## Pepper futures fall on bearish activities

G.K. Nair, Kochi, June 16

Pepper futures dropped on Wednesday on bearish activities even as spot pepper was unavailable in the market.

The prices dropped and then switched over to nearby positions, market sources told Business Line. Sell calls from expert analysts also aided the prices to fall, they said.

The open interest for June contracts fell by 538 tonnes to 1,595 tonnes. July and

August open interests shot up by 428 tonnes and 322 tonnes respectively. Open interest increased by 218 tonnes to 15,177 tonnes. Turnover increased by 2,574 tonnes to 8,374 tonnes.

The money power of the operators was governing the market while the medium and small players were becoming victims in the tug-of-war between the bull and bear operators, trading sources alleged.

June contract dropped by Rs 197 to close at Rs 15,712 a quintal. July and August contracts fell by Rs 267 and Rs 284 respectively to close at Rs 15,901 and Rs 16,125 a quintal. Spot prices, due to the absence of selling pressure and tight availability declined, by Rs 100 a quintal in tandem with the futures market trend, they said.

Indian parity in the international market declined further and became more competitive at \$3,550 a tonne. If the Indonesian players did not undercut, orders could come to India, they said. A report from Vietnam on Wednesday indicated the prices of 500GL at \$3,225 (fob), HCMC and 550 GLat at \$3,400 a tonne. White double washed was at \$4,560 a tonne.

According to an overseas market report, the pepper market continued to remain steady.

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## **FCI sells 750 tonnes wheat via MCX arm**

Mumbai, June 16

The open market sale scheme (OMSS) of wheat by Food Corporation of India through electronic terminals on the National Spot Exchange, an arm of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), received bids for 750 tonnes on Wednesday.

The highest bid was at Rs 1,260 a quintal and the lowest was Rs 1,254.08 a quintal, the floor price fixed by the Government.

Wheat will be delivered through NSEL delivery centres at Ghevra, Mayapuri and Narela in Delhi.

Mr Subhash Zadoo, General Manager, FCI, said even though the prices in physical market in Delhi were near the floor price, the Corporation received good response due to initiatives taken by NSEL.

“The use of electronic platform for releasing stocks under OMSS has proved more prudent and efficient. The efficiency of the system lies in its uniqueness for quoting rates in a transparent manner and faster settlement cycle coupled with counter guarantee of trades,” he added.

Mr Anjani Sinha, Managing Director, NSEL, said the use of our platform by leading government organisations such as FCI proves the efficiency of the system.

“After the success in Delhi, I am sure that after this successful performance, FCI will commence use of our facilities also at other parts of the country,” he added.

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## **6-week high offerings at Coonoor tea auctions**

P.S. Sundar, Coonoor, June 16

A volume of 17.37 lakh kg will be offered for Sale No: 24 of the Coonoor Tea Trade Association (CTTA) auctions, to be held on Thursday and Friday, reveals an analysis of the listing by brokers.

This is the highest volume of the last six weeks. It is as much as 1.45 lakh kg more

than the last week's offer and 40,000 kg more than the offer this time last year.

## LEAF AND DUSTS

Of the 17.37 lakh kg on offer, 11.47 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 5.90 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 16.38 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 0.99 lakh kg, orthodox variety.

In the 17.37 lakh kg, fresh tea accounts for 14.32 lakh kg. As much as 3.05 lakh kg comprises teas remaining unsold in previous auctions.

More teas have been remaining unsold in recent auctions despite shedding prices by Rs 2 a kg for want of buyers.

Minimum prices fell to Rs 38 a kg last week. A few months ago, no tea was available for less than Rs 50, but now, the average price itself is Rs 57 against Rs 89 this time last year.

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**hindustantimes**

 Thu, 17 Jun 2010

## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Cloudy

**Thursday, Jun 17**

Max    Min

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

**Friday, Jun 18**

Max    Min

33.0° | 26.8°

36° | 27°

Rain: Trace

Sunrise: 05:42

Humidity: 89%

Sunset: 18:36

Wind: Normal

Barometer: 1006.0

### Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Jun 19

Jun 20

Jun 21

Jun 22

Jun 23



32° | 28°

33° | 27°

33° | 28°

33° | 28°

33° | 28°

Rainy

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