

THE HINDU

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TNAU launches degree programme for farmers

It will help them learn and apply technologies themselves

COIMBATORE: To enable farmers perform farming and allied activities with a scientific bent, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has launched the B.F. Tech degree for them, P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, has said.

Inaugurating the three-year degree programme offered under the aegis of the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, the Vice-Chancellor said syllabus and course material would be designed in such a manner that farmers could learn and apply the technologies themselves.

“Although intensive efforts have been put forth by more than 1,000 agriculture scientists of the university and 6,500 extension machinery of the State Departments of Agriculture, only less than 30 per cent of the agriculture technologies have reached the unreached. This course is aimed at reaching the unreached with the concept of learning anytime, anywhere and at any age with great flexibility,” Mr. Boopathi said.

Pointing out that this course was one of its kind in the education scenario, he said that the course would not only enable farmers become degree holders, but also experts in agriculture technologies.

The curriculum would include field visits, study tours, demonstrations and hands-on training sessions.

The course would be offered in Tamil. Contact classes would be held in the weekends. Semester pattern would be followed and four courses would be offered in each semester.

Farmers interested in pursuing the course should have passed Standard X and should have completed 30 years. The course was being offered in the university, its constituent colleges, and at the Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Farmers could choose to do the course at any of the nearest centres.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/11/10/stories/2010111057680200.htm>

Squads conduct checks in 60 fertilizer outlets

L. Srikrishna

MADURAI: In a move to ensure hassle-free procurement of fertilizers by farmers, 13 squads conducted surprise checks in as many as 60 outlets across Madurai district on Tuesday.

At a recent farmers' grievances redressal meeting, Collector C. Kamaraj had assured that adequate fertilizers would be stocked in all the designated outlets.

Steps had been taken to check the stock position periodically and in the event of any difficulties, he appealed to the farmers to bring it to the officials' notice immediately.

With water release from reservoirs and tanks, agricultural activity is at its peak. Farmers are in the process of purchasing fertilizers. Under such circumstances, the officials have been told to check the availability of stocks. Thirteen squads carried out checks in all the 13 blocks in the district.

A team led by Assistant Director (Agriculture) B. Manoharan from Tirumangalam block conducted checks in Kottampatti block. The Collector inspected a few outlets at

Thumbaipatti. The stock register, weights and balances were checked by the officials.

The records on the sale of potash were also cross-checked at random on whether it was actually purchased by genuine farmers for their own use or not in the respective locality, Mr. Kamaraj told The Hindu.

During the inspection at other blocks, some of the officials said that though stocks were available the price list was not displayed at a few outlets.

Similarly, the salesman had not displayed the stock position.

Such checks would discourage the law offenders from indulging in illegal acts and help farmers to procure fertilizers at fair prices locally, he added.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/11/10/stories/2010111058550300.htm>

12,000 hectares to be brought under samba

M. Balaganessin

Timely onset of monsoon raises Perambalur farmers' hope



Fruitful innovation: Farmers of Perambalur district adopting 'Rajarajan 1000' technique in their paddy fields on Tuesday.

PERAMBALUR: An extent of 12,000 hectares will be brought under samba cultivation this

season in Perambalur district, registering considerable increase in the area of cultivation as compared to last year's 9,800 hectares.

Timely setting of the monsoon and sharp showers in parts of the district has encouraged farmers to go in for samba this year. The Agriculture Department has planned to bring a maximum of 3,800 hectares in Veppanthattai block; 3,200 hectares in Veppur block; 1,000 hectares in Perambalur block and 900 hectares in Alathur block under cultivation. "Last year, the delayed monsoon made farmers skip the crop, resulting in a drop in the total cultivated area," says R.Reghunathan, Joint Director of Agriculture.

3,000 hectares covered so far

Cropping activity has been brisk in the district and 3,000 hectares has been covered so far under samba and the Agriculture Department has taken steps for popularising 'Rajarajan 1000' technique among the farmers.

Against the target of 6,100 hectares, about 850 hectares had been brought under cultivation under this technique.

Demonstration plots planned

The department has also planned to set up demonstration plots on 772 hectares under the National Agriculture Development Project; 120 hectares under the Integrated Cereals Development Programme (Rice); 90 hectares under the IAM WARM scheme and 15 hectares under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme. R. Mohan, Agriculture Officer, Government of India Scheme, said that all steps have been taken for stocking fertilizer and seeds for timely supply to farmers.

Kuruvai completed

The harvest of 'kuruvai' had been completed on 240 hectares. The district has registered a rise in the per hectare yield this season, following the adoption of the technique. The maximum per hectare yield was 9.8 tonnes and the minimum 6.6 tonnes. The average per hectare yield was 7.5 tonnes, V. Vijayakumar, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Perambalur, said.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/11/10/stories/2010111055650400.htm>

Rs. 200 crore more for food subsidy

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned Rs. 200 crore more towards food subsidy.

Presenting the first supplementary estimates for Rs. 3,607.27 crore for 2010-11 in the Assembly on Tuesday, Finance Minister K. Anbazhagan said food subsidy for the financial year had been estimated to be Rs. 3,750 crore.

The food subsidy covered the cost of the scheme of providing Re. 1 per kg rice under the universal public distribution system and other essential commodities such as toor dhal, urad dhal, palm oil and 10 condiments under the special public distribution system. The government had also proposed to sanction an additional amount of Rs. 500 crore as short-term loan to the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation for paddy procurement.

Besides allotting an additional amount of Rs. 15.50 crore required for the World Classical Tamil conference, the government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 100 crore as corpus fund for the World Classical Tamil Tholkappiar Forum being established at Madurai.

The government sanctioned Rs. 8.25 crore for arranging the millennium celebrations of the Thanjavur Big temple and another Rs. 38.88 crore for the development of infrastructure in Thanajvur. The additional amount Rs. 35.47 crore required for the function was included in the supplementary estimates.

The Finance Minister also announced sanction of Rs. 261 crore towards procurement of 40 lakh colour television sets meant for free distribution. Other sanctions included Rs. 155 crore for the Kalaignar Housing Scheme, Rs. 50 crore to impart skills to youth to make them employable and Rs. 50 crore for additional eggs in the wake of the government decision to supply eggs on five days.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/11/10/stories/2010111062700300.htm>

Farmers demand adequate compensation for land

Special Correspondent

Land acquired for Coimbatore Airport expansion

Coimbatore: The Movement for Protection of Living Rights of Farmers has urged the Government to design a compensation that would ensure the livelihood of those losing their lands, houses and industries as a result of land acquisition for the expansion of Coimbatore Airport.

Coordinator of the Movement G.K. Nagarajan, president C. Jayapal and secretary R. Kumar submitted a memorandum to the Collector in this regard.

The demands included giving of Rs. 4 crore an acre of land to be acquired for those losing their farm lands considering their future and also a compensation of 100 per cent.

For buildings/houses that were being acquired, the federation demand Rs. 6 lakhs a cent and Rs. 2,000 a square feet as compensation.

This should be in addition to providing them a land at a nearby place.

Compensation for wells being acquired should be Rs. 5 lakhs and Rs. 3 lakhs for bore well.

The Government should bear the cost of electricity and pipeline expenditure in such cases. A compensation of Rs. 25,000 should be given for coconut tree in lands that were being acquired. Considering the growth of this area in future, lands that do not form part of acquisition should be exempted and should be notified in gazette. In the roads that are going to be formed in agriculture lands, the Movement said that roads should be according to the plans and farmers should be given link roads to reach their lands.

For the benefit of land owners, there should be service road for 30 ft on either side of the

road. Considering the losses to be suffered by those losing their lands, the Movement suggested that bank loan, interest and shifting expenses should be borne by the Government.

Compensation should be fixed uniformly for all lands without any classification or discrimination.

Those losing the lands should be given the privilege of getting a free power connection for agriculture lands wherever they buy in Tamil Nadu.

For every person losing the land, one person in the family should be given a Government job based on qualification and merit.

The compensation money should be exempted from tax. There should be a 40 ft road along the compound wall of the airport. Promises made by government to those who lost their lands in airport expansion on earlier occasions, should be fulfilled.

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Food subsidy bill crossed Rs 40k cr in H1, FY'11: Govt

India's food subsidy has already crossed the Rs 40,000 crore mark in the first six months of the current fiscal, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

"Food subsidy released... as on October 3, 2010, is Rs 40,832.77 crore," Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food K V Thomas informed the Lok Sabha in a written reply.

The subsidy provided by the government on food in the previous three years, starting from 2007-08, stood at Rs 31,259.68 crore, 43,668.08 crore and 58,242.45 crore, respectively.

The government provides subsidies on essential food items to the poor through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and different welfare schemes.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/624015.aspx>

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Nov 10

Max Min
32.4° | 24.7°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs Sunrise: 6:04
Humidity: 67% Sunset: 17:40
Wind: Normal Barometer: 1011.0

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Thursday, Nov 11

Max Min
31° | 23°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday Nov 12	Saturday Nov 13	Sunday Nov 14	Monday Nov 15	Tuesday Nov 16
28° 25° Rainy	28° 25° Rainy	28° 23° Cloudy	28° 24° Rainy	28° 26° Rainy

10 Nov, 2010, 12.24AM IST, Madhvi Sally,ET Bureau

Wheat sowing in progress, output likely to surge

CHANDIGARH: Wheat sowing in North India has been completed in over 15% of the total targeted area of 28 million hectares. Sowing in Punjab and Haryana is in the last phase whereas in states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan it is picking up.

“We expect area under wheat crop to increase in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh due to good rains and conserved moisture,” said Dr SS Singh of wheat research directorate in Karnal. The total area under wheat cultivation in 2009 was 27.81 million hectare with a record production of 80.70 million tonne in the drought year. “An increase in area can be expected in Punjab and Haryana too. A clear picture will come out in the first week of December.

In the current scenario, we are hopeful to see the production touch 82 million tonne,” he added. Punjab and Haryana that produce almost 80% of India’s wheat will cover an area of over 6 million hectares to produce about 27 million tonne grain. Sowing in rabi season starts from October and harvesting of the winter crop takes place during March-April. In Uttar Pradesh sowing in non-irrigated land has picked up and in irrigated land has just started.

In an earlier interaction, UP’s joint director (crop and cereal) Dr Raza Singh had said that even as area under wheat would be 9.5 million hectare from the previous 9.67 million hectare, the production would see an increase from 27.5 million lakh tonne in 2009-10 to 30.92 million tonne this year. “Rice harvesting in Northeastern states and sugarcane harvesting in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been delayed due to rains.

Sowing in those belts will carry on till the month of December,”said Dr Singh. In Punjab the state’s agriculture department has set a target of over 2.5 million hectare this year with a production estimate of 15.4 million tonne wheat. In Haryana, area under wheat is targeted to be at 2.47 million hectare with a production estimate of 11.46 million tonne.

Business Standard

Wednesday, Nov 10, 2010

Warehousing Act to hit mandi volumes

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai November 10, 2010, 0:07 IST

The volume of trade in agricultural commodities at the the country’s 7,500 state-run mandis, the wholesale trading centres, is likely to be hit with the implementation of the Warehousing (Development & Regulation) Act , 2007 (WDRA), which has just been notified.

According to an estimate, the mandis transact business in agri commodities worth a total of Rs 2,500-3,000 crore daily. The new Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) is currently preparing rules for warehouses, their owners and the government to adhere to. The Act also mandates registration of warehouses. The regulator, in turn, will allow storages with modern infrastructure to issue warehouse receipts (WRs), which will be tradable and negotiable.

This means, a farmer or trader in even a remote village should be able to raise funds from banks equivalent to 75-80 per cent of the value of commodities by depositing the produce at a nearby registered warehouse. Also, they will be able to sell in various parts of the country.

“The process will certainly reduce physical movement of agri commodities to mandis. Currently, nearly 30 per cent of farmers transport goods to mandis on their own. The rest still sell to local arhatiyas (aggregators cum financiers) to raise funds immediately, who accumulate goods to sell in nearby mandis in high volume,” said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist with Care Ratings.

Most farmers in even that 30 per cent category do not use futures exchanges for hedging or price reference. Once WRs become negotiable, farmers will be able to trade receipts and, therefore, the physical movement of commodities will be restricted. But, the process will take some time. It requires proper regulation, good infrastructure and educating the farmers, Sabnavis added.

“Yes, existing spot mandis will lose some business in future, as the deals will be executed outside more than within mandis,” said Sanjay Kaul, managing director of the NCDEX-promoted National Collateral Management Services Ltd.

The WR will include an assurance of quantity, quality and validity, so it will enable farmers to access bank credit. Beside helping banks to achieve their priority sector lending targets.

According to Anil Choudhary, managing director of the Financial Technologies-promoted National Bulk Handling Corporation, the negotiability of WRs will also safeguard financial institutions from the risks inherent in credit extension to farmers. Which means the secondary market will develop.

The pledging of agricultural produce with WR backing will also benefit futures commodity exchanges in the form of increased transactions, said V K Tyagi, regional manager of Central Warehousing Corporation, Ahmedabad.

Copra Alapuzha gains on good demand

Press Trust of India / Mumbai November 09, 2010, 18:01 IST

Copra Alapuzha rose moderately in an otherwise steady spices market here today owing to better demand from retailers and stockists amid limited arrivals.

Copra office Alapuzha firmed up by Rs 50 per quintal to Rs 5,200 from overnight closing level of Rs 5,150.

Following are today's closing rates in rupees, with the previous rates in brackets:

Black pepper (per kilo) Closed (201/221), ginger bleached (per kilo) Closed (230), ginger unbleached (per kilo) Closed (245), copra office Alapuzha (per quintal) 5,200 (5,150)

copra office Kozhikode (per quintal) 5,100 (5,100), copra Rajapur Mumbai (per quintal) 6,800 (6,800) and copra edible Mumbai (per quintal) 6,000 (6,000)

India's cotton productivity doubles in a decade

Press Trust of India / New Delhi November 9, 2010, 17:44 IST

India's cotton productivity has doubled in the current decade to 502 kg/lint per hectare, Parliament was informed today.

Replying to a written query in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food K V Thomas said that the India's cotton productivity has increased from 169 kg/lint per hectare in 1980-81 to 267 kg per hectare in 1990-91.

The productivity of natural fibre in the country has further gone up from 278 kg per hectare in 2000-01 to 502 per kg in 2009-10, the minister said.

However in comparison to other countries, the productivity of cotton in India is abysmally low.

Cotton productivity in China in 2009-10 was 1,260 kg per hectare where as in the US it was 868 kg per hectare. While the average cotton productivity in the world in the last fiscal was 725 kg per hectare.

"In all other countries cotton is an irrigated crop whereas in India hardly 35-40 per cent of the cotton is irrigated. Therefore, the scope of adopting balanced nutrition are limited," the minister said while explaining the reason for low cotton yield in India.

Besides this, the relatively higher intensity of insects and pests attack are also affecting productivity.

Continuous presence of cotton in the subcontinent also makes it easy for pests, disease and other biotic stress agents which survive on the crops and causes frequent epidemics, the minister said.

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Back Customs order on fumigation irks foodgrain importers

Circular stipulates use of methyl bromide to eliminate pests.

M.R. Subramani

Chennai, Nov. 9

A circular put out by the Central Board of Excise and Customs on November 3 is set to change the foodgrain import scenario.

According to the circular, statutory measures will be enforced by the Customs authorities on foodgrains that are imported before the consignments are released.

An annexure to the circular has irked importers, especially those dealing in pulses.

The annexure says an exporting country has to issue phyto-sanitary certificate for each consignment, while the country's national plant protection organisation has to give additional declaration on the shipment being free of pests. The consignment should also comply with special conditions that require its phyto-sanitary treatment.

Of particular concern to importers is this norm that requires all foodgrain imports into the country to be fumigated with methyl bromide to eliminate pests in the consignment.

The problem with the stipulation is that many countries have discontinued the process of fumigation with methyl bromide. Development nations have given an undertaking in the Kyoto Protocol, a UN framework convention on climate change, to undertake measures to prevent global warming and green house gases. They have stopped using the chemical

from January 1, 2005.

According to the United Nations, this chemical is destroying the ozone layer 50 times faster than Freon. It is also very toxic to humans and animals. A study by the United Nations shows that it will be less expensive to eliminate methyl bromide and find alternatives than to finance the medical costs associated with the increase in skin cancer cases caused by increased exposure to ultra-violet rays, damage and destruction to crops and major weather changes.

Methyl bromide is used by farmers in countries such as the US before sowing to eradicate fungus, nematodes, weeds and micro-organisms that could affect crops.

According to Mr K.C. Bharatiya, President of the Pulses Importers Association, most of the countries do not fumigate. "In countries where the temperature goes below zero degrees, there is no need for fumigation. We have taken up the issue with the authorities but they have refused to heed," he said.

Shortage feared

Pulses importers, in particular, feel that this could create shortage since the country depends on imports to make up production short-fall.

An exporter, speaking on condition of anonymity, said countries such as Myanmar that do not have methyl bromide will be badly hit.

"We can't import from important sources such as South Africa, Thailand and Turkey," Mr Bharatiya said.

South Africa supplies pigeon pea, while Turkey is an important producer of chickpea (chana). Australia's chickpea exports to India could also be hit.

The order, however, provides for special treatment to the US, Canada and France. Consignment from these countries could be fumigated at the port of arrival in the country.

"Officials say they want to regulate imports. When we pointed out to them that most of the countries will be hit, they are asking us to tell them to talk to our Government. We have

alerted our suppliers,” said an exporter.

“They are pointing out at the US, Canada and France. These three countries had approached the Government and worked out a solution,” he said.

Officials here see methyl bromide as an effective way to kill all pests, insects and nematodes. Substitution is costly and tricky, particularly in colder climates. Aluminium phosphide can be used as a fumigant instead but it takes three days to fumigate against 16 hours for methyl bromide. In addition, the cost also increases three times. Mr Bharatiya said the order has made it impossible for any consignment to reach Indian shores without being fumigated.

The move is also seen as a non-tariff barrier by India. One of the reasons for the Centre issuing the circular now and insisting on following the phyto-sanitary measures is higher production of kharif crops.

A flour mill source, when asked about the notification, said wheat imports are practically over and hence it was of no concern to the user industry.

The CBEC order said: “All consignments of foodgrains may be referred to Plant Quarantine authorities at respective point of entry for phyto-sanitary inspection before release by Customs.

These consignments will be allowed clearance only after getting no objection certificate from plant quarantine authorities.”

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/10/stories/2010111052081900.htm>

Back Lighting bonfire to guard their onions

SEEDLINGS THEFT.

Alka Kshirsagar

Pune, Nov. 9

Farmers in parts of Maharashtra have been lighting bonfires and keeping vigil all night on their farms for the last two weeks to keep thieves from making away with, no, not their material possessions, but six-week old onion seedlings that have suddenly become scarce.

“Excess rains in the last two weeks have caused extensive damage to seedlings which are transplanted around this time, creating a huge shortage,” says Mr Suresh Undre, a farmer from nearby Manjri, who grows onion as a cash crop.

The most badly hit seem to be from the regions of Khed and Shirur, where six-week-old onion seedlings are so dear that farmers have been keeping vigils through the night, with a bonfire and family for company to ensure that the precious produce is not spirited away unceremoniously under cover of darkness.

With nearly 25,000 hectares under onion cultivation, Pune district produces roughly 10-12 per cent of Maharashtra's total yield of the bulb that during 2009-10 was an estimated 31.46 lakh tonnes. The rabi crop, sowed over the next few weeks and harvested from February to May, yields higher quality onions and accounts for nearly 60-65 per cent of the annual production.

Hence, a shortage of planting material could impact the annual yield during the current year. According to Mr Undre, the problem has been compounded by poor yield of onion seed last year, again because of unseasonal rains. Most farmers rely on their own seed as the seed available in the market was of an unreliable quality, he explained. An official at the Commissionerate of Agriculture who wished not be named conceded that the onion production in the State may see a dip during the current year. However, he said that collection of data was still underway and no statistics were available at present.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/10/stories/2010111051871800.htm>

[Back](#) Copra arrivals grind to halt on rain; coconut oil gains



C.J. Punnathara

Kochi Nov. 9

With adverse weather conditions and lean production season setting in over the coconut growing regions, coconut oil prices firmed up to Rs 7,200 a quintal in the Kerala markets and Rs 7,000 in places such as Kangeyam in Tamil Nadu.

The shortage and resultant price spiral in palm oil prices is reportedly another reason for the price spurt.

With rains lashing south Tamil Nadu districts, copra arrivals have shrunk and prices have firmed up.

Copra prices quoted at Rs 5,100, up from Rs 4,900 a quintal last week.

Prices have not moved up further as corporate demand has been lagging, sources in the trade said.

With poor availability, prices are poised to inch higher the moment corporate demand revives, they said.

As this is the lean season for coconut oil-based shampoo and cosmetic industry, producers have been keeping away from the market.

Coconut oil freezes in the cold climate of several north Indian cities and it is not used

during the winter months.

Their keeping away from the market is the main reason for the prices maintaining the current levels.

Since it is not mandatory for the corporate companies to enter the market immediately, they are expected to time their entry based on market conditions, even if it is refurbish their depleted stocks.

Lean season

With lean season for coconut production setting in over growing areas, the shortage is likely to persist till January-February next year.

As this is also the season of low corporate demand, further price spurts are likely to be governed by movement of other edible oil prices, Mr Prakash B. Rao, Director of Cochin Oil Merchants Association (COMA), said.

But indications are that both palm oil and palm kernel oil prices are expected to move up.

The trend of coconut prices will be dictated by other edible oil prices, especially low-priced substitute oils such as palm oil and palm kernel oil.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/10/stories/2010111051561000.htm>

Back Pepper futures fall

G. K. Nair

Kochi, Nov. 9

Pepper futures on Tuesday dropped on misinformation that output would be higher in Indonesia in 2011.

The information made available in the morning at the International Pepper Community

(IPC) session, under way in Kochi, that Indonesian pepper output next year would be 52,000 tonnes had led to heavy liquidation in the futures market here, which in turn pulled all contracts down. Later in the day it was corrected to 28,000 tonnes, but by then the market was almost down near the flooring levels.

It recovered in the evening, but remained much below the previous close. Heavy liquidation is evident from the sharp fall in the open interest for November, market sources told Business Line. Some quantity was traded at the terminal market earlier in the day at Rs 208, 209 and Rs 210 a kg with exporters buying.

Futures

November contract dropped by Rs 373 to close at Rs 21,442 a quintal. December and January were down by Rs 313 and Rs 309 to close at Rs 21,905 and Rs 22,150 a quintal.

turnover

Total turn over increased by 2,945 tonnes to 22,764 tonnes. Total open interest dropped by 532 tonnes to 14,820 tonnes. November open interest fell by 1,273 tonnes to 5,725 tonnes while that of December and January went up by 649 tonnes and 61 tonnes to 8,062 tonnes and 469 tonnes.

Spot prices in tandem with the futures trend dropped by Rs 100 to Rs 20,800 (un-garbled) and Rs 21,300 (MG 1) a quintal. Indian parity in the international market is at \$5,050 a tonne and can be considered competitive. However, the Indonesian prices are not being made available, trade sources said.

international

As all the major international pepper players are here attending the IPC's 38th session, the overseas market trend is not available, they said.

Date:10/11/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/10/stories/2010111051861800.htm>

Back [Wheat rules stable in subdued trade](#)

Our Correspondent

Karnal, Nov.9

With trading being low-key at the Karnal grain market terminal, wheat prices continued to be stable and rule at their previous levels.

On Tuesday, prices of dara wheat were quoted at Rs 1,220-1,225 a quintal, while the fine quality was quoted at Rs 1,240. About 100 quintals of dara variety arrived in the Karnal market.

Mr Sewa Ram, a wheat trader, told Business Line that there was some demand in the market but most of the buyers were more interested in purchasing from the stock released by the Food Corporation of India rather from the open market. Hence, the open market witnessed low trading, he said.

Mr Ram said that the stock meant for below poverty line and above poverty line ration card holders — to be distributed through the public distribution system — was coming into the open market.

On the other hand, in the desi wheat market, prices rose on some buying. Tohfa ruled at Rs 2,350-2,400; Lok-1 Rs 1,930; Kitchen queen new marka Rs 2,100; Parley-G Rs 2,150-2,180; and Nano at Rs 2,150 a quintal.

Because of steady trend in the wheat prices, flour prices ruled steady too. Flour prices ruled at Rs 1,220 (90-kg bag) on Tuesday. Chokar prices rose by Rs 15 and were quoted at Rs 585 (49-kg bag).

Paddy arrivals

Over 1.65 lakh bags of paddy varieties arrived at the Karnal grain market terminal on Tuesday.

Around 15,000 bags of PR-13 arrived and ruled between Rs 970 and Rs 1,010. Grade-A variety arrived in 90,000 bags and ruled between Rs 1,010 and Rs 1,120. Around 5,000

bags of RS-10 were quoted at Rs 1,330-1,400.

About 5,000 bags of Sharbati also arrived and ruled between Rs 1,310 and Rs 1,550.

Sugandha-999 arrived in about 5,000 bags and quoted at Rs 1,600-1,650.

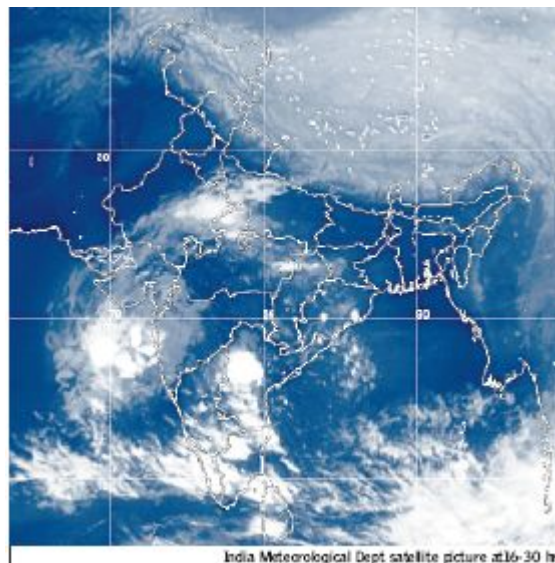
Good demand for paddy of aromatic rice lifted prices. Around 15,000 bags of Pusa (duplicate basmati) arrived and quoted at Rs 2,000-2,250. Around 20,000 bags of Pusa-1121 quoted at Rs 1,800-2,450.

About 10,000 bags of the paddy of pure basmati rice arrived here and quoted at Rs 2,500-2,725. The entire stock was lifted by agencies and rice millers.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/10/stories/2010111052031900.htm>

Back Heavy rains likely for north-west



Vinson Kurian

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov. 9

The well-marked low-pressure area from erstwhile tropical cyclone 'Jal' has entered the Arabian Sea and lay parked on Tuesday over East-central and adjoining Northeast

Arabian Sea off the Maharashtra coast.

Significantly, the evening bulletin from India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday has withdrawn the watch for intensification of the system into a depression.

But the 'Jal' effect has been bringing fairly widespread rain over Karnataka, South Madhya Maharashtra and Vidarbha as also over coastal areas of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

RAIN FOR NORTHWEST

Isolated heavy rainfall has been warned of over Konkan, Goa and Coastal Karnataka on Wednesday and over Gujarat from Thursday in a clear indication of the likely path the well-marked 'low' would track over the next few days.

In fact, in its outlook valid until Friday, the IMD has spoken about the possibility of scattered rain or thundershowers over Gujarat during the next 24 hours before they gain in intensity.

Isolated rain or thundershowers has been forecast over Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during the next two days before they scale up thereafter.

Extended forecast until Sunday said that fairly widespread rainfall activity would occur over Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

FRESH WHIRL

On Tuesday, the IMD has also traced an upper air cyclonic circulation to over the South Andaman Sea, which brought scattered rains over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

An Insat cloud imagery showed the presence of convective (rain-bearing) clouds over parts of Andhra Pradesh, North Tamil Nadu, Kerala, East Arabian Sea, Southeast Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea.

The fresh circulation over South Andaman Sea is the extension of an escalating northeast monsoon activity over the neighbouring Gulf of Thailand to the east.

Model predictions indicate that the possibility of the system developing into a conventional low-pressure area and getting a move to Southeast Bay of Bengal.

HIGH WINDS

The Thailand Met Department has said that a strong 'wind-wave' would be active in the Gulf of Thailand for three days from Tuesday.

It has warned that all ships in the area should proceed with caution. Small vessels have been advised to keep ashore during the period.

In its forecast for the Andaman Sea, the Thai Met Department said very cloudy conditions would persist with scattered thundershowers and isolated heavy rain. Northeasterly winds are seen accelerating to 11-18 knots (20 to 35 km/hr). Wave heights reaching one to two meters and two to three meters offshore have also been warned of.

Thus, the disturbance in the Andaman Sea would be a westerly extension to the heightened activity in the Thai Gulf and its behaviour is being kept under close watch.

The IMD has, meanwhile, forecast isolated heavy rainfall over Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Wednesday and Thursday.

Its forecast valid until Friday said that fairly widespread rain or thundershowers are likely over coastal Karnataka, Konkan and Goa on Wednesday and scattered thereafter.

Scattered rain or thundershowers would occur over interior Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/10/stories/2010111051821800.htm>

[Back](#) Turmeric steady despite low offtake

Our Correspondent

Erode, Nov. 9

Turmeric prices ruled steady with minor fluctuations in Erode. However, sales were low as in the past couple of days.

“During the period between January and October this year, 20 lakh bags (of 65 kg each) were sold, at a good price. Farmers benefited from the good sales,” said Mr R.K. Viswanathan, a dealer based in Erode.

When the new crop arrived in the market in January last year, turmeric was sold at Rs 4,404 a quintal, but prices shot up to Rs 14,207 in November, he said. This was mainly due to high demand and crop failure in other parts. In 2009, turmeric was sown in over 5,460 hectares. In 2010, due to the attractive price, turmeric was raised in 13,400 hectares in Erode district.

Despite selling 20 lakh bags (approximately 12,000 tonnes), the farmers still have around four lakh bags . They are likely to sell at least three lakh bags before the season ends — by around December 15. Around one lakh bags will be carried forward to next year.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 10,196-14,207 a quintal, the root variety was sold at Rs 9,500-14,029 a quintal.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 13,709-14,199 a quintal, root variety was sold at Rs 13,639-14,016. Out of 562 bags on sale, 464 were sold.

According to Mr Viswanathan, after November 20, sales are likely to decline further and prices will also fall, till the arrival of new crop. Bulk buyers may purchase turmeric if they receive orders, he said.

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Back AP to offer subsidy for rabi paddy seeds

Our Bureau

Hyderabad, Nov. 9

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr K. Rosaiah, on Tuesday approved a proposal to provide subsidy for paddy seeds for rabi season cultivation to all the farmers affected by the recent floods.

As per preliminary estimates, about 2.93 lakh hectares of agricultural crops were affected due to heavy rains across 13 districts and over 2.85 lakh hectares of paddy crop.

ID cards

Following a review meeting with the Agricultural Department, the Chief Minister agreed to the proposal of issuing identity cards for tenant farmers for every crop or for one year so that they can get seeds and fertiliser subsidy, crop loans and crop insurance.

He approved a proposal to fill up vacancies of 561 posts of scientists in the AP Agricultural University. This will help to impart quality education, high-end research and better coordination and linkages with farming community. The Agriculture Department was directed to notify the worst flood affected mandals to facilitate rescheduling of crop loans and issue of fresh loans to farmers.

JUDICIAL PROBE

Earlier, Mr Rosaiah while expressing anguish at the charges of corruption made by the Telugu Desam President, Mr N. Chandrababu Naidu, said "he would order a judicial probe into the wealth owned by him and Mr Naidu, provided this proposal is agreeable."

Reacting to some recent accusations against his Government, Mr Rosaiah said that the Government has made all necessary arrangements to provide relief and rehabilitation to

those affected by floods.

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Back Upcountry buying sweetens sugar

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Nov. 9

Sugar prices at mills level shot up by Rs 40-50 on continued buoyant demand from upcountry buyers. But prices on the Vashi wholesale market were on subdued demand on Tuesday. Lower than expected production in October and lower inventories at mills level supported the uptrend, said market sources.

Mr Jagdish Rawal, of Bombay Sugar Merchant Association told, Business Line : "Due to higher rates at spot level in neighbouring States, buyers have turned to Maharashtra's mills. In the last few days on an average 1 / 2 rail rakes are traded to upcountry every day.

In Mumbai, with the festival is over retail demand has dropped and the market is under pressure from higher arrivals.

In the first two days of this week, mills have sold about 2-2.50 lakh bags through tender process. Out of that they sold about 1 lakh bags of sugar to neighbouring States and balance to state level buyers.

Mills sold S-grade in the range of Rs 2,770-2790 and S-grade at Rs 2,790 -2,830 (excise Paid).

On Tuesday, total arrivals in Vashi markets were 55-57 truckloads (10 tonnes each) and lifting was low at 40-45 truckloads.

According to Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, spot rates were: S grade – Rs 2,811-2,856 (Rs 2,801-2,851) and M-grade Rs 2,851-2,916 (Rs 2,844-2,911).

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade – Rs 2,800-2,850 (Rs 2,760–2,790) and M-grade – Rs 2,850-2,890 (Rs 2,800-2,840).

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Back Mills, retail demand perk up pulses

Our Correspondent

Indore, Nov. 9

Both pulses and pulse seeds that witnessed bullishness in the local mandis on Monday during the 'Muhurat' trading, ruled firm on Tuesday.

Increased demand from mill and retailers saw prices gain Rs 20 in the spot at Rs 2,350 a quintal. Chana dal, however, remained unaffected.

In the spot market, chana dal (bold) was firm at Rs 3,125-3,150 a quintal, chana dal (medium) quoted at Rs 2,925-2,950, while chana dal (average) quoted at Rs 2,825-2,850 a quintal respectively.

Masoor dal gained marginally with its bold quality in the market quoting at Rs 25 up at Rs 4,000 a quintal, while masoor dal (medium) quoted at Rs 3,750 a quintal.

Moong dal remained steady at Rs 4,200-4,600, while moong mongar quoted at Rs 5,200 a quintal.

In the spot market, urad dal (chilkewali) quoted at Rs 4,500-5,200 a quintal, while urad mongar quoted at Rs 6,500-6,900 a quintal.

Similarly tur dal (full) quoted at Rs 5,100-5,200, tur dal (sawa no.) quoted at Rs 4,500-4,600, while tur dal (markewali) quoted at Rs 5,700 a quintal.

Among pulse seeds, chana following rise in local demand and at the mill level, perked up by Rs 20 at Rs 2,350 a quintal. Weak arrival and selling pressure perked up urad (bold

quality) by Rs 100 at Rs 4,100-4,200 a quintal. Tur quoted at Rs 3,375-3,400, moong quoted at Rs 3,700-3,800, while masoor quoted at Rs 3,175-3,200 a quintal respectively.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/10/stories/2010111051841800.htm>

Back **Edible oils continue to rise on global cues**

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Nov. 9

Spot prices in indigenous oil continue to rise on cues from producing centres and foreign market.

Groundnut oil, cotton refined oil, sunflower and rapeseed oil were up Rs 5-10. Palmolein declined by Rs 3 for 10 kg. Soya oil was steady.

Importers /refineries are quoting higher rates in line with the foreign market. Direct trade volume was negligible.

Indore NBOT soya oil futures shot up by Rs 12-15 in line with foreign market.

At Rajkot, groundnut oil continued to rise on the fourth consecutive day on lower arrivals of seeds and buoyant demand. Tolia tin rate rose further by Rs 20 to Rs 1,105 (Rs 1,095).

In Mumbai market, lack of fresh demand for palmolein arrested the volume in resale to about 100-150 tonnes. Crude palm oil futures November contracts ended at MYR 3,325 (3,263) MYR.

Indore NBOT soya oil November contracts closed at Rs 562.50 (Rs 548.60) .Mumbai commodity exchange spot rate (Rs/10kg):Groundnut oil 730 (720), Soya refined oil 550 (550), Sunflower exp. ref. 660 (655), Sunflower ref. 705 (700), Rapeseed ref. oil 600 (595), Rapeseed expeller ref. 570 (565), Cotton ref. oil 545 (540) and Palmolein was 520 (523).

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Back Rice Tech Expo in Kolkata

Kolkata, Nov. 9

Rice Tech Expo, the 12 th international exhibition and conference on rice processing technology, will be held here from November 12, according to a press release. Organised by West Bengal Rice Millers Association in partnership with the state government, the expo, to continue till November 14, will showcase recent developments in rice milling technology. There will also be a Buyer-Seller Meet. West Bengal produces around 160 lakh tonnes of rice annually over 50.8 lakh hectares. There are an estimated 25,000 hullers and shellers engaged in converting paddy into rice in the state and a large number of them are looking for modernisation, the release added.

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Back Cashew market gains on overseas demand

G. K. Nair

Kochi, Nov. 9

The cashew export market was buoyant last week on good sales to the US and other markets, pushing up prices of certain grades in turn. Business was done for W240 from \$3.85 to \$3.95, W320 from \$3.45 to \$3.55, W450 from \$3.25 to \$3.35 (f.o.b).

“Most of the business was with USA, but other markets also bought some quantities,” Mr Pankaj N. Sapat, a Mumbai-based dealer told Business Line. Bulk of the sales, he said, were for November-January shipments, but some business was done up to March/April. In the domestic market, prices for broken have started moving up again, he said. For the next 2-3 months “we can expect market to remain firm because of Chinese demand for their New Year coupled with Indian demand for the winter/marriage season. Add to this the

high raw cashew nut (RCN) prices and limited replacement availability,” he said.

Traditionally, processing in India and Vietnam is low in first quarter — in 2011, this will be further reduced by lower availability of RCN from the 2010 crops. So a drop in demand in first quarter may not have large impact on the prices immediately, he said.

“If the drop in demand extends into the second quarter and is accompanied by normal weather and good prospects for 2011 crop, we might see softer market and lower prices from the second quarter.”

Asian markets are showing growth in usage despite increase in prices. Since Asian markets are spot markets, price movements are reflected on retail prices much faster than in the organised markets in the West, he said.

“The impact of the higher prices in USA and EU is a big question mark. One view is that there could be a 20-25 per cent decline in usage. If this is true (and this will be known only in second quarter), there might be a big drop in prices when the 2011 crops start and this will change sentiment of the market,” industry sources said.

Another view is that since the prices of other nuts are also high, the decline may not be sharp. If the decline is in single digits “we feel that there will not be any big decline in prices unless the 2011 crops are very good. And if the trend of short period buying continues in first few months of 2011, the prices will remain at current levels and this will support RCN prices when 2011 crops start,” they said.

The long term outlook depends not only on the impact of higher prices on demand but also the state of the 2011 crops, Mr Pankaj said. Until there is some definite and clear indication on these two factors, market will be delicately poised reinforcing the need for caution. “The pattern of buying (frequency and volume) plus general food (especially nuts) price trends plus financial market trends are other factors to be watched closely.”

Tanzania RCN prices moved up further to \$1,625-\$1,650 a tonne in this week's auction. Indonesia RCN prices were steady at around \$1,500-\$1,525 a tonne, but yields are lower. Initial indications for Mozambique RCN are over \$1,200, but shipments will not be possible before January. The Brazilian situation is unclear and worrying, as arrivals are slow, RCN

prices are high and processing is much lower than normal. If there is improvement, this will be known only in January. To sum up, trade sources added, "We expect continued firmness for the short term (3 months), volatility in the medium term (3-6 months) and uncertainty about the long term (6-12 months)."

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Back Pricey orange

P.V. Sivakumar



Ruling dealer: Traders at the Gaddiannaram Fruit Market of Kothapet on the outskirts of Hyderabad wait for the day's auction of the season's oranges, which have arrived from Nagpur, Maharashtra, on Tuesday. The citrus sells at Rs 1,200-1,500 for 25 kg arranged in a stack. Traders attribute the high price to increased lifting at farms by agro-processing companies and damage to the crop by winds and heavy rains.

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Back Covering purchases lift spot rubber

Aravindan

Kottayam, Nov. 9

Physical rubber market recovered partially on Tuesday. The prices of selected grades moved up mainly on covering purchases at lower levels following the bounce back in domestic futures on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).

A better closing in the trend setting international markets catalysed the sentiments further.

Widespread rains during the past 48 hours and supply concerns also helped the market to hold on the gains towards the fag end of the session.

The trend was mixed. Sheet rubber increased to Rs 202 (200) a kg, according to traders. The grade closed unchanged at Rs 202 a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to Rubber Board.

RSS 4 firmed up sharply with November series rising to Rs 204.25 (199.97), December to Rs 207.74 (202.36), January to Rs 209.70 (203.61) and February to Rs 211.20 (205.78) a kg for on the NMCE.

The November futures for RSS 3 improved to ₹361 (Rs 198.37) from ₹355 during the day session and then to ₹363 (Rs 199.47) a kg in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) closed at Rs 191.44 (187.21) a kg at Bangkok.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 202 (200); RSS-5: 193 (193); ungraded: 190 (190); ISNR 20: 198 (196) and latex 60 per cent: 131 (130).

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Back Groundnut trade dazzles on Diwali

Our Correspondent

Rajkot, Nov. 9

On Diwali, around 2 lakh bags (50 kg each) groundnut were traded in Gujarat. According to traders, this year bumper groundnut crop production is good news for the industry.

In Rajkot on Diwali, groundnut G-2 variety was traded at Rs 670-675/20 kg, groundnut G-20 variety was traded at Rs 591-601/20 kg. More than 2 lakh bags arrived mostly from the Saurashtra region.

Rajkot-based groundnut traders said, "This year Diwali opening was very good as last year groundnut crop was lower. For 2010-11, groundnut production is expected to be about 19-20 lakh tonnes."

According to the Saurashtra Oil Mills Association, groundnut production in Gujarat is expected to be higher by 5-6 lt to 20 lt in 2010-11. Last year it was 14 lt.

Due to lower production in 2009-10, at the end of the season, groundnut oil price reached all-time high of Rs 1,570-1,575/15 kg new tin in September 2010. But soon, with the arrival of the new crop, oil price came down to Rs 1,160-1,170/tin. Traders say groundnut oil price is likely to drop further on lack of demand and full-fledged production.

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