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Good response to 'Rajarajan 1000' method of paddy cultivation

Staff Reporter

Agriculture officials begin field demonstrations

Photo: N. Bashkaran



For rich yield:J. Edgar Gonsalves (left), Assistant Director (Agriculture), in charge of Agriculture Extension Centre in Shoolagiri, explaining the 'Rajarajan 1000' method of paddy cultivation on Wednesday. —

KRISHNAGIRI: Farmers in Krishnagiri district have embraced the system of rice intensification method, rechristened as 'Rajarajan 1000'.

K. Rajan, Joint Director, Agriculture hopes to bring over 50 per cent of the paddy

cultivation under the Rajarajan 1000 system during the current season. The normal area covered under paddy in the district is 21,000 hectares. Of this, 9,570 hectares were brought under the Rajarajan 1000 method of cultivation (last year it was 9,200 hectares). Mr. Rajan said during the Navarai season it would go up to 11,000 hectares.

Paddy is cultivated in Samba and Navarai seasons and samba crops account for close to 95 per cent of the paddy cultivated in the district. Paddy farmers in the district were constrained by the costs incurred for seeds, agricultural inputs, pesticides, fertilizers and nutrients.

The new system of cultivation had received tremendous response from the farmers in Shoolagiri, Kaveripattinam, Krishnagiri, Hosur and part of Kelamangalam block in the district. But the technology was widespread in the district.

Most of the farmers were cultivating ADT 39 and Paiyur-1 varieties other than Ankur Sonam, Sonalika, Silky Dona, BPT 5204, Sona Masuri, KRH 2 and CO RH 3 under this method. It required only minimum quantity of fertilizers and water and less number of labourers.

The programme was being implemented under the World Bank-funded "Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies Restoration and Management (IAMWARM) project." The average number of seedling growth per seed was 50 to 60 in the conventional method, but under the new method, the seedling growth was 100 to 150. The number of grains in one seedling was also doubled under Rajarajan 1000 method of cultivation. A farmer who cultivated Paiyur 1 variety got 450 grains per seedling, Mr. Rajan added.

The Integrated Cereal Development Programme (ICDP) and the National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) had been dovetailed to benefit farmers under the Rajarajan 1000 scheme. Cono weeders, markers and agricultural inputs were being distributed at a cost of Rs. 3,000 per hectare.

Agriculture officials had started field demonstrations to enable farmers understand the benefits of the method at various places in the district. The main objective of adopting this technology was to overcome water and labour shortage. "It is very easy to raise seedlings

using mat, which was called Madagascar method of paddy cultivation in houses,” J. Edgar Gonsalves, Assistant Director (Agriculture), Agriculture Extension Centre in Shoolagiri, said.

Mr. Gonsalves said the demonstration conducted by the department had evoked tremendous response from the farmers in A. Kothur village.

Above all, farmers would get sizable profit owing to high yield. They would get at least 40 per cent higher than the yield gained through traditional method of cultivation.

Agriculture officers had been visiting farms that adopted the new method to offer technical expertise. Similar demonstrations were being carried out in different parts of the district to encourage more farmers.

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Agriculture department to set up 415 demonstration plots in Tirupur

R. Vimal Kumar

Tirupur: To enhance farmers' income in the fertile plains of Palar sub-basin in the district, the Department of Agriculture is going to set up 415 demonstration plots to propagate progressive techniques for boosting productivity of pulses, groundnut, vermin compost and sunflower.

“We are planning to execute the project at an outlay of Rs. 22.05 lakh, which will be taken from the corpus created under the World Bank-aided Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water-bodies Restoration and Management Project,” Joint Director of Agriculture S. Muthusamy told The Hindu.

Of the 415 demonstration plots to come up, 100 each would be for pulses and groundnut, 75 for sunflower and the remaining for setting up vermin compost units.

The demonstration plots for the crops, each one hectare in size, would come up in farmers'

holdings with the beneficiary farmer to be provided with hybrid seeds, bio fertilizers, gypsum, single super phosphate, and micro nutrients, among other inputs, free.

Vermin compost

In the case of vermin compost plots, each of the farmer would be supplied with a portable vermin compost unit of 12 ft X 4 ft X 3 ft size along with the requisite numbers of earthworms. "These illustration plots will serve as a 'live guide' by itself to explain to the farmers' in the respective localities the irrigation management and improved agriculture practices for augmenting productivity," Mr. Muthusamy said.

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Over 500 acres of farm land inundated

Staff Reporter

Heavy rain in Gobichettipalayam, Sathyamangalam blocks

— PHOTO: M. GOVARTHAN



Devastating:Crops in over 500 acres of land in Gobichettipalayam and Sathyamangalam blocks in Erode district were flooded following heavy rain on Tuesday night.

ERODE: Crops in over 500 acres of land in Gobichettipalayam and Sathyamangalam blocks were flooded after heavy rain lashed many parts of Erode district on Tuesday night.

The Thadapalli channel overflowed bringing paddy, turmeric and sugarcane crops cultivated in more than 400 acres of land in Gobichettipalayam under a sheet of water.

V.S. Arunachalam, a farmer in Puthukarai Puthur, said lack of proper drainage in the block was the reason for the inundation.

“Inundation could be averted if proper drainage systems were provided for the Thadapalli and Kuhalur branch channels,” he pointed out.

The banana crops in several parts of the district were also damaged in the heavy showers, farmers said.

Low-lying areas in almost all the parts of the district were inundated.

People were seen wading through knee-deep water in many areas.

The heavy showers also claimed the life of a man. Nagaraj (37), a medical store owner, was returning home on a motorcycle. He reportedly attempted to pass through a causeway which was submerged under flood waters, when he was washed away.

Traffic on Gobichettipalayam – Sathyamangalam main road was affected for a few hours after a massive tree got uprooted and fell on the road. State Highways officials rushed to the spot and removed the tree.

Meanwhile, traffic in a number of hilly areas in Sathyamangalam block remains affected as jungle streams sprang to life and are flowing on the roads.

Minor landslips were also reported on the ghat road in the block.

Kodiveri Dam recorded the maximum rainfall of 130 mm. Rainfall recorded in various parts of the district during the last 24-hour period that ended at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday is as follows: Sathyamangalam – 101, Orathupalayam – 91, Sivagiri – 77, Gobichettipalayam - 73.2, Bhavanisagar – 73, Elanthakuttaimedu – 70.4, Mangalapatti – 63, Bhavani – 45, Erode – 43, Kavunthapadi – 42.4, Olapalayam – 40, Chennimalai – 26, Arachalur – 24 and Modakurichi – 23.

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Farmers body seeks policy on organic farming

Special Correspondent

'Promote self-reliant techniques in agriculture'

Photo: M_Srinath



strategic talk:G.Nammalvar, organic farmer, speaking at the consultation meeting on organic farming policy in Thanjavur.

THANJAVUR: The State government should formulate a policy to promote organic farming and speed up the transition from conventional farming, said the speakers at a meeting organised by the Thalanmai Uzhvar Iyakkam (Movement of Farmers for Self Reliance) here on Wednesday.

Such a policy should help farmers to practice self-reliant techniques in farming by avoiding the use of external inputs and ensure environment protection by avoiding the use of pesticides that kill beneficial organisms in addition to killing pests, they said.

The policy should help farmers to follow agricultural methods that are indispensable for maintaining biodiversity .

Farmers should be trained on maintaining soil fertility to ensure productivity .

They should replenish their land by using biomass and natural manure. The cropping pattern should also be tailored to provide regular income.

Speaking at the meeting, Claude Alwaris, Secretary of the Organic Farming Association of India said the State government should help organic farmers to market their produce.

Organic farm experts should be involved in agriculture university activities and agriculture department extension activities. "We need a concrete policy on organic farming that would help keep our environment clean, maintain our health, lead to sustainable farming and ensure good yields. We must prepare a modern organic farming programme by drawing on the strengths of our traditional natural farming techniques combined with scientific and technological advances," Mr. Alwaris said. G. Nammalvar, organic farming expert and many organic farmers spoke on the occasion. The meeting discussed a draft organic agriculture policy that will be sent to the government for consideration.

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Pest control boosts onion production

M. Balaganessin



quality check: Scientists examining the quality of onion at Chathiramanai near Perambalur on Wednesday.

TIRUCHI: A strategy adopted by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University – Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute (TNAU – ADACRI) at Navalaur Kuttapattu near here, for the application of pesticides for checking the incidence of two major problems in onion has resulted in a rise in the productivity of the crop.

Special programme

The TNAU–ADACRI took up the strategy on integrated pest and disease management for onion in collaboration with the Virginia Tech University, United States and implemented a special programme for treatment of seed onions.

The institute had set up demonstration plots at four places – in the college research farm at Navalur Kuttapattu; Ayyalur village near Dindigul; Alathur Gate and Padalur both in Perambalur district.

Pest menace and bulb rot checked

“Onion crop is prone to two types of damage – one caused by pest menace and the other due to bulb-rot. The application of bio-pesticides ‘pseudomonas fluorescence and Trichoderma viride with the onions resulted in the increase in yield in our demonstration plots,” said G. Kathiresan, Dean, TNAU – ADACRI, speaking at a function held at Chathiramanai village near Perambalur to sensitise the onion growers of Perambalur district.

He said the strategy had resulted in an increase from at least 150 kg per acre in Perambalur district.

Onion-growers cultivated ‘Co 4; and ‘Co 5’ variety. The pest poses a serious threat during every lull after medium to sharp showers.

The bulb rot was caused due to stagnation of water. The TNAU – ADACRI carefully analysed the causes of the pest attack and evolved the strategy for onion bulb treatment. G. Gajendran, professor and head (crop protection) and D. Dinakaran, professor (plant

pathology) explained about the major pests and diseases in onion crop.

They said the programme was taken up under the “integrated pest management collaborative research support programme of the Virginia Tech University.

Bio-pesticides distributed

Later, Dr. Kathiresan distributed the bio-pesticides to about 100 onion growers. An interactive session was held in which the scientists explained the quality control techniques in selecting the onion seeds.

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Natural rubber prices reach a new high

New Delhi: Natural rubber prices on Wednesday rose to a record Rs.203 a kg in the domestic market on disruption in rubber production due to continuous rain, coupled with increased demand from tyre manufacturers.

Natural rubber prices are on a gaining spree for the past few days due to continuous rain in central Kerala and in Malabar which adversely affected tapping, according to the Rubber Dealer Federation of India. Earlier in the month, rubber prices had zoomed to an intra-day high of Rs.206 a kg but closed at Rs.200 a kg level.

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Haryana to set up new soil testing labs

Special Correspondent

CHANDIGARH: The Haryana Government would set up four new static soil testing laboratories (STLs) and three mobile soil testing laboratories (MSTLs) at a cost of Rs.

435.10 lakh, Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda announced here on Wednesday.

PPP mode

The STLs would be set up at Assandh, Shahabad, Kalanaur and Ganaur while two MSTLs would be set up at Central Laboratory, Karnal and one at Dhanuka Agritech Limited, Kurukshetra, under the Public-Private Partnership mode.

Mr. Hooda said that these would be set up under a National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility.

The entire cost would be shared by the Centre and the Haryana Government in the ratio of 50:50 for STLs and 75:25 for MSTLs.

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FAREMR'S NOTEBOOK

Fertigation technique improves yield, reduces weed growth

M.J. PRABU

The farmer earned rupees 11 lakh from her two acres in nine months

— Photo: Special Arrangement



Record yield: Turmeric farmer Gokila (right) and David Veula with the harvested turmeric.

“Guaranteed good income, more than subsidies and schemes, alone sustains the interest of a farmer in continuing to farm and also generate interest among youth to enter agriculture,” says Mr. P. David Raja Beula, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Thiruvannainallur, Villupuram, Tamil Nadu

“A farmer's interest lies in the income he gets from the crops, and he usually does not bother about government schemes. If a scientist or technology can help him generate a good income, not one, but hundreds of farmers will readily adopt the same technique,” he adds.

Record yield

Mrs. Gokila Kumar, a turmeric farmer from Ogaiyur village in Villipuram district, Tamil Nadu, harvested about 26,000 kg of turmeric (local variety) and earned more than Rs. 11 lakh from her 2 acres in nine months time. After seeing this, several farmers in the area are taking to turmeric cultivation.

The horticulture officials advised the farmer to start growing turmeric under the fertigation system (where both the fertilizers and water are mixed and irrigated through drip irrigation).

The cost of erecting the fertigation system works out to nearly Rs. 1 lakh and a subsidy of Rs. 50,000 is given by the government to the farmer.

Says Mrs. Gokila: “When the staff told me that fertigation technique improves the yield and reduces weed growth I did not believe it initially. But now I see its benefits. In fact, after hearing about my bumper harvest and income, several farmers from adjoining villages are visiting my field.”

According to Mr. Buela, farmers in the region are usually advised to invest their own money instead of applying for bank loans for erecting the fertigation system.

Loan amount

The reason being, the loan amount takes nearly a year to get processed and reach the

farmer. "By that time the farmers interest also wanes," adds Mr David.

But is not Rs. 40,000 quite a big sum for a small farmer?

"True, but in Ogaiyur, several farmers cultivate yam, tapioca and turmeric and earn quite well. In fact, it is difficult to see a farmer in debt in this place. But those in adjoining places (upto 3km away) are bankrupt and steeped in debts," he explains.

The horticulture department in the area is trying to promote this concept of fertigation for crops among the neighbouring villages.

"A farmer needs to personally see, experience, think, discuss, and take time before he decides to take up a new crop or new technology. No amount of cajoling or coaxing can work with a farmer to try something new if he does not get personally convinced," says Mr. David.

Handsome return

"Though we are doing farming for generations this is the first time we earned such a good amount from a small acreage. It only proves that farming, if done properly, can yield handsome returns.

"True, today agriculture is undergoing a very bad phase due to several reasons. But one must also remember that India's agriculture arena is a potential goldmine that our policy makers failed to tap properly, paving the way for entry of several MNCs who claim to be interested in our farmers and started lobbying for a market here," says Mrs Gokila.

Need for replication

"If the Ogaiyur example can be replicated for other crops in the country then farmers need no longer suffer in silence," she adds.

For more details and personal visit readers can contact Mrs Gokila, Ogaiyur village, Villipuram district, Tamil Nadu, mobile: 9047618171 and Mr. P.David Raja Beula, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Thiruvannainallur, Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu, Email: microeconomicsdavid@yahoo.co.in, mobile: 9486285704.

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Effective management of soil fertility

In recent years, several varieties of almost all crops with high-yield and high-quality potentials have been developed for cultivation. However, these varieties can grow and perform to their maximum genetic potentials, only if they are cultivated in the productive soils.

The soil can be productive only if it is fertile and healthy. The soils can be fertile and healthy only if they are supplied with all the essential macro and micronutrients in sufficient amounts and desirable proportions, besides being free from any toxic substance.

Very small dosages

Although the micronutrients of iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron, molybdenum and chlorine are required by plants in very small amounts, they are as much essential and important for the normal growth of the crops as the major nutrients of carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, phosphorous, potassium, calcium, magnesium and sulphur required by the crops comparatively in large quantities at percentage levels.

Limiting nutrient

The growth and yield of a crop will be limited to the amount of the nutrient that is available to the crop in the least amount, as dictated by the Law of minimum concept.

If one micronutrient needed at the least level becomes deficient, the crop cannot grow normally, even if all the other nutrients are supplied in sufficient amounts.

As we have been cultivating high yielding varieties of different crops under intensive agriculture over the years, the reserves of many of the micronutrients have been depleted in the soils as they have not been replenished through the appropriate manure – fertilizer schedules including the micronutrients too.

A situation has arisen that the fertility and productivity of our arable lands cannot be restored without suitable balanced fertilization programmes.

Rectify deficiency

The growth and the yield of the crop will be limited to the amount of the nutrient present and available to the crop in the least amount irrespective of the availability of all other nutrients in relatively higher amounts. Unless we rectify the deficiencies of micronutrients, continuous application of major nutrients alone cannot improve the performance of the crops under cultivation.

Dr. K. Kumaraswamy

Formerly Professor of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, TNAU Coimbatore

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Farm Query

Preserving wheat

Is it true that food grains such as wheat can be preserved by burying them under the soil?

Prashanth Sharma,Pune

Mr. Dudhabhai Arjanbhai Pandav, Genol village in Ahmedabad preserves wheat by burying them in 2-3 feet deep pits dug in the store room. The bottom of the pit is covered by a thin layer of wheat husk and filled with wheat. Each layer of wheat is alternated with a thick layer of husk and finally covered by soil.

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30 clusters to be launched for cultivation of pulses

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: The government will launch 30 clusters this year under the Centrally-funded Accelerated Pulses Production Programme, P. Rama Mohana Rao, Principal Secretary (Agriculture) and Agriculture Production Commissioner, said on Wednesday.

Addressing reporters on the sidelines of a conference on agricultural products exports, hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Mr. Rao said each cluster would measure about 1,000 ha and would focus on cultivation of pulses, such as red gram and black gram.

The initiative would more or less be modelled on the successful pulses production cluster at Pudukottai, where red gram cultivated by farmers was being procured at attractive rates by Tata Group under its "MoPu" (More Pulses) programme.

The State extended quality seeds, fertilizers and other agri inputs to the farmers at subsidised rates, Mr. Rao said. Addressing the conference earlier, Mr. Rao stressed the imperative of providing better prices for farmers in domestic and export markets in the Indian context where over 60 per cent of the population depended on agriculture.

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Rain improves water level in dam

Staff Reporter

DHARMAPURI: Due to continuous rain in the catchment areas, water is flowing in the

Nagavathi River after a gap of five years.

Farmers in and around Pennagaram in Dharmapuri district are happy. The water flow to the Nagavathi Dam with a storage capacity of 24 ft is due to rain in the catchment areas such as Errappatti, Indoor, Agraharam and Pandhalapalli. In the past one week, the water level in the dam touched 12 feet.

If the dam is filled to its full level, 1,933 acres of agricultural land in Tholur, Chinnampalli, Anamarathur, Chozhigoundanur, Perumbalai, Boothanayakkanaalli, Pazyayur, Kedayanaalli and surrounding villages will be benefited.

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Ambitious foodgrains production target set

Special Correspondent

Total of 5.6 lakh tonnes to be produced in over 4.85 lakh hectares in rabi season

Farmers have completed sowing in 4.12 lakh hectares out of the targeted 5.36 lakh hectares

Area wise crop loss and financial loss of farmers being estimated by joint survey team

GULBARGA: The Agriculture Department has fixed an ambitious foodgrains production target of 5.60 lakh tonnes in just over 4.85 lakh hectares for the rabi season in Gulbarga district during the current year.

Among foodgrains, the target fixed for cereals is 2.04 lakh tonnes in over 2.50 lakh hectares.

The target for pulses is 3.56 lakh tonnes, covering over 2.35 lakh hectares.

The production target for sunflower, which is a major crop during the rabi season, is 23,970 tonnes, covering over 28,200 hectares.

According to the latest details available, farmers have completed sowing in 4.12 lakh hectares out of the total 5.36 lakh hectares target fixed for the rabi season.

Sources said that the unseasonal rains during the kharif season had played havoc on the standing crops and as per the rough estimates available, out of the total 5.86 lakh hectares sown during the kharif season, standing crops in 1,34,278 hectares were lost. The area wise crop loss and the financial loss to the farmers were being estimated by a joint survey team consisting of the departments of Agriculture and Revenue.

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Paddy crop destroyed in rain

Correspondent

SIRSI: Paddy crop in Andagi and Badanagod gram panchayat areas in the eastern part of Sirsi taluk have been destroyed in continuous rain in the last 10 days.

Farmers told presspersons, who visited their areas on Wednesday, that there is nothing left for them this year.

It was a common scene there that standing crops had fallen and 90 per cent of it was in water.

Survey

Sirsi tahsildar H.K. Krishnamurty and Assistant Director of Agriculture Shivaprakash Gaonkar, who visited the affected areas, have launched survey for assessing damage. There is a report from Mundgod that the off-season rain damaged paddy crop in the taluk. Paddy seeds that got wet in rainwater have started sprouting and the stock of paddy dry grass, which is used as fodder for cattle, is getting rotten.

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Rs. 111-cr. NABARD loan to State

Special Correspondent

BANGALORE: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 111.24 crore to the State Government for building rural infrastructure. The projects sanctioned cover rural roads, bridges and minor irrigation projects. They have been sanctioned under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF XVI) and the cumulative sanction to the State during 2010-11 stood at Rs . 514.26 crore, a press release from NABARD said on Wednesday. Implementation of 37 rural road projects with a total length of 119.85 km and 13 rural bridge projects with a length of 269.10 metres was expected to benefit 16 districts, connecting 220 villages with 76 marketing centres, the release said. Implementation of the 161 minor irrigation projects was expected to increase the irrigation potential in 16 districts to 9368.22 hectares, said the release.

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Malawi seeks Indian help in 'greenbelt initiative'



Malawi is also negotiating uranium explorations with India. File Photo.

Inspired by India's "Green Revolution", Malawi has sought Indian assistance in its "Greenbelt initiative" aimed at raising agricultural output. The southeast African nation is looking to India to tap its huge uranium deposits.

Malawi is also negotiating to sign Double Taxation as well as Investment Promotion and Protection agreements with India.

"Our main aim is to get India's participation in our Greenbelt initiative to increase our farming capacity," visiting Malawian Trade and Industry Minister Eunice Kazembe told IANS in an interview.

Malawi, a country of 14 million people, one of the world's most densely populated nations, is mainly dependent on rain-fed agriculture but the recent climatic changes has affected its production. The "Greenbelt initiative" has been brought about by the Malawian government to counter climatic unpredictability.

"Our president decided to change Malawi into an irrigated agriculture and therefore we came to India bearing in mind that India underwent a green revolution years ago and that you have built and managed huge irrigation facilities, technologies, tools etc so we like to tap from this knowledge and skill base," Kazembe said.

Describing the Greenbelt initiative as a multi-faceted project and inviting Indian investors in it, she said: "I am very sure that a month from now there will be investments in many areas and not just in agriculture like irrigation, farming technologies, but in transportation, logistics, agro-processing units, tourism etc."

India and US joint projects discussed during US President Obama's visit also sees great agricultural opportunities in Sub—Saharan Africa.

Addressing the media Monday after his meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Obama said India and US will launch new initiatives that will mutually benefit both the countries through joint projects in regions like Africa.

"Building on Indian and American agriculture collaboration, like that of the Green

Revolution, we are launching a new partnership for an Evergreen Revolution that improves food security around the world,” he said Monday addressing the media.

Also speaking at the venue, Prime Minister Singh said: “We have agreed to broaden our strategic dialogues to cover other regions and areas and initiate joint projects in Africa and Afghanistan.”

Kazembe said Malawi is currently discussing Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement and Double Taxation Agreement with India and that “these are two instruments that are crucial to investors for investment in Malawi”.

Kazembe was here as part of the Malawian President Bingu Wa Mutharika’s delegation on a five-day trip which left for home Nov 6. The delegation invited the Indian business community to invest in sectors like energy, health and education apart from its Greenbelt initiative.

Kazembe said: “We are here to solicit investment from India to Malawi bearing in mind that India now is one of the most significant economic powers in the world.”

Kazembe said Malawi has discovered huge deposits of uranium and wants to work with India to explore more uranium sites.

She said: “We are still negotiating uranium exploration with India. These things tend to have a significant lead time because we are talking about minerals so there are many areas that has to be looked into.”

Kazembe also said that India and Malawi will exceed the two-way trade target of \$300 million within three years. India—Malawi bilateral trade at present is \$185 million.

“We are absolutely sure that we’ll exceed the target for a number of reasons like Malawi has exported for many years to India different types of grains. I am pleased to note that India has invited us to clinch a long term contract with its government agency.

“On the Indian side we buy equipment for SME. There was an announcement of an SME incubator by India. So in two years we will be talking about a lot more than \$300 million,” she said.

On a lighter note Kazembe said she enjoyed her stay in India particularly Indian President Pratibha Patil's banquet to the visiting delegation.

"I congratulate India for having a female president. It is very refreshing. There aren't many female presidents in the world so to be one among the few it is very refreshing.

"The dinner was sumptuous and the ambience of the place was so very nice, flowers, decor, all so good. We enjoyed ourselves," she said.

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50 per cent paddy cultivation to come under Rajarajan 1000



Collector T. Soundiah inspects the paddy cultivation under the Rajarajan 1000 system of rice intensification (SRI) method near Erode on October 30, 2010. Photo: M. Govarthan

Adapting to the recent technologies in paddy cultivation, farmers in Karur district have embraced the system of rice intensification (SRI) method of rice cultivation, rechristened as Rajaran 1000. Officials hope to bring 50 per cent of the paddy cultivation under the Rajarajan 1000 system during the current season. The normal area covered under paddy in the district is 16,000 hectares.

Paddy is cultivated in samba and navarai seasons and samba crops account for close to 95 per cent of the paddy cultivated in Karur district, irrigated chiefly by Rivers Cauvery and

Amaravathy.

Like elsewhere paddy farmers in Karur district were constrained by the costs incurred for seeds, agricultural inputs, pesticides, fertilizers and nutrients and the resultant cost of cultivation weighed more with farmers compared to the value of their produce . During 2008-09 around 2,800 hectares were brought under the system of rice intensification while during the subsequent year it reached the 6,000 hectare mark, against a target of 6,800 hectares. Around 2,500 farmers were extended agricultural assistance under the SRI method in 2008-09 and another 6,579 farmers benefited during the next year.

For the current year 8,000 hectares has been fixed as the target for paddy cultivation under Rajaran 1000 and more than 3,033 hectares have been covered already. The balance 5,000 hectares will be covered during November when the transplanting would be at its peak, according to the Joint Director of Agriculture, S.Jagadeesan.

Blockwise coverage under the Rajarajan 1000 in the district shows that an estimated 2,000 hectares in Kulithalai, 783 hectares in Thogamalai, 110 hectares in Kadavur, 75 hectares in K.Paramathy, 30 hectares in Karur, 25 hectares in Krishnarayapuram and 10 hectares in Thanthoni blocks have been brought under the scheme. The target for Kulithalai block has been exceeded while other blocks needed to shore up their performance.

The Integrated Cereal Development Programme (ICDP) and the National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) have been dovetailed to also benefit farmers under the Rajarajan 1000 scheme, under which cono weeders, markers and agricultural inputs are being distributed. While ICDP will benefit 300 farmers, the NADP will cover 600 farmers Mr.Jagadeesan said .

Business Standard

Thursday, Nov 11, 2010

Commodity prices rise on low global crop estimates

BS Reporter / Mumbai November 11, 2010, 0:57 IST

The prices of agricultural commodities that are an important part of India's exports and imports have been rising for some months after estimates of lower output and dwindling stocks worldwide.

While cotton prices have surged on export demand, followed by heavy speculation, sugar is rising on improved scope for exports. India depends on imports for edible oil and hence prices of palm and soy oil have been rising due to global cues.

In the past month, sugar has surged 5.8 per cent on hope the government will allow exports to take advantage of spiralling prices abroad. On the London exchange, sugar is trading at a 30-year high, above \$800 a tonne, up nearly 40 per cent in the last one month.

Cotton, at \$1.52 per pound, is at a 140-year high. Despite record crop estimates, prices have zoomed 22.3 per cent in the past month and 52.7 per cent in the past three months.

Globally, in just one month, prices went up 56 per cent. Yesterday, the US department of agriculture (USDA) lowered estimates of China's cotton supply, indicating China would import more. India has already approved over five million bales for export. Even after that, prices in the local market are rising, as there is heavy speculation. An Ahmedabad-based risk management firm's director said textile mills' demand was yet to be met and speculators were keeping prices high. India is expecting an output of 350 million bales this year.

Soybean oil and palm oil prices in India have risen 16-18 per cent in the past month on surging global prices and are slated to go up further. Reason: Lower output and rising Chinese imports. Dorab Mistry, director of Godrej International, estimated the world production of palm oil in calendar year 2010 would expand very little, by about 300,000 tonnes. Production growth would be negative in Malaysia and mildly positive in Indonesia, he said.

Malaysian crude palm oil production is estimated at 17.2 million tonnes for 2010, slightly less than in 2009 but very insufficient to meet the demand..

Food markets also look tight. China will probably buy about a third of the US soybean crop and the USDA said on Tuesday inventories of corn and soybeans would fall sharply ahead of the 2011 harvest. India also exports maize. However, due to a pick-up in arrivals of kharif maize, prices have started falling. In the past month, while global crop prices have moved up 23.7 per cent, in India, the arrivals have pushed down prices by 17.5 per cent.

Govt likely to free sugar exports soon: Industry

Reuters / New Delhi November 11, 2010, 0:55 IST



India may soon permit unrestricted exports of sugar, in a move that could push New York futures from 30-year highs by eliminating uncertainty over the exportable surplus of the world's No 2 producer of the sweetener.

World markets are waiting for exports from India to fill rising demand from countries such as Pakistan, Indonesia and Russia, particularly when output from Brazil promises to be lower due to concerns over the weather.

On Wednesday, the president of producer group the Indian Sugar Mills Association said India was likely to free up sugar exports soon and might also permit export of 2 million tonnes under its Open General Licence (OGL).

OGL is a permit by which the world's top producer after Brazil allows overseas sale of the sweetener with no curbs.

Since bottoming out at a one-year low of 13 cents per lb on May 7, New York sugar futures climbed more than 150 per cent on Tuesday amid supply worries in top producer Brazil and export uncertainty in India.

“There is no concern on production and exports. We will have an exportable surplus of 2 million tonnes under OGL which we expect the government to open up soon,” Vivek Saraogi said.

“The government may still buy time to free sugar exports and it might not be as soon as expected by millers,” said Veeresh Hiremath, chief analyst with Hyderabad-based brokerage Karvy Comtrade.

UP sugar mills move HC against state price

Ajay Modi / New Delhi November 11, 2010, 0:53 IST

The Uttar Pradesh sugar industry has challenged the state-advised price (SAP) for sugarcane for the 2010-11 season (October-September) in the Allahabad High Court.

“The state government has no power to fix SAP after the fair and remunerative price (FRP) is decided by the central government,” the mills’ apex body, the Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills’ Association (UPSMA), said in its petition, filed yesterday after Maharashtra. Top sugar companies such as Bajaj Hindusthan, Balrampur Chini and Triveni Engineering have operations in the state. The cane price fixed by the UP government has seen a lot of litigation in the past. In two consecutive seasons, 2006-07 and 2007-08, the UP sugar industry challenged SAP and got relief from the courts.

In 2006-07, the Allahabad High Court quashed the price, declaring it “arbitrary”, and the Supreme Court asked the mills to pay Rs 118 as against the then SAP of Rs 125. In 2007-08, the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court asked the mills to pay Rs 110 as against the SAP of Rs 125.

In its petition, the association claimed the mills did not have the capacity to pay Rs 205 a quintal. Last week, the UP government announced a record rise of Rs 40 a quintal in SAP for the 2010-11 crushing season (October-September). SAP for the common variety is now Rs 205

a quintal while SAP for the early variety is Rs 210. The FRP is Rs 139 a quintal on 10 per cent recovery.

UPSMA said in its petition that millers in the state lost Rs 3,000 crore in the 2009-10 season as the average realisation per quintal sugar was Rs 2,900 as against the breakeven cost of Rs 3,600 a quintal. It also said the ex-factory sugar price was expected to remain in the range of Rs 2,400-2,500 a quintal, for which the paying capacity would be between Rs 161 and Rs 168 a quintal. An association official said UP Sugarcane Research Institute had arrived at a sugarcane cultivation cost of Rs 139.30 a quintal for the current season.

After including margins and risks, the cane price should not be more than Rs 160 a quintal, he said. Meanwhile, the mills are expected to start crushing only by month-end. The recovery rate, an industry official said, was less than eight per cent and it did not make sense to begin crushing now. The rate points to the amount of sugar produced from sugarcane. A few mills that have started crushing in the state are witnessing a recovery rate of less than eight per cent compared to the usual rate of over nine per cent.

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By Gokul Chandrasekar

11 Nov 2010 04:22:23 AM IST

'Paddy yield plummets in delta region by 50 %'



CHENNAI: Paddy yield in the Cauvery delta have fallen by almost 50 per cent in the last two decades primarily due to climate change, according to a recent study conducted by a professor of the Madras Institute of Development Studies.

If this situation continued it could result in a threat to food security, as the delta region makes significant contribution to the State's food supply.

According to the study, 'Coastal vulnerability to climate change with focus on Cauvery delta in TN,' yields in regions like Pollachi is close to 2,700 kg/acre. But in the delta region, it has come down in the last two decades to a mere 1,200 kg/acre.

"This has been primarily due to two factors," says Janakarajan, author of the study. "One, due to the reduction of freshwater from reaching downstream. And two, due to erratic rainfall pattern."

Since the early '80s, the flow of freshwater from upstream Cauvery has reduced considerably.

"Today, it is the residual water which is polluted with sewage and industrial waste that reaches downstream," noted Janakarajan. Compounding the problem is the erratic rainfall pattern that has affected the agricultural pattern in the region. "The Kuruvai crop has almost become extinct.

From 4,500 acres, the region under Kuruvai has come down to a mere 1,000 acres due to erratic rainfall pattern," he said.

"In the last two to three decades, canals have been dry for eight months in a year, thereby causing seawater intrusion up to 15 km," notes the study. This has increased the salinity of water. Skewed developmental activities and lack of conservation policies are causing more damage, Janakarajan said.

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Thursday, November 11, 2010

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Back Sugar rises for 8th consecutive day

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Nov. 10

Sugar prices continued to rise for the eighth consecutive days on bullish sentiment at mill levels. Prices gained further by Rs 15–20 a quintal on Wednesday.

On the Vashi wholesale market despite lower demand, spot prices were up by Rs 8–10. Naka delivery rates were up by Rs 15–20. Lower than expected production in the initial month and lower free sale quota for November supported the bullish sentiment, said market sources.

In the global market, sugar touched a record \$800 a tonne. Last year, prices at the same time were \$550–575. India has exportable surplus this year with expected production being estimated at 250–260 lakh tonnes.

Export to be freed

Market players are of the view that the Government may allow sugar export shortly after assessing the demand-supply situation to take advantage of high world market price.

Against world market, sugar prices are ruling lower in the domestic market.

Last year spot prices were around Rs 3,250-3,400 at Vashi market but now they are ruling at Rs 2,825-2,950.

Market sources said on Tuesday evening about 12–14 mills have sold nearly one lakh bags to local stockists through tenders. Two-three rakes have been traded with upcountry buyers.

Mills sold S-grade in the range of Rs 2,780-2,800 and M-grade at Rs 2,800-2,850 (excise paid).

Due to higher prices in neighbouring States, traders there are continuously buying from Maharashtra's mills.

On Tuesday, total arrivals in Vashi markets were 48/50 truckloads (10 tonnes each) and lifting was lower at 38–40 truckloads.

Market inventory increased on poor off take.

According to the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, spot rates were: S-grade: Rs 2,821-2,861 (Rs 2,811-2,856) and M-grade: Rs 2,855-2,931 (Rs 2,851-2,916).

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade: Rs 2,820-2,860 (Rs 2,800-2,850) and M-grade: Rs 2,860-2,920 (Rs 2,850-2,890).

Date:11/11/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/11/stories/2010111150702000.htm>

Back Tobacco Board encouraging farmers to shift to maize: New chief

K.V. Kurmanath Hyderabad, Nov. 10

Tobacco farming in India is at the crossroads. On the one hand, growing health concerns force policy makers to put a cap on the cropped area and, on the other, the opportunity in the global market is always enticing for farmers.

India is the second largest producer and exporter of tobacco; with 40 lakh hectares and 757 million kg of output. Twin challenges face the Tobacco Board; illegal cultivation and shifting focus to high-value leaf from filler styles. Mr G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, who has taken over as Chairman of the Board, speaks on the challenges and the future of the crop.

Critics say there is no point in fixing crop sizes with illegal acreage continuing to grow significantly, while growers argue that stifling the area denies them the opportunity to benefit from good prices. How do you view this issue?

This is a major concern. Last year even the illegally grown crop was allowed to be auctioned. But this cannot continue. We have slapped fines. We may go in for cancellations of registrations (growers need to be registered with the Board) should they (those who resort to additional acreage) continue to cross the permitted acreage. Keeping in view the public concerns, efforts are on to encourage the farmers to shift to alternative crops such as maize.

What are the challenges faced by tobacco farming?

About 38 per cent of tobacco we produce is rated low grade. This results in reduced income from exports for farmers. There are issues – pre- and post-harvesting – that make the produce low grade. Usage of excessive nitrogen is one of the reasons. We have set up teams comprising members of the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), the Tobacco Board and growers to tell farmers about the ways to reduce nitrogen consumption.

India registered exports of Rs 4,404 crore in 2009-10, which is 30 per cent more than Rs 3,388 crore reported the previous year. We could have fared much better had we focussed on higher quality produce.

Pesticide residues and other unrelated material in the produce too is a major problem.

What are the solutions for these problems?

We will have to focus on organic manures and area-specific fertiliser schedule developed by the CTRI. We should focus on mechanisation to optimise costs and improve product hygiene. While encouraging development of varieties and hybrids to break the yield barrier and face biotic and abiotic stresses, we will take up a campaign to propagate area-specific fertiliser schedule developed by the institute.

Besides, we will encourage model project area approach for focussed development of quality and yields. For example, this can be taken up in 150 to 200 hectares in northern light soil.

Curing is yet another area that needs immediate attention. International best practices call for alternative fuels. We will encourage usage of alternative fuels such as solar and gas for curing.

What are the changes being introduced in auctioning and marketing?

We are going to lay emphasis on e-auctioning as it would bring in competition and price discovery for farmers. This would also remove elements of uncertainty and subjectivity.

With regard to marketing, we are contemplating a delegation to newer markets to tap opportunity. This includes reinventing lost markets such as Russia and increasing

contribution of countries that buying less from Indian market. Countries in the Gulf region, West Europe, Belgium, Egypt and Yemen look promising.

We will write to the Ministry (of Commerce) for the necessary permission to approach the respective embassies.

What is the way forward for the tobacco sector?

All eyes are on the Uruguay round on Framework Convention on Tobacco Control scheduled for third week of November. The convention calls for complete curb on tobacco farming across the world by 2020. As many as 171 countries, including India, were signatories for the WHO framework. Countries need to evolve policies, taking cue from Uruguay meeting.

This is a sensitive issue as about three crore people depend on tobacco industry. We are going to set up a national panel drawing experts to suggest alternatives for farmers.

Date:11/11/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/11/stories/2010111151632100.htm>

Back Warehouse Act may bring down farmers borrowing cost

Lending rates may drop.

“The receipt will become a legal document with noting on the goods quality, quantity and value. This will lead to a drop in risk weightage on warehouse receipt lending”

Our Bureau

Mumbai, Nov. 10

The reforms being implemented through amendments in the Warehousing (Development & Regulation) Act, 2007, may bring down the cost of borrowing for the farmers. The warehouse receipts issued by registered entities will soon become a negotiable instrument

against which banks can lend up to 70 per cent of the total value of goods.

Mr Sanjay Kaul, Managing Director, NCDEX-promoted National Collateral Management Services, said the lending rates against warehouse receipts may come down by a minimum of one per cent from the 9.5-12 per cent now charged by banks.

“The receipt will become a legal document with noting on the goods quality, quantity and value. This will lead to a drop in risk weightage on warehouse receipt lending and subsequently lending rates will come down,” said Mr Kaul launching the second edition of ‘India Commodity Yearbook 2011’.

Further, Mr Kaul said of the 200 million tonnes (mt) of annual agriculture production, the farmers retain 50 per cent for personal consumption, while 100 mt reach the market. The Government procures about 60 million tonnes for feeding the downtrodden through various schemes and only 40 mt is left for the open market.

The new Food Security Act, once implemented, would raise government procurement to 65 mt, he said.

According to market estimates, banks have an exposure of about Rs 15,000 crore against warehouse receipts currently.

The Yearbook has detail insight on the commodity market with various data on price and production for the last 10 years and the expectations for the future. It also has articles authored by government officials, market regulator and industry experts on the opportunities and issues concerning the commodity market

Dr K.S. Khokhar, Vice-Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, in his article, ‘What ails agriculture growth in India’ indicates that the country could add 81 mt foodgrain production annually, by focusing on measures to raise the productivity in the backward States.

Date:11/11/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/11/stories/2010111150792100.htm>

Back TN to expand farm clusters roping in corporates

Our Bureau

Chennai, Nov. 10

The Tamil Nadu Government hopes to develop 'farm clusters' and commodity groups to attract corporate involvement in agriculture produce marketing and infrastructure development.

The Agriculture Secretary, Dr P. Rama Mohana Rao, told reporters at a conference on agricultural products exports organised by the CII that a project on accelerated pulses development programme in Pudukottai in which the Tata group was involved in purchasing red gram from farmers had been a major success. Nearly, 1,000 ha of farmland had been brought under this programme in this district.

5 more districts

Soon, this would be expanded to five more districts, including Cuddalore, Villupuram and Vellore. The Government is targeting developing at least 30 clusters of about 1,000 ha each. Under this programme, a number of support programmes are being dovetailed, including World Bank-funded projects, Central and State Government projects to provide focus to support farmers.

Crops such as black gram, maize are also being included in this programme, he said. The development of organic retail by the corporate sector is driving interest in their involvement in sourcing agricultural produce. The Government is facilitating marketing initiatives.

Through another programme for marketing infrastructure, the State Government is setting up terminal markets in three locations, including Perundurai, Chennai and Madurai, for procuring, processing and marketing of farm products. Mr Atul Anand, Commissioner, Agricultural Marketing, said the Perundurai Terminal Market Complex, a public-private partnership, will be set up by the SPAC Group of Erode. The Rs 113-crore facility will be operated by the private sector partner and the infrastructure will cater to farmers in the western parts of Tamil Nadu. Land has been identified for the Chennai and Madurai

terminal market complexes for which the private players are being identified.

Date:11/11/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/11/stories/2010111150812100.htm>

Back **Apeda selects 3 areas in TN for cluster development**

Our Bureau

Chennai, Nov. 11

Three large fruit and vegetable growing regions in Tamil Nadu will get common infrastructure facilities for processing and marketing.

The Apeda (Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) has identified three areas in the State — Oddanchattram, Nilgiris and Tindivanam — under its cluster development programme to support infrastructure development for fruit and vegetable processing, according to Mr Tarun Bajaj, Deputy General Manager, Apeda.

Addressing a seminar on agriculture produce exports organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry and Apeda, he said modern processing facilities, economies of scale and efficiency are key to accessing export markets. Apeda is looking at infrastructure projects in South India to support agriculture infrastructure. It will work closely with the State governments to implement these projects.

Mango pulp packing

Another initiative would be the establishment of an aseptic packaging unit for bulk packing of mango pulp in Krishnagiri District. A similar facility has been set up in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh.

Both these places account for the major portion of mango pulp exports from the country.

Other focus areas are floriculture and honey production, he said.

Date:11/11/2010 **URL:**

Back Rain hurts cotton movement a tad; higher arrivals forecast



A file photo of a worker shifting cotton at a market in Khammam, Andhra Pradesh. —

Our Bureau

Mumbai, Nov. 10

Continuing wet weather in parts of the country and festival holidays have slowed cotton arrivals in the last few days; but crop quality continues to be unaffected by light rains.

Labh Purnam was observed on Wednesday, marking the end of Diwali and traders believe that trading on that day would bring high profits. Hectic trading activity was reported in States such as Gujarat.

Parts of Saurashtra region of Gujarat is experiencing drizzle since Tuesday; but there is no threat to crop quality, a top trading house representative commented.

However, almost everyone in the State is looking skyward for any threatening signs of heavy rains that can potentially hurt quality and yield. On Wednesday, torrential rain lashed in and around Amreli district in the Saurashtra region. This can potentially affect the crop. Meanwhile, a storm warning has been issued in Kutch, another crucial cotton area.

A trader pointed out that growers may actually be happy with light showers as the weight of kapas (seed cotton) would actually increase due to high moisture.

With the end of festival season, cotton arrivals across the country may soon accelerate to reach two lakh bales a day from the present 1.3 lakh bales. Arrivals commenced early this month at about 1.5 lakh bales a day, but declined slightly due to wet weather in parts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Going forward, cotton arrivals are expected to pick in the north zone (40,000 bales), west and central zone (120,000 bales) and south zone (40,000 bales) during the second half of the month. Mr Shirish Shah, partner in Bhaidas Cursonsdas & Co, told Business Line that daily arrivals will reach two lakh bales in the coming days as growers go back to the field for accelerated plucking.

Cotton prices have already reached record levels in the domestic market and in the international market too.

Latest sales have reportedly been concluded at the equivalent of 170-180 cents a pound.

Trade circles are anxiously awaiting the review meeting said to be fixed for November 15 when crop and market conditions will be reviewed by representatives of various Government departments. There is hope that the meeting may come up with recommendation for an additional export ceiling over and above the existing 55 lakh bales.

Mr Shah, who is well known for maintaining a close watch on cotton crop and prices, asserted that there would be a surplus of about 130 lakh bales after accounting for domestic consumption.

Date:11/11/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/11/stories/2010111152391900.htm>

Back Rice rules steady in listless market

Our Correspondent

Karnal, Nov 10

After witnessing a good rally at the beginning of this week, the rice market saw a steady trend with prices maintaining their upper levels.

Mr Tara Chand Sharma, a rice trader, said the current situation is very volatile . “New export contracts have not been signed yet; only after signing the new contracts the real position of the market will be clear,” he said.

On Wednesday, prices of Pusa-1121 steam (new) ruled between Rs 5,100 and Rs 5,150 a quintal, while the old variety ruled at Rs 5,250 and Pusa-1121 sela (new) ruled between Rs 4,100 and Rs 4,150, whereas the old variety was at Rs 4,250-4,300. Pusa-1121 raw (new) ruled at Rs 5,100-5,150, while the old variety quoted at Rs 5,200. Pusa (sela) ruled around Rs 3,250 and Pusa (raw) at Rs 4,150. Basmati sela ruled at Rs 6,150, while basmati raw was at Rs 7,100.

Prices of PR (old) ruled between Rs 2,000 and Rs 2,210, while the PR (new) ruled between Rs 1,950 and Rs 2,020 a quintal. Sharbati sela (old) ruled between Rs 2,500 and Rs 2,720; Sharbati steam (new) at Rs 2,600-2,800; Permal sela (new) at Rs 2,000-2,170 a quintal.

Brokens such as Tibar ruled around Rs 3,510, Dubar at Rs 2,500 and Mongra around Rs 1,790-1,820.

PR-13 ruled between Rs 980 and Rs 1,010; Grade-A variety ruled between Rs 1,025 and Rs 1,050 and RS-10 at Rs 1,350-1,400.

Sharbati ruled between Rs 1,500 and Rs 1,550; Sugandha-999 at Rs 1,600-1,670; Pusa (duplicate basmati) at Rs 2,000-2,250; Pusa-1121 Rs 2,000-2,470. About 25,000 bags of the paddy of pure basmati rice arrived here and quoted at Rs 2,200-2,700. The entire stock was lifted by agencies and rice millers.

Date:11/11/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/11/stories/2010111152401900.htm>

[Back](#) **Export demand boosts castorseed futures**

Our Correspondent

Rajkot, Nov 10

Castor futures increased marginally on export demand, following brisk buying . Spot markets in Gujarat mostly are closed and will be open for regular trading after two days. On the other hand, expectation of good sowing kept a leash on the price increase.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), castorseed November futures increased by Rs 26.50 to Rs 3,870 a quintal . Castorseed December futures firmed up by Rs 73 to Rs 3,649.50.

The Rajkot Commodity Exchange (RCX) is closed for Diwali and will resume from Thursday. Traders said speculative buying by traders on the back of heavy demand and restricted supply in physical markets, leading to the sharp rise in futures prices.

Traders said: "Price will go up as there is a good demand and arrivals are very low but the overall sentiment indicates that price will be under control. Moreover, this year sowing increased by 10-15 per cent on the back of good monsoon."

Data available with Solvent Extractors' Association of India show that area under castor crop across the country has increased 15 per cent to 1.25 lakh hectares at 8.87 lakh hectares (7.63 lakh hectares) .

Date:11/11/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/11/stories/2010111152381900.htm>

[Back](#) **Lower futures drag spot chana**

Our Correspondent

Indore, Nov. 10

Chana, which gained Rs 25 in the spot following good demand from retailers and mill operators, declined in the evening to Rs 2,340-Rs 2,350 a quintal with traders not showing interest at higher rates.

The fall was mainly due to a decline in futures on the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchanges where November contracts edged lower at Rs 2,453 a quintal, a drop of Rs 7. Earlier in the day, chana prices saw a healthy consolidation with November contracts rising to Rs 2,508 a quintal. Hopes of higher output forced traders to book profit at higher levels. Subsequently, chana November contracts tumbled to Rs 2,453 on the NCDEX. On the other hand, dollar (kabuli) chana or chickpea continued to witness bullish trend for the second consecutive day following a rise in both domestic and export demand. In the spot, dollar chana quoted Rs 200 up at Rs 4,500-4,850 a quintal. Arrival of dollar chana in local mandis on Wednesday was recorded at 2,000 bags.

Date:11/11/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/11/stories/2010111150742000.htm>

Back Lower volume on offer at Coonoor tea auction

P.S. Sundar Coonoor, Nov. 10

A volume of 12.18 lakh kg will be offered for Sale No: 45 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association to be conducted on Thursday and Friday, reveals an analysis of the listing by brokers.

It is 65,000 kg less than last week's offer, but as much as 2.40 lakh kg lower than the offer this time last year.

Of the 12.18 lakh kg on offer, 8.57 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 3.61 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 11.37 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 0.81 lakh kg, orthodox variety. The proportion of orthodox teas continues to be low in both

the leaf and dust grades. In the leaf counter, only 0.49 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 8.08 lakh kg, CTC. Among the dusts, only 0.32 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 3.29 lakh kg, CTC.

In the 12.18 lakh kg, fresh tea accounts for 11.53 lakh kg. Only 0.65 lakh kg comprises teas remaining unsold in previous auctions.

Date:11/11/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/11/stories/2010111151292100.htm>

Back **Pepper futures decline**

G. K. Nair

Kochi, Nov. 10

Pepper futures on Wednesday dropped slightly after remaining highly volatile throughout the day on confusing production figures from Indonesia and a consequent tug-of-war between bull and bear operators. The November future closed slightly lower while December moved up marginally from the previous closing.

Exporters are said to have hedged their requirements on the exchange platform. On the spot "there was no activity as both sellers and buyers were cautious on account of the high volatility in futures," market sources told Business Line.

There was also some selling pressure on the exchange as few people wanted to get out of the November delivery.

Date:11/11/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/11/stories/2010111150712000.htm>

Back **Short supplies spur spot rubber prices**

Our Correspondent

Kottayam, Nov. 10

Spot rubber turned better on Wednesday. The market opened steady but moderate gains in the domestic and international futures kept it on the positive side during closing hours.

Continuous rains in the past couple of days put pressure on arrivals and the market seemed to be suffering from acute short supplies.

Sheet rubber improved to Rs 203 (202) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi according to Rubber Board and dealers. Expectations on another bull run in the immediate future seemed to be guiding the traders and growers to hold the stocks while the trend was mixed and volume low.

RSS 4 increased further at its November series to Rs 205 (204.03), December to Rs 208.14 (207.66), January to Rs 210.19 (209.64) and February to Rs 211.90 (211.33) a kg on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. The November futures for RSS 3 firmed up to ₹365.6 (Rs 197.50) from ₹361 during the day session and then to ₹370.9 (Rs 200.37) a kg in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange. The grade (spot) flared up to Rs 195.49 (191.44) a kg at Bangkok.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 203 (202); RSS-5: 194 (193); ungraded: 190 (190); ISNR 20: 199 (198) and latex 60 per cent: 131 (131).

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Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 94%

Wind: Normal

Thursday, Nov 11

Max Min

32.4° | 24.7°

Sunrise: 6:05

Sunset: 17:40

Barometer: 1014.0

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

Friday, Nov 12

Max Min

33° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday

Nov 13



28° | 24°

Rainy

Sunday

Nov 14



28° | 24°

Rainy

Monday

Nov 15



27° | 24°

Cloudy

Tuesday

Nov 16



27° | 24°

Cloudy

Wednesday

Nov 17



28° | 25°

Rainy