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'Form committees to provide technical inputs to farmers'

Special Correspondent

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Inaugurating the session, District Revenue Officer V. Kalaiarasi said that Indian economy was based on village economy in which agriculture, horticulture, silk rearing and animal husbandry were the main thrust areas. The farmers' lifestyle and their assets also varied from place to place.

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Hence, she said, to meet their demands and make their livelihood a sustainable one, industrial people and experts need to coordinate with farmers and cattle rearers to achieve potential results for sustainable livelihood.

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She said that the schemes implemented by ATMA were to integrate all at the field level and introduce new technology for optimum utilisation and benefits for the beneficiaries or target groups.

Ms. Kalaiarasi added that block level committees should be formed to provide technological inputs to farmers. ATMA, she said, had been doing the works at ground level and motivating the beneficiaries. She asked the officials to convey the feedback to the laboratories so that schemes in future were pro-farmer and innovative.

Vice-Chancellor, TANUVAS, R. Prabhakaran presided over the function in which Joint Director of Agriculture G. Udayakumar, PA to Collector (Agriculture) Senkottuvelu and others spoke. A booklet on Maintenance of Livestock was also released.

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Tanks filled up; rainfed crop growers cheer up

Staff Reporter

KULITHALAI: Seasonal rain over the past few days in the semi-arid and rain shadow regions of Kadavur and Thogamalai in Karur district has in fact brought more water and cheers to the farmers in the localities.

Irrigation tanks in the region have been filling up fast and rainfed crops raised in the Krishnarayapuram, Kadavur Thogamalai and surrounding regions have received lifeline support even as the water bodies in the area continued to receive copious inflows courtesy the forest flood channels draining into them.

In particular the areas such as Mylampatti, Taragampatti, Chinthamanipatti, Palaviduthi, Panjapatti and Kadavur areas have been receiving rainfall regularly over the past 10 days. With nearby regions in Dindigul district too experiencing heavy rainfall the channels and torrents have been conveying a huge quantum of water that have got drained into the irrigation tanks that are now sporting huge water fronts and good storage positions.

In the Public Works Department (Ariyaru Division) under which 14 tanks and a reservoir were in the Kuliithalai Irrigation section almost all tanks have been filling up. While the Pudur Tank has surpluses, Pappakkapatti and Kosur Ayyankulam have crossed 75 per

cent of their storage capacity already. Sivayam, Mavathur, Kazhugur, Gudalur, Kovakulam and Veerarakkiam tanks already have achieved more than 50 per cent storage. Nallur, Puthur Periya Eri, Kapperi near Rachandar Thirumalai are half full. The Panjapatti reservoir has touched its 50 per cent storage capacity as well.

The water level at the Ponnaniyaru Reservoir that borders Tiruchi district has touched the 45 feet mark after five years courtesy the flood waters that are being conveyed by the channels. If the trend were to continue then the reservoir, constructed in 1975, would surplus at its full level of 51 feet in a few more days.

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Arrival of vegetables dips at Vaiyampatti

Syed Muthahar Saqaf

MANAPPARAI: The arrival of vegetables at the wholesale markets in Vaiyampatti town, a major vegetable distribution centre in the district, has come down to a large extent, thanks to the intermittent rain in the district over the past few days.

This is the first time in the past few decades, the arrival of vegetables from the surrounding villages and also from Odanchadiram to the Vaiyampatti market has dwindled to such a low level said a cross section of vegetable agents.

The market, with a network of hundreds of retail vegetable producers spread over different villages in the vicinity, has been receiving different varieties of vegetables such as brinjal, tomato, lady's finger, bitter gourd, beans, drumstick and ash gourd from more than 30 nearby villages including Karungulam, Elamanam and Maniyaarampatti. These vegetables were sent to the Gandhi Market at Tiruchi and other major markets in Chennai and Madurai cities.

The Vaiyampatti market normally receives about 15 tonnes of vegetables from the villages every day. The arrival has dwindled to a meagre three tonnes since last week, indicating a

serious rain induced damage of the horticultural crops, said P.Venkatraman, a commission agent, engaged in the trade for over two decades. Decline in the vegetable arrivals during the monsoon period is not unusual.

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Minister assures assistance from Centre for rain-affected farmers

Special Correspondent

Photo: M.Srinath



sharing the concern:Farmers showing damaged paddy crop to G.K.Vasan, Union Minister for Shipping, at Vilangudi village near Thiruvaiyaru on Friday.

THANJAVUR: The Central government will extend its assistance, once it receives the rain damage assessment report from the State government, said Union Minister for Shipping G.K.Vasan, at Vilankudi village near Thiruvaiyaru on Friday.

He was inspecting the inundated paddy fields at the village. Later, he told reporters that the damage was extensive and paddy crops on nearly four lakh acres have been submerged in the Cauvery delta districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam. The rain was torrential in coastal districts and infrastructure facilities such as roads have been badly hit. Loss of human life and those of cattle have also been reported.

It is for the Tamil Nadu government to provide immediate and necessary relief to the affected people. "In view of the alarming weather forecast by the meteorological

department and as there is every likelihood of rain continuing, the State government should take all precautionary measures and rush relief to people," Mr.Vasan said. On the possibility of a central team visiting the State, the Minister said "The Central government's help would depend on the magnitude of the damage and if the State government wanted it."

Mr.Vasan said that he would inspect the rain damage in Ariyalur and Perambalur districts on his way to Chennai on Friday. The Minister was accompanied by G.Rangaswamy Moopanar and Suresh Moopanar, AICC members; Amaramurthy MLA; M.Ramkumar former MLA and Nanji Varadarajan, Thanjavur South district president of the party.

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Tips for farmers to salvage crops

Special Correspondent

TIRUCHI: Even as there was a letup in the rain in most parts of the district on Friday, the Agriculture Department has come up with a host of recommendations to farmers to revive the paddy crops inundated in the rain.

According to initial estimates, about 7,300 hectares of samba paddy crop have been inundated in the district. On Friday, the water was receding from fields in most parts of the district, officials said.

The Department has urged farmers of the district to adopt integrated nutrient management methods. The first priority would be to drain the water from the field. Gap filling should be done in the young crop using the same variety seedlings.

From larger hills of the paddy some tillers may be separated and planted in the gaps, said J.Sekar, Joint Director of Agriculture.

After draining the water, the crop should be top dressed with a mixture of 22 kg of urea, 18 kg of gypsum, four kg of neem cake and 17 kg of muriate of potash per acre. The mixture

should be kept at least for 24 hours for better result. Before top dressing, optimum level of water should be maintained in the field. After the top dressing, draining of water should be avoided for effective absorption of the fertiliser.

If the crop was stunted, 1 kg of zinc sulphate with 2 kg of urea mixed in 200 litres of water per acre should be sprayed using hand sprayer during morning or evening hours.

If the crop was in panicle initiation to flowering stage, it should be sprayed with a solution of 0.5 per cent of urea, one per cent DAP and 0.5 per cent MOP for an acre using a hand sprayer, he said.

The Department has also advised farmers to insure their crop immediately. Farmers who had taken crop loans should insure the crop before December 15 and those who had not taken loans by December 31.

Meanwhile, about 15,860 cusecs of water was being let out in the Coleroon River from Upper Anicut on Friday. There was no discharge into the Cauvery River from Upper Anicut. Marungapuri recorded the maximum rainfall of 88.20 mm and Manapparai 40.60 mm of during the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m. on Friday. The Manapparai area received moderate rain on Friday morning and the inflow in the Ariyar was expected to rise marginally. About 15 rainfed tanks in Ariyar Division of the PWD have filled up so far. About 15 tanks in the division had about 75 per cent storage and 58 had over 50 per cent storage.

The following were the chief amount of rainfall recorded in other parts of the district during the same period (in mm): Kovilpatti 28.20, Samayapuram 25, Tiruchi Airport 24.20, Ponnaiyar Dam 22.40, Nandhiyar Head 20, Tiruchi Town 17.20, Koppampatti and Lalgudi 17 each, Tiruchi Junction 15.80, Pullampadi 15.60, Navalur Kottapattu 14.30 and Kallakudi 8.20. The district received an average of 17.29 mm of rainfall during the period.

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SBI opens first agri-commercial branch

CHANDIGARH: State Bank of India Chandigarh Circle Chief General Manager S.K. Sehgal inaugurated the Agri-Commercial Branch of State Bank of India, the first of its kind in Northern India in Sector 3, HSIDC, Karnal on Thursday.

A SBI release said that this branch would finance high value and high-tech agriculture and agriculture-related activities. The operational area of this branch would cover entire Haryana.

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Tapioca for food and fuel

VGP plans affordable housing project

CHENNAI: VGP has instituted new brand of housing under 'MY VGP', which will focus on developing and marketing of affordable housing units at various locations near Chennai. A total investment of Rs.100 crore will be made in a phased manner according to VGP Rajadas, Senior Director. The first project VGP Goldmine Avenue at Madurantakam will be launched shortly.

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Enhance compensation for crops damaged in floods: Thirumavalavan

CUDDALORE: Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi leader and MP Thol.Thirumavalavan has called upon the government to enhance the compensation for agricultural crops damaged

in the floods from Rs 7,500 to Rs 15,000 a hectare and Rs 25,000 for an acre of betel leaves raised mainly by the minority community.

After inspecting the flood-affected areas, along with D.Ravikumar, MLA, at Chidambaram on Friday, Mr Thirumavalavan told the presspersons that there were complaints in certain places that the relief had not properly reached them.

Therefore, he urged the district administration to provide necessary relief to all the affected people without delay. As Chidambaram was repeatedly battered by recurring floods it deserved special attention in terms of flood control measures, he said.

Asked whether the present political alliance would be expanded for the next Assembly elections, Mr Thirumavalavan said that any political party would be welcome into its fold, and of course with the consent of Chief Minister M.Karunanidhi.

On the 2G spectrum scam, he said that even after A.Raja had resigned as Union Minister for Telecommunications and the CBI had seized of the issue, the opposition parties were paralysing the functioning of Parliament and this obviously showed their anti-Dalit attitude.

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Red gram growers face problem of plenty

Special Correspondent

GULBARGA: The projected bumper harvest of red gram this season is not good for farmers of the region as its prices, which have plummeted to a new low in the peak of the season, are likely to dive further after the arrival of the harvested produce from December this year.

“It will be a problem of plenty for the red gram growers. Unless the Centre and the State intervene, the red gram growers will be in dire straits,” said Basavaraj Ingin, president of the Karnataka Red Gram Growers' Association. Prices of red gram in the wholesale market have fallen to Rs. 3,000 per quintal from the Rs. 6,000 per qu0intal last year.

The prices are likely to fall below the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs. 3,000 fixed by the Centre.

The area under red gram in Gulbarga district is the highest so far, with it being cultivated on more than 3.73 lakh hectares. "This year, red gram yield is expected to go beyond seven quintals per hectare due to favourable weather conditions," said Mr. Ingin.

The increased yield along with the piled-up stock from last year's produce, would result in a glut in the market leading to crash in prices, he said.

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Bengal gram price likely to increase

Staff Correspondent



Remunerative:The price of Bengal gram is likely to be between Rs. 2,200 and Rs. 2,500 a quintal from December to February.

HUBLI: The Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC), established under Department of Agri-business Management, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, has predicted that the prices of Bengal gram are likely to be high in January and February.

In a press, release issued here, DEMIC officials said that according to the price forecast, opinions of traders and suggestions of experienced persons, the price of Bengal gram would be between Rs. 2,200 and Rs. 2,500 a quintal from December to February in the

Bidar market, the leading market for Bengal gram.

Sowing of Bengal gram in the Rabi season by farmers is in progress in many districts of north Karnataka and normal arrival is expected due to good rains in October and November. They have said that widespread northeast monsoon in several parts of the State during the last few weeks had helped farmers take up sowing and also there had been delay in sowing of the crop.

Uncertain prices at harvest for different crops have made the farmers to think about choosing the right crop for sowing among the various alternatives, and the release had been issued to help the farmers take a decision in this regard, the DEMIC officials added.

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Farm fresh

— Photo: C. Ratheeshkumar



Good yield: A huge tuber exhibited at the ongoing Horticultural Expo 2010 in Thiruvananthapuram.

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Hazardous pesticides banned in Kasaragod

Staff Reporter



Mullakkara Ratnakaran says ban will be enforced in all districts in phases.

Neeleswaram (Kasaragod): Apparently yielding to intensified anti-Endosulfan campaign in the State, the State government has announced a blanket ban on the use of highly hazardous 'red' and 'yellow' category pesticides in Kasaragod district with immediate effect.

An order to this effect was handed over to Principal Agriculture Officer S. Sivaprasad by Agriculture Minister Mullakkara Ratnakaran at a function here on Friday to mark the district-level inauguration of 'Harithayoram' project that envisaged utilising waste land stretching along either side of the National Highway passing through the district for vegetable and banana cultivation.

The Minister's announcement would bring into force a permanent ban on highly hazardous pesticides like Thimmet, Furadan and Endosulfan used by farmers and State-owned Plantation Corporation of Kerala's cashew estates in 11 panchayats in the district, an official said.

The ban would be enforced in other districts in a phased manner, he said. The Minister's announcement was received with loud applause from the gathering. It also comes on the 'Global No Pesticides Day' that coincides with the 26th anniversary of the Bhopal gas

tragedy. Thousands of people died after the leak from U.S. company Union Carbide's plant in Bhopal.

The ban of Endosulfan pesticide whose prolonged aerial spraying in the cashew estates of Plantation Corporation of Kerala for over two decades had been attributed as the sole cause for life of misery and trauma being suffered by hundreds of people. Around 500 people had succumbed to mysterious diseases, while over 2,200 people are leading an agonising life where the pesticide had been used extensively.

The Minister urged the people to go back to organic farming to ensure food security and stop excess dependence on vegetables grown in neighbouring States. Describing 'Harithayoram' project, that envisages utilising nearly 500 hectares of waste land lying on either side of the National Highway from Kalikadavu town to Thalapady, as his 'dream project,' the Minister said the project was conceived to ensure food security by cultivating vegetables and bananas using organic farming methods.

Kerala, which boasts of rich biodiversity, unfortunately had to depend extensively on other States for essential food items, including fruits, vegetables and paddy, he said attributing the dismal scenario to low priority accorded to farming.

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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Pepper, jeera fall on subdued demand

NEW DELHI: Black pepper and jeera prices fell up to Rs 400 per quintal in the national capital on Saturday due to subdued demand from retailers and exporters at existing higher prices.

Black pepper prices fell by Rs 300 to settle at Rs 22,400 -22,500 per quintal. Jeera common and jeera best quality also quoted lower at Rs 13,300-13,500 and Rs 14,400-14,900 per quintal, respectively.

Marketmen said reduced offtake by retailers and exporters at existing higher levels mainly pulled down the pepper and jeera prices at the wholesale kirana market here.

4 Dec, 2010, 02.57PM IST,PTI

Cashew declines on sluggish demand

NEW DELHI: Cashew prices declined up to Rs 10 per kg in the national capital on Saturday owing to fall in demand from retailers and stockists at existing higher levels. Adequate stocks following increased arrivals from producing belts also weighed on the cashew prices.

Cashew kernel (No 210 and 240) prices fell in the range of Rs 5 to Rs 10 to settle at Rs 590-600 and Rs 530-540 per kg, respectively.

Marketmen said subdued demand from retailers and stockists against adequate stocks mainly led to a fall in cashew kernel prices at the wholesale dry fruits market.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per 40 kg: Almond (California) Rs 10,200 Almond (gurbandi-new) Rs 4,800-4,900 almond (girdhi) Rs 2,400-2,600 and Abjosh Afghani Rs 10,000-20,000.

Almond kernel in per kg (California) Rs 360-365, almond kernel (gurbandi-new) (kg) Rs 300-340.

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Back Curbs on cotton yarn export will fuel speculation: SIMA



Mr J. Thulasidharan, Chairman, SIMA.

Our Bureau

Coimbatore, Dec. 3

The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) has expressed the fear that the suspension of registration for cotton yarn export would only fuel speculation and would not help bring down the prices.

SIMA has said compressing the export window to 45 days (up to January 15, 2011) would only lead to a flare-up in yarn prices in the domestic market as the production during this time would be barely higher than the remaining export quota available.

Mr. J. Thulasidharan, Chairman, SIMA, in a statement, said the Government has only "suspended the registration of cotton yarn export with the office of the Textile Commissioner and has not imposed any ban on yarn export".

The Government had earlier fixed a cap of 720 million kg (mkg) of yarn for export as recommended by the Cotton Yarn Advisory Board (CYAB) that met on October 29.

As the applications for export has reached almost for 780 mkg and the Export Authorisation Registration Certificate (EARC) has been issued for 721 mkg as on December 1, the Government has suspended the export registration at 720 mkg and no further EARCs would be issued beyond this quantity.

However, out of 720 mkg of yarn earmarked for export, only 455 mkg had been shipped out during the last eight months and the balance quantity of 265 mkg is more or less adequate for the remaining four months "if a proper system is followed".

As EARCs are valid for only 45 days and the merchants have cornered the major portion of the quota, they would try to export maximum quantity before January 15, 2011, he feared.

Fear of scarcity

Mr Thulasidharan said according to "market information", the merchants were already offering higher prices for coarse and medium counts so that they could gain maximum advantage.

The decision of the Government would lead to a hike in cotton yarn prices in the coming days and would continue to increase till January 2011. The Indian spinning sector manufactures around 290 million kg of cotton yarn per month and the export of 265 mkg in 45 days "will create severe scarcity for yarn in the domestic market".

The SIMA Chairman said the cotton yarn production of 3,370 mkg estimated by the CYAB was based on the statistics available with Textile Commissioner's office but it related to only the reporting mills.

More than 20 per cent of the mills were not submitting their monthly production returns with the Textile Commissioner and hence the yarn export ceiling could be "comfortably enhanced to 900 mkg".

Mr Thulasidharan argued that with increasing capacity in the spinning sector surplus yarn

would be available for the domestic sector "provided adequate cotton is made available". Rather than any shortage of yarn, the issue was only yarn price which has gone up because of spurt in cotton prices. He hoped that after December 15, the cotton price would come down substantially and stability will return to the yarn market.

He requested the Government to safeguard the interests of regular exporters to retain their customers, the mills having export obligations under EPCG, EOU, SEZ, Advance Licensing and also mills producing value-added yarns. Export of yarn of superfine counts (50s and above) having value of more than \$7 should be exempt as their export percentage was small.

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Back **Onion stabilises; retail prices hit Rs 50/kg**

Stabilising*		
	Arrival	Modal price
Nov 29	1173.5	951
Nov 30	1,101	851
Dec 1	805	1,100
Dec 2	888.5	1,151
Dec 3	950	1,000

Arrival in tonnes; modal price in Rs/quintal at Lasalgaon
Source: NHRDF

M.R. Subramani

Chennai. Dec. 3

Even as onion prices continued to rule around Rs 50 a kg at retail outlets in some parts of the country this week, the rates tended to stabilise in the growing centres, particularly in

Nashik.

On Friday, the modal price or the rates at which most trades took place was Rs 1,000 a quintal compared with Rs 950 on Monday. Prices had dropped to Rs 850 on Tuesday before rebounding on Wednesday and Thursday to around Rs 1,100.

“Weekend buying kept prices from falling sharper on Friday. There is only domestic demand. The new crop that is arriving in markets is not worthy of exporting,” said Mr Madan Prakash, Executive Director of Chennai-based Rajathi Exim group said.

Arrivals on Friday were 950 tonnes at Lasalgaon, the hub of onion trade in Nashik.

“Prices could start declining as arrivals of the new crop increase,” Mr Prakash said.

Traders said one of the reasons for retail prices being higher is due to non-availability of quality onion.

“The quality of arrivals is poor. The one that are of good quality are quoted around Rs 2,000 a quintal,” said a trading source. Rain that has been lashing various parts of the country in the last couple of weeks has affected the crop besides damaging stocks with traders and consignments in transit from the growing areas.

On the other hand, there is lack of demand for exports as Indian onions are ruling higher at around \$850 a tonne against Chinese offer of \$600-700 a tonne.

Chinese onions are bigger in size, whereas Indian onions are of medium size. Indian onions are preferred in Malaysia and Singapore because they serve smaller families better.

“Export demand is unlikely to pick up as long as our prices are going to be high,” said Mr Prakash.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/12/04/stories/2010120451911800.htm>

[Back](#) Cabbage gaining hue

— P.V. Sivakumar



Bright demand: 'Coloured' cabbages from Medak, Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda districts of Andhra Pradesh are flooding vegetable markets in Hyderabad. The 'coloured' cabbage is in good demand over the traditional variety for use in salads. Compared to the white variety, it remains fresh for a longer time after being cut and is priced at Rs 50-60 a kg.

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Back Vegetable oils seen firm for next 6 months

Our Bureau

Chennai, Dec. 3

Vegetable oil prices are expected to rise further from the current levels in the next six months. Corrections in the market are expected to happen only after June-July, when prospects of crops in the northern hemisphere will become clear.

In a paper presented at an industrial meet in Bali, Indonesia on Friday, Mr Dorab Mistry, Director of Godrej International, said stock levels in the next few months would remain tight.

Stating that the price drop during May-June this year was due to wrong production forecasts, he said with the demand-supply situation projected to remain tight during

February-March next, prices would rise to reign-in demand.

Crude palm oil futures would touch 3,600 Malaysian ringgit (MYR) by January 1, while RBD (refined bleached and deodorised) palmolein would trade at \$1,250 a tonne f.o.b.

On the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange, crude palm oil benchmark futures closed at 3,516 MYR on Friday, while RBD palmolein for January delivery was quoted at \$1,165 a tonne.

Rising demand

Soyabean oil prices would also rise due to incremental demand from sunflower oil and rapeseed oil consumers who were switching over to soyabean oil. Argentine soyabean oil could rise to \$1,250 a tonne in the near term against the current \$970 levels.

This could lead to a \$100-\$150 premium for rapeseed oil over soya oil.

He said palm kernel oil, currently ruling at \$1,650 a tonne, could touch record levels of \$1,800 c.i.f. Rotterdam on strong demand for FMCG goods globally.

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Back Tur dal weakens on imports from Tanzania



Our Correspondent

Indore, Dec. 3

Pulses ruled steady on lack of demand in the physical market as both retailers and millers

are not evincing any interest to purchase at higher prices. This has reduced demand for pulses in the market, notwithstanding the ongoing marriage season. Decline is more visible, especially in masoor and tur dal.

Though arrival of tur dal crop has commenced in local mandis, especially from Karnataka, traders are not showing interest due to high moisture content. Added to this, arrival of imported tur dal from Tanzania has further weakened its prices.

In the spot, tur dal (Maharashtra) quoted at Rs 5,400 a quintal, while tur dal (Indore) quoted at Rs 5,500-5,600 a quintal, tur dal (sawa No.) quoted at Rs 4,800-4,900, while tur dal (markewali) quoted at Rs 6,200 a quintal.

In the past two days, both tur and massor dal have declined by Rs 100 on the back of sluggish demand. Masoor dal (medium) quoted at Rs 3,600-3,650, while masoor dal (bold) quoted at Rs 3,800-3,850 a quintal.

Moong dal and urad dal also ruled flat on sluggish demand and weak arrival. Moong dal (chilka) quoted at Rs 4,400-5,200, while moong mongar quoted at Rs 5,700-7,300 a quintal, respectively.

On the other hand, urad dal (chilka) quoted at Rs 4,500-5,000 a quintal, while urad mongar quoted at Rs 5,900-6,800 a quintal. Masoor dal also remained flat on subdued demand. Masoor dal (medium) quoted at Rs 3,600-3,650, while masoor dal (bold) quoted at Rs 3,750-3,800 a quintal.

Chana dal ruled steady on sluggish demand. As millers and traders have already made overstock of chana dal, fresh demand in chana dal has grown weak.

In the spot, chana dal (average) quoted at Rs 2,950-2,975, chana dal (medium) quoted at Rs 3,000-3,025, while chana dal (bold) quoted at Rs 3,100-3,150 a quintal, respectively.

In the past two days, chana prices have declined by about Rs 50, while masoor has declined by Rs 100.

In the spot, chana quoted at Rs 2,350 a quintal, masoor at Rs 3,000 a quintal, moong Rs

4,000, urad Rs 3,800-3,900, while tur quoted at Rs 3,300 a quintal, respectively.

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Back **Buying sparks rally in rice market**



Our Correspondent

Karnal, Dec. 3

The rice market saw an uptrend and increased Rs 10-60 a quintal on Friday.

Prices of aromatic rice witnessed a rally of Rs 150-180 a quintal this week, while the prices of non-basmati rice rose by Rs 150 from the levels quoted last weekend.

Mr Amit Kumar, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told Business Line that due to good demand and trade enquiries the market was witnessing an uptrend this week. Its market may rule around current levels for the next few days, he said.

Prices of Pusa-1121 steam (new) ruled between Rs 5,250 and Rs 5,330 a quintal, while the old variety ruled around Rs 5,400. Pusa-1121 sela (new) ruled at Rs 4,200-Rs 4,330, whereas the old variety was at Rs 4,350-Rs 4,400.

Pusa-1121 raw (new) ruled between Rs 5,180-5,240, while the old variety quoted around Rs 5,350. Pusa (sela) ruled at Rs 3,320-Rs 3,370 and Pusa (raw) at Rs 4,200-Rs 4,250.

Basmati sela ruled around Rs 6,200-Rs 6,230, while basmati raw was around Rs 7,150-Rs 7,250.

Brokens such as Tibar ruled at Rs 3,150-Rs 3,200, Dubar at Rs 2,300 and Mongra around Rs 2,000.

Prices of Permal sela ruled at Rs 2,000-Rs 2,190, while Permal steam ruled between Rs 2,150 and Rs 2,210 a quintal.

Sharbati sela ruled around Rs 2,800 and Sharbati steam around Rs 3,000 a quintal.

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Back Spot rubber prices improve

Aravindan

Kottayam, Dec. 3

Spot rubber prices improved on Friday. On the spot market, prices surged following the recovery in domestic futures on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. Widespread rains and supply fears prompted the traders to remain buyers on active grades. Marginal weakness in Tokyo futures was discounted by the sharp gains in Bangkok. The trend continued to be mixed.

Sheet rubber finished firm at Rs 197 (196) a kg in the main marketing centres. The grade increased to Rs 197 (196.50) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi according to Rubber Board.

“Indian tyre-makers have stopped signing new import deals as they are getting the raw material at lower prices in the local market. They are aggressively buying from the domestic market due to cheaper supplies,” sources said.

Futures recover

In futures, the December series recovered to Rs 200 (197.99), January to Rs 203.10

(201.11), February to Rs 207 (204.94) and March to Rs 210.35 (208.16) a kg for RSS 4 on the NMCE.

The volumes totalled 6352 lots and open interest 5958 lots. The turnover was Rs 128.80 crores.

RSS 3 slipped at the December futures to ₹361.7 (Rs 195.25) from ₹362.4 a kg during the day session but then remained inactive in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) flared up to Rs 203.05 (200.69) a kg at Bangkok.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 197 (196); RSS-5: 186 (185); ungraded: 181 (180); ISNR 20: 191 (191) and latex 60 per cent: 128 (128).

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Back Pepper rises on buying support

G. K. Nair

Kochi, Dec. 3

The pepper market globally witnessed a “tug-of-war between the bull and bear operators” and it is reflecting on the futures market here also, according to trade sources. The local arm of multinational companies, with multi-origin operations, were selling farm grade pepper and primary market dealers were covering it on experts' advice. Some 40 to 50 tonnes of pepper is said to have been covered. All the contracts on the NCDEX were up. December contract increased by Rs 228 to close at Rs 22,719 a quintal. January and February were up by Rs 165 and Rs 137, respectively, to Rs 22,931 and Rs 23,092 a quintal. Total turnover moved up by 473 tonnes to close at 16,123 tonnes. Spot prices moved up by Rs 100 to close at Rs 21,100 (un-garbled) and Rs 21,600 (MG 1) a quintal.

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Back Indian agronomist to compile e-book on world spices

Chennai, Dec. 3

After compiling the first electronic book on agriculture, 'The Agronomy and Economy of Important Tree Crops of the Developing World', Prof K. Prabhakaran Nair has been invited by Elsevier, London, the world's No 1 publishers in science, to compile a second electronic book – on world spices.

The first book was selected by a special jury of international scientists to be displayed at the British Library, London, and the State Congressional Library, Washington, a unique honour for an agricultural scientist. Selected under the "Elsevier Insights" Project, a first in scientific electronic publishing, Prof Nair took more than five years to compile the book.

A Senior Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Research Foundation of Germany, and a former National Science Foundation Professor of the Royal Society of Belgium, Prof Nair has won several national and international awards, including the prestigious Robertson Memorial Gold Medal for outstanding contributions in agronomy.

In 2008, two of his books were launched by former President Mr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in Chennai.

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Back Poor N. India offtake drags turmeric



Our Correspondent

Erode, Dec. 3

Turmeric prices declined by Rs 300-500 a quintal on Friday, rounding a fall of Rs 1,000 in the last three trading sessions.

“The sharp decline is due to poor demand from the northern States,” said Mr R.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association, on Friday.

He said: “Four days ago, turmeric was quoted at Rs 16,000 a quintal in the futures market and prices in the spot market also increased. On Friday, futures were quoted at Rs 14,000. This reflected in the spot market and prices decreased by Rs 500 a quintal on Friday. Three days ago, turmeric fetched Rs 16,500 a quintal, and in three days it has fallen to Rs 15,500.”

Due to drop in prices, farmers have cut the quantity they are bringing to the market. On Friday, arrivals were poor, said traders.

In Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 9,501–15,700, the root variety at Rs 9,200–15,700. Of 1,349 bags that arrived, 612 were sold.

In Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 14,890 –15,916 a quintal.

The root variety was quoted at Rs 14,750–15,560. Out of 481 bags brought to the market

for sale, only 254 were sold.

In Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 15,555–15,836 a quintal, the root variety Rs 15,196–15,689. Of 193 bags that arrived, 102 were sold.

In the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 15,280 –15,579, the root variety Rs 15,373–15,769. Out of arrival of 770 bags, only 304 were sold.

On average in all the four turmeric sales centres, prices decreased Rs 300-500 a quintal on Friday.

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Back Sugar mixed as retail demand emerges



Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Dec. 3

Spot sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market on Friday witnessed a mixed trend with increase/decrease of Rs 5 in S-grade and Rs 10 increase/decrease in M-grade. Market settled down at lower levels on fresh retail demand. In the last five days, sugar prices have dropped by Rs 65-70 a quintal on higher free-sale quota for this month.

The Government has declared total 17.08 lakh tonnes (lt) of sugar quota for the current

month, including levy against the 16.15-lt for last month. Market sources said selling pressure of re-salers for their outstanding position of December 5 due dates continue to weigh the sentiment.

At mills level, unwillingness to sell at lower price kept tender rates firm. Despite getting poor response to tender offers, mills continued to maintain their price levels. On Thursday evening, only 3-4 mills came with tender offer and sold only about 5,000-6,000 bags in the range of Rs 2,820-2,840 for S-grade and Rs 2,870-2,920 for M-grade.

On Thursday, total arrivals in Vashi market was higher at 58-60 truck loads (each of 10 tonnes) and lifting was about 54-55 trucks.

According to the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, spot sugar rates were: S-grade Rs 2,910-2,965 (Rs 2,921-2,961) and M-grade Rs 2,936-3,051 (Rs 2,950-3,051). Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,850-2,900 (Rs 2,860-2,900) and M-grade was Rs 2,915-2,960 (Rs 2,900-2,960).

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Back Better liquoring Assam CTCs rule firm

Our Bureau

Kolkata, Dec. 3

This week (Sale 48), the total offerings (packages) in three north Indian tea auction centres at Kolkata, Guwahati and Siliguri were 4,37,435 compared with 4,25,304 packages in the corresponding sale a year ago, according to J. Thomas & Company Private Ltd, the tea auctioneers.

Of this, the offerings at Kolkata were 1,92,208 (1,43,265 of CTC/Dust, 41,799 of Orthodox and 7,144 of Darjeeling) as compared with 1,66,967 (1,25,669 of CTC/Dust, 35,599 of Orthodox and 5,699 of Darjeeling) in the corresponding sale of last year.

The shares of Guwahati and Siliguri were as follows: Guwahati 1,41,262 (1,49,057) and

Siliguri 1,03,965 (1,09,280).

Dooars

Selected better liquoring Assam CTCs were firm, while the remainder were irregular and at times lower following quality.

Dooars were irregular around last levels. Tata Global was fairly active while Hindustan Unilever continued to be selective. Western India operated actively on better liquoring teas. Exporters operated on larger brokens.

Local dealers operated on cleaner grainier varieties.

Orthodox leaf, brokens

Orthodox whole leaf and leafy brokens were around last, while smaller brokens tended easier, particularly the better varieties.

The remainder were irregular in line with quality. West Asia shippers were the mainstay of the market. CIS operated in the bolder whole leaf. Good support from Hindustan Unilever for the fannings. There was fair support from local dealers.

Select few Darjeeling whole leaf invoices showing seasonal improvement in quality sold well with competition.

Brokens tended firm and often dearer. Fannings met with useful competition from local buyers and sold at dearer rates.

Hindustan Unilever and Tata Global Beverages operated. There was keen overseas interest mainly on whole leaf grades.

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[Back](#) **Wheat sowing picks up after initial lag**

Coverage of rabi oilseeds, pulses still slack.

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Dec. 3

Wheat sowing has picked up following early signs of lag. According to the Union Agriculture Ministry, farmers have so far planted 171.62 lakh hectares (lh) under the crop, which is higher than corresponding coverage of 161.77 lh in 2009, but below the preceding year's 173.7 lh.

Till last week, wheat sowing was trailing by around 25 lh, largely on account of delayed harvesting of paddy and sugarcane in northern States. The first had to do with increased kharif area coming under basmati paddy varieties, which are harvested relatively late compared to the normal 'parmal' cultivars. In the case of sugarcane, dispute between growers and mills over pricing have delayed start of crushing operations, thereby preventing fields from being vacated for timely sowing of wheat. But now with both cane-crushing gathering steam and much of paddy harvesting completed, planting of wheat has begun picking up, particularly in Uttar Pradesh (UP). UP farmers have so far sown 59.29 lh of area under wheat, which is more than the comparative coverage of 42.35 lh achieved last year, but less than the preceding year's 60.26 lh. The corresponding acreages amounted to 32 lh, 30 lh and 32.78 lh for Punjab, 20 lh, 21 lh and 22.9 lh for Haryana, 27.12 lh, 32.04 lh and 25.88 lh for Madhya Pradesh, 12.44 lh, 10.60 lh and 4.84 lh for Rajasthan, 4.65 lh, 5.18 lh and 5.24 lh for Maharashtra, and 4.11 lh, 4.07 lh and 6.81 lh for Gujarat. On the other hand, progressive sowing of rabi oilseeds (especially rapeseed-mustard) and pulses (gram) continues to lag, mainly due to reduced coverage in Madhya Pradesh and UP, where rains have been scanty on the whole.

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