

M.S. Swaminathan defends introduction of hazard line



The Hindu SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT: M.A . Atmanand Director, National Institute of Ocean Technology, explaining the scientific research works at NIOT Lab to Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Founder and Chairman, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation at Pallikaranai on Saturday. Photo: R. Shivaji Rao

It is to protect coastal ecological zones in interest of traditional fishermen

Eminent agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan on Saturday defended the introduction of a hazard line in the draft Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification 2010. Speaking at the Foundation Day celebrations of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Dr. Swaminathan said there was a need to protect coastal ecological zones in the interests of the traditional fishing community. For this, the hazard line should be introduced.

Welcoming the concerns expressed by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi on the draft CRZ notification, Dr. Swaminathan said he was glad that Mr. Karunanidhi had raised the issue and that it could be modified now.

Already, he had suggested to the Central government that a separate legislation on the lines of Traditional Forest Dwellers Act 2006 be enacted to safeguard the livelihood and security of traditional fishermen in the country.

Marine animals were sensitive to changes in ocean temperature. With more and more reports of oil spills and damage to the marine ecosystem, more bio-remedial measures needed to be taken. Change in climate resulted in lesser fish yield, change in species distribution and increased variability of catches.

Mangrove forests were one of the best bio-shields to protect people from calamities such as tsunami. They would act as speed-breakers and reduce the impact of tsunami, he said.

M.A. Atmanand, Director, NIOT, said the Wave Energy Plant at Vizhinjam in Kerala was the first successful project implemented by NIOT.

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Agricultural programmes reviewed

Special Correspondent

RAMANATHAPURAM: Collector T.N. Hariharan on Saturday visited various villages in the district to review the implementation of agriculture related programmes.

He was shown the implementation of foliar fertilization technique on millet crops at Perunazhi near Sayalkudi. The Joint Director of Agriculture, N. Sathiamoorthy, explained him about the benefits of the techniques. He was demonstrated about the method of foliar fertilization that intended to increase the productivity.

Mr. Hariharan also visited Pammanendhal village, where a private company have undertaken jatropa cultivation in 117 hectares. Mr. Sathiamoorthy stated him that jatropa cultivation was being promoted in the district. It had been encouraged to cultivate pulses in between the rows of jatropa cultivation. The Collector asked the agricultural officials to expedite the implementation of all programmes during the current season.

K. Sakthimohan, S. Rajendiran, Deputy Directors of Agriculture, Assistant Directors of Agriculture, Z. Kamaludeen, Vanniarajan and others took part.

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Milk producers plan agitation in Chennai

Special Correspondent

SALEM: Demanding increase in the milk procurement price, Tamil Nadu Milk Producers Association has announced that its producers will stage an agitation in front of the Secretariat in Chennai on December 14.

According to its president K Mohammed Ali, the association had urged the Chief Minister to raise the price by Rs. 5 per litre for cow milk and Rs. 8 for the buffalo milk irrespective of the fat content.

The association also condemned the Chief Minister's reported statement that he would hold a meeting with producers and consumers before taking a decision. "This will lead to a sort of misunderstanding with consumers. It is a ploy to postpone the decision on our demand," he said.

He also urged that fodder should be supplied to producers at subsidised cost.

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FAO warns of further rise in global food prices



The Hindu A woman purchases essentials in a shop in New Delhi. File Photo: Sushil Kumar Verma

Stability in markets will be determined by size of next year's crop

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has warned about a further increase in global food prices in 2011 if there is no significant increase in production of major food crops.

In the latest edition of its “Food Outlook” report, the agency observed that the rise in global prices, all of which was accruing in the second half of 2010, owing to a mismatch in demand and supply, was pushing the overall food import bill closer to the peak reached in 2008 — the recent crisis year.

The report said the international food import bills could surpass the \$1 trillion mark in 2010, with prices of most commodities shooting up sharply since 2009.

The import bills of the world's poorest countries were predicted to rise by 11 per cent and by 20 percent for the low-income food-deficit countries in 2010.

“With the pressure on world prices of most commodities not abating, the international community must remain vigilant against further supply shocks in 2011 and be prepared,”

the FAO warned.

Price increases, seen for most agricultural commodities over the past six months, were the result of a combination of factors, especially: unexpected supply shortfalls due to unfavourable weather events, policy responses by some exporting countries by cutting exports, and fluctuations in currency markets.

Contrary to earlier predictions, world cereal production, which was now 2,216 million tonnes, was 2 per cent below the previous year's level, against the anticipated 1.2 increase in June.

Most of the downward revision involving wheat and coarse grains followed cuts in production in major grain producing countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and shortfall in yields in the European Union, Canada and the United States.

World cereals stocks too were expected to be lower by 7 per cent, with wheat reserves plunging by 10 per cent, barley 35 per cent and maize 12 per cent. Only rice reserves were foreseen to increase by 6 per cent, the report said.

Sugar was an important factor that caused the rise in the price of the global food basket in recent months. Sugar prices, which recently surpassed 30-year highs, were elevated and extremely volatile.

In the oilseeds sector, firm prices reflected a relatively slow growth in world production, failing to keep pace with the fast expanding demand, the report stated.

Attention was now on cultivation for the 2011-12 season, as the size of next year's crop would be critical in setting the tone for stability in international markets.

For major cereals, production must expand substantially to meet the demand and to reconstitute reserves.

However, cereals may not be the only crop farmers would try to produce more, as rising prices had made other commodities such as soybean, sugar and cotton, attractive to plant, the report noted.

“This could limit individual crop production responses to levels that would be insufficient to alleviate market tightness. Against this backdrop, consumers may have little choice but to pay higher prices for food,” the report added.

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New course in cashew processing

BERHAMPUR: A new course in cashew processing is to start at the government managed Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in the city.

It may be noted that no other technical institute in the State provides such specialized training in cashew processing. The course being offered by the institute is a certificate course of three months' duration. This course has been taken up in Public-Private-Participation (PPP) mode. The State Cashew Processors' Association is a partner in the project and it would provide the technical knowhow. According to principal of the institute Rajat Panigrahy this course has received approval of State industries department.

This course is aimed at training manpower and entrepreneurs in the field of cashew processing. The students of this certificate course would get training in various aspects of cashew processing including maintenance of and running of machines used in the process. A 10-day training program for trainers of the course was also initiated in the institute. The course would be launched for students from next month.

The authorities of the institute feel this course would be a major help in providing trained manpower to the cashew processing units in the country and abroad. There is ample demand for skilled workers in the cashew industry. It may be noted that several African countries like Ghana and Mozambique are in need of skilled personnel in cashew processing sector. Orissa is one of the major cashew nut producing States in the country.

It produces around 90,000 tons of cashew nut every year. Orissa now has around 250 cashew unit processing units. But according to sources it has capacity for establishment of more processing units.

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Wayanad farmers caught in a morass

E.M. Manoj

Unseasonal rain, diseases ravage crops

Paddy farmers not able to start Nanja harvest

Staggered flowering a reason for crop failure

KALPETTA: The farmers in Wayanad district are in distress, thanks to unseasonal rain, various afflictions affecting crops and the low price for produce.

The untimely rain, which many attribute to climate change, has put the paddy farmers in a fix, as they cannot start the Nanja (winter cultivation) harvest on the water-logged fields. The spurt in pest attacks and diseases is also attributed to climate change.

The paddy crop failed on nearly 48 hectares of fields in the Ambalavayal grama panchayat limits owing to various afflictions.

“Till last year, we used to cultivate the traditional seeds, but this time, the Agriculture Department supplied seeds at a cost of Rs.9 a kg and they promised attractive incentives under the paddy extension schemes during the sowing time,” R. Mohanan, president, Andur Padasekhara Samithi, a collective of farmers, said.

“I have cultivated ‘Athira,’ a hybrid seed provided by the Ambalavayal Krishi Bhavan, on

one acre of my land,” Pullattukunnel Prabhakaran Nair, a small-scale farmer, said. “But I have lost all my hopes as the authorities are yet to disburse any incentives and the crop has failed.”

Mr. Prabhakaran Nair had spent Rs.12,000 on the crop.

The department distributed 3,030 kg of the seeds to hundreds of farmers in the panchayat.

The condition of the farmers at Pulpally, Poothadi, Meenangadi and Panamaram is no different. Mature rice seeds started germinating in the water-logged fields, as the farmers cannot start the harvest.

“We suspect that if the rain continues, we will not get straw for cattle during the season,” says T.J .Mathew, a farmer at Kaniyapatta, said.

Staggered flowering and diseases, such as leaf roller, blast and sheath rot, have been reported. The staggered flowering was the main reason for the crop failure in the Ambalavayal panchayat limits, P. Vikraman, Principal Agriculture officer, Wayanad, told The Hindu.

The district experienced unusual weather this year and it adversely affected the crops, he said. Intermittent rain, cloudy atmosphere, high temperature and humidity favoured an outbreak of the fungal diseases such as sheath rot and blast and increased attacks of pest such as leaf roller.

But the farmers who took preventive measures in earlier stages on the direction of the department could control the diseases effectively, he added.

A team of scientists, headed by Raji, Associate Professor, pathology, Regional Paddy Research Station, Pattambi, collected paddy specimens from the disease- affected areas recently. The spread of diseases also adversely affected coffee, pepper, areca nut and ginger crop.

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Use remote sensing technology for better agriculture planning: Panel



The Hindu The committee has recommended ramping up the use of remote sensing technologies to assess independent sources of land use, the area under crop cultivation and possible yield estimates. File photo

An expert committee has called for enhanced use of remote sensing technologies and establishment of a National Crop Statistics Centre to help formulate accurate crop area and yield estimates for planning bodies.

In an interim report submitted in July this year, the committee led by eminent agriculture scientist A. Vaidyanathan had recommended ramping up the use of remote sensing technologies to assess independent sources of land use, the area under crop cultivation and possible yield estimates, an official statement said.

The panel highlighted deficiencies in the existing system and suggested alternatives to ensure reliable and timely estimates of crop area and yields at the national and state level.

It has also recommended the creation of a National Crop Statistics Centre (NCSC) — an autonomous, professionally run organisation funded by the Centre to supervise the generation of crop area and yield estimates.

The government had constituted the committee under Mr. Vaidyanathan in February 2009, to suggest ways to improve the process of collecting agricultural statistics.

The panel was set up in accordance with the recommendations of a Steering Committee set up by the Planning Commission for formulation of Eleventh Five Year Plan estimates for agriculture and allied sectors.

The committee, comprising former Space Chairman Committee U. R. Rao and Calcutta Statistical Association Chairman S. P. Mukherjee, will submit its final report next month.

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Minister to hand over GI certificates for rice varieties

A Correspondent

Registration process initiated by KAU

The rice varieties are cultivated in nearly 400 hectares

KALPETTA: Minister for Agriculture Mullakkara Ratnakaran will hand over the Geographical Indication (GI) certificates of the Wayanad Gandhakasala rice and the Wayanad Jeerakasala rice to the Wayanad Jilla Nellulpadaka Karshaka Samithi at a function to be held at the panchayat community hall at Ambalavayal in the district at 10 a.m. on Monday.

P. Krishnaprasad, MLA, will preside over the function.

The process of registration was initiated by the Kerala Agriculture University through the

National Agricultural Innovation Project being implemented in the district.

Relevance of GIs

Geographical Indications (GIs) identify products as agricultural goods, natural goods or manufactured goods as originating or manufactured in the territory of a country, a region or a locality in that territory where a given quality, reputation or other characteristics of such goods is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.

The registration is intended to prevent unauthorised use of a registered geographical indication by others, promote economic prosperity of producers and boost exports by providing legal protection.

These rice varieties are cultivated in nearly 400 hectares, Principal Agriculture Officer P. Vikraman said. "We are planning to extend the cultivation to 1,000 hectares of land next year," he added.

Their qualities

The agro-ecological conditions of Wayanad, organic cultivation, traditional genetic make-up of cultivars and unique processing technologies contribute to the specific aroma and flavour of Jeerakasala and Gandhakasala rices.

They are cultivated chiefly by Wayanad Chetti, Kuruma and Kurichya communities.

Main hurdle

The main hurdle facing the traditional farmers is the lack of a processing centre in the district for these rice varieties as these cannot be processed in the usual rice mills, K. Kesavan Chetty at Chekadi, Pulpally, said.

Though the Agriculture Department had set up a processing centre at Panamaram a few years ago, the centre was yet to start functioning, he added.

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'List rubber crop under Horticulture Mission'

Staff Correspondent

Madikeri: Speaker K.G. Bopaiah, has favoured inclusion of rubber crop in the list of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) to help farmers receive the benefits of the scheme, including subsidies.

Mr. Bopaiah was addressing farmers after inaugurating the newly built 'Sahakari Bhavan' at Peraje, bordering Dakshina Kannada district on Saturday, according to an official press release here on Sunday. The yellow disease of areca crops had been troubling farmers in the Sampaje and Peraje areas of Kodagu for a long time.

NHM could come to their aid, said Mr. Bopaiah.

He said he had discussions with farmers of other districts about controlling the disease. Opening a research centre at Teertahalli in Shimoga district to carry out research activities to control the disease was considered, said Mr. Bopaiah.

Cooperative societies provided loans to farmers at 3 per cent interest rate and to stree shakti groups at a 4 per cent interest rate.

However, cooperative units would sustain themselves only if the farmers repaid loans on time.

Referring to the electric power scenario in the district, Mr. Bopaiah said efforts would be made to provide electricity to all villages and hamlets in the district under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyudeekaran Yojna by 2011.

Mr. Bopaiah inaugurated the newly laid roads under the Suvarna Gramodaya scheme in Peraje and Sampaje areas.

Nagesh Kundalpadi, a member of the Madikeri taluk panchayat, president of the Sampaje Payaswini Primary Credit Cooperative Society Balachandra Kalagi and president of the

CAMPCO K. Padmanabha spoke.

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Farmers urged to cultivate sandalwood

Workshop highlights role of KSDL and Forest Department

'Government proposes to increase forest cover

in the State from 22 to 33 per cent'

Farmers peeved by perceived lack of interest among organisers of the event

— PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM



Encouragement:A workshop on sandalwood farming was organised by the Forest Department in Mysore on Sunday.

MYSORE: A one-day workshop on sandalwood farming and forestry was held for the benefit of farmers and artisans in the city on Sunday. The workshop highlighted monetary

benefits farmers could accrue if they took up sandalwood farming.

The role of the Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) and the Forest Department in promoting sandalwood cultivation was highlighted by the organisers. Information pertaining to cultivation of sandalwood, the gestation period for harvesting and the prevailing market rate for sandal was shared. G.V. Sagoor, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, delivered the keynote address. He said that 22 per cent of the State was under forest cover and the Government proposed to increase it to 33 per cent as per the National Forest Policy. Most of it will be taken up on Government land and also farmland, and necessary help would be given like providing farmers with the saplings, he added. Mr. Sagoor pointed out that growing of sandalwood and mahogany was being encouraged to improve the forest cover and augment the income of farmers. For this, the Forest Department was conducting such workshops across the State, he said. The officials explained that another reason behind encouraging farmers to take up cultivation of sandalwood was to arrest and reverse the dwindling supply of sandalwood, which have been illegally felled resulting in the species fast vanishing from the State forests. The only condition was that they were bound to sell it to the Government at the fixed rate, he added.

Protest

Though farmers from Mysore, Mandya and surrounding places had turned up in large numbers, they were peeved by the perceived lack of interest among organisers. Minister for Forests C.H. Vijayshankar had failed to turn up due to the crisis plaguing the Government.

In the absence of the Forest Minister, the department officials had roped in Mayor Sandesh Swamy, Siddaraju, MLC, and chairman of the Karnataka Exhibition Authority B.P. Manjunath as the chief guests. The farmers alleged that the chief guests were not competent to talk about sandalwood farming.

They raised a ruckus saying the farmers had been insulted. The Forest Department personnel immediately ushered in Kurubur Shantakumar of the Sugarcane Cultivators' Association to mollify the farmers.

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'Crops in good condition'

Special Correspondent



helping hand:Collector T.K. Ponnusamy giving away family card to a woman in Ariyalur.

ARIYALUR: All the crops raised in Ariyalur during the current season are in good condition, thanks to the rainfall received so far, said Collector T.K.Ponnusamy on Friday.

Presiding over the district farmers grievances day meeting here, the Collector said the district had received a rainfall of 584 mm that had benefited the pulses, paddy and other crops.

Mr Ponnusamy said agricultural cooperative societies were keeping adequate stock of fertilizers and pointed out that action would be taken against private fertilizer dealers if they were found selling beyond the stipulated price.

The Collector said all steps had been taken to safeguard the people in the event of floods and other natural calamities. He said the electricity department had sent letters to 4,683 farmers sanctioning power connection for the agricultural pumpsets.

The farmers requested the Collector to take steps for constructing a check dam across the Marudayar river and establish direct purchase centres for procuring maize from the farmers. The Collector distributed new family cards. R.Pichai, District Revenue Officer, Raghunathan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Sankar, Lead Bank Manager, and Jeevarathinam and Nirmala, Revenue Divisional Officers of Ariyalur and Udayarpalayam attended .

Date:21/11/2010 URL:

TNAU suggests pest and disease control measures

Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE: The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has suggested certain plant protection measures to be undertaken by farmers to combat pests and diseases that are peculiar to this season in various districts.

According to a release from the university, Krishnagiri and Virudhunagar districts are plagued by damage of leaf in paddy that crosses the Economic Threshold Level (ETL).

Farmers are advised to spray 5 per cent neem seed kernel extract to mitigate the damage.

Another threat is found in the form of Brown Plant Hopper (BPH) for which use of light traps and yellow traps are suggested.

Controlled irrigation, followed by intermittent draining, has to be practised.

Need-based application of, either phosphamidon 40 SL 400 ml an acre, or monocrotophos 36 SL 500 ml an acre, or phosalone 35 EC 600 ml an acre, may be taken up to minimise the BPH population.

Incidences of bacterial leaf blight in paddy are observed in Kancheepuram, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts.

Farmers are asked to spray a combination of streptomycin sulphate, tetracycline and copper oxychloride to combat the pest. Spraying of fish oil resin soap 25 ml in a litre of water is suggested to combat the occurrence of mealy bug in tapioca and cocoa found in Kanyakumari.

Sugarcane

Prevalence of red rot in sugarcane is found in Virudhunagar and Karur districts. Prophylactic treatment may be taken up by removing the affected plants and drenching them with carbendazin.

Setting up of yellow sticky traps to monitor thrips in paddy and aphids is suggested. Spraying of endosulfan, fenitrothion, or quinalphos is suggested as general insecticides.

Yellow mosaic virus can be controlled in Ramanathapuram district by spraying monocrotophos 200 ml an acre.

Setting up of yellow sticky traps has been suggested to combat the incidence of jassids in

green gram that cross the ETL. A combination of water and monocrotophos 10 ml is recommended to manage red palm weevil incidence in coconut.

Incidence of false smut incidence is noticed at the flowering stage in paddy in Tiruchi district.

The affected grains are converted into yellow colour smut balls. Hence, farmers are asked to spray propiconazole one gm in one litre of water.

Root feeding

Tanjore wilt in coconut is seen in Thanjavur. Farmers are asked to carry out root feeding of aureofungin-sol and copper sulphate in 100 ml water.

In Villupuram district, late leaf spot incidences are seen in groundnut.

Hence, farmers may spray carbendazim one gm in litre of water.

For details, contact Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology on 0422-6611214; or Head, Department of Plant Pathology on 0422-6611226.

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K. Sakthimohan, S. Rajendiran, Deputy Directors of Agriculture, Assistant Directors of Agriculture, Z. Kamaludeen, Vanniarajan and others took part.

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Women in Tuticorin village receive training in ornamental fish breeding

Staff Reporter

— Photo: N. Rajesh



ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS:V.K. Venkataramani, Director of Research and Extension, FCRI, addressing a training programme at a village in Tuticorin district.

Tuticorin: A three-day training in ornamental fish breeding and culture was organised for 40 women recently at Thirukkalur under the Establishment of Fisheries Rural Bio-resource Complex project funded by the Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi.

The training programme was organised by Fisheries College and Research Institute (FCRI), a constituent of TANUVAS, Chennai. V.K. Venkataramani, Director of Research and Extension, emphasised that ornamental fish culture and breeding activities would improve the socio-economic status of women.

Ornamental fish culture business would not require high investment; even with a meagre initial investment of Rs. 500 to Rs.1,000, women could start a venture.

The FCRI had initiated a marketing tie-up with ornamental fish wholesalers for buying the fish from the village itself.

P. Padma, Block Development Officer, Thirukkalur, said that the village would soon become an ornamental fish breeding centre of Tuticorin region since the water resources were good.

There were demonstrations on ornamental fish breeding, preparation of pelleted feed using household kitchenware, construction of glass tank with silicon paste, monitoring of water quality and transportation of fish in polythene bags.

N. Felix and K. Ratnakumar were the programme coordinators.

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By Express News Service

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National statistics body for crops suggested

NEW DELHI: The expert committee, set up under the chairmanship of Prof A Vaidyanathan to suggest changes in national statistics, has recommended in its interim report for establishing a National Crop Statistics Centre.

The 14-member committee wants the National Crop Statistics Centre as an autonomous and professionally-run organisation, fully funded by the Centre to design, organise and supervise generation of crop area and yield estimates at state and national level.

Fieldwork would be done by the trained staff in the state bureaus, appointed and dedicated exclusively to carry out the programme decided by the NCSC and their cost being borne entirely out of the Central Budget, a statement from Agriculture Ministry said.

The report has recommended a two-pronged strategy of expanding the use of remote sensing as an independent source of land use, crop area, and to the extent possible, yield estimates and restructuring the scope, organisation and management of existing system of collecting primary data.

The panel which submitted interim report to the Department in July, pointed out the deficiencies in the existing system alongwith recommendations to ensure reliable, unbiased and timely estimates of area and yields for crops at national and state level.

The report has brought out the deficiencies in the current system of both area and yield

estimation arises from serious lacuna in institutional arrangements to collect, supervise and validate basic data on large scale on diverse crops.

The committee recommended the need for reducing the sample size by improving the design and bringing organisational changes to ensure tighter management and maintenance of high professional standards.

Other members of the committee include Prof S P Mukherjee, chairman, Calcutta Statistical Association, Prof U R Rao, former chairman, Space Commission, Dr S M Jharwal, former principal adviser, Ministry of Agriculture The panel was constituted in pursuance to the recommendations of the steering committee on Agriculture & Allied Sector for the formulation of 11th Five- Year-Plan, set up by Planning Commission for thorough review of schemes for collection of agricultural statistics to create improvements in basic system of agricultural statistics.


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Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Monday, Nov 22

Max	Min
30.4°	24.6°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs Sunrise: 6:09

Humidity: 94% Sunset: 17:39

Wind: Normal Barometer: 1009.0

Tomorrow's Forecast








Rainy

Tuesday, Nov 23

Max	Min
30°	24°

Extended Forecast for a week

Wednesday Nov 24	Thursday Nov 25	Friday Nov 26	Saturday Nov 27	Sunday Nov 28
				
28° 26°	27° 25°	26° 26°	26° 26°	27° 25°
Cloudy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy	Rainy

Business Standard

Monday, Nov 22, 2010

Cotton yarn prices to stabilise by Dec 15: Maran

Press Trust Of India / Chennai November 21, 2010, 0:47 IST

Textiles Minister Dayanidhi Maran today said prices of cotton yarn would stabilise by December 15 and urged the spinning industry not to take advantage of the current scenario and create “undue problems”.

“Let me tell you that there are certain issues in the textile sector. Basically, there is shortage of raw material, which is cotton. We already have a GoM on this issue,” Maran told reporters here.

He said the GoM had taken certain decisions and added he was hopeful the situation would ease in the coming weeks.

“By December 15 we are hoping it (price of cotton) will stabilise,” he said.

Earlier, addressing industry bodies, Maran asked them not to take advantage of the current scenario as cotton yarn prices had been increasingly steadily.

“Till prices of cotton yarn get stabilised, I appeal to you not to capitalise and create undue problem (for the weavers) on the current scenario. The government is very much concerned about the weavers,” he said.

On the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) instituted by the textiles ministry to help the small traders, he said the Cabinet would clear a proposal to meet the industry requirements by the end of the year. The scheme is intended to facilitate induction of state-of-the-art or near state-of-the-art technology by small textile units. Existing units with or without expansion and new units are eligible under TUFS.

Maran was here to officially launch the roadshow, “Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks,” under a public and private sector partnership.

Maran said the ministry had since 2005 sanctioned about 65 Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (STIPs) which would attract investments worth about Rs 19,000 crore and provide employment to five lakh people. So far, 25 were operational.

He said the ministry had also relaxed the eligibility norm for setting up STIPs to 100 acres from 50 acres, as prescribed earlier. However, there was not much response to the scheme in Tamil Nadu, he added.

“About 55 per cent textile and 60 per cent cotton yarn is produced in Tamil Nadu, but there was poor response from the state for STIPs,” he said, adding this was the reason for launching the road show for the first time here. Only about eight STIPs were operational in Tamil Nadu. The road show would be conducted in Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and in Coimbatore, he added.

THE HINDU
Business Line

Business Daily from THE HINDU group of publications

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[Back](#) Cashew soars on buying support



G.K.Nair

Kochi, Nov.21

Cashew prices moved up by 15 per cent during the past three weeks in the international market on buying support and apprehensions of short supply.

Meanwhile, prices for broken grades in the Indian domestic market soared sharply and in some cases, higher than the price of wholes on strong demand, trade sources told Business Line.

In fact, it gives the impression that the “cashew market is leaving uncharted waters.... and seems to be entering the Bermuda triangle — nobody knows where market will end up,” said Mr Pankaj N.Sampat, a leading trader in Mumbai.

Although the market was relatively quiet last week, prices moved up few cents again on limited volume. Business was done for W240 from \$3.95 to \$4.05, W320 from \$3.70 to \$3.75, W450 around \$3.50, SW320 around \$3.50, SW360 around \$3.35 FOB.

RCN

Raw Cashew Nut (RCN) prices also continued to climb up, the trader said. Tanzania RCN has been traded around \$1,800 a tonne. There are reports of Mozambique RCN trading at

around \$1,300 a tonne (C&F) but since shipments are not likely before January, this cannot be taken as indication of the price at which shipments will actually take place.

Meanwhile, there is even talk of a ban or a delay in commencement of exports also, industry sources said. Spot parcels of West African RCN (low quality) in India and Vietnam are being picked up at very high prices. Wage increases in Kerala/Tamil Nadu will add about 10 cents per lb to the processing costs, they said.

Short crop in Indonesia and a slow, short crop in Brazil, coupled with low inventories in importing countries, will result in a tight kernel supply position in first quarter 2011, Mr Pankaj said. And this will mean that pattern of limited buying for near-bys will continue.

“Buyers seem to be reluctant to buy volume as they feel that the high prices will have big impact on usage in 2011. They are content to buy smaller volumes as and when needed – this means there is steady demand at all times. Extent of impact may not be as much as feared (especially because prices of all nuts are high). This could mean that some might be caught without enough product to meet the base demand (higher prices may mean lesser promotions or special offers),” he said.

Firm market expected

Although it is difficult to say whether prices will continue to move up in coming weeks, “we can certainly expect a firm market until there is some indication of the 2011 crop prospects. If 2011 crops are normal, market may soften after April (timing and extent of softness will depend on kernel buying in first quarter). If there is any problem with 2011 crops (on top of the 2010 shortage), prices could continue to move up in 2011 unless there is a big drop in usage.”

It is extremely difficult to read the market and judge (or even guess) as to “which way this precariously placed market will move. The steady rise over last 15-18 months with buying support at all levels leads one to believe that the trend will continue until supply improves.”

Historical highs make one fear that even a small development (fundamental or external) might result in a dramatic change in sentiment and provide the trigger for a trend change,

Mr Pankaj added.

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<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/22/stories/2010112250571200.htm>

Back Pepper to rule firm on global supply crunch

G. K. Nair

Kochi, Nov. 21

Current trend in the producing countries gives an impression that there is a shortage of pepper in the world market even as demand for the winter, Christmas and New Year season has started emanating.

Firmer prices in other origins, especially in India's main competitor Indonesia, and coverage by leading Indian exporters from the terminal and primary markets here at higher rates vouch this conjecture.

Total availability, currently, in all origins — mainly India, Indonesia and Brazil — appears to be less than what the market needs for December and January, market sources said.

Inaccurate estimates and projections about output and consumption in producing and consuming countries has led everyone to depend on speculation. Consequently, the real demand-supply scenario is unknown to both suppliers and buyers.

In the futures market, where the November delivery matured and is making available over 1,000 tonnes of pepper for delivery, it appears exporters and investors would absorb the entire quantity. The latter could sell it later in the open market at a discount, as there is every possibility of a shortage .

The new crop, estimated to be less, is likely to be delayed because of erratic weather in the growing areas. It is possible that those waiting for the new crop may have no time to wait, and instead they would have to enter the market at the eleventh hour, which might make the market highly volatile.

Prices

Indian parity in the international market at \$5,100-5,200 a tonne (c & f) is “very much in line with other origins”, and hence some orders could come to India.

Buyers in overseas markets are yet to cover for January, they said.

Futures witnessed a declining trend on Saturday on selling pressure of low bulk density pepper from the plains in South Kerala and Karnataka at Rs 207 and Rs 208 a kg.

December, January and February were up by Rs 800, Rs 759 and Rs 517 to close at Rs 21,588, Rs 22,590 and Rs 22,575 a quintal on Saturday.

Total turnover dropped by 22,651 tonnes during the week to close at 61,877 tonnes. Total open interest also declined by 399 tonnes to 13,642 tonnes during the week.

Spot prices increased by Rs 600 to close at Rs 21,100 (ungarbled) and Rs 21,600 (MG1) a quintal on Saturday.

Some exporters were of the view that the attitude of overseas buyers has changed, of late, and they were counting for the price rather than the quality of the material. Hence some exporters admitted they were mixing low quality with quality material for export. However, so far, that kind of trade did not seem to have taken place from the country, some export sources claimed.

All contracts during the week however showed an upward trend at the weekend closing.

An overseas report from the US said Lampong Asta was picked up in the last couple of days and their market now reported that trades took place between \$4,950-5,050 (f.o.b.). India too reported some very high numbers having being paid for next-year shipments on MG1 Asta, the report said.

According to this report, Lampong Asta was quoted at \$5,050 - \$5,100 a tonne (f.o.b.). Thus, MG1 is very much in line with it and hence some orders could come to India, trade sources claimed.

According to the International Pepper Community, the price in origins continued to move higher. In India, domestic market was active, particularly in the second half of the week. Entering the week, prices decreased by around Rs 200 a quintal. Prices then increased sharply on Thursday. Compared to previous weekend, prices moved up by Rs 300-400 a quintal. In dollar terms, however, the average price was lower by around 2-3 per cent from last week's average, because of the rupee weakening against the dollar.

In Lampung and Sarawak, local prices were up marginally, while f.o.b. prices increased by 2 per cent. In HCMC, local price increased by VND2,000 a kg to VND91,000 at the end of the week, while f.o.b. prices were reported stable through out the week both for black 500g/l as well as for black 550g/l. An increase of around 5 per cent was recorded in Sri Lanka.

In Bangka, local prices of white pepper increased further. On average, local prices increased by 4 per cent locally and 3 per cent in f.o.b.

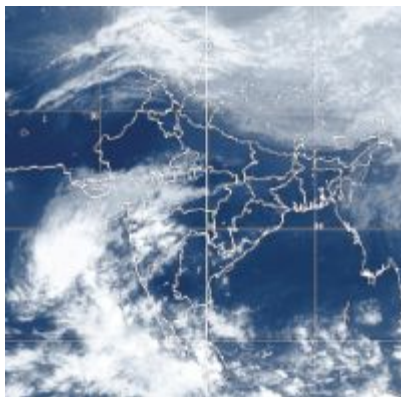
In Sarawak and Hainan, prices also increased marginally. In dollar terms, local price of Sarawak white was lower marginally due to weakening of the Malaysian ringgit against the dollar.

In 2010, Sri Lanka is estimated to produce around 16,700 tonnes of pepper and it is expected that more than 10,000 tonnes would be exported. Up to September 2010, export of pepper from Sri Lanka had reached 9,073 tonnes as against 3,710 tonnes in the same period last year.

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[Back](#) More rains to push into Gujarat, west Madhya Pradesh



Vinson Kurian

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 21

The West Coast, Gujarat and West Madhya Pradesh will join the Southern Peninsula in sharing the spoils of continuing wet conditions, non-seasonal for some, during the rest of November.

Easterly wave action is expected to keep the Tamil Nadu coast busy even as residual circulations from them would cross the peninsula to keep the Arabian Sea also on the boil.

NON-SEASONAL RAIN

The US National Centres for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) expects the non-seasonal rains over Gujarat, West Madhya Pradesh and the Konkan Coast could go on during the week ending November 28.

Up to 600 per cent above the weekly normal is expected to fall over these places, according to NCEP.

Coastal and Southern Tamil Nadu and adjoining South Kerala and parts of the West Coast will continue to receive rains into the first week of December.

Contrastingly, the NCEP outlook sees below normal rainfall for interior Tamil Nadu during this period.

A six-day outlook for the period until Thursday by the International Research Institute (IRI)

for Climate and Society has assessed the possibility of unusually heavy rains over entire Sri Lanka, adjoining Southwest Bay of Bengal and Coastal Tamil Nadu.

ARABIAN SEA 'LOW'

The IRI also sees the core of rain bands sitting smack over Gujarat, West Madhya Pradesh and Sindh in Pakistan being driven by a low-pressure area in East-central Arabian Sea.

The rains would grow in intensity as one proceeds south-to-southwest from West Madhya Pradesh with the heaviest expected to fall over South and Southwest Gujarat.

Meanwhile, an India Meteorological Department (IMD) update on Sunday located the causative low-pressure area lying parked over East-central and adjoining Northeast Arabian Sea on Sunday.

The system may not likely to intensify further, but might move north-northeastwards leading to moisture incursion over Gujarat, Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh and even up to Delhi and South Haryana during the next two to three days.

In fact, the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) has said that the north-northeast movement (towards Konkan-Gujarat coast) of the system would be masterminded by a concurrent western disturbance from across the country's northwest border and dipping to the south.

It would not be until Tuesday that the system would crawl up to the Saurashtra Coast and drum up the proceedings to a peak, according to the ECMWF.

And, as if on cue, the IMD has kept a lookout for the next easterly wave affecting the South Peninsular Coast India from Tuesday.

This is even as fairly widespread rainfall was reported over South Peninsular India during the 24 hours ending Sunday morning from a preceding wave that hit the Tamil Nadu coast.

It was scattered over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Andaman and Nicobar

Islands and isolated over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and North Konkan.

The IMD outlook until Wednesday for various Met sub-divisions assessed that fairly widespread rain or thundershowers would occur over Kerala, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

It would be fairly widespread rain or thundershowers over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya on Monday before reducing in intensity thereafter.

Isolated rain or thundershowers would occur over Gujarat and South Rajasthan on Monday and scale up thereafter.

Scattered rain or thundershowers are likely South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Coastal and South Interior Karnataka, Konkan and Goa.

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Back Prices ease at Coonoor tea auction on low demand

P.S. Sundar

Coonoor, Nov. 21

At the CTC dust Sale No: 46 of the Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions, Vigneshwar Estate topped at Rs 127 a kg.

“Two of our grades — Pekoe Dust (PD) and Super Fine Dust (SFD) — fetched Rs 127 each, the highest price among all dust and leaf grades of bought-leaf factories this week. In all, our seven grades got Rs 110 and more,” Vigneshwar Managing Partner, Mr Ramesh Bhojarajan, told Business Line.

In the CTC leaf market, Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped at

Rs 120.

“Our Broken Orange Pekoe (BOP) fetched this highest price,” Homedale Managing Partner Mr Prashant Menon said.

Among others, Hittakkal Estate got Rs 122, Shanthi Supreme Rs 121, Kannavarai Estate Rs 116 and Professor Rs 115.

In all, 47 marks fetched Rs 100 and more.

Orthodox teas

Among orthodox teas from corporate sector, Chamraj got Rs 198, Highfield Estate Rs 152, Curzon and Kairbetta Rs 150 each, Havukal Rs 145 and Prammas Rs 140.

In all, 35 marks got Rs 100 and more.

Teas worth Rs 1.34 crore remained unsold, as there were no takers for as much as 22 per cent of the year's lowest offer of 9.38 lakh kg.

“Fannings and secondary orthodox leaf eased Rs 2-3 a kg. Most CTC leaf lost up to Rs 3.

Primary orthodox dusts managed to gain Rs 2-3, but others lost up to Rs 3. CTC dusts became an irregular market losing and gaining Rs 2-3,” an auctioneer said.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 40-45 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 80-114 for brighter liquoring sorts.

They ranged Rs 45-52 for plain dusts and Rs 90-122 for brighter liquoring dusts.

exports

On the export front, Pakistan bought selectively for Rs 45-65 a kg and the CIS in a wide range of Rs 40-91.