

Farmers start early sowing of paddy

C. Jaishankar

Thanks to pre-monsoon showers in Ramnad district

— Photo: L. Balachandar.



RAINFED:A farmer sowing paddy in his field at Chathirakudi near Ramanathapuram on Friday.

RAMANATHAPURAM: Thanks to the pre-monsoon showers, farmers of the district have started early sowing of paddy seeds.

The farmers except those coming under the Peria Kanmoi ayacuts in and around Ramanathapuram totally depend upon rainfed cultivation from sowing to harvest. They generally start early sowing in the second or third week of September utilising the moderate rainfall received in the southwest monsoon (June to September) period.

Unlike in the previous years, which recorded less rainfall during the southwest monsoon,

the district has received more rain than average in the southwest monsoon period. As against the normal rainfall of 135.3 mm, the district has so far received around 180 mm. The farmers, who were enthusiastic over the rainfall, have intensified the direct sowing.

While farmers of Paramakudi, Mudukulathur, Thiruvadanai and R.S. Mangalam in general expressed happiness over the rainfall, there are farmers, who are dismayed over the poor rain in a few areas, including Chathirakudi and Ramanathapuram.

“The rain is poor in and around Chathirakudi during the last three months. However, we have no other option except to start early sowing,” says M. Krishnamoorthy of Chathirakudi. Direct sowing has been completed on as many as 500 acres in and around Chathirakudi.

N. Sathiamoorthy, Joint Director of Agriculture, told The Hindu that he had received reports that direct sowing had been intensified during the last one week. Direct sowing had been completed in more than 50 percent of the areas. The pre-monsoon sowing had gained momentum in almost all regions. He added that a target was fixed to bring 1.30 lakh hectares under the paddy cultivation this year. All out efforts were being made to achieve this target. Since the prevailing condition was perfect, there would not be any problem in completing the target.

Under the Irrigation Agriculture Modernisation and Water bodies Management (IAMWARM) scheme, 81 hectares had been brought under the seed drill sowing method for demonstrating the method to the farmers. It was undertaken in Paramakudi, Kamudhi, Bogalur and Mudukulathur blocks.

S. Rajendran, Deputy Director of Agriculture, said a programme had been chalked out for the distribution of certified seeds to the farmers under the National Food Security Mission. Steps were taken to ensure an uninterrupted supply of fertilizers to the farmers.

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Water release for irrigation: farmers divided

Staff Reporter

Collector asks PWD officials to prepare a proposal seeking Government nod for release for both areas

Double crop area ryots want an immediate release for their second crop

Single crop farmers want officials to wait for some more time for simultaneous irrigation

MADURAI: Farmers of single crop area and double crop area are divided over the release of water for irrigation from Vaigai dam.

The Collector, C. Kamaraj, asked the Public Works Department officials to prepare a proposal seeking Government nod for release of water for both areas.

While ryots from double crop area wanted an immediate commencement of irrigation for their second crop, restricting irrigation to 45,000 acres of land in Madurai and Dindigul districts, farmers of single crop area wanted the officials to wait for some more time to ensure that irrigation began in both areas simultaneously.

Discussing the issue at the agricultural grievance meeting held here on Friday, farmers verbally battled it out.

A farmer R. Arulprakasam said that irrigation should have begun much before as and when the Periyar credit touched 4,000 mcft. Another ryot, M. Buthisigamani, complained that it was for the second consecutive year that the first crop was lost.

If water was not immediately released for the second crop, farmers should be paid a compensation of Rs. 10,000 an acre, he said.

Mr. Buthisigamani said that the farmers were ready for transplantation in at least 50 per

cent of the double crop area 15 days back anticipating water release on the Periyar credit touching 4,000 mcft.

Responding to Public Works Department official's remark that they were waiting for the Periyar credit to build up to 6,000 mcft for simultaneous release, another farmer, A.N.M. Tirupathi, said that the irrigation scenario last year was similar. "Releasing water simultaneously as late as October 24 led to loss of crop in many areas in Melur region," he said.

However, the Joint Director of Agriculture, P. Sankaralingam, said that the loss was due to late sowing by the farmers.

Rajamanickam of Melur argued that if water was released for double crop area now, the second crop would never get irrigation.

The Sholavandan MLA, P. Moorthy, who was present there, said that no one wanted to discriminate among the farmers and wanted to be fair to all.

Increase in price

of fertilizer

Mr. Rajamanickam complained of increase in the price of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) by around Rs. 100 a bag.

"The price of DAP which was only around Rs. 480 even when there was short supply in the past, has now gone up when it was adequately available," he said.

The JD said the farmers continued to enjoy higher rate of subsidy.

Land sought

Farmers expressed discontent over non-allocation of land for constructing a building for the Water Users' Association at Mattuthavani. Chairman of the association Planning Committee, M. Meenakshisundaram, said the district administration had previously

recommended allocation of land for the association.

The Collector said that the proposal was rejected since the land they sought was a water course.

Mr. Kamaraj suggested that their office could be accommodated in some government building for the time being.

Mr. Buthisigamani wanted that the elected representatives of water users' association be given due respect.

They were unable to hear grievances from the farmers and discuss the same with the officials, he said.

The Collector promised to get from the State Government Rs. 88 lakh due for the association.

The District Revenue Officer, Dinesh Ponraj Oliver, Joint Registrar (Cooperative) Ravikumar, Lead Bank Manager K.N. Subramanian were among those who were present.

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Food insecurity in urban India

Venkatesh Athreya

Considerable sections of the urban population may face serious food insecurity even while the urban economy grows. There is a need for urgent action on this front.

Over the two decades of rapid growth of the Indian economy, the urban economy is generally perceived as having done very well. However, high urban economic growth need not by itself imply improved living standards for all urban residents. In particular, the recent and continuing phenomenon of rising food prices reminds us that considerable sections of

the urban population may face serious food insecurity even while the urban economy grows rapidly.

Evidence from the National Sample Surveys of 1993-94, 1999-2000 and 2004-05, ably marshaled by the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS), has shown that the rate of growth of employment in urban India fell sharply between 1993-94 and 1999-2000 as compared to the period 1987-88 to 1993-94, but it picked up smartly in the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05. However, practically the entire growth of employment in this latter period was in informal work, and the quality of employment, as indicated by wage/income levels, insecurity, other conditions of work and coverage in terms of social protection, was extremely poor. This has serious implications for urban food insecurity, since a large segment of the urban working population is mostly without productive assets and relies primarily on wage or marginal self employment to survive. In other words, a large segment of the urban population faces food insecurity in terms of access to food. Such employment-linked food insecurity is especially severe in small and medium towns which have been largely bypassed in the urban growth that has occurred.

Rapid growth of the urban economy, largely unplanned, has also meant haphazard growth of urban centres and proliferation of urban slums lacking in basic amenities such as decent shelter, safe drinking water and toilets and sanitary facilities. This has implications for the absorption dimension of food security, since lack of safe drinking water and sanitation leads to poor biological utilisation of food and repeated episodes of morbidity.

A recently completed study of urban food insecurity explores these issues through an exercise of constructing an Index of urban food insecurity for the major States (M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai (2010), Report on the State of Food Insecurity in Urban India, being released in Delhi on September 25). Using several outcome indicators such as the incidence of anaemia and chronic energy deficiency among women in the fertile age group, and of anaemia and stunting/underweight among children below three years of age, as well as some input indicators such as the percentage of urban population without access to safe drinking water and that without access to toilets, the study shows that the period of economic reforms and high GDP growth has not

seen an unambiguous improvement in urban food security across all States.

A comparison of the Index values for the periods 1998-2000 and 2004-06 suggests a rather modest improvement of the urban food security situation as measured by official data. But there should be a qualifying remark: that the data on access to safe drinking water and to toilets may in many cases overstate the actual access on the ground, in view of the reality of non-functioning or provision, or inadequate functioning or provision.

The overall marginal improvement in urban food security in India as measured by the composite Index in all its variants is accompanied by a significant improvement in the poorer States. The fact that the picture looks much less rosy when a purely outcomes-based measure is used suggests that there is no room for complacency on the issue of urban food security. If anything, it is disappointing that urban economic growth has made little dent on urban food insecurity.

While the poorer States have done better than before, they account for only a small part of the country's urban population. On the other hand, States such as Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Haryana, which are relatively more urbanised, have done poorly. This suggests that the food security situation may have worsened rather than improved for a sizeable segment of the urban population between 1998-2000 and 2004-06. Considering that urban inequality has worsened in the period since 1991, the implications for the food security status of the urban poor or slum-dwellers are worrying.

What can the government do to address the challenge of urban food security?

Points for Action

Expansion of productive and remunerative employment needs to be enabled through special assistance to the numerous small and tiny enterprises in the urban economy from credit to marketing support to infrastructure provision, along the lines suggested by the NCEUS. Based on an Urban Employment Guarantee Act, urban employment schemes can be designed and integrated in a synergistic manner with the need to improve urban amenities, especially in the small and medium towns.

Urgent action is needed to improve access to safe drinking water and to toilets. Special

attention needs to be paid in this regard to small and medium towns which happen to be most poorly provided for in this respect.

Interventions in flagship programmes such as the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and other urban schemes should focus on the needs of small and medium towns and on the needs of slums in all cities, taking care to address the needs of the poor with regard to shelter, water, sanitation, drainage and nutrition education. Urban infrastructure cannot and must not mean only flyovers and six-lane roads in the metropolitan cities.

The urban Public Distribution System must be made universal. However, it is important to recognise that the PDS is only a part of a comprehensive food security strategy. Policy must address hidden hunger. It must also address the special needs of the vulnerable sections such as street children, orphans, HIV-AIDS patients and so on through such initiatives as community kitchens. Designing and implementing a nutrition literacy movement across all urban centres will also be worthwhile.

Promotion of urban and peri-urban agriculture, especially horticulture, can make a vital contribution to food and nutrition security. It can also be a source of sustainable livelihoods. Issues of governance in urban food and nutrition programmes need to be addressed through, among other things, democratic decentralisation and local body capacity-building.

Finally, urban food security is as much a matter of the fiscal policy framework as it is of programme implementation on the ground, and a precondition to achieve targeted outcomes is adequate outlays. Economic reforms therefore need to be 'reformed' if inclusive urban development that addresses the needs of urban food security for all is to occur.

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COIMBATORE, September 27, 2010

SICA seeks efforts to increase cotton production in State

The South India Cotton Association has appealed to the State Government to take efforts

for increasing cotton production in the State.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of the association here on Sunday, its president C. Soundara Raj said the annual cotton crop in the State was stagnating at five lakh bales. The association had suggested to the State Cotton Council that production should be increased to 15 lakh bales.

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) started godowns in Coimbatore and Rajapalayam to sell cotton to the textile mills in the State. "The scheme should be enlarged and refined."

Procurement

The corporation should stock about 50 per cent of its procurement in these godowns as the State had 50 per cent of the country's spindleage.

The mills in Tamil Nadu usually purchased cotton through the local agents and brokers. This system should be strengthened to ensure availability of cotton to the mills even at the end of the season, he said.

According to the secretary of the association K.N. Viswanathan, Karnataka's cotton production now was 12 lakh bales and it was targeting 35 lakh bales. Textile mills in Tamil Nadu were the largest consumers of cotton and hence the State Government should come forward and form a sub-committee to increase cotton production in the State.

Projects should be prepared to increase the production in a couple of years.

He added the CCI should increase its cotton supply to the mills in the State through the godowns started in Coimbatore and Rajapalayam.

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Speculation, eco-disasters to blame for food crisis: FAO



The world may be on the brink of a major food crisis caused by environmental disasters and rampant market speculation, the U.N. has been warned at an emergency meeting on food price inflation.

The world may be on the brink of a major food crisis caused by environmental disasters and rampant market speculation, the U.N. has been warned at an emergency meeting on food price inflation.

The U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) meeting in Rome was called last month after a heatwave and wildfires in Russia led to Moscow banning wheat exports and food riots broke out in Mozambique, killing 13 people. But U.N. experts heard that pension funds and hedge funds, sovereign wealth funds and large banks who speculate on commodity markets may also be responsible for global inflation in food prices.

In a paper released this week, Olivier De Schutter, the U.N.'s Special Rapporteur on food,

said the increases in price and the volatility of food commodities could only be explained by the emergence of a “speculative bubble” which he traces back to the early years of the new century.

“[Beginning in] 2001, food commodities derivatives markets, and commodities indexes began to see an influx of non-traditional investors,” writes Mr. De Schutter. “The reason for this was because other markets dried up one by one: the dotcoms vanished at the end of 2001, the stock market soon after, and the U.S. housing market in August 2007. As each bubble burst, these large institutional investors moved into other markets, each traditionally considered more stable than the last. Strong similarities can be seen between the price behaviour of food commodities and other refuge values, such as gold.” A near doubling of many staple food prices in 2007 and 2008 led to riots in more than 30 countries and an estimated 150 million more people going hungry.

“Once again we find ourselves in a situation where basic food commodities are undergoing supply shocks. World wheat futures and spot prices climbed steadily until the beginning of August 2010, when Russia — faced with massive wildfires that destroyed its wheat harvest — imposed an export ban on that commodity. In addition, other markets such as sugar and oilseeds are witnessing significant price increases,” said Mr. De Schutter.

In London on Friday, Mr. De Schutter said the only long term way to resolve the crisis would be to shift to ways of growing food that do not depend on pesticides or heavy machinery. — © Guardian Newspapers Limited, 2010

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Back Rains may have caused 'nominal' damage to cotton crop

Delay in arrivals likely on shedding of flowers.

M.R. Subramani

Chennai, Sept 24

With torrential rain lashing across the growing area in the North, concerns have cropped up over the cotton crop's prospects, especially at a stage when harvest is set to begin.

Reports, especially from Punjab and Haryana, are varied on the damage to the crop but trade and industry officials say the impact may not be harsh.

The rain could change the cotton scenario, which has been given a boost with the Centre on Thursday pegging production at a record 335 lakh bales (of 170 kg). Global cotton analyst Cotton Outlook, in its estimate made this month, projects cotton output at 325 lakh bales.

According to Mr Rakesh Rathi, President of North India Cotton Association, the cotton crop has not suffered any major loss.

“The rain has caused flower shedding. It has also led to formation of fungus with the boll opening. But these are not a major worry, though there is a nominal loss,” he said, adding that problems related to humidity and pest too were under control.

Mr D.K. Nair, Secretary-General of Confederation of Indian Textiles Industries, said some damage has been caused due to rain in Punjab and Haryana but the extent was unknown.

“We have got reports of some damage to crops in Haryana, Punjab, and, to some extent, in Gujarat. We will know the exact situation only after two weeks,” he said.

“We think the damage may be marginal,” he said.

A Cotton Corporation of India official said no major damage has been reported.

“Whatever damage is caused, it will be below the threshold level. Also, if one area gets affected, we expect the loss to be compensated from an area elsewhere,” he said.

PROLONGED RAIN FEARS

Mr Bharat Vala, President of Saurashtra Ginners Association, said the damage to the crop, if at all, would be marginal.

“The crop is at the first flowering stage. So, the rain will delay further development crop. As a result, arrival of the crop in the markets will be delayed by 15-20 days,” he said.

“But there is no damage to the plants or crop,” he said.

Mr Nair said the problem was actually with the rain showing little signs of abating. “The rain has not stopped yet and that could be damaging if it prolongs further,” he said.

Mr Rathi said once the weather clears, there should be no problem for the crop. “The weather has cleared in the last two days,” he said.

Reports said the cotton crop in the Malwa area between Sutlej and Yamuna rivers is the worst affected.

Details, however, were not available.

State Government officials were unavailable for comments.

Meanwhile, Cotton Outlook, in its estimate, has estimated Indian mills' consumption at 470 lakh bales from last month's estimate of 454 lakh bales. It also said high prices were boosting production.

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[Back](#) Upcountry orders lend colour to turmeric



Our Correspondent

Erode, Sept 24

Both the arrivals and sales increased in Erode turmeric market with prices ruling steady. Almost all the arrivals were sold.

On Friday, in the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 9,299-14,617 a quintal, the root variety fetched Rs 8,699-14,364 a quintal. Out of 2,082 bags arrived, 600 bags were sold.

In the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 13,519-14,736 a quintal. The root variety was sold at Rs 13,679-14,546 a quintal and 189 bags were sold as against arrivals of 318 bags.

In the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 13,889-14,609 a quintal, root variety Rs 14,069-14,469 a quintal. Out of 1,410 bags that arrived, 1,311 bags were sold.

In the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 14,209-14,759 a quintal. The root variety Rs 14,189-14,449 a quintal. Out of arrival of 1,760 bags, 1,562 bags were sold.

In the regulated market, the finger variety was Rs 160 higher than Thursday price, while the root variety fetched Rs 40 more than Wednesday's price.

“The local traders are getting up-country orders”, said Mr R.K. Viswanathan, a senior turmeric trader.

On Friday, more than 12,000 bags arrived and 70 per cent was sold, he said. In futures, it was quoted Rs 13,590 a quintal in the morning and it increased to Rs 13,650 a quintal in the afternoon, said Mr R.V. Ravi, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

NewsWire 18 reports: In Nizamabad spot market, the price ruled around Rs 14,200 a quintal and supported the uptrend in futures.

October turmeric contract settled at Rs 13,880, up Rs 358. November turmeric hovered in the range of Rs 12,632-13,050 and closed at Rs 12,992, up Rs 272 from the previous session.

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Back Coffee picking to start early

Anil Urs

Hubli, Sept 24

Coffee picking is to commence ahead of schedule this crop year (October-September) some time in early November. This year, coffee crop is expected to be harvested 3-4 weeks early.

Traditionally, harvesting of arabica starts in December, but this year, it is expected to commence in the first week of November.

Robusta is also to follow the same trend and is expected to commence end November, as against December/January.

Rainfall

The main reason attributed for early crop by coffee growers and trade is that the coffee growing regions experienced good amount of rainfall during coffee picking season (December-January 2009-10) last year, resulting in early blossom and was backed by timely rains in March and April leading to ripening of the berries early.

Mr Nishant R. Gurjer, managing partner, Sethuraman Estates, Chikmagalur, said: "Conditions are getting increasingly favourable for fly harvesting (fly harvesting is plucking berries that ripen early) in the coffee growing region and full fledged picking is expected to commence from the last week of October."

A farmgate trader in Kushalnagar, Kodagu, and proprietor of Blan Coffee, Mr B. L. Harish, said that the crop year 2010-11 is likely to see 20 to 25 per cent decline in arabica output as the previous crop year saw a good bumper harvest.

"Regarding prices at the farmgate, good prices are expected for arabica that arrive early and they are likely to be between Rs 7,000 and Rs 7,300 for a 50-kg bag. Robusta Parchment is to trade between Rs 3,200 and Rs 3,500 for a 50 kg bag," he added.

Output

The coffee board is expected to come out with its post-monsoon crop estimate in October.

According to Coffee Board's post blossom crop forecast for the year 2010-11, coffee output is to be up 6.35 per cent at 3,08,000 tonnes, is an increase of 18,400 tonnes over the previous 2009-10 season's post-monsoon estimate of 2,89,600 tonnes.

The arabica and robusta break up is 99,500 tonnes and 2,08,500 tonnes, respectively.

Arabica production is forecast to be higher by 4,900 tonnes and that of robusta by 13,500 tonnes over the post-monsoon forecast of 2009-10.

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Back Fishing industry opposes move to shift Vizag harbour

The site that was identified near Bheemunipatnam, 25 km from here, was not suitable, as the Gostani river was joining the Bay of Bengal at the point.

Our Bureau

Visakhapatnam, Sept. 24

The Federation of Indian Fishery Industries has criticised the move to shift the Visakhapatnam fishing harbour from its present site, situated on the port land near the city, to a village called Moolakuddu near Bheemunipatnam and said it would be opposed stiffly.

According to a press release issued by the President of the federation, Dr Y.G.K Murthy, here, the federation had already represented the matter to the Union Government and made it clear that the site selected for the fishing harbour near Bhimunipatnam will not be suitable for the purpose.

He said a number of reports appearing in the press that the shifting of Vizag harbour was imminent were creating a wrong impression. "Certain vested interests with no standing in the fisheries industry were spreading such misinformation through a section of the media. We have made it clear to the Government that the proposal was not acceptable," he said.

The site identified near Bheemunipatnam, 25 km from here, was not suitable, as the Gostani river was joining the Bay of Bengal at the point. The draft would not be enough to park the fishing vessels and there would be the problem of siltation. Continuous dredging would be needed to maintain the required draft. Besides, artificial shore protection structures would be necessary as the harbour would be located in the open sea.

"It will make the proposed fishing harbour at Moolakuddu economically unviable and expensive. It will become another useless fishing harbour like Bhavanapadu in Srikakulam district. Therefore, the Visakhapatnam port authorities and the Union Government should

give up the move," he said.

He said the Visakhapatnam port had commissioned a feasibility study by the Indian Maritime University (IMU) on the proposal.

"In fact, in 1999, the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries already conducted a techno-economic feasibility study and made it clear that the proposal will not be economically viable and technically workable. We have sent letters again the port authorities as well as the IMU mentioning the fact," he said and added that the Union Ministry of Agriculture was not also agreeable to the idea of shifting the fishing harbour.

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Back Firm trend continues in onion

M.R. Subramani



Chennai, Sept. 24 Onion prices continued to rule firm this week backed by steady demand, though the rates tended to drop towards the week end on higher arrivals. At Lasalgaon, onion prices zoomed further at the start of this week with the modal price, or the rates at which most of the trade took place, rising to Rs 1,450 a quintal from Rs 1,401 on Friday. Subsequently, the prices saw a marginal fall and on Friday, the modal price dropped to Rs 1,381. Arrivals were about 3,800 tonnes in Lasalgaon market this week with the inflow being higher on Friday at 1,275 tonnes. "Onion prices are steady with demand

continuing to be steady. Things could hot up closer to Durga Pooja and Diwali," said Mr Madan Prakash, director of the Chennai-based Rajathi Group of companies. Prices are seen ruling steady but any heavy rainfall, particularly in the growing areas could lead to a surge. The gains witnessed in onion prices since the beginning of the month have been reined in with demand from Pakistan subsiding. However, buyers from Dubai are active in Nashik while exporters to Malaysia bought from Karnataka. Since September 1, onion prices have gained nearly Rs 400 a quintal. Meanwhile, exports are likely to pick up. "Demand for exports to Dubai is good. Sri Lanka may look for Indian onions during October-November. But their crop is also due to arrive then and this time, it is reported to be good," said Mr Prakash. During the current fiscal, onion exports have witnessed sharp drop with shipments in August halving to 87,428 tonnes. Exports in April-August have dropped to 6.86 lakh tonnes (lt) from around 10 lt during the same period a year ago. A record 18.73 lt onion valued at Rs 2,834 crore were shipped against 17.83 valued at Rs 2,241 crore in 2008-09.

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Back Edible oils soft on lack of retail demand



Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Sept 24

Edible oil prices on Friday ruled steady on lack of retail demand. In Malaysia, crude palm

oil futures rose on gains in US soya oil and improved demand outlook.

In the local market, palmolein and soya refined ruled steady on poor demand. Groundnut and cotton oils declined sharply on report of increased arrivals at producing centres. In Gujarat, sharp decline in groundnut oil prices (Rs 30 for 10-kg loose oil), kept buyers at bay.

Traders are very conscious about bulk buying, as the supply position is smooth and new oilseeds crops started arriving at producing centres. In palmolein, about 100-150 tonnes resale was done in the range of Rs 459-462. In Saurashtra, with the new arrivals flooding market, groundnut oil declined sharply and in line, in Mumbai also it fell Rs 10.

Cottonseed oil also fell Rs 3 with the sharp decline in cotton futures. Last two days, ICE cotton October futures declined by 3.97 points to close at 97.77 points on Friday. It was at 101.69, a 15-year high on September 21.

A likely fall in Malaysia's palm oil output in September, supported prices to rebound.

Malaysia Exchange

and NBOT

On Malaysia's BMD, crude palm oil October contracts closed higher by 15 ringgits (MYR) at 2,742 MYR, Indore NBOT soya oil October futures were up Rs 491.10 .

Mumbai commodity exchange spot rate were: Groundnut oil Rs 880 (Rs 890), soya refined oil Rs 475 (Rs 475), sunflower exp. ref. Rs 545 (Rs 540), sunflower ref. Rs 600 (Rs 600), rapeseed ref. oil Rs 572 (Rs 572), rapeseed expeller ref. Rs 542 (Rs 542), cotton ref. Rs 497 (Rs 500) and palmolein was at Rs 464 (Rs 464) for 10 kg.

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[Back](#) Pulses spurt as seed prices rise



Our Correspondent

Indore, Sept. 24

Pulses witnessed a sudden spurt in prices following rise in prices of pulses seeds and its meagre arrival in Indore mandis on Friday.

Decline in arrival of pulses seeds was mainly attributed to farmers becoming wary of sending their produce in view of the scheduled Allahabad High Court verdict on Ayodhya on Friday. In the spot market, chana dal perked up Rs 40-50. Among various varieties, chana dal quoted Rs 2,575-Rs 2600, chana dal (medium) quoted Rs 2,675- 2,700 and chana dal (bold) quoted Rs 2,800-2,825 a quintal.

Rise in futures prices also contributed to increase in prices of chana dal in the spot. Chana's futures on the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange ended 3.08 per cent higher with October and November contracts closing at Rs 2,259 and Rs 2,309 a quintal respectively.

Prices of tur dal also jumped by Rs 50-150 depending upon its quality. Spot prices of tur dal were Rs 5,650-5,700, tur dal (sawa no.) – Rs 5,000-5,050 and tur dal (markewali) quoted Rs 6,150 a quintal.

Moong dal also moved up Rs 100 to Rs 4,300-4,600 a quintal, while moong dal (monger) quoted at Rs 6,300 . Urad dal gained Rs 200 at Rs 5,500–8,200 .

Among pulses seeds, moong quoted at around Rs 200 higher at Rs 3,800-3,825 a quintal. Similarly, tur and urad also gained higher with its prices in the spot quoting at Rs 3,100-

3,300 and Rs 4,500-4,700 a quintal.

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Back **Paddy arrivals flood markets; prices static**



Our Correspondent

Karnal, Sept. 24

Despite the uncertain weather conditions, heavy arrival of fresh paddy was witnessed in the several mandis at Karnal district, here on Friday. On the other hand, the aromatic and non-basmati rice market witnessed a steady trend. With little trade in the market, prices remained at their previous levels. Pusa-1121 (steam) ruled at Rs 5,300-5,350 a quintal; Pusa-1121 (sela) between Rs 4,300-4,350; Pusa-1121 (raw) around Rs 5,350. Pusa (sela) quoted at Rs 3,350 a quintal and Pusa (raw) at Rs 4,200-4,250.

Basmati sela ruled at Rs 6,200-6,250 a quintal, while basmati raw was quoted at around Rs 7,200. The Sugandha-999 sela was quoted at Rs 2,700-2,750 and PR14 (old) was at Rs 2,200-2,250; Sharbati sela at Rs 2,730-2,750 and Sharbati steam at Rs 2,900-2,930. PR11 sela quoted at Rs 2,160, PR (raw) at Rs 2,200 and PR (steam) at Rs 2,300 a quintal. Broken such as Tibar ruled around Rs 3,650 a quintal; Dubar at Rs 2,600-2,650 and Mongra around Rs 2,030.

Mr Tara Chand Sharma, a rice trader, told Business Line that the market is waiting for the start of the new season, which commences in October. Around 18,000 bags of different

paddy varieties arrived in Karnal mandi, on Friday.

Sugandha-999 was lifted at around Rs 1,525-1,600 a quintal. Sharbati variety was lifted at around Rs 1,300-1,425. RS-10 was quoted at Rs 1,200-1,225.

Date:25/09/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/09/25/stories/2010092551261800.htm>

Back Export hopes drive up jeera prices

Our Correspondent

Rajkot, Sept 24

Jeera price increased by over Rs 200 a quintal on hopes of rise in local and export demand .

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), jeera September contracts gained Rs 241 or 1.8 per cent at Rs 13,660 a quintal, with an open interest of 11,583 lots. October contracts increased Rs 279 to Rs 13,723, with an open interest of 11,313 lots. At Unja mandi, spot jeera price was Rs 2,115-2,661 for 20 kg against Rs 1,800-2,660 the previous day.

Analysts said tight stocks in the spot markets following poor supplies mainly led to a rise in jeera futures, but hopes of higher sowing following good monsoon rains capped gains.

Demand from the US and European countries is likely to shift more towards India in the coming weeks. There are reports that traders are not willing to sell at lower levels and are expecting some recovery in rates in coming days. Jeera stocks in the NCDEX warehouse stood at 5767 tonnes as on September 22, 2010.

Date:25/09/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/09/25/stories/2010092552811900.htm>

Back Pepper rebounds on buying support

G K Nair

Kochi, Sept 24

Pepper futures bounced back on Friday with all the contracts moving up substantially on lack of selling pressure and good buying support.

When the players wanted to buy back there were no sellers. At the same time, selling interest shown for validity-expired 500 GL pepper did not appear to have made any impact on the market, market sources told Business Line. Meanwhile, there were reports of small quantities being transacted with select pockets in Japan, Australia, Canada, Germany, etc., where consumers preferred 'Malabar' over other origins at a premium of \$150-200 a tonne. The domestic demand is expected to pick up in the coming days, they said. October contract on NCDEX shot up by Rs 354 to close at Rs 19,429 a quintal. November and December contracts went up by Rs 354 and Rs 417, respectively, to Rs 19,645 and Rs 19,928 a quintal. Total turnover dropped by 608 tonnes to 14,712 tonnes.

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Business Standard

Monday, Sep 27, 2010

Moong dal cheaper by Rs 400 as weak trend grips Chennai market

Press Trust of India / Chennai September 25, 2010, 13:15 IST



A weak trend prevailed as prices of the most of the major foodgrains led by moong dal fell sharply in the wholesale market here during the week ended today.

Price of moong dal, which opened the week at Rs.7,200 per quintal against the previous week close of Rs.7,400 declined further to Rs 7,000 on Thursday and settled today at Rs 7,000 netting a loss of Rs 400.

Maida (90 kg) dropped by Rs 100 per quintal to Rs 1,650 from Rs 1,750.

Gram dal,sugar and wheat eased by Rs.50 per quintal each to Rs 2,800, Rs 2,650 and Rs 1,850 from last week's closing rates of Rs 2,850, Rs 2,700 and Rs 1,900, respectively.

Thoor dal (Rs.6,300), urad dal (Rs.7,600) and Sooji Rs 1,900 remained unchanged.

Sugar rises on fresh stockists buying

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 25, 2010, 16:54 IST



Sugar prices rose up to Rs 25 per quintal in the wholesale sugar market today on fresh buying by stockists on hopes of a rise in demand in the coming festival and marriage season.

Marketmen said fresh buying by stockists on expectations of pick up in demand in the coming festival and marriage season.

Sugar ready medium and second grade prices gained Rs 25 each to Rs 2,740-2,825 and Rs 2,730-2,815 per quintal.

Similarly, the mill delivery medium and second grade prices traded higher by the same margin at Rs 2,550-2,700 and Rs 2,540-2,690 per quintal.

Following are today's rates in Rs per quintal:

Sugar ready M-30 2,740-2,825 and S-30 2,730-2,815

Mill delivery M-30 2,550-2,700 and S-30 2,540-2690

Sugar mill gate prices (excluding duty): Kinonni 2,650, Asmoli 2,640, Mawana 2,600, Titabi 2,600, Thanabhavan 2,570, Budhana 2,560 and Dorala 2,580

Select edible oils remain up

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 25, 2010, 15:13 IST



Prices of select edible oils gathered up to Rs 150 per quintal in the wholesale oils and oilseeds market today on increased buying by vanaspati millers and local parties, driven by upcoming festival season.

Traders said positions increased buying by vanaspati millers and local parties to meet the coming festival and marriage season demand and rising trend in global markets influenced the trading sentiment.

In the national capital, cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) gained the most by rising Rs 150 to Rs 4,800, while sesame mill delivery gained Rs 100 to Rs 5,950 per quintal.

Mustard expeller oil (Dadri) rose by Rs 80 to Rs 5,480 per quintal. Coconut oil climbed to Rs 1,150-1,200 from previous level of Rs 1,125-1,155 per tin of 15 litres.

In the non-edible section, castor oil rose by Rs 200 to Rs 8,400-8,500 per quintal. In the oilseeds section, mustardseed oil too traded in positive zone to Rs 2,550-2,680 against last close of Rs 2,500-2,600 per quintal.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Oilseeds: mustard seed 2,550-2,680 and groundnut seed 2,100-2,850

Vanaspati ghee (15 litres tin) 750-860

Edible oils: Groundnut mill delivery (Gujarat) 8,980, groundnut Solvent refined (per tin) 1,550-1,560, Mustard Expeller (Dadri) 5,480, Mustard Pakki ghani (per tin) 730-885, Mustard kachi ghani (per tin) 885-985, Sunflower 6,300

Sesame mill delivery 5,950, soybean Refined mill delivery (Indore) 5,000 Soyabean degum (Delhi) 4,710, Crude Palm Oil (Ex-kandla) 4,230, Cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) 4,800, Palmolein (RBD) 4,970, Rice bran (phy) 3,750 and Coconut (per tin) 1,150-1,200

Non-edible oils: Linseed 4,100, Mahuwa 4,000, Castor 8,400-8,500, Neem 3,800-3,900, Rice bran 3,300-3,400 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

Pepper, jeera up on stockists buying

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 25, 2010, 16:19 IST



Black pepper and jeera prices rose Rs 300 per quintal each in the national capital today on increased buying by stockists as well as exporters.

Black pepper prices were up by Rs 100 to settle at Rs 20,800-20,900 per quintal.

Jeera common and jeera best quality also traded higher at Rs 13,700-13,900 and Rs 14,900-15,400, against the previous closing of Rs 13,400-13,600 and Rs 14,600-15,100 per quintal, respectively.

Traders said sentiment turned better following improved domestic and export demand and firming trend at futures market, pushed up pepper and jeera prices.

Following are today's quotations (per quintal):

Ajwain 13,500-19,000, black pepper common 20,800-20,900 betelnut (kg) 86-107, cardamom brown-Jhundiwali (kg) 730-750 and cardamom brown-Kanchicut (kg) 825-975

Cardamom small (kg): Chitridar 920-1,040, cardamom (colour robin) 1,000-1,010, cardamom bold 1,030-1,040, cardamom extra (bold) 1,220-1,240 and cloves (kg) 285-35

Chirounji (new) (kg) Rs 415-445 Dry mango(raipur) Rs 6,000-8,500 Dhania Rs 3,100-8,700 Dry ginger Rs 20,000-25,000 Kalaunji Rs 10,200-12,200 Mace-Red (kg) Rs 1,125-1,325 Mace-Yellow (kg) Rs 1,500-1,550

Methiseed Rs 3,000-3,900 Makhana (per kg) Rs 150-220 Nutmeg Rs 520-555 Poppyseed (KG Turkey) Rs 240 Poppyseed (KG MP-RAJ) Rs 240-290 Poppyseed (KG Kashmiri) Rs 240 Red chillies Rs 5,000-10,000

Saffron (kg) Irani Rs 1,20,000-1,30,000 Saffron (kg) Kashmiri Rs 1,55,000-1,70,000 Soanf-bold Rs 9,800-15,000 Turmeric Rs 16,000-18,800 Tamarind Rs 2,200-2,550 Tamarind without seed Rs 3,800-5,500

Tea (kg) Rs 65-200 Watermelon kernel (Kg) Rs 135 Jeera common Rs 13,700-13,900 Jeera best Rs 14,900-15,400

Cashew rises on fresh buying; tight supply

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 25, 2010, 16:12 IST



Cashew prices rose up to Rs 25 per kg in the national capital today on pick up in buying activity due to the ongoing festival demand.

Tight supplies from growing regions also supported the upside in prices.

Cashew kernel No 180, No 210, No 240 and No 320 rose up to Rs 25 to conclude at Rs 570-580, Rs 520-550, Rs 480-495 and Rs 420-450 per kg, respectively.

Marketmen said increased buying by retailers and stockists against tight supplies from growing regions pushed up cashew prices.

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

Almond (California) new Rs 11,200, 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

Chilgoza raw-new (1 kg) Rs 510 Chilgoza (roasted) (1 kg) Rs 830-880 Cashew kernel 1 kg (no 180) Rs 570-580 Cashew kernel (no 210) Rs 520-550 Cashew kernel (no 240) Rs 480-495 Cashew kernel (no 320) Rs 420-450 Cashew kernel broken 2 pieces Rs 380-385

Cashew kernel broken 4 pieces Rs 300-350 Cashew kernel broken 8 pieces Rs 265-300 Copra (qtl) Rs 5,700-5,800 Coconut powder (25 kg) Rs 2,150-2,200 Dry dates red (qtl) Rs 3,200-8,600 Fig Rs 6,000-14,000 Kishmish Kandhari local Rs 7,000-7,500

Kishmish Kandhari special Rs 12,000-20,000 Kishmish Indian yellow Rs 4,000-4,600 Kishmish Indian green Rs 6,000-7,500 Pistachio Irani Rs 750-850 Pistachio Hairati Rs 1,125-1,220 Pistachio Peshawari Rs 1,325-1,470 Pistachio Dodi (roasted) 530-620 Walnut Rs 90-150 Walnut kernel (1kg) Rs 300-450

Urad, its dal decline on sluggish demand

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 25, 2010, 15:59 IST



In restricted activity, urad and its dal prices fell by Rs 100 per quintal in the wholesale pulses market today on sluggish demand at prevailing higher levels.

Other commodities, however, continued to trade in limited range on scattered buying or selling and settled around previous levels.

Marketmen said subdued demand at prevailing levels, against adequate stocks position mainly led to a decline in wholesale urad and its dal wholesale prices.

Urad and its dal chilka local lost Rs 100 each to Rs 5,230-5,780 and Rs 5,830-6,230 per quintal, respectively.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Urad 5,230-5,780, Urad chilka (local) 5,830-6,230, best 6,450-6,750, Dhoya 6,600-6,700, Moong 4,470-4,870, Dal moong chilka local 5,270-5,670, Moong Dhoya local 5,800-6,000 and best quality 6,400-6,600

Masoor small 3,350-3,550, bold 3,550-3,800, Dal Masoor local 4,050-4,150, best quality 4,350-4,650, Malka local 3,900-3,950, best 4,050-4,150, Moth 5,000-5,300, Arhar 3,800-3,900, dal arhar dara 4,800-5,200

Gram 2,250-2,275, gram dal (local) 2,500-2,525, best quality 2,625-2,725, besan (35 kg) Shakti bhog 1,050, Rajdhani 1,050, Rajmah chitra Pune 3,450-4,050, China 3,550- 4,050, red 3,450-3,550

Kabli gram small 4,200-5,400, dabra 2,700-2,800, imported 4,500-4,900, lobia 3,700-3,800, peas white 1,900- 2,000 and green 2,100-2,300

Jowar declines on reduced offtake

Press Trust of India / New Delhi September 25, 2010, 15:15 IST

In limited deals, jowar prices declined up to Rs 50 per quintal in the wholesale grains market today on reduced industrial offtake.

Elsewhere, prices moved in a tight range on alternate bouts of trading and settled around previous levels.

Traders said fall in industrial demand against increased arrivals mainly led to a fall in wholesale jowar prices.

Jowar yellow and white prices declined by Rs 30 and Rs 50 to Rs 1,170-1,270 and Rs 2,250-2,300 per quintal.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Wheat MP (deshi) 1,650-1,750, wheat dara (for mills) 1,215-1,220 chakki atta (delivery) 1,225-1,230, atta Rajdhani (10 kg) 175, Shakti bhog (10 kg) 175, Roller flour mill 630-650 (50 kg), Maida 750-780 (50 kilos) and Sooji 840-860 (50 kg)

Basmati rice (Lal Quila) 9,300, Shri Lal Mahal 9,300, Super basmati rice 9,000, Basmati common 5,500-5,600, rice Pusa-(1121) 4,500-5,000, Permal raw 1,995-2,045, Permal wand 2,070-2,220

Sela 2,295-2,345 and Rice IR-8- 1,825-1,850, Bajra 1,010-1,020, Jowar yellow 1,170-1,270, white 2,250-2,300, Maize 1,100-1,110, Barley (UP) 1,070-1,090 and Rajasthan 1,080-1,090

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Mon, Sep 25, 2010 |

25 Sep, 2010, 03.30AM IST,ET Bureau

Tamil Nadu textile companies on strike to protest surging cotton prices

COIMBATORE: Micro, small and medium textile companies in southern Tamil Nadu are on a 48-hour strike from Friday morning to protest the increase in cotton and yarn prices following the government decision to permit cotton exports.

A half of the knitwear export community in Tirupur, almost all home textiles export units in Karur and 2.5 lakh powerlooms across Tamil Nadu, have joined the strike, nearly halting operations at most of the textile firms in the state. The striking units make a turnover of around Rs 55 crore a day.

While the biggest association in the hosiery town, the Tirupur Exporters Association, is not a party to the strike, the absence of a majority of workers have led to closure of at least 50% export units in Tirupur. "We prefer to wait for the September 27 union groups of ministers meeting before taking a call on the cotton exports," said TEA president Sakthivel.

He hoped other national textile forums would join the strike but added that such a need would arise only if the government did not meet the expectations. The Tirupur Exporters Association has appealed to the government to ban export of cotton till January 15, 2011, after which cotton stock for 2.5 months can be maintained.

But, the MSMEs in Tirupur want the government to completely stop cotton exports this year. “We don’t want the government to allow export of cotton and cotton yarn this year as all statistical data are wrong,” said Coimbatore and Tirupur Powerloom Cloth Dealers Association president C T Kumaresan.

From Rs 120 per kg in August 2009, the warp yarn prices have increased by nearly 80% to touch Rs 200 per kg this August. The prices of hosiery yarn have increased by 40% in the last one year.

“The dyeing charges have also gone up by 60% due to the dyeing units’ infrastructure commitments. So, we request the government to ban cotton exports, which will bring down cotton yarn costs,” said Tirupur Exporters and Manufacturers Association (Teama) vice-president N Murali. The Karur Exporters Association observed a hunger strike on Friday.