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80 nations want farming as part of climate talks

An 80-nation conference on food security urged U.N. climate negotiators on Friday to consider agriculture when drawing up strategies to fight climate change.

The five-day meeting ended with a call to invest in new farming practices that will curb greenhouse gas emissions and will better use currently available land to feed a global population of 9 billion by 2050.

About 30 per cent of carbon emissions come from farming, livestock and forest destruction.

Despite its huge share of global emissions, accounting for the use of land is one of the toughest issues under negotiation at U.N. climate talks, and the one which has made the least progress.

The talks involve creating incentives for emission reductions by vast agricultural conglomerates and by farmers still using wooden ploughs on tiny plots. It also touches an industry that is heavily subsidized in many countries.

Dutch Agriculture Minister Henk Bleker said funding for “climate-smart” agriculture should be integrated into U.N. negotiations.

Investment “in agricultural development has been declining in the last 10 years,” Mr. Bleker told reporters. “We want to change that.”

Negotiators reconvene in Cancun, Mexico, later this month, in the most important session since the summit last December in Copenhagen. That convention in Denmark fell short of any legally binding agreement to regulate the pollution blamed for global warming, concluding instead with a statement of principles.

But the leaders in Copenhagen agreed to channel $10 billion a year to developing countries through 2012, and to raise $100 billion annually starting in 2020 to help poor countries curb their own emissions and to adapt to changing climate conditions.

“Climate change negotiators are frequently not familiar with agriculture,” said the World Bank’s special envoy on climate change, Andrew Steer. “Nobody expects a global deal at Cancun, but there will surely be one before too long,” and agriculture must be part of it, he told the conference earlier this week.

Mr. Bleker said he was not suggesting that new money be found for climate-friendly agriculture policies, but that farming issues be factored in when the climate funds are distributed to developing countries. Sixty government ministers were among the 800 participants.

Producing what it called a “roadmap for action,” the conference called for governments to provide access to financing, markets and technology, while acknowledging that private business will play a huge role.

Among its list of recommended actions was the restoration of degraded land, new systems of water conservation and harvesting, and better management of animal waste that produces powerful greenhouse gases.

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Management of leaf blight disease in Glory lily

Glory lily (*Gloriosa superba*) is a popular medicinal plant which is commercially exploited for export of seeds, useful in treatment of gout, and muscular inflammations.

Tamil Nadu leads in production of glory lily with an annual production of 800 tons of dry seeds.

Its cultivation has extended up to 2500 ha with major regions comprising Tirupur, Erode, Dindugal, Karur, Ariyalur and Nagapattinam districts.

Foreign exchange

The annual foreign exchange through export of glory lily seeds is estimated to be Rs.100 crores.

Even though better returns are expected in this high value crop, it is severely infested with leaf blight disease caused by the fungal pathogens viz., *Curvularia lunata* and *Alternaria sp* .

The severity of the infection is more during cloudy weather to the extent of 20 to 60 per cent

Symptoms

The disease appears in the form of small narrow elongated spots in the initial stage, and in due course, they extend along with the leaf.

In older plants, the typical symptoms are long elliptical necrotic lesions, with straw coloured centre and brown margins

The lesions can be several centimetres long and wide and in advanced stages, several spots coalesce on the leaves, destroying large areas giving the crop a distinctly blasted appearance.

Symptoms may appear in all stages. Initially, small, pale to brown, irregular or round spots may appear on the leaves. Each spot has a central necrotic lesion with concentric rings

In advanced stages, several spots coalesce together to form large blighted areas.

Management methods

Remove the infected plant debris from the field

Spray Mancozeb at 0.2 per cent concentration or Propiconazole (0.1 per cent) or Hexaconazole (0.1 per cent) at the time of infection.

The fungicidal spray has to be repeated four to five sprays at 15 days interval to check the leaf blight severity in this crop.

Spray 0.5 per cent ZnSO{-4} two times at fortnightly interval staring from 45th day after planting.

Dr. K. Rajamani, Prof and HeadDepartment of Medicinal and Aromatic CropsTamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore

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Betel leaf — much maligned, yet valuable

Beneficial: Betel leaf contains compounds (of the piperol family) that act as heart beat regulators and help in relaxing blood vessels. Photo: V. Raju

It was but a little more than a year ago that the government in Dubai decided to ban the import of ‘ Paan' or betel leaves.

Reason: it wanted to stop people eating Paan with areca nut, lime and tobacco (the folded packet is called the betel quid), and spitting all over. This sight is, alas, only too familiar to us in many parts of India.

Despite the placing of spittoons, many tend to ignore them. It is this unseemly practice that has made Paan or the betel quid a much maligned item.

But think of the leaf alone — sans the tobacco, lime and even the areca nut. The betel leaf — called Tambula or Nagavalli (in Sanskrit), Paan (Hindi), vetrilai (Tamil), or Tamalapaku (Telugu) is a much esteemed leaf across the dozen nations of South and Southeast Asia.

Auspicious

It is used not only in Hindu ceremonies, but also as an auspicious exchange material. Deals, business transactions and even marriage alliances are made using tambulam exchange.

The Vietnamese saying “chuyen trau cau” means matters of betel and areca nut.

Eaten by over 600 million people daily in a geographic area measuring 11,000 x 6,000 km, the betel leaf symbolizes not mere botany, but culture, tradition and even the sacred.

The plant itself seems to have originated in Malaysia or India; the exact site of origin is yet to be established with certainty. The Harappan civilization, 4600 years ago, cultivated and used the betel leaf.

The Vedic people were familiar with it, and both Suruta and Charaka, the great medical experts of pre-Christian India wrote of its virtues.

Two excellent reports, one from Dr. P Gupta of IIT Kharagpur (*J. Human Ecology* 2006,19, 87-93) and the more recent one from Nikhil Kumar and others from Lucknow (*Current Science*, 2010,99,922-932), offer excellent summaries of the cultivation, chemical and medicinal aspects of this green gold of Asia. Both articles are downloadable free on the net.

And the sheer variety! The pale Banarasi, the green Magadi, Kerala's Tirur, Kumbakonam light, pungent Mysore, non- pungent Ambadi, Hinjili cut of Orissa, special ones from Dhaka, the list goes on.

Songs and movie ditties are written about the paan (*Khaiyike Paan Banaraswala Khul Jaye Band Akhal ka Taala*, and *Paan Khaye Saiyan Hamaro, Saavali suratiya Honth Laal Laal*). Paan culture rose to its elegant heights in the courts of Lucknow nawabs, with special area nut cutters, handcrafted silver boxes called Paadaans. It was at once an aphrodisiac, attention getter and status settler.

But what then gave Paan the bad name? Besides the disgusting habit of spitting wherever, and the abuse and addition, early (Western) literature up to the mid-1980s suggested that the betel quid causes oral cancer.

It was left to the work of Dr. S.V. Bhide and others at the cancer Institute, Bombay, to show that it is not the leaf, but some contents of the areca nut (notably safrole), and of course the tobacco which are the culprits.

Highly recommended

The article by Nikhil Kumar and other from the National Botanical Research Institute, and Central Drug Research Institute (both at Lucknow) mentioned above, lists a variety of beneficial properties of the betel leaf, and I recommend it highly to the readers.

As the leaves are chewed, the effect starts already at the oral cavity. It freshens breath, and cleanses the mouth with its mild anti-infective content. Its constituents enter the blood directly from the buccal mucosa.

This feature of direct entry, rather than through the stomach (gastric) route, into the blood stream offers a convenient way of delivering drugs using Paan!

The first thing the leaf does upon chewing is to induce salivation. Saliva contains proteins which combat bacterial growth in the mouth. It thus helps also in cutting down plaque formation on teeth.

What else? Betel leaf contains compounds (of the piperol family) that act as heart beat regulators and help in relaxing blood vessels. The polyphenols in the leaf (allyl pyrocatechol, hydroxyl-chavicol) not only fight microbes but act as pain relievers and anti-inflammatory agents.

Wound healing

The use of betel leaf as an anti-ulcer and wound healing material has been known to Indians since the Ayurvedic days. Kumar and Co cite several animal experiments which go to confirm this property of the leaf extract.

In an ironic twist, what was once alleged to cause cancer, is now shown to have components that have chemopreventive and anticancer activity. Of these, eugenol and hydroxychavicol are particularly worthy of mention.

It is clear. Betel leaf is a storehouse of a list of chemicals, many of which are of pharmaceutical value.

Chemists are now trying to isolate and identify each of these molecules and study their effects, both singly and as mixtures. It is likely that this green gold of India from the days of yore may still surprise us with more of its beneficial effects.

What is the take home message? Paan is best eaten by itself, avoiding the areca nut, and with just bit of lime, the way the Kumbakonam Light is meant to.

Of course, go ahead and add cloves, cardamom, rose leaf chutney (gulkand), whatever catches your fancy — and enjoy, but no tobacco, and don't spit! *dbala@lvpei.org*

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Proper dissemination of technologies vital to boost productivity

Technical guidance: N.N. Chandrasekhar, cardamom farmer in his farm at Kodagu district.

Photo: Special Arrangement

“Despite the numerous technologies available now, the main problem in boosting crop production is the absence of proper dissemination of this information to farmers.

“Only accessibility to that information can make it popular. Development and dissemination of technologies are important to achieve food production and security,” says Dr. V.A. Parthasarathy, Director, Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR), Kozhikode, Kerala.

“Many farmers still practise conventional agriculture and are either not aware or not prepared to make use of technology to increase their productivity,” he adds.

Special efforts

IISR takes special efforts to demonstrate and disseminate the various expertise it develops to farmers in their fields. Such demonstrations motivate the farming community and result in quick adoption of technologies, according to him.

The institute bagged the prestigious Sardar Patel Outstanding Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Institution award for a second time recently.

Mr. N. N. Chandrasekhar, a cardamom planter from Kodagu, is a good example of how well he utilised the experts' advice and harvested a successful yield.

Local variety

The planter initially inherited 25 acres and adopted coffee-based cropping system with black pepper as intercrop in 16 acres, and a local cardamom variety called Mazarabad in eight acres. The farmer harvested only 1,300 kg of dry cardamom from the entire cardamom plantation - a poor yield.

He later migrated to Kodagu and purchased 35 acres of land and started planting coffee as the main crop, along with black pepper (3,000 vines) and orange (500 plants) as intercrops in 17 acres.

In the remaining 18 acres, the farmer raised cardamom as main crop.

“Initially I harvested 4,000 kg (dry weight) of cardamom and the yield subsequently dropped to 300 kg. I incurred an expense of Rs. 7 lakh for cultivation and got Rs. 10 lakh as income.”

Disheartened and disappointed, the farmer accidentally happened to attend a seminar on cardamom and black pepper cultivation, organized by the Cardamom Research Centre (CRC) at Appangala in Kodagu.

Low yield

“When the yield of cardamom dropped to low levels, I visited CRC to find out ways to overcome the problem. After a thorough discussion on cardamom cultivation at the centre, I decided to bring one acre of land under cardamom, strictly following their recommendations.”

The farmer cleared the existing Clone 37 variety plants from an acre and planted Kodagu Suvasini, a high yielding variety released by the institute. He planted the crops at 7x 7 feet spacing, accommodating about 1,000 plants in an acre.

Fertilizer application

A mixture of well- composted coffee husk and cow dung each (2 kg), neem cake (250-500g), and NPK mixture (300gms) was applied per plant, twice a year (pre and post monsoon applications).

Two sprays of Bordeaux mixture (1 per cent) were done to protect the plants from major diseases.

To tackle the insect problem, Phorate or Cypermethrin were sprayed as per the advice of the scientists, and sprinkler irrigation provided to protect the plants from drought.

Turning point

“It was a turning point in my life,” says the farmer.

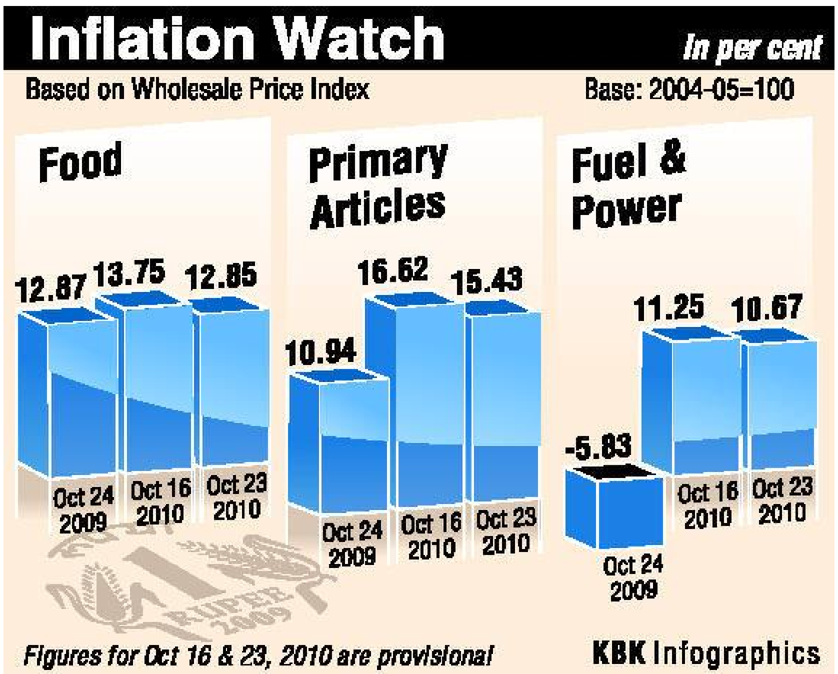
“The plants yielded 1,300 kg dry capsule per hectare and were more resistant to pest infestations, major problems among cardamom cultivation.

I spent about Rs. 1 lakh on the crop and earned a net profit of Rs.3 lakh from such a small area.”

For details: Mr. N.N. Chandrasekhar can be reached at Pusphagiri Plantations, Madenad Post& Village, Madikeri Taluq, Kodagu district, Karnataka. Phone: 08272-203120, Mobile: 09449252585.

Published: November 4, 2010 12:19 IST | Updated: November 4, 2010 22:46 IST New Delhi, November 4, 2010

Food inflation eases to 12.85 %



Continuing its downtrend for the third consecutive week, food inflation eased further to 12.85 per cent for the week ended October 23 from 13.75 per cent a week ago following a drop in vegetable prices on improved supplies.

The dip in WPI (Wholesale Price Index)-based food inflation by 0.9 percentage point was mainly owing to vegetable prices moderating by nearly 3 per cent on a week-on-week basis even as protein products such as meat, egg and fish rose remained 28.85 per cent dearer on a year-on-year basis. Pulses, the vegetarian protein supplement, also ruled costlier by 0.67 per cent.

In its monetary policy review earlier this week, the Reserve Bank of India had hinted at the change in the food consumption pattern as the reason for protein-based edibles turning costlier.

Noting that prices of such items are likely to rule at the elevated levels, Crisil's chief economist D. K. Joshi said: “As income goes up, people tend to have a more protein-rich diet which is pushing up their prices. It is unlikely that their prices would come down in near future.”

Experts, however, expect a further moderation in food inflation by the end of November with the arrival of kharif crops. Already, leading the decline in vegetable prices are potatoes which are cheaper by 51.22 per cent on an annual basis. As for other food items such as cereals, milk and fruits, they continued to rule dearer.

hindustantimes

Reuters
New Delhi, November 04, 2010
First Published: 12:23 IST(4/11/2010)
Last Updated: 12:27 IST(4/11/2010)

Food inflation eases third week in a row

Country's annual food inflation reported on Thursday eased for a third week in late October on improved supply and lower vegetable prices, providing some relief to policymakers in the fight against stubbornly high inflation.

The food price index in the year to Oct. 23 rose 12.85 per cent, compared with 13.75 per cent in the previous week, as the prices of vegetables and pulses fell.

Fuel inflation for the same period was at 10.67 per cent, slowing from 11.25 per cent the prior week. The primary articles price index was up 15.43 per cent, compared with an annual rise of 16.62 per cent a week earlier.

Food makes up a little over 14 per cent of the wholesale price index (WPI) while fuel contributes about 15 per cent.

"Food inflation is expected to come down to single digits in the next three months with improvement in supplies of foodgrains and vegetables," said Basanta Pradhan, an economist at Institute of Economic Growth, a Delhi-based think-tank.

Higher food prices pushed up headline inflation to 8.62 per cent in September from 8.5 per cent a month ago, putting at risk the central bank's aim of bring it down to 5.5 per cent by March. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised its lending and borrowing rates for the sixth time in 2010 on Tuesday by 25 basis points each to tame inflation.

Analysts said that although monetary tools are largely ineffective in controlling food inflation, high food prices tend to stoke wider inflation.

"I do not expect much impact of the RBI's rate hike on food inflation, while it will tamper inflationary expectations," Pradhan said.

Normal monsoon rains were expected to bring down food prices in a country where about 40 per cent of the 1.2 billion population lives on less than $1.25 a day, but price indicators have belied all such optimism so far.

Policymakers fear food inflation, long seen to be a supply-side problem, is turning into a demand-driven problem with spurt in demand for food items due to rising income levels in an economy growing at 8.5 per cent.

The country's farm ministry expects a 10 per cent rise in summer grains output and a 17 per cent increase in cane output that are likely to ease supply side pressures on food prices.

High food food prices are also seen to be hampering the ruling Congress party's intention to grow its political base. It faces elections in key states in 2011 and 2012.

Sonia Gandhi, country's most powerful politician and head of the Congress party, on Tuesday asked her party's government to take more steps to contain prices.

http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/622032.aspx

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
6 Nov, 2010, 02.33AM IST,REUTERS

Sugar zooms on tight exports, weak dollar

LONDON: ICE raw sugar futures reached a fresh 30-year high and refined sugar a record peak for a second day on Friday due to tight export availability and a weak dollar, following a stimulus package by the Federal Reserve . “With the weakness of the dollar, people are scrambling to put money into commodities, including sugar,” said Jake Wetherall, a soft commodities trader with Rabobank . The Fed on Wednesday launched a fresh effort to support a struggling US economy, committing to buy $600 billion in government bonds, and the dollar fell against a basket of currencies.

The Fed’s easing also could lower interest rates and encourage investors to invest in riskier sectors such as commodities. Dealers said sugar held additional attraction for investors of a bullish fundamental story due to tight supplies, low inventories and resilient demand.

Futures on Tuesday vaulted above the psychological 30 cents a lb level, having more than doubled in price since May because of lower-than-expected output in key producers due to adverse weather. sugar futures are supported by tight export availability from top producers Brazil and India, expectations that global stocks will remain low over the next 12 months and uncertainty over whether India will export enough sugar to help make up for lower-than-expected Brazilian output.

The market is focused on an expected decision by India, the world’s number 2 producer after Brazil, later this month on whether to allow so-called “open general licence” exports. Dealers say India is likely to approve sugar exports incrementally. Indian industry expects exports of some 2.5-3.5 million tonne in 2010/11 and has lobbied authorities to approve 2 million tonne of OGL exports, analysts say. Some dealers say the raw sugar futures market has potential to rise to 35-40 cents a lb in the medium term, but others say it risks being overbought due to a lack of physical off-take at current high prices.

The latest round of buying affirmed the overwhelmingly bullish sentiment at London Sugar Week last week, when dealers said they believed a test of the 30-year peak was inevitable.

Business Standard

Monday, Nov 06, 2010

Oilmeal exports rise 61% in October on renewed demand

BS Reporter / Mumbai November 05, 2010, 0:35 IST

Oilmeal exports rose a staggering 61 per cent in October, on a gradual improvement in demand in the past two months due to drought in Russia and bullish reports from the US Department of Agriculture, which helped in pick-up of demand from India.

Data compiled by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEAI) show India's overall oilmeal exports jumped to 498,159 tonnes in October, as compared to 309,886 tonnes in the comparable period of the previous year. Overall exports in April-October spurted 21 per cent to 1.87 million tonnes this year, as against 1.54 mt in the same period last year.

The sudden rise in demand, experts believe, helped Indian exporters to liquidate most of the carryover stock of soybean. The export of oilmeals and crushing was also supported by a good margin in the past two months, thanks to better oil prices. All these positive factors boosted overall meal export in October, said B V Mehta, executive director of SEAI.

Exports of soybean meal in October saw a record high with 395,510 tonnes from 290,868 tonnes in the previous month.

An SEAI delegation's visit to West Asia in April yielded positive results, with oilmeal exports having almost doubled this financial year, at 146,054 tonnes during April-October as compared to 87,122 tonnes during the same period of last year.

During April-October, meal exports to South Korea jumped marginally to 264,893 tonnes from 253,535 tonnes, consisting of 173,496 tonnes of rapeseed meal, 83,499 tonnes of castor seed meal and a small quantity of 7,898 tonnes of soybean meal.China reported an import of 207,178 tonnes as compared to 178,882 tonnes of last year, consisting of 156,267 tonnes of rapeseed meal, 14,388 tonnes of groundnut meal, 35,918 tonnes of soybean meal and 605 tonnes of castorseed meal.

Japan doubled the import to 527,417 tonnes as compared to 230,848 tonnes last year, consisting of 512,117 tonnes of soybean meal and 15,300 tonnes of rape seed meal. Vietnam imported of 322,781 tonnes as compared to 399,714 tonnes last year, consisting of 242,896 tonnes of soybean meal, 26,735 tonnes of rape seed meal and 53,150 tonnes of rice bran extraction.

The shipment from Kandla was reported at 866,482 tonnes (46 per cent of the total), followed by Mumbai and Navi Mumbai handling 568,046 tonnes (30 per cent), Mundra 296,531 tonnes (16 per cent), Kolkata 53,150 tonnes (3 per cent), Bedi 82,725 tonnes (4 per cent) and Bhavnagar 7,434 tonnes (1 per cent)

Record HP apple crop stuns farmers

Baldev S Chauhan / New Delhi/ Shimla November 04, 2010, 0:42 IST

This year’s apple production has broken all previous records in Himachal Pradesh’s history, but most farmers are unhappy despite the bountiful crop as the harvest has been long and the returns poor.

The hill state has produced a whopping 42,000,000 boxes. Besides another 110,000 tonnes of apple has been procured by the state government in gunny bags,which is also a record, say government officials.

The production of apple boxes is almost 40 per cent more than the previous highest output in 2007.

The fruit procured by the state government under the market intervention scheme (MIS) is nearly two and a half times more than the previous highest.

“Even though my yield was more than twice as compared to last year,the returns have still been less than half of last year,” says Rajeev Chauhan, chairman of the Himalayan apple growers society.

A cross section of farmers told Business Standard that returns have been low this time due to several factors including excessive monsoon which affected the fruit quality and also triggered diseases in orchards.

They also cited losses due to bad roads, fleecing by truck operators who often charged twice the government approved rates.

Labour costs shot up by 30 to 50 per cent this harvest. Packing material fell short and farmers had to pay more and still wait longer.

“After all these delays when the fruit finally reached the markets across India the prices often tumbled,” said another farmer.

India may ship less sugar than predicted

Bloomberg / November 04, 2010, 0:34 IST

India, the largest sugar user, may export less than forecast and shipments should be spread out to prevent global prices from slumping, a millers’ group said.

The surplus available for sales overseas may be 2 million tonnes in the year started October 1, compared with the 2.5 million tonnes forecast in September, as industrial users rebuild stockpiles after two years of imports, according to the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories.

“We’re not that much glutted with production,” Jayantilal Patel, president of the group, said in a telephone interview. “Exports should be allowed in stages, may be half-a-million tonnes at a time, to ensure global prices don’t collapse and we get the full benefit of high prices.”

The government may consider allowing exports in the second week of this month, Farm Minister Sharad Pawar said last week. Shipments may resume next month and the government is likely to hasten applications from mills for about 500,000 tonnes.

India’s production will reach 25.5 million tonnes and demand may be around 23 million tonnes in the year to September 30, National Federation’s Patel said.

Natural rubber output dips 7.6% in October

George Joseph / Kochi November 04, 2010, 0:32 IST

Due to torrential rain, natural rubber (NR) output declined 7.6 per cent in October, paving the way for a bullish market. The local market continued the uptrend and benchmark grade RSS-4 was today quoted at Rs 195 a kg.

The production dropped to 82,000 tonnes as against 88,775 tonnes in the same month last year, according to latest data by the Rubber Board.

During the month, consumption increased to 81,500 tonnes as against 77,950 tonnes in the same month last year. This was mainly due to an upsurge in production of tyres in the country on rising automobile sales.

During April-October, the average monthly increase in consumption of NR by tyre companies was five per cent.

The production and consumption mismatch caused a serious supply crunch during the past few months, leaving more room for rise in prices.

The static import hampered the supply crunch further. Imports were heavily affected due to the price increase in major global markets and crop losses in producing countries like Thailand and Indonesia.

The domestic production of rubber in the first seven months of the current financial year increased 4.5 per cent at 457,250 tonnes as against 437,400 tonnes in the same period last year.

The consumption in the same period increased three per cent at 550,550 tonnes as against 534,315 tonnes in the same period of 2009-10.

Sugared promises yet to be made good in Bihar

Ajay Modi / New Delhi November 04, 2010, 0:30 IST

The initial euphoria over sugar and ethanol-based investments in Bihar has disappeared. Hardly 10 per cent of the Rs 24,000 crore investment proposals that came between 2006 and 2007 saw the light of day, as the sugar cycle continued to be highly cyclical and the ethanol blending programme remained a non-starter. Companies such as Rajshree Sugars, Dhampur Sugars and India Glycols chose not to go ahead with the investments proposed in 2006-07.

Most of these investments were proposed in early 2006, when the sugar industry was going through a boom. However, the sugar season beginning October 2006 saw an all-time high output, causing a crash in sugar prices and affecting the profitability of the industry. Sitting on surplus stocks, the sugar industry failed to make sugarcane payments to farmers. The government had to bail out the industry by providing interest-free loans, creating additional buffer stock and providing export assistance. “Initially, the reason for companies not proceeding with projects was financial ill-health. Though industry prospects brightened last year, the industry realised there was no need for additional capacity creation,” said an executive of a New Delhi-based company that had planned to invest Rs 550 crore in setting up a 10,000-tonne daily cane crushing mill in the state.The much-talked-about ethanol blending programme has also failed to take off the way it was expected. Launched in 2006, the programme for blending petrol with five per cent ethanol saw several hiccups. A number of state governments imposed taxes on ethanol’s entry and exit, while a number of standalone producers defaulted on supplies due to better alcohol prices. The state government’s plan to auction 15 sick mills belonging to the Bihar State Sugar Corporation was a limited success. Initiated in 2006, the government has so far been able to find suitors for only six of the 15 mills. Public sector oil marketing companies bought two such sick mills and invested Rs 600 crore in reviving these.

Both the mills are expected to be operational around December. Reliance Industries, which bought one such mill, has not made any investment. Noted filmmaker Prakash Jha is setting up a sugar mill in the state at an investment of Rs 250 crore. Some investments have been made in expanding existing mills.An official of the state sugarcane department said the state would see more investments once the new government was elected.

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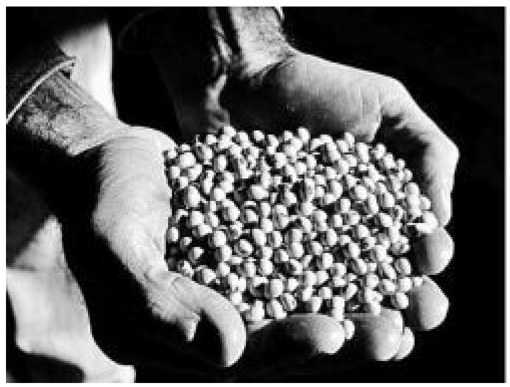
Back **Global cues strengthen soyabean, oil**



Our Correspondent

Indore, Nov. 4

Soyabean and soya oil edged higher on strong global cues with Malaysian crude palm oil gaining 3.3 per cent.

On account of closure of all the state mandis on Thursday ahead of Diwali, no trading took place in the local mandis but trading of soyabean continued at plant level where soyabean quoted Rs 25 higher at Rs 2,150-Rs 2,200 a quintal.

After announcement of plant deliveries rates in the morning , trading of soyabean was suspended in the latter part of the day as the mandis closed for Diwali. The trading will resume on Friday (Diwali) during the special “muhurt.”

Soyabean perked up on the National Board of Trade where it quoted Rs 50 up at Rs 2,248.

Soya oil also ruled high. Soya refined quoted Rs 6 up at Rs 505-510 for 10 kg, while soya solvent quoted Rs 471-475.

On the National Board of Trade, soya oil ended Rs 5 higher at Rs 534.70. Similarly, soya de-oiled cake or meal (Kandla) ruled at Rs 18,500, Rs 100 up on increased export demand.

Traders hope that positive trend in soyabean will mainly be supported by the strong foreign market. Otherwise, soyabean prices will fall in line as arrival of soyabean in state mandis picks up after the festival season. On the other hand, positive trend in soya oil is likely to continue for some more time with depleting stocks of oil globally.

Date:05/11/2010 URL:
http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/05/stories/2010110551302100.htm

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Back **Poultry prices up on winter onset**

Our Bureau

Chennai, Nov. 4

The farmgate price for an egg touched a record Rs 2.80 this week on rising demand, catalysed by the onset of winter in North India.

The Namakkal zone of the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) has raised the price by 30 paise from Rs 2.50 fixed last week.

The previous highest wholesale rate for the shell egg in the State this year was Rs 272.57 for 100 eggs in June at Rs 2.70 a piece. The price of eggs on earlier occasions had fallen due to excess production. The present price tag is expected to remain stable for sometime.

“The winter is just starting, especially in the North. The price will see a further rise during winter, when consumption increases going by the age-old belief that poultry products give heat and maintain the body temperature,” an NECC spokesperson told Business Line.

“Usually, we build up inventories during the austere months before Diwali when people abstain from eating poultry products. But this time, we found the stocks moving, even during those periods because of rains in the North,” said a poultry farm owner. NECC has increased the rates for layer birds to Rs 42 a kg (Rs 40 a/kg), while the Palladam-based Broiler Coordination Committee has fixed the prices of live chicken at Rs 53/kg (Rs 53).

Namakkal and Palladam are the benchmark of poultry prices in the country.

Date:04/11/2010 URL: http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/04/stories/2010110451121700.htm

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Back **Higher arrivals push down rice**

Karnal, Nov. 3

With trading being low in the market, prices of aromatic and non-basmati rice continued to witness downtrend. Prices of aromatic rice dropped by Rs 50 a quintal, while non-basmati dropped by Rs 10-30 a quintal.

On Wednesday, prices of Pusa-1121 steam (new) ruled between Rs 4,950 and Rs 5,000 a quintal, while the old variety ruled at Rs 5,100 and Pusa-1121 sela (new) ruled between Rs 4,000 and Rs 4,050, whereas the old variety was around 4,200.

Pusa-1121 raw (new) ruled around Rs 5,000, while the old variety quoted at Rs 5,100. Pusa (sela) quoted between Rs 3,100 and Rs 3,150 and Pusa (raw) at Rs 4,000-4,050. Basmati sela ruled at Rs 5,900-5,950, while basmati raw around Rs 6,950.

Prices of PR (old) ruled between Rs 2,000 and Rs 2,160, while the PR (new) ruled between Rs 1,900 and Rs 1,950 a quintal. Sharbati sela (old) ruled between Rs 2,500 and Rs 2,660 and Sharbati steam (new) at Rs 2,600-2,760.

The Permal sela (new) variety ruled at Rs 2,000-2,130 a quintal.Brokens such as Tibar ruled around Rs 3,440, Dubar at Rs 2,455 and Mongra around Rs 1,750.Mr Amit Kumar, Proprietor, Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told Business Line that due to sluggish demand and good arrivals, the trade is witnessing a downtrend. Due to the festival season, the trading is low, he said.

Around 1.5 lakh bags of paddy arrived at the Karnal grain market terminal.

Around 10,000 bags of PR-13 arrived and ruled between Rs 970 and Rs 1,020. Grade-A variety arrived in 80,000 bags and ruled between Rs 1,035 and Rs 1,110. Around 5,000 bags of RS-10 were quoted at Rs 1,300-1,360. About 10,000 bags of Sharbati also arrived and ruled between Rs 1,460 and Rs 1,520. Sugandha-999 arrived in about 7,000 bags and quoted at Rs 1,550-1,600.

Date:04/11/2010 URL: http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/04/stories/2010110451161700.htm

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Back **Rising futures drive up spot chana**

Our Correspondent

Indore, Nov. 3

Mandis here continued to witness choppy trading activities in the wake of sluggish demands in pulse seeds, including chana. For major part of the day, chana remained steady at Rs 2,150-Rs 2,160 a quintal. However, at the closure of trading, chana prices improved a bit and quoted Rs 2,175 a quintal with both the sellers and purchasers slightly getting active ahead of Diwali and closure of mandis from Thursday.

On the other hand, chana futures continued to trade positive on strong buying interest. Chana November contract on the National Commodities and Derivative Exchanges closed Rs 30 higher at Rs 2,427 a quintal. The other reason for rise in chana futures was also attributed to expectation of lower crops in Australia and Canada which put the price upswing.

Higher forecast

According to trade experts, slow progress in chana sowing and likely shift towards other crops are expected to support price rise, notwithstanding the expected increase in its production this year. Production for chana in 2010-11has been estimated at 7.6 million tonnes (mt) against 7.35 mt in 2009-2010.

With limited trading, Dollar (kabuli) chana or chickpea continued to rule at Rs 3,500-Rs 4,600 a quintal. Export demand in Dollar chana continues to remain weak.

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Back

NCDEX launches new agri index Dhaanya

Aims to provide reliable benchmark for farm commodities.

Our BureauMumbai, Nov. 3

The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) has launched an agriculture index – Dhaanya – based on the 10 most liquid contracts that contribute about 75 per cent of total agriculture futures trading on the exchange's platform.

To ensure proper diversification, index components have been selected from various sub-sectors such as oilseeds, grains, spices and other crops of national importance.

Mr R. Ramaseshan, Managing Director and CEO, NCDEX, said that the index aims at providing a reliable benchmark for the exchange traded agri-commodities. It is a value weighted index, based upon a simple, transparent and easy to understand methodology.

Index composition

The 10 commodities that comprise the index are soyabean (carries 10.23 per cent weightage), mustardseed (11.09 per cent), cotton seed cake (2.56 per cent), wheat (27.63 per cent), channa (12.78 per cent), turmeric (6.88 per cent), pepper (4.69 per cent), jeera (3.86 per cent), guarseed (16.91 per cent) and jaggery (3.34 per cent).

“The weightage and components of the index will be revised every three months based on the crop season, production size and trade liquidity on the exchange,” said Mr Ramaseshan.

The index is computed using the prices of the near month (closest expiry) futures contracts. It will be a rolling index, meaning that the futures contracts held in the index are rolled over to subsequent month five days before the contract expires.

Dhaanya will be computed real-time on all trading days during the market trading hours (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

Vital Info source

Mr Vijay Kumar, Chief Business Officer, NCDEX, said that the index will provide a vital source of information to value-chain participants, market participants, economists, statisticians, research agencies and agriculture insurance providers.

The current index maintained by the exchange is more of academic interest as the weightage is equally divided among 10 to 15 most liquid contracts, he said.

The launch of this new index comes on the heels of the Cabinet committee clearing the Forward Contract Regulation Act. Once approved by Parliament, the law paves way for the exchanges to launch new products such as options and trading in index.

On the possibility of relisting the sugar contracts, Mr Ramaseshan said, the ban imposed by the market regulator Forward Markets Commission had expired in October and the exchange is waiting approval for the sugar contracts it filed with the regulator.

Asked about the growing competition with the launch of ACE Commodity Exchange that has expressed its desire to specialise in agriculture commodities, he said: “We are aware of competition and it will only help us to grow. The exchange has already started reworking some of the contracts to suit end-users.”

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Back **Trickling inflow helps castor gain**

Our Correspondent

Rajkot, Nov. 3

With most of the terminal markets in Gujarat closed for Diwali, arrival of castorseed is nominal.

As a result, price of castorseed has gained in the last couple of days.

On the Rajkot Commodity Exchange (RCX), castorseed December contracts increased by Rs 18 to Rs 3,464 a quintal.

There was no trading in the spot market.

Futures up

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), castor November futures increased Rs 22 to Rs 3,684 a quintal with an open interest of 2,450 lots.

December futures rose by Rs 35.50 to Rs 3,525 with an open interest of 6,110 lots.

Traders said that speculative buying by participants on the heels of heavy demand and restricted supply in physical markets, mainly led to the sharp rise in futures prices

A Rajkot-based RCX trader said: “Arrivals are lower not only in Gujarat but in Andhra Pradesh also.

“Markets are closed for Diwali and therefore, price rise is expected. It will come down after the festival is over.”

The demand for castorseed, which is normally used in lubricants, medicines and by soap manufacturing industries, picked up in spot markets.

Date:05/11/2010 URL: http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/05/stories/2010110552432200.htm

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Back **Sheet rubber hovers near Rs 200/kg**

Our Correspondent

Kottayam, Nov. 4

Spot rubber increased to new record highs on Thursday. According to analysts, widespread rains during the past couple of days and acute short supplies were the key factors behind the current bull run. Sharp gains in the domestic and international futures catalysed the sentiments further. “We expect the market to break the magical figure of Rs 200 if the fundamental and technical positions of the market remain unchanged,” a trader said.

Sheet rubber closed firm at Rs 199 (195.50) a kg after hitting an intra-day high of Rs 200 a kg in early trades. The grade increased to Rs 198 (195) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi as quoted by Rubber Board on its official Web site.

The November series improved to Rs 199.50 (197.86), December to Rs 202.10 (200.67), January to Rs 204.25 (202.56) and February to Rs 206.30 (204.87) a kg for RSS 4 on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 flared up further with November futures increasing to ¥338.6 (Rs 184.77) from ¥324.5 during the day session and then to ¥345.4 (Rs 188.53) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 199 (195.50); RSS-5: 188 (186); ungraded: 186 (183); ISNR 20: 195 (192) and latex 60 per cent: 130 (128).

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Back **Pepper futures down despite buying support**

G. K. Nair

Kochi, Nov. 4

Pepper futures fell sharply on Thursday despite good buying support with market operators wielding their money power.An estimated 65 tonnes of farm grade pepper was traded at Rs 205 to Rs 208 a kg; there were some instances of deals being put through at the price demanded by the sellers. Notwithstanding this, the prices dropped.If the international prices were lower than the Indian parity, then multinational companies with multi-origin operations would not have covered at this rate, market sources told Business Line.

The strengthening of the rupee against the dollar has also been cited as a reason for the decline in the futures market. Indian parity has gone up to $5,000 a tonne (c&f); the prices of L Asta were not available from Indonesia, they said.The November contract on NCDEX was down by Rs 325 at Rs 21,140 a quintal. December and January fell by Rs 273 and Rs 275 a quintal respectively to close at Rs 21,500 and Rs 21,651.The total turnover fell by 5,160 tonnes to close at 14,021 tonnes. Total open interest moved up by only five tonnes.November open interest dropped by 361 tonnes to 7,830 tonnes while that of December increased by 391 tonnes to 5,885 tonnes. January open interest, however, declined by 28 tonnes.Spot prices moved in tandem with the futures market. Despite having traded good quantities, prices dropped by Rs 200 to close at Rs 20,800 (MG 1) and Rs 20,300 (ungarbled) a quintal.

In the international market, all the origins are said to be firm. A report from Vietnam said the market was “more or less unchanged”. Prices quoted were FAQ 500 g/l $4,650 (fob) and FAQ 550 g/l $4,900 (fob) HCMC. Vietnam white pepper doubled washed was quoted at $7,100 a tonne (fob).Lampong faq 550 g/l $4,750 (fob) and Lasta $4,850 (fob). Brasil asta $4,900 (fob), B1 560 g/l $4,800 (fob) and B2 500 g/l FAQ at $4,700 a tonnes (fob).

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Back **Profit-booking stumps jeera futures**

Our Correspondent

Rajkot, Nov. 4

Jeera prices crashed by over Rs 150 a quintal on Thursday as traders rushed to book profits. The drop was despite lower arrivals.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, jeera November futures dropped by Rs 145 to Rs 13,100 a quintal with an open interest of 8,814 lots.

December futures dropped Rs 177 to Rs 13,410, with an open interest of 12,663 lots.

January contracts slipped Rs 186 to Rs 13,615 with an open interest of 4,806 lots. There was no trading in the spot market as all trading centres were closed for Diwali festivals. Mr Ajay Kumar Kedia of Kedia Commodity from Mumbai said: “Supplies are very thin as traders are not willing to release the stocks on hopes of better prices.

“However, any significant upside move in prices is not expected as of now because export demand is not supportive.”

Fresh export enquiries are rendering support to the market.

SOWING

According to trade sources, around 2-5 per cent of sowing under jeera crop has been completed so far.

Sowing activity is likely to intensify after Diwali.

According to Spices Board data, international price of jeera in New York market increased to $3.53 a kg during the week ended October 22 against $2.84 a kg quoted in the same period last year.

According to the market sources, jeera stocks are currently projected lower at around 10-11 lakh bags (of 55 kg each) compared with 13-14 lakh bags in the same period a year ago.

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http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/04/stories/2010110451131700.htm

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Back **Bulk buying for N. India fuels turmeric**

Our Correspondent

Erode, Nov. 3

Following demand from bulk buyers, spot turmeric price increased in Erode on Wednesday.

Turmeric traders said they are getting orders from various north Indian towns and they are buying stocks at higher prices.

Due to competition among the traders to cater to demands, turmeric price has gained Rs 150 to Rs 250 a quintal.

In the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 9,306 to Rs 14,359 a quintal on Wednesday.

The root variety fetched Rs 9,001 to Rs 14,299 a quintal. The finger variety has increased Rs 170 a quintal in two days, while the root variety was up Rs 230 a quintal. Out of 2,219 bags that arrived 531 were sold.

In the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 13,899 to Rs 14,375 a quintal, the root variety at Rs 13,680 to Rs 14,316.

Of 1,191 bags arrival, 1,011 were sold. There was no change in price.

In the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 13,527 –14,339 a quintal, the root variety at Rs 12,222–14,199 a quintal. Of 159 bags that arrived, 129 were sold.

In the regulated market, sales were very high. Of 1,328 bags kept for sale, 1,215 were sold.

The finger variety was sold at Rs 13,878 to Rs 14,397 a quintal, the root variety at Rs 14,029–14,365 a quintal. Both varieties increased by Rs 180 a quintal.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives exchange, futures contracts dropped on profit-booking after opening higher.

November contracts closed Rs 80 lower at Rs 13,226 a quintal, while December ended Rs 122 lower at Rs 12,330.

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http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/04/stories/2010110452401900.htm

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Back **Pepper futures end higher after recovery**

G.K. Nair

Kochi, Nov. 3

Pepper futures recovered from selling pressure on Wednesday afternoon to end higher on strong buying support and bullish reports.

There was additional buying and switching over to December futures. An estimated 125 tonnes of black pepper were traded at Rs 205-Rs 208 a kg. Exporters bought in sizable quantities. Investors purchase from spot market and sold December delivery.

The market witnessed high volatility in the afternoon and moved up to the highest levels of the day. It then declined to close slightly above the previous close, as the selling pressure diminished.

Primary market dealers who had kept their goods with financiers fixed prices, market sources told Business Line.

November contract on the NCDEX moved up by Rs 143 to close at Rs 21,485 a quintal. December and January were up by Rs 230 and Rs 187 respectively to close at Rs 21,799 and Rs 21,942 a quintal.

Turnover dropped by 4,757 tonnes to 19,181 tonnes. Open interest increased by 620 tonnes to 14,501 tonnes showing good additional purchases.

November open interest dropped by 286 tonnes to 8,191 tonnes while December's increased by 872 tonnes, showing good switching over and additional buying.

Spot prices moved up by Rs 100 on strong buying support amid limited supply to close at Rs 20,500 (ungarbled) and Rs 21,000 (MG 1) a quintal.

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Back **N. India plantations' tea output perks up in Sept**

C J Punnathara

Kochi Nov. 4

Tea production inched up in September, backed by a better than expected crop output from north Indian plantations. South Indian production, which had been buttressing the shortfall of North Indian plantations till recently, has slipped sharply in the month. Tea production from all South Indian producing states, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka, registered a decline.

With heavy rains during October, wet conditions and low sunshine hours hampered tea plucking operations, sources in the United Plantations Association of Southern India said. Initial reports indicate that production prospects for October have also not been quite good and they expected a shortfall for the month as well.

After good production in April-May, south Indian production was up by 10 million kg by August. However, the poor crop of September has wiped out part of the excess production. With poor prospects for the October crop, UPASI sources expected 75 per cent of the excess production to be wiped out. April-May and September-October are the peak production season for South Indian tea. Production weakens in the months ahead as winter sets in.

Tea production increased to 108 million kg (101 million kg) in September. Despite the poor production in recent months, tea output from both Assam and West Bengal improved and the North Indian production increased to 89.7 million kg (78.7 million kg). Meanwhile, heavy rain across south Indian plantations resulted in production falling to 18.3 million kg (22.6 million kg).

The huge production spurt from north Indian plantations helped to bridge the production deficit of earlier months as well. Production till September was 692.9 million kg, marginally lower than the 696.7 million kg reported last year.

While the cumulative production was slightly lower than last year's levels, south Indian production still remained higher.

Tea exports declined both in volume and value in September to 19.3 million kg (21.9 million kg) with a unit value realisation of Rs 144 a kg (Rs 145 a kg). Export volumes also fell in the April-September period to 89.4 million kg (98.1 million kg) even as unit price realisation declined sharply to Rs 129.9 a kg (Rs 144.6 s kg).

Prices dip in South

The high production from South Indian plantations had led to a sharp decline in prices at the auction centres in South, but sources in the trade expected the situation to improve in the coming months as the production during the peak months of September-October are expected to slip, which is to be followed by low arrivals during the winter months of

November-December. Though the sharp fall in prices during April-May has been contained, price recovery has not been evident till October.

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Back **Retail offtake keeps sugar firm**

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Nov. 3

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market continued to rise on higher retail demand on the spot market. On Wednesday, spot price rose by another Rs 8-10 a quintal.

Naka and Mill delivery tender rates were steady, as re-salers were offering sugar at lower rates. Mills quoted higher rates on good buying support.

Market will be closed on Friday and Saturday. Muhurat trading for the new Samvat year will be held on Sunday morning, said wholesale traders.

Mills were not keen to sell as they have managed to sell good quantity. About 10-12 mills sold 80,000-90,000 bags of sugar to local buyers in forward sale in the range of Rs 2,705-2,745 for M-grade and Rs 2,660-2,720 for S-grade(excise paid).

Resalers quoted resale consignments at Rs 15-20 below mill prices as they have to fulfill their outstanding purchases. Good quality sugar was in demand. A higher price of Rs 150–200 in neighboring States such as UP and West Bengal kept the sentiment bullish among Maharashtra's mills.

Last year, during the same time spot sugar prices ruled higher with S-grade quoting at Rs 3,450-3,500 and M-grade at Rs 3,600-3,700 a quintal.

On Tuesday, total arrivals in Vashi markets were 48-50 truckloads (10 tonnes each) and lifting was 50-52 truckloads.

According to the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, spot rates were for S-grade Rs 2,761-Rs 2,801 (Rs 2,751-Rs 2,801) and for M-grade Rs 2,791-Rs 2,851 (Rs 2,796-Rs 2,851). Naka delivery rates were: S-grade–Rs 2,740-Rs 2,760 (Rs 2,740-Rs 2,760) and M-grade – Rs 2,780-Rs 2,830 (Rs 2,780-Rs 2,830).

Date:05/11/2010 URL: http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2010/11/05/stories/2010110551312100.htm

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Back **Wheat steady despite thin demand**

Our Correspondent

Karnal, Nov. 4

With buying being low in the market, wheat prices ruled steady around previous levels. On Thursday, prices of dara wheat were quoted at Rs 1,220 a quintal, while the fine quality was quoted at Rs 1,240. Around 150 quintals of dara variety arrived in the Karnal market.

Mr Sewa Ram, a wheat trader, told Business Line that because of low volume of trading, the market witnessed a steady trend.

The Food Corporation of India has released stocks for sale through the open market for bulk users. This is also a reason behind the thin demand, he added.

Similarly, prices of desi wheat ruled unchanged in lacklustre trading. Tohfa ruled at Rs 2,340-2,370; Lok-1 Rs 1,900; Kitchen queen new marka Rs 2,080; Parley-G Rs 2,150-

2,160; and Nano at Rs 2,130 a quintal.

After witnessing a correction at the beginning of this month, flour prices ruled at Rs 1,220 (90-kg bag) on Thursday. Chokar prices ruled firm and were quoted at Rs 565-570 (49-kg bag). Over 1.4 lakh bags of paddy varieties arrived at the Karnal grain market terminal on Thursday.

Around 15,000 bags of PR-13 arrived and the variety ruled between Rs 960 and Rs 1,025.

Grade-A variety - 75,000 bags - ruled between Rs 1,040 and Rs 1,100.

About 10,000 bags of Sharbati ruled between Rs 1,470 and Rs 1,525.

Sugandha-999 - 6,000 bags - was quoted at Rs 1,540-1,610. Only 6,000 bags of the RS-10 were availableand quoted at Rs 1,300-1,350.

Around 10,000 bags of Pusa (duplicate basmati) quoted at Rs 2,030-2,200 a quintal.

Around 15,000 bags of Pusa-1121 quoted at Rs 2,000-2,320. About 5,000 bags of pure basmati rice quoted at Rs 2,500-2,650. The entire stock was lifted by agencies and rice millers.

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Back **Sugar surges on all-round buying**

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Nov. 4

Spot sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market shot up by Rs 30–40 on Thurday on heavy demand from retailers and upcountry buyers before the three-days market closure from Friday for Diwali. Naka and Mill tender rates also increased by Rs 20–25 a quintal.

On Sunday morning, Muhurat trading will be held but transporters have decided not to load from the market. Therefore, supply from the market will resume only from Monday. The sentiment was bullish as mills were quoting higher rates on increased buying from West Bengal side, said market sources. This week at Vashi market, spot prices have increased Rs 70–80 a quintal on lower free sale quota for current month and heavy festival demand.

Mr Harakhchand Vora, Vice–President of Bombay Sugar merchants Association, told Business Line that mills were quoting higher rates as they manage to sale good quantity about 2/2.25 lakh bags on Wednesday through tender process. They sold about 75,000–80,000 bags sugar to Kolkata traders and other to local buyers in the range of Rs 2,745–2,800 for M-grade and Rs 2,680–2,730 for S-grade (excise paid).

Sugar prices in States such as UP, Delhi and West Bengal were higher compared with Maharashtra's mills quotes. On Thursday, arrivals in Vashi markets were 45–47 truckloads (10 tonnes each) and lifting was 55–57 truckloads.

According to the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association, spot rates were: S–grade: Rs 2,771–2840 (Rs 2,761–2,801) and M–grade: Rs 2,811–2,881 (Rs 2791–2,851). Naka delivery rates were: S–grade– Rs 2,760-2,790 (Rs 2,740-Rs 2,760) and M–grade –Rs 2,800–2,840 (Rs 2,780–2,830).