

“Poultry disease prevention lab at Namakkal”

Special Correspondent

The facility will be set up jointly by TANUVAS and ICAR

— Photo: S.S. Kumar



Boosting production:(From right) S. Ayyappan, Director General of ICAR, P. Thangaraju, Vice Chancellor of TANUVAS and K.M.L. Pathak, Deputy Director General (Animal Science) at a conference in Chennai on Friday.

CHENNAI: A poultry disease prevention laboratory will be created at Namakkal, said S. Ayyappan, Director General of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), here on Friday.

Speaking after inaugurating a Farmers' Training Hostel at the Madhavaram campus of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Dr. Ayyappan said the laboratory would be set up jointly by the TANUVAS and ICAR. On the occasion, Dr.

Ayyappan said the monthly stipend for B.VSc students provided by the ICAR would be increased from the existing Rs.400 to Rs.1,000, he said.

Speaking at the programme, P. Thangaraju, Vice-Chancellor, TANUVAS, said the university received financial assistance to the tune of Rs.22.33 crore, with which 32 research programmes were being carried out.

In the current year alone, eight research programmes had been initiated at a cost of Rs.2.6 crore, he said.

The ICAR should help the poultry exporters in Namakkal to get the 'Quality Certificate' from the Centre, the Vice-Chancellor appealed.

Addressing the industry-institute meet function of the 27th annual conference and national symposium of Indian Poultry Science Association (IPASCON 2010), Mr. Ayyappan said the lab would be set up at an estimated cost of Rs.1 crore and ICAR was ready to finance it. The lab would monitor diseases that affect poultry sector, pesticide residual and antibiotic residual.

In his special address, V. Gnanaprakasam, former Vice-Chancellor, TANUVAS, said that the need of the hour was to introduce a five-year business management course with poultry production course to take care of manpower supply.

R.P. Singh, Director, ICAR, Izat Nagar, said that a one-year diploma course for 10 Plus-Two students will be introduced to create mid-level technicians.

D. Chandrasekaran, professor and head, department of animal nutrition, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal, urged the officials to increase the students' intake or start new veterinary colleges to meet the manpower shortage.

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TNAU recommends INM for good crop yield

Staff Reporter

PHOTO: S. SIVA SARAVANAN



USEFUL OPTIONS: Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University P. Murugesha Boopathi showing the test field crop to presspersons at the university in Coimbatore on Friday.

COIMBATORE: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has recommended judicious combination of organic manure and inorganic fertilizers (Integrated Nutrient Management) for good crop yield.

The results derived from the Permanent Manurial Experiment (PME) conducted in a test field at the university over a period of 100 years have gone to prove this point, according to Vice-Chancellor P. Murugesha Boopathi.

Addressing presspersons here on Friday, he said the test field measuring half-an-acre had so far seen 151 crops being harvested under the PME.

“The field has seen continuous experimentation and has tested over three lakh soil samples. The crops grown here so far have undergone 18 treatments which are a combination of applications of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium fertilizers, along with organic manure,” the Vice-Chancellor said.

He added that in case of nitrogen and phosphorus not being applied, the reduction in yield was to an extent of 50 to 60 per cent.

Also, the application of a single nutrient alone resulted in a significantly low crop yield.

“The combined application of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fertilizers along with organic manures under INM approach sustained higher yield of crops and also maintained soil health in terms of physical, chemical, and biological properties,” Mr. Boopathi added.

To take the findings forward and encourage farmers to adopt this formula, the university had plans to set up demo plots at all its research stations. A Southern Regional Workshop on “Soil Test Programme” would be held in December at the university to disseminate to and train farmers on the advanced soil test crop response based fertilizer recommendations, he added.

A seminar on “Maintenance of Soil Health” was also being planned in March 2011 in which scientists from all over India were expected to participate and deliberate on long term / permanent manurial experiments.

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NEW DELHI, September 17, 2010

Foodgrains output expected to reach 220 to 230 mt: Pawar



The Hindu A wholesale market dealing with rice, cereals and other food items. File Photo

With good monsoon coverage this season, the country expects the foodgrains production to touch the last best level of 2008 in 2010-11 crop year. Foodgrains production in 2008-09 was 234.47 million tonnes.

Barring parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, monsoon spread has averaged out to be ``plus three per cent'' in the country to the ``satisfaction'' of the government. Rainfall has been deficient in Bihar by 25 per cent, in Jharkhand by 48 per cent and in West Bengal by and average of 16 per cent. It is deficient in parts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh as well.

For the drought-hit districts in Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, the Centre has decided to provide a diesel subsidy of Rs 500 per farmer to enable them to power their pump sets. For this an allocation of Rs 500 crore would be made. The government will seek the permission of the Election Commission to implement the decision, Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar told journalists here on Friday after inaugurating the Conference on Rabi Campaign. Since Bihar is going to polls from October 21, the model code of conduct, barring announcement of any new scheme, is in place.

“I met Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Thursday and it was decided to extend diesel subsidy to farmers in these states so that they can salvage their crops. The government has decided to give Rs 500 crore for this. The entire funding will be borne by the central government.”

The Minister said that though there was a setback in kharif rice output last year due to drought in 399 districts, foodgrains production is expected to be better than last year and reach the 2008 output next year. “I expect overall foodgrains production to reach between 220 to 230 million tonnes because of good monsoon. The area under pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane and paddy is more than last year,” he said. In 2009-10, foodgrains output is expected to be 218 million tonnes against a target of 239 million tonnes.

Sugar production is expected to be about 23 million tonnes as against 18.8 million tonnes in the current year ending September 30.

“The good southwest monsoon will be favourable for the wheat crop next year. The reservoirs are full. The level of water storage in Bhakra dam, for instance, is not seen in the last 30 years. Our expectation, after talking to the states, is that 2010-11 will be bumper crop year.”

While reiterating the government’s efforts to enhance foodgrains storage capacity, Mr Pawar ruled out lifting the ban on export of wheat and sugar “till a final view is taken on the National Food Security Bill”.

Asked about permitting futures trading in sugar from October 1 as the regulator of the Forward Markets Commission had hinted recently, Mr Pawar said, “They suspended sugar futures. It is up to them to take a decision on allowing it.”

His Ministry has moved a proposal for de-control of sugar industry, which, Mr Pawar said, was in the process of consultations with the states, agriculture being a state subject.

Asked to comment on the reported news that floods-ravaged Pakistan might accept food aid from India, rather than financial assistance, Mr Pawar said any decision on this would have to be at the level of the Prime Minister. ``If there is a request from the Ministry of External Affairs we will be happy to process it, be it for Pakistan, Sri Lanka or Bangladesh.”

On the rising food inflation, Mr Pawar said it was due to the higher cost of fruits, vegetables and milk.

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Farmers oppose fixing meters under free motor scheme

Special Correspondent

‘Could result in imposing charges for the power consumed by us’

— Photo:R. Ashok



Point of view: Farmers' representatives speaking at the Farmers Grievances Day meeting in Tiruchi on Friday.

TIRUCHI: Farmers' representatives of Tiruchi district have appealed to the State government not to insist on fixing meters while supplying free motors for agricultural pumpsets.

Welcoming the implementation of the scheme to supply free motors for small and marginal pumpsets and the government clarification that the free power supply would continue, representatives of farmers associations, however, observed that the Union government has long been pressing for the fixation of meters for agricultural connections.

Fixing meters during the implementation of the free motor scheme could result in imposing charges for the power consumed by farmers in future. Fixing meters was unacceptable to farmers and the government should drop the move, said R.Raja Chidambaram, Secretary, Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam, speaking at the Farmers Grievances Day meeting chaired by Collector T.Soundiah here on Friday. Speakers also urged the State government to press Karnataka to release Tamil Nadu's due share of water as per the verdict of the Cauvery Tribunal. They also demanded that farmers be sanctioned loans liberally to take up samba cultivation.

Some nationalised banks were not sanctioning fresh loans to farmers whose loans have been written off, some of them alleged.

A.Nagarajan of the Horticulture Crop Growers Association appealed to the government to provide free power supply to farmers growing horticulture crops also.

Farmers using free power for raising horticulture crops have been charged with power theft and slapped with heavy penalties by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, he said and urged the government to stop the practice. He also urged the government to construct a check dam across the Cauvery River near Kambarasampettai.

PR.Viswanathan, president, Tamil Nadu Tank and River Ayacutdars Association, urged the district administration to take steps to build a new canal to link the Mahimzhampadi Pudu Vaical with the Thachankurichi, Kumulur and Kannakudi tanks as it would help stabilise irrigation for about 1000 acres.

Siva.Suriyan of the Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, called for immediate steps to check the mealy bug attack in tapioca, chilly and other vegetable crops in Manapparai and Vaiyampatti union.

Mr.Soundiah informed the farmers that four new direct purchase centres (DPCs) to procure paddy would be opened at Kallikudi, Alangudi Mahajanam, Poovalur and Komakudi from Monday. He instructed officials to take steps to open DPCs at Lalgudi, Thuraiyur and in other places wherever there was demand.

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Training in poultry

Special Correspondent

PANAJI: Goa Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services will conduct a four-day training programme in poultry development for farmers and unemployed youth at the Farmers Training Centre, Curti-Ponda, in south Goa from Wednesday.

Farmers, unemployed youth interested in joining the training programme can contact in poultry development Ph: 2312479.

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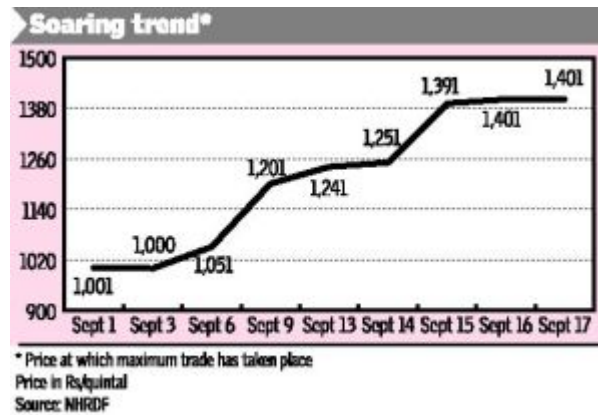
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Saturday, September 18, 2010

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Back Onion near 8-month high



M.R. Subramani

Chennai, Sept. 17

The surge in onion prices continued this week as demand persists. Prices increased despite increased arrivals in various markets in Maharashtra. Arrivals also continued to be higher in Karnataka, where the near crop has hit the market.

According to trade sources, the rise in prices this week was due to export demand to the Gulf. Onions are also reportedly finding their way to Pakistan through the Wagah border.

“Onion is going across the border from Amritsar,” said Mr Rupesh Jaju, an exporter. “Loadings for Dubai continue, while Malaysia has emerged the biggest importer of Indian onion.”

Mr Madan Prakash, Director of the Chennai-based Rajathi Group, said export demand from Dubai was keeping prices firm.

On Monday, when the onion market opened in Lasalgaon the arrivals increased to

1,653 tonnes against 900 tonnes on Friday. But the higher arrivals did not have any effect on the prices.

The modal price or the rates at which most of the trades took place increased to Rs 1,241 a quintal against Rs 1,201 on Friday.

On Thursday, the modal price topped Rs 1,400 a tonne, the first time since January 27. Then, the modal price was Rs 1,425.

Prices are expected to hit Rs 1,500 possibly next week, said the sources.

Arrivals in Nashik have been over 10,000 tonnes this week, while in Ahmednagar over 6,000 tonnes arrived, Mr Jaju said. The demand is seen picking up with the approach of the Durga festival.

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Back Tea garden owners oppose ad hoc wage hike

Current payment pact valid till March: Aditya Khaitan.

“The recent spurt in the prices of rice and wheat has hit the tea industry more than workers who receive foodgrains at 47 paise a kg.” – Aditya Khaitan



Mr Aditya Khaitan

Our Bureau

Kolkata, Sept. 17

Tea garden owners in West Bengal are opposed to any ad hoc wage increase for tea garden workers, according to Mr Aditya Khaitan, Chairman, Indian Tea Association.

SLEW OF REASONS

“I say this not only as Chairman of ITA which has as members 120 gardens but also on behalf of all 307 gardens in the State,” Mr Khaitan told newsmen here on Friday. The total strength of tea garden workers in the State was about 2.6 lakh workers.

Mr Khaitan gave several reasons why the tea industry in the State was against ad hoc increase. First, the system of industry-level wage agreement which had been in force for several decades stood the test of time. There was, therefore, no reason to break the sanctity of such a system. The present wage agreement will remain valid till March 2011. In other words, negotiations over new agreement would start within a few months. In such a situation, any demand for ad hoc increase was unacceptable.

BONUS TALKS

Next, negotiations over bonus for the current year had already started and the industry would be required to cough up a hefty amount by way of bonus payment before the Durga Puja.

Third, contrary to perception among many, the tea garden workers in the State were not really underpaid. While each worker received Rs 67 a day in cash, the actual cost to the industry was much more, Rs 140 a worker, if the social cost including costs of free fuel, subsidised ration, housing , education for children, medical benefits PF , gratuity were included

Finally, the Government was free to take any action against those tea gardens which did not extend the statutory benefits to workers.

Mr Khaitan pointed out that the recent spurt in the prices of rice and wheat hit the industry more than workers who continued to receive foodgrains at concession rate of 47 paise a kg while the industry was being required to procure a large chunk of the grains from the open market at a cost. In such a situation, increasing the cash wage disproportionately, as demanded by the workers, without addressing the high cost of statutory benefits under the Plantation Labour Act would adversely affected the long-term viability of the industry.

Several committees set up by the Union Government urged the Government to share 50 per cent of the social cost of the tea industry but nothing happened, he added.

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Back Festival demand perks up pulses

Our Correspondent

Indore, Sept 17

Pulses witnessed an uptrend for a change on Friday, though it pared some of the gains by the end of the day. Prices of a majority of pulses ruled steady, barring chana dal and mong mong mongar.

According to traders, the change in trend was due to festive demand. However, with an inauspicious period approaching, demand may peter out.

Chana dal gained marginally on Friday with prices in the spot quoting Rs 25 higher at Rs 2,525-2,550 a quintal. Moong dal ruled steady at Rs 4500-4600 a quintal. Moong monger ruled high at Rs 6,300-6,400 a quintal, up Rs 50-100.

Prices of other pulses remained steady with masur dal on the spot market quoting Rs 3,800-3,825, tur dal (markewali) at Rs 6,000 a quintal, urad dal at Rs 6,000-Rs 6,500 a quintal and urad dal (monger) at Rs 8,000-8,500 a quintal respectively.

With demand picking up at mill level, among the pulse seeds, moong and chana gained higher in the spot market. Moong surged Rs 150 to Rs 3,900 a quintal. Chana gained Rs 15 at Rs 2,140 a quintal.

Prices of remaining pulse seeds by and large remained steady. New urad quoted Rs 4,700-5000 a quintal, masur quoted Rs 3,400-3,475, tur (safed) – Rs 3,800-3,900 and tur (Nimari Line) quoted Rs 3,300-3,400 a quintal respectively.

If Rise in production of kharif pulses and fresh import orders will also rein in the prices from rising.

According to the Government's estimates, production of kharif pulses in the country is likely to increased to a record level of 16.5 million tonnes as the area under the crop has gone up substantially.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/09/18/stories/2010091851251900.htm>

Back Pepper futures up

G.K. Nair

Kochi, Sept. 17

Pepper futures after brisk volatility on Friday ended up by 0.4 per cent from the previous close on covering by more people.

Investors were ready to buy fresh exchange delivered pepper at September price but sellers were offering Re 1 above that price. No transaction, therefore, had taken place.

Investors opted for switching over to October while those could not hold on simply bought back.

More people were there ready to cover and these factors pushed the futures market marginally.

It all happened despite the bearish propaganda that the market cannot sustain at the current prices without export support and hence it would crash to Rs 185 a kg.

On the spot sellers of high range pepper were at Rs 200 a kg while those from the plains were quoting Rs 197 a kg.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/09/18/stories/2010091852661900.htm>

Back Hardy crop

K.K. Mustafah



Second largest producer: Brinjal displayed for sale at a retail outlet in Thrissur in Kerala on Friday. India is the second largest producer after China. It is an important cash crop for more than 1.4 million small, marginal and resource-poor farmers. Brinjal, being a hardy crop, yields well even under drought conditions. Major brinjal producing States are West Bengal, Orissa, Gujarat and Bihar. —

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Back Campco's wet cocoa beans procurement increases

A.J. Vinayak

Mangalore, Sept. 17

The Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative (Campco) Ltd is looking at further growth in the chocolate segment during the current financial year, if its procurement of wet cocoa beans and plans for import of cocoa powder are any indication.

During 2009-10, Campco's chocolate factory at Puttur in Dakshina Kannada district produced more than 11,000 tonnes of cocoa-based products.

Sources in Campco told Business Line that the cooperative procured around 3,600 tonnes of wet cocoa beans from growers during the procurement period between April and August as against around 2,600 tonnes in the previous season, registering a growth of 38 per cent.

It was an encouraging season for growers also. In June, the price of wet cocoa beans touched an all-time high of Rs 48 a kg in Karnataka. In fact, the cooperative is encouraging farmers to take up cocoa as an intercrop in areca plantations by supplying cocoa saplings to them at subsidized rates, they said.

IMPORT

Sources said that the domestic chocolate market is witnessing more than 20 per cent growth every year. As domestic cocoa production cannot meet the demands of the chocolate industry, Campco is witnessing growth in the import of cocoa powder.

The cooperative, which imported around 500 tonnes of cocoa powder during 2008-09, increased the quantity of import to around 700 tonnes in 2009-10.

Sources said the import of cocoa powder is likely to be high during 2010-11 also. The cooperative is planning to import around 1,000 tonnes of cocoa powder in 2010-11. Of this, orders have already been placed for importing 500 tonnes of cocoa powder.

Another 500 tonnes of cocoa powder will be imported by March-end, they said.

Though the chocolate industry in the country needs around 30,000 tonnes of dry cocoa beans, the current production stands is around 12,000 tonnes a year. In such a situation, the domestic chocolate industry is dependent on imported cocoa powder to meet its demands, they added.

hindustantimes.com

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Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Saturday, Sep 18

Max Min

31.8° | 26.2°

Rain: 00 mm in 24 hrs

Humidity: 79%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:58

Sunset: 18:09

Barometer: 1004

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Sunday, Sep 19

Max Min

33° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday

Sep 20



32° | 27°

Rainy

Tuesday

Sep 21



33° | 27°

Rainy

Wednesday

Sep 22



33° | 27°

Rainy

Thursday

Sep 23



32° | 27°

Rainy

Friday

Sep 24



31° | 27°

Rainy

Business Standard

Monday, Sep 18, 2010

Copra falls on subdued demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 18, 2010, 17:29 IST



Copra prices fell by Rs 100 per quintal in the national capital today owing to subdued demand from retailers and stockists.

Increased arrivals from growing regions also weighed on the prices.

Copra prices declined by Rs 100 to settle at Rs 5,600- 5,700 per quintal.

Marketmen said sluggish demand from retailers and stockists against increased arrivals from the growing regions, weighed on the copra prices.

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

Almond (California) new Rs 11,100 Almond (gurbandi-new) Rs 4,600-4,700 almond (girdhi) Rs 2,400-2,500 and Abjosh Afghani Rs 7,000-16,000.

Almond kernel in per kg (California) Rs 385-390, almond kernel (gurbandi-new) (kg) Rs 300-350.

Further rise in castor oil prices on sustained demand

Press Trust of India / Mumbai September 18, 2010, 15:49 IST

Prices of castor seeds bold and castor oil commercial firmed up further at the oils and oilseeds market here today due to sustained enquiries from shippers and soap manufacturers.

Refined palmolein also moved up owing to fresh buying support coupled with higher Malaysian advices. Meanwhile, castorseeds futures declined on poor export orders.

Groundnut oil and linseed oil ruled steady in the absence of market moving factors.

In non-edible section, castorseeds bold firmed up by Rs 25 per 100 kg to Rs 4,225 from yesterday's closing level of Rs 4,200 and castoroil commercial looked up by Rs 5 per 10 kgs to Rs 875, as against Rs 870 previously.

Linseed oil closed unchanged at Rs 550 per 10 kg.

Turning to edible oil section, refined palmolein rose by Rs 4 to Rs 459 per 10 kg, as against Rs 455 yesterday, while groundnut oil held steady at Rs 895.

Moving to futures section, castorseed's October contract resumed lower at Rs 4,030 and dropped further to close at Rs 4,008 from Rs 4,037 previously, showing a loss of Rs 29 per tonne.

Sugar remains flat in thin trade

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 18, 2010, 14:11 IST



The wholesale sugar market remained steady in the Capital today, as prices continued to be at previous closing levels in absence of buying activity.

Marketmen said adequate stocks position against less buying kept the wholesale sugar prices around previous levels.

Following are today's rates in Rs per quintal:

Sugar ready M-30 2,750-2,850 and S-30 2,740-2,840

Mill delivery M-30 2,575-2,725 and S-30 2,565-2715

Sugar mill gate prices (excluding duty): Kinonni 2,690, Asmoli 2,680, Mawana 2,640, Titabi 2,630, Thanabhavan 2,600, Budhana 2,600 and Doralá 2,630

Select edible oils extend upward trend on seasonal demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 18, 2010, 13:06 IST

An upward trend in select edible oils remained unabated and was led by groundnut in the wholesale oils and oilseeds market during the week.

It recorded gains up to Rs 250 per quintal on the back of continued buying by millers as well as stockists, supported by festive and marriage season.

However, soyabean oil remained in negative zone with losses on fall in demand, but castor oil in the non-edible section strengthened on pick up in industrial demand.

Marketmen said sustained buying by vanaspati units and local parties in the wake of festive and marriage season amid better trend in Malaysian palm oil on speculation of an increased export, influenced the trading sentiment here.

Meanwhile, palm oil futures for the November-delivery in Malaysia ended the week at \$853 a metric tonne, as against the previous week's level of \$849 a tonne.

In the national capital, groundnut mill delivery oil maintained its last week's upward journey and gathered another Rs 250 to close at Rs 9,000 per quintal.

Likewise, groundnut solvent refined also showed some strength and traded Rs 30 higher at Rs 1,550-1,560 per tin of 15 litres.

Fungal disease hits bumper apple crop in Himachal

Baldev S Chauhan / New Delhi/ Shimla September 18, 2010, 0:30 IST

Already battling with a host of problems, the heavy apple crop of Himachal Pradesh is now grappling with a new one. A deadly fungal disease, Marssonina is causing huge losses to farmers across the hill state.

Excessive rains have led to the disease, which causes premature shedding of leaves in the fruit-bearing trees, resulting in dark patches on the fruit, which then fetches poor prices. Once the leaves fall, the fruit also drops to the ground before it is harvested.

The dropped and damaged fruit cannot be packed in boxes and can only be packed in gunny bags for processing, which fetches very low prices, say farmers.

The most affected are orchards located in moisture-prone areas, from where the epidemic is fast spreading to other orchards.

Since harvesting is already on, it is too late to spray fungicides to control the disease.

“A lot of the fruit in my orchard has fallen to the ground. The remaining fruit that I picked has dark blotches. It is taking a lot of time and labour to clean and make it marketable,” said Ram Dass, a farmer.

Farmers in the state are already facing transportation problems like shortage of trucks, labour and packaging material, along with poor road conditions.

Apple is the main cash crop of the state. Himachal is set to produce a record harvest this time, which began in July and will end in mid-October.

According to government sources, 26.8 million boxes have already been sent out of the state. Each box weighs between 22 kg and 26 kg.

Besides, the government under the market intervention scheme has already procured 35,000 tonnes of fruit at various collection centres.

