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## Farmers to get modern equipment for subsidy

*To overcome shortage in farm labourers*



**help in hand:Nandakishore, Commissioner for Agriculture Produce, distributing agriculture equipment to a member of women SHG in Krishnagiri on Tuesday. –**

KRISHNAGIRI: Modern agriculture equipment worth Rs. 60 crore will be given to farmers this year on 100 per cent subsidy, said Nandakishore, Commissioner for Agriculture Produce, here on Tuesday.

Distributing five cono weeders to SHGs undertaking agriculture and one marker equipment, Mr. Nandakishore said, SHGs would be given planting equipment, reeder and nursery equipment as well on h100 per cent subsidy from this year.

Keeping in mind the difficulties expressed by agriculturists regarding shortage of

labourers, the government has proposed to give modern agriculture equipment to the women SHGs in the agriculture sector.

Instructions were given to the district administration to send a list of beneficiaries. The equipment would be given to all farmers irrespective of their land holdings.

Mr. Nandakishore said that during the last financial year 71 lakh tonnes of rice was produced in Krishnagiri district.

During the current year a target of 112 lakh tonnes of food grains, including 81.50 lakh tonnes of rice, has been fixed. To achieve the target the agriculture department was providing necessary help to farmers in the district, he said.

C. Kosalaraman, Commissioner, Agriculture Department, said the System of Rice Intensification was first introduced in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts in the state.

To reduce the rise in dal prices, steps have been taken to form a committee at the national level and at the state level under the chairmanship of Chief Secretaries.

The committee will undertake various measures to control the prices of dal, pulses and other food crops.

The SRI has helped increase the acreage to 3 lakh hectares in the state.

V.K. Shanmugam, Collector, said the weather is favourable to the cultivation of mango. Mango varieties such as Bangalooru, Alphonso etc were being cultivated in about 40,000 hectares in the district.

About 3 lakh tonnes of mangoes are produced in the district. Of this 80 per cent was being used in the 45 pulp industries in and around the district.

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## Last irrigation year was good for delta farmers

CHENNAI: The last irrigation year – June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010 – was, comparatively, a better one for Cauvery delta farmers with the State receiving more than the annual quantum fixed by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in its interim order.

As per the interim order, Karnataka has to release 205 thousand million cubic (tmc) ft of water to Tamil Nadu during an irrigation year. The State received 219.44 tmcft, a surplus of 14.44 tmcft. Karnataka let out only the surplus water from its reservoirs and did not release water into the river as and when flow was received.

During the south-west monsoon from June to September, the tribunal has prescribed 137 tmcft, nearly 66.82 per cent of the total quantum, considering the fact that Karnataka gets copious rain during this period.

Last year, the State received 135.94 tmcft, a shortfall of about 1.06 tmc ft. But, the month-wise release of water during the season was not as per the schedule prescribed by the tribunal.

In June Karnataka released 6.071 tmcft as against 10.16 tmc ft, in July 39.899 tmc ft against 42.76 tmcft and in August, 34.625 tmcft as against 54.72 tmcft.

In September Tamil Nadu received 55.34 tmc ft, when the prescribed quantum was only 29.36 tmcft. Since Karnataka failed to release the required quantity during the first three months of the irrigation year, the opening of the Mettur reservoir got delayed, forcing the farmers to skip the kuruvai crop.

Again, during the north-east monsoon from October to December, as against the

prescribed 56.59 tmcft, the State realised 60.13 tmcft, an excess of 3.45 tmc ft.

During this period, the State got sufficient rain, especially in the delta districts, thereby reducing the pressure on the Mettur reservoir.

From January to May, the realisation was 11.961 tmcft more than the prescribed quantity of 11.41 tmcft.

As the reservoir was closed for irrigation from January 31 to May 31, the excess inflow was used to build up the storage to a certain extent. Wednesday's storage in the reservoir was 38.473 tmcft and inflow, 3,164 cusecs.

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## FARMER'S NOTEBOOK

### Reviving native cattle breeds, urgent need of the hour

A false belief exists that local cattle are inferior to cross-bred animals



**More Awareness: Haranath Reddy (left), at a health camp for local cattle.**

Integrated dairying plays an important role in ensuring food security and generating income for small farmers and agricultural labourers.

“A farmer can earn a gross income of about Rs. 81,485 per year from maintaining just one native cow breed. The capital investment required for purchase and maintenance of an animal, insurance, and feed comes to Rs. 31,100 and a farmer can get a net surplus of about Rs. 50,385 in a year,” says Dr. K. Haranath Reddy, Deputy Director (AH), S.V. Gosamrakshana Shala, TTD, Tirupati.

### Unscientific policies

Traditional, unscientific animal husbandry policies by the government, and factors such as fodder scarcity, grossly inadequate health cover, and over population of low yielders reduced the productivity of local breeds compared to that of their European counterparts, according to him.

Despite being a reservoir of vast genetic resources, farm animals still remain under developed in terms of genetic improvement and production.

It is a strange paradox that though India possesses a vast population of cattle they need to be scientifically exploited in an economic sense.

“Change in cropping system also contributed to the extinction of several local breeds.

“Decades back, our ancestors did farming in such a way that they could get grains for their consumption and crop residues for their animals,” says Dr. Haranath.

But mono-cropping changed all this. High yielding, short duration varieties left no residues for cattle, and fodder shortage led to an increased sale of cattle during summer in cattle shandies.

### Urgent problem

“If you interact with small and marginal farmers, you can understand that the most pressing problems a farmer faces are fodder and water shortage. Next come fatal diseases and lack of timely veterinary attention.

“Even today many villages lack immediate veterinary care as government doctors are just not available.

“Though private doctors exist, their services are available only on payment and the grinding poverty in many of the farmers' households makes it impossible to afford a consulting fee, leave alone buying medicine,” explains Dr. Haranath.

Today more than 90 per cent of small farmers do not maintain animals. In many places there are large tracts of land left fallow as bullocks are not affordable.

A false belief exists among a lot of people that local breeds are inferior, and need to be upgraded through cross breeding and artificial insemination (using frozen semen from hybrid bulls).

No understanding

“While the animal husbandry department spends crores of rupees annually for breeding and insemination programmes, nothing is being spent to even make an attempt to understand or conduct pragmatic research on local breeds of cattle, towards poverty reduction,” he says.

While importance is being given to bigger and larger size crossbred cattle, what is being overlooked is that a bigger size naturally means more fodder and water along with more maintenance cost.

Good demand

While in some parts of the country scientists are asking farmers to take up organic practices, this has not been possible because several farmers do not have cattle and

hence cannot make their own manures, and manure is in great demand today.

Liberalization by the Government in the 90's also struck a death knell to local breeds.

“Our farmers were made to face a sudden ‘invasion’ of agriculture products at a highly subsidized rate against which they could not stand up and the result today is a rural economy in severe distress,” adds Dr. Haranath.

### Cattle urine

Native cattles' urine contains rich colonies of desirable microbes for use in the rejuvenation of the fertility of soils as well as in veterinary and human medicines. Unlike cross-bred cattle, native breeds are resistant to infections.

With an investment of Rs.20,000 (cost of one animal), annual insurance of Rs. 700.00, Concentrate feed of (at Rs.10/- per kg) Rs. 9,900.00, Veterinary care for Rs. 500, (Total expenditure: Rs.31,100.00) a farmer can get a net income of Rs.56,000 in a year from selling milk, Rs. 9,000.00 (selling vermicompost), Rs.16,125.00 (from cow urine), Rs. 360.00 (selling empty gunny bags).

For more details contact Dr. K. Haranath Reddy at email [ttdgoshala@gmail.com](mailto:ttdgoshala@gmail.com), mobile 09849050646.

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### Precautions on pesticides in sericulture

Avoid mixing of two pesticides

Like other crops, mulberry is also affected by several pests like insects, pathogens,

nematodes, mites, weeds etc. Though the use of pesticides is inevitable in mulberry ecosystem, it has its own limitation owing to toxicity to silkworms.

Since newer pesticide molecules are being flooded into the market and the availability of recommended old pesticides becoming scarce, sericulture farmers unknowingly purchase and spray some non-recommended pesticides to solve the pest problem, but on the other hand the silkworms die out of pesticide toxicity leading to total crop loss.

### Basic knowledge

As this situation has been noticed in a few sericultural areas, in order to overcome these untoward incidences, sericulture farmers and the field personnel should have a basic knowledge about pesticides, especially of its hazardous effects to silkworm and mulberry.

Though the active ingredient chemical is same in different commercial products, the nature and quality of chemicals used as base / emulsifiers may be toxic to silkworms.

Hence, one particular brand when used does not cause any side effects, the other brand with the same active ingredient becomes toxic.

Pesticide after its shelf life (expiry date) changes its chemical nature either rendering it ineffective or increasing its toxicity. This altered chemical property of the pesticide also causes mortality to silkworm or phytotoxicity to mulberry.

### Cause of phytotoxicity

Mixing of two pesticides without knowing compatibility should be avoided, as it may cause phytotoxicity to mulberry or become ineffective to kill the pests.

Mulberry leaves should be used for silkworm rearing strictly after the safety period.

When the safety period is unknown or any new pesticides are used, it is safer to initially feed few silkworms to ascertain its safety/toxicity level before feeding all worms. Since



many newer pesticide molecules need detailed study in sericulture, assumptive use of new pesticides without technical guidance should be avoided to protect the crop from pesticide toxicity.

**B.Mohan,J.Ravikumar,& R.Balakrishna**

Research Extension Centre, Central Silk Board, Srivilliputtur and Regional Sericultural Research Station,Central Silk Board, Salem Tamil Nadu

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**<http://www.thehindu.com/thehindu/seta/2010/06/03/stories/2010060351631500.htm>**

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FARM QUERIES

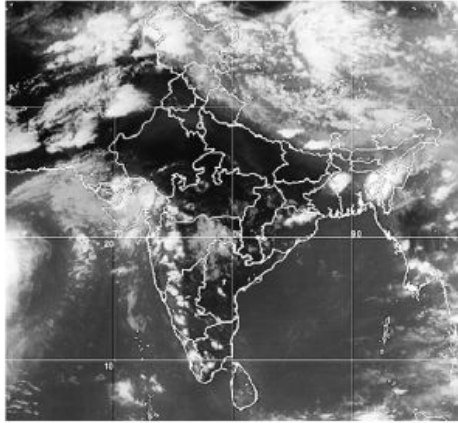
### **Mushroom cultivation**

Is there any place in Chennai where I can get information and training in oyster mushroom cultivation?

**B. Sangeetha,Chennai**

You can contact Mr. Pandiyan, Agalya mushrooms, No 5- MGR street, Rajiv Gandhi salai, Sozhinganallur, Chennai- 600119, mobile: 9283252096 for details on oyster, milky mushroom seeds availability, cultivation and marketing.

# Weather

WEATHER				
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>				
Anantapur	40	27	0	0
Aroyavaram	37	25	2	7
Bapatla	43	29	0	0
Calingapatnam	34	—	—	—
Gannavaram	43	29	0	0
Hyderabad AP	42	24	16	16
Kakinada	42	30	0	0
Kavali	43	—	—	—
Kurmoal	42	26	0	0
Mahabubnagar	41	27	0	0
Machilipatnam	43	29	0	0
Narasapur	42	30	0	0
Nellore	42	31	0	0
Nizamabad	45	30	0	0
Ongole	43	30	0	0
Ramagundam	45	33	0	0
Tirupathi AP	42	30	0	0
Tuni	41	29	0	0
Vizag AP	39	30	0	0
Vizag	33	29	0	0
<b>KARNATAKA</b>				
Agumbe	29	20	0	1
Bangalore AP	33	21	7	7
Bangalore	34	22	5	5
Belgaum AP	34	22	0	6
Bellary	38	23	0	0
Bijapur	39	19	14	14
Chitradurga	35	23	0	0
Chickmagalur	32	20	6	6
Chintamani	34	22	2	2
Gadag	36	24	0	12
Gulbarga	41	24	0	0
Hassan	30	19	0	0
Honavar	33	26	tr	2
Karwar	34	28	0	6
Madikeri	25	18	0	0
Mangalore AP	33	26	3	6
				
<b>INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs.</b> <b>Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on June 02</b>				
Mysore	33	23	0	0
Mandya	34	22	0	0
Panambur	33	27	2	2
Raichur	40	25	4	4
Shirali	36	27	0	1
<b>KERALA</b>				
Alappuzha	33	25	tr	16
Kannur	35	26	0	0
Kochi AP	33	26	3	5
Kottayam	35	26	0	0
Kozhikode	34	27	0	2
Punalur	35	25	0	0
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	32	26	0	tr
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	34	26	tr	tr
Vellanikkara	33	26	0	0
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>				
Adirampattinam	35	27	0	0
Coimbatore AP	36	25	0	0
Coonoor	25	17	0	0
Cuddalore	39	27	0	0
Chennai AP	39	29	0	0
Chennai	38	28	0	0
Dharmapuri	37	27	0	0
Kanyakumari	33	27	0	0
Karaikal	38	27	0	0
Kodaikanal	22	14	1	1
Madurai AP	40	28	0	0
Nagapattinam	39	28	0	0
Palayamkottai	41	28	0	0
Pamban	34	29	0	0
Parangipettai	38	29	0	0
Puducherry	38	29	0	0
Salem	37	27	0	0
Thanjavur	40	29	0	0
Tiruchi AP	40	29	0	0
Tiruchi	40	30	0	0
Tondi	34	28	0	0
Tuticorin	35	29	0	0
Ooty	—	13	0	0
Valparai	31	13	1	1
Vedaranyam	34	28	0	0
Vellore	40	26	0	0
<b>LAKSHADWEEP</b>				
Amini Divi	33	28	0	tr
Minicoy	33	28	0	1
Kavarathi	33	27	0	0
<b>OTHER STATIONS</b>				
Kolkata (Allpore)	36	30	0	0
Mumbai	35	29	tr	1
New Delhi	44	34	0	0
<p>The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace) and total rainfall in mm since June 01, 2010</p>				
<b>Isolated rain in Tamil Nadu</b>				
<b>CHENNAI:</b> Rainfall occurred at a few places over interior Karnataka.				
<p>Isolated rainfall occurred over Rayalaseema, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and coastal Karnataka. Dry weather prevailed over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep.</p> <p>The following stations recorded heavy rainfall in centimetres:          Narayanpura (Gulbarga dt.) 10, Nalwatwad (Bijapur dt.) 9, Hungund (Bagalkote dt.) 8 and Kakkeri (Gulbarga dt.) 7.</p> <p>Heat wave conditions prevailed over parts of Telangana and central parts of coastal Andhra Pradesh.</p> <p>On Wednesday, the maximum temperature rose appreciably at one or two places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, interior Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, rose at one or two places over rest coastal Andhra Pradesh, rest Kerala, rest south interior Karnataka, rest interior Tamil Nadu, fell at one or two places over south coastal Tamil Nadu. They were appreciably above normal at many places over Karnataka, interior Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala.</p> <p><b>WEATHER (Valid until Friday Morning):</b> Rain or Thundershowers at a few places over Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep. Isolated rain or thundershowers over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Rayalaseema and Telangana. Mainly dry weather will prevail over coastal Andhra Pradesh.</p>				



Press Trust Of India

Jamshedpur, June 02, 2010

First Published: 16:06 IST(2/6/2010)

Last Updated: 16:09 IST(2/6/2010)

## Food processing sector growing at 14.9 per cent

India's food processing sector, which was growing at about six per cent four years ago, is now expanding at nearly 15 per cent annually, Union Minister Subodh Kant Sahay said today.

The country processes about 10 per cent of the total food produced and by 2015 it is expected to rise to 20 per cent, the Minister of State for Food Processing said.

He said the sector has a huge potential, particularly in the European markets, where there is good demand for ready-to-eat food. To grow rapidly, the sector requires an investment of Rs 1 lakh crore, he said.

Sahay, who was in Jamshedpur for the Twenty20 finals of the Jharkhand Premier League match, said there was a need for a separate food processing policy and that he would "soon talk to state governments in this regard."

He said there was a huge potential for the food processing sector in Jharkhand, which does not have a single unit for perishables in the state, and has not seen any action by the state government in this regard. "We set up a food park in Ranchi over a year ago, but unfortunately, the state government has not been able to grant a sub-lease of 50-60 acre till now," he said.

# Business Standard

Thursday, Jun 03, 2010

## UP staring at 50% wheat procurement target

Virendra Singh Rawat / New Delhi/ Lucknow June 03, 2010, 0:50 IST

Against 4 million tonnes target, state likely to achieve 2 million tonnes

The sluggish wheat procurement process in Uttar Pradesh is likely to end only at the half-way mark as the season ends on June 30.

While UP had targeted to procure 4 Million Tonnes (mt) during this procurement season beginning April 1 through June, so far only about 1.7 mt has been purchased with less than a month to go.

Of the 4 mt target, Food Corporation of India (FCI) had the target of 100,000 tonnes, of which it had procured about 25,000 tonnes.

There are several factors leading to low procurement, including high temperature during harvest, which affected production and resulted in shrivelling of wheat, and higher prices in the open market vis-à-vis Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 1,100/quintal.

“The procurement has remained sluggish this season both with FCI and the UP agencies. It is most likely that we would be able to achieve only half our combined targets,” an FCI official told Business Standard.

The current open market rate of wheat is around Rs 1,200/quintal and the farmers get cash upfront against the payment through cheque by FCI and state agencies.

Besides, the government agencies are also deducting Rs 44/quintal for shrivelled wheat, which is keeping the farmers away from them as the effective price comes to Rs 1,056/quintal.

Earlier, the state government had estimated the wheat production would exceed 29 mt, however, the revised estimates are 26 mt.

“We had fixed 4 MT as target on our preliminary assessment of the situation. Now, since open market rates are more profitable for the farmers, we are happy the farmers are getting better returns than MSP,” food and civil supplies department special secretary D K Gupta said.

He informed almost 20 mt is retained by farmers for personal consumption and rest is available for procurement. “Since, the production has also taken a beating this year, the procurement is bound to be affected.”

In its 2010-11 wheat procurement policy declared on March 30, UP had allowed private bulk purchasers to procure wheat in the state. In 2007, UP had disallowed procurement by private purchasers as it was affecting government procurement due to price differential.

This season, 4,468 procurement centres had been set up, including state food marketing department, Provincial Cooperative Federation, UP Agro, UP Sahkari Sangh, UP State Food Corporation and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (Nafed). FCI has set up over 40 centres. UP is India’s largest wheat producer and provides 35 per cent to India’s food basket.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/552134.aspx>

## Better returns: Farmers switch from soybean to cotton, cane

NewsWire18 / Indore June 3, 2010, 0:16 IST



Last year's handsome returns from cotton and sugarcane will lure farmers to switch from soybean this kharif season, but the decline in total acreage will be minimum as the fall in area in one state would be offset by an increase in another, according to Soybean Processors' Association of India(SOPA).

"It is certain that the area under soybean would decrease. Some people say the total area could decline by 15-20 per cent this year at an all-India level. But in my view, it should not go down by more than five per cent," Rajesh Agrawal, coordinator and spokesperson of SOPA said.

Compared to 9.5 million ha soybean sowing area in kharif 2009, the acreage may be around 9 million tonnes this year, he felt.

Soybean crop year is Oct-Sep. Even though soybean acreage may shrink in west central India, unlike the previous years when sustained growth was seen, a rise in acreage in south India should offset the fall, said Agrawal, who is also the managing director of city-based feed meal supplier Premier Protein.

"Area in southern states, mainly in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka should rise because they are consuming states. If the monsoon rains are good, we could see rise in soybean area in Rajasthan also," he said.

SOPA officials said that in Madhya Pradesh, the leading producer, the leeway for

farmers to switch for other crops was limited because of unsuitable environment for crop growth. "They (farmers) do not have options in Madhya Pradesh to go for other crops, because the climatic conditions, soil texture and water availability will not permit them to do so despite a good monsoon. Even if there is a fall, it should be 2-4 per cent," said Prem Agrawal, convenor of Soybean Development

### **Programme in SOPA**

The Madhya Pradesh government has fixed this year's soybean acreage target at 5.3 million ha, which is normal, SOPA officials said.

Last year too, farmers in the central Indian state planted 5.3 million ha area of soybean, according to SOPA data.

"But I am not sure about Maharashtra," Prem Agrawal said.

Maharashtra has favourable farming conditions for cotton, sugarcane and soybean. It is the second largest producer of both soybean and sugarcane and has the top position in national cotton output. "We are waiting for the exact acreage scenario in Maharashtra after the monsoon rains, as major shifting of crops will take place there. But in my view the area could dip by 400,000 ha at the best," Rajesh Agrawal said.

Last year, soybean was sown across 3 million ha in Maharashtra. The fall in sowing area nationwide is already visible in the latest data released by the Union Ministry of Agriculture. Total kharif oilseed sowing in the country had slumped to 27,000 ha by May 28 as against 47,000 ha in the same period last year, according to the ministry report.

### **FCI to sell 3 mt of foodgrain at discount**

**NewsWire18 / New Delhi June 03, 2010, 0:15 IST**

Following a government order, the Food Corp of India (FCI) will sell three million tonnes of food grains at discounted rates during the Jun-Nov period, an FCI official today said.

According to the current order, wheat rates have been fixed at Rs 845 per 100 kg as against Rs 1,080 earlier, and rice at Rs 1,185 per 100 kg from its previous minimum support price of Rs 1,455.

Last month, a ministerial panel headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee had declared an ad-hoc allocation of three million tonnes of food grains for sale to ration card holders from June onwards.

Accordingly, the government has earmarked 1.69 million tonnes of wheat and 1.38 million tonnes of rice to be sold through the targeted public distribution system during May 31-Nov 30, the official said.

Earlier, in January-February, the government had made an allocation of 2.55 million tonnes of wheat and one million tonnes of rice, but states had lifted just 4,20,000 tonnes of wheat and 5,02,000 tonnes of rice from this allocation till May 28. "The earlier scheme was valid till June 1, but in the latest order it has been discontinued and replaced with the new scheme.

The sale price has also been reduced and we are expecting better response to the current scheme," he said. As on May 1, FCI's foodgrain stocks stood at around 60 million tonnes—33.7 million tonnes of wheat and 26.2 million tonnes of rice, way above the buffer norm requirement.

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## Pepper futures fall sharply on liquidation

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*Over 1,000 tonnes were liquidated of June position while over 800 tonnes were switched over.*

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G.K. Nair,Kochi, June 2

Pepper futures on Wednesday fell sharply on heavy liquidation by long position holders with the June contract closing at second lower circuit breaker level, the lowest permissible trading limit of the day.

The market was as usual highly volatile with the prices moving up and then started declining. In fact, it fell sharply in less than two hours before close. Over 1,000 tonnes were liquidated of June position while over 800 tonnes were switched over.

Bearish sentiments spread in the market saying that there are about 11,000 tonnes of stock with the exchange and the working days left for the maturity is around 15 days. Besides, Indonesia was quoting lower.

June contract on NCDEX fell by Rs 658 to close at Rs 15,814 a quintal. July and August dropped by Rs 668 and Rs 678 respectively to close at Rs 16,050 and Rs 16,285 a quintal. Total turnover increased by 7,174 tonnes to 16,228 tonnes. Total open interest dropped by 1,011 tonnes. Open interest for June fell by 1,906 tonnes

while July shot up by 841 tonnes and August was up by 41 tonnes.

Spot prices, in tandem with the futures market, fell by Rs 300 to close at Rs 15,200 (ungarbled) and Rs 15,700 (MG 1) a quintal. Indian parity in the international market has become competitive at \$3,600 a tonne, provided Indonesia does not undercut after watching the Indian futures market trend, export sources said.

At the same time, if any orders come, availability of pepper would be exchange delivered material as ready pepper was not available. The sellers were not ready to sell at the current rates, market sources told Business Line.

According to an overseas report , MLV Asta pepper was said to be steady at around \$3650 – 3750 (c&f) USA.

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## **Coonoor tea fetches Rs 34 less a kg**

P.S. Sundar, Coonoor, June 2

At the Coonoor Tea Trade Association (CTTA) auctions, prices are currently ruling as much as Rs 33.73 a kg lower than this time last year. Prices now average Rs 56.03 a kg against Rs 89.76 this time last year.

An analysis of the market report shows that the prices of both CTC and orthodox teas have fallen.

Orthodox teas now fetch an average price of Rs 61.97 (Rs 101.25). Average price of CTC teas has fallen to Rs 55.77 (Rs 88.86).

Cumulative prices from January show that the average of leaf and dust combined has fallen to Rs 65.68 a kg (Rs 74.81). The average cumulative price of orthodox teas has

fallen to Rs 74.53 (Rs 83.37) and that of CTC teas to Rs 65.09 (Rs 74.13).

Some 30-40 per cent of the offer remains unsold despite shedding prices causing concern to producers. This arises from the lack of effective promotion to activate the demand.

“From Sunday night till Monday morning, plantation pockets in Kotagiri tea heartland received showers. The Meteorological department has announced the commencement of monsoon. So, we expect follow up showers which will help tea crop to increase. ”, Mr Ramesh Bhojarajan, Secretary, Nilgiris Bought-Leaf Tea Manufacturers' Association, told Business Line.

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