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## Rally highlights rice cultivation

Special Correspondent

*Using System of Rice Intensification*

NAMAKKAL: The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method, which has been renamed as 'Raja Rajan 1000' by the Chief Minister recently, is gaining momentum in Namakkal district with more paddy growing farmers opting for it.

To make the farmers aware of this, the District Agricultural Department took out a farmers' rally recently in VEDIYARASAMPALAYAM village of Pallipalayam block in which nearly 200 farmers participated, displaying placards on 'Raja Rajan 1000 Paddy Cultivation'.

### Impact

Collector Ms. S. Mathumathi flagged off the rally and asked the farmers to follow the new technology in paddy cultivation to boost the yield. She also said that the rally would bring a great impact among the paddy growing farmers and motivate others to take up Raja Rajan method of cultivation.

The rally covered 10 km through the paddy growing villages. Later, a demonstration on the rice cultivation was given.

Joint Director of Agriculture S. Sivaraj said that to popularise the 'Raja Rajan 1000' method of cultivation, village campaigns should be carried out in a sustainable manner.

Farmers, he said, would be given practical exposure to raising nursery, planting 10 to 12 days old seedling and adopting conaweeders operations. They were told that 'Raja Rajan 1000' cultivation would certainly yield not less than 9 tonnes of paddy per hectare as against the 5 tonnes of yield now.

Assistant Director of Agriculture B. Muralitharan said that this year the farmers were coming forward to raise paddy crop under the 'Raja Rajan 1000' method.

"In Namakkal district the paddy crop is cultivated in an area of 20,000 hectares every year. The crop is raised in the ayacut areas of Mettur East Bank canal, Rajapalayam vaikal, tank-fed areas and in well irrigated areas.

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## **Papanasam dam water released**

Staff Reporter

*It will benefit 88,107 acres in six taluks*

— Photo: N. Rajesh



**in full flow:Water being released from the Papanasam dam in Tirunelveli district on Monday.**

TIRUNELVELI: Even as a dry spell and sweltering heat on the plains continue, Collector M. Jayaraman released water from Papanasam dam on Monday for 'pisanam,' the second paddy season of the district.

Speaking to reporters after the release of water, Dr. Jayaraman said that 600 cusecs of water was being released in the Palayam, Tirunelveli and Kodagan channels from Monday even as water for irrigation had already been released on four other channels.

Subsequently, over 40,000 acres in Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram and Palayamkottai taluks and 48,107 acres in Srivaikuntam, Tiruchendur and Sattankulam taluks would be benefited.

"Release of water from Papanasam will be sustained up to March 31 and appropriate regulation in the release of water will be effected as and when it becomes necessary. The dam, which had 88 feet of water during the corresponding period last year, has 94.02 feet. Though the present storage level is relatively comfortable, we hope that rainfall during this northeast monsoon will help. I appeal to the farmers to use the water judiciously so that release of water can be maintained till the end of the season," he said.

Tirunelveli MP S.S. Ramasubbuwas present.

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### **Farmers demand separate welfare board for broiler chicken growers**

Staff Reporter

KRISHNAGIRI: The Tamizhaga Vivasagil Sangam staged a demonstration before the collectorate on Monday demanding separate welfare board for broiler chicken growers, free insurance scheme and waiver of loans availed of by old poultries in the State.

The farmers expressed their concern against the poultry companies for neglecting their welfare.

They also demanded the State government to find out an amicable solution between the company owners and broiler chicken growers.

The sangam wanted free power scheme extended to the broiler chicken growers too.

As many farmers could not repay the loan taken from the broiler companies, the sangam sought waiver of loan availed of from banks.

They wanted poultry companies to supply ISI-marked poultry feeds.

If the Government failed to bring the broiler chicken companies to the negotiating table, the sangam threatened to stage agitations in all the district headquarters on October 20.

K. M. Ramagounder, vice-president, Tamizhaga Vivasaijal Sangam presided. G.R. Lokaibram was the coordinator for the demonstration. Mr. P. Sivaraj, District Secretary among others participated.

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### **Farmers apply for new pump sets**

Staff Reporter

KARUR: More than 33,000 farmers have applied for new motor pump sets under the free motor scheme announced by the State government recently, according to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board Superintending Engineer Ashok Kumar.

Applications for the motor replacement scheme were received from the farmers through the 52 Tamil Nadu Electricity Board section offices across the district and forwarded to the State unit processing the applications.

Though the last date for receiving applications ended on September 25, based on the advice of the higher authorities many more applications were accepted later on, so that the farming community could benefit from the same, Mr. Ashok Kumar added.

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## Host of taxes abolished for farmers

Special Correspondent

*The move will benefit 15 lakh ryots*

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*Additional tax, additional water tax and betterment levy to be abolished*

*Tax sops extended to ailing HPF*

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**Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi chairing a Cabinet Meeting at the Secretariat in Chennai on Tuesday.**

CHENNAI: The State Cabinet on Tuesday decided to abolish the additional water charge of Rs.70 per acre levied on farmers. It also decided to abolish additional tax, additional water tax and betterment levy that has been in practice till now.

This was needed to boost agriculture at a time when input costs were galloping, one official explained. The move will benefit 15 lakh farmers.

The Cabinet also decided to reduce by a third the penalty imposed on farmers who were

indulging in out-of-turn irrigation or irregular irrigation. The penalty was earlier fixed at Rs.600 an acre. This has been reduced to Rs.200 an acre. Also the existing “jamapandhi” system (examination of basic village records) will be simplified and made “farmer-friendly.”

The Cabinet gave its consent to the decision of the government last year to reduce the land tax on non-irrigated land from Rs.15 an acre to Rs.2 an acre; and for irrigated land from Rs.50 an acre to Rs.5 an acre. The government had also decided to abolish collecting local cess and local cess surcharge last year. The Cabinet ratified these decisions of the government.

Nod for Metro rail extension

The Cabinet also gave its in-principle nod for the extension of the Metro rail project from Washermanpet to Tiruvottriyur Wimco Nagar. The extension of the proposed rail project has been a long standing demand of the people of the area.

The Cabinet decided to extend tax concessions to the ailing Hindustan Photo Films, Udthagamandalam, which has recently been revived after Union Communications and IT Minister A.Raja, prevailed upon the Union Government to release funds for its modernisation. The Cabinet also approved concessions for Chettinad Cements, a private cement factory, which was expanding operations in Karikali village in Dindigul district.

The 48 {+t} {+h} Cabinet meet of the present government also named the library of the central institute of Classical Tamil, located at the old Assembly, after Paavendar Bharatidasan.

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**Farmers urged to grow pesticide-free vegetables**

Staff Reporter

*'Adopt eco-friendly Integrated Pest Management method'*

COIMBATORE: Vegetable cultivation in India is hampered by pests and diseases which cause a total loss of Rs.1,40,000 crore worth of food crops.

With a targeted production level of 170 million tonnes of vegetables by 2025, the present productivity has to be stepped up substantially, P. Murugesu Boopathi, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, said here recently.

Inaugurating a two-day training on “Eco-Friendly Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Vegetables” at the university, he urged farmers to produce safe and pesticide-free vegetables in the larger interest of humanity by adopting eco-friendly IPM approaches.

Awareness

“Use of chemical pesticides is predominantly followed for the control of pests and diseases. Due to the extensive awareness created on the negative aspects of pesticide use, it has been hovering around 480 gms a hectare in India as against the 4.5 kg a hectare in the U.S. and more than 15 kg a hectare in Japan and England,” the Vice-Chancellor said.

Mr. Boopathi attributed the low pesticide consumption in India to the large scale adoption of IPM.

A.R. Prasad, Pheromone Research Co-ordinator, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, E.I. Jonathan, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, and other Department Heads, spoke.

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**Regulated market for turmeric in Erode facing space shortage**

S. Ramesh

PHOTO:M.GOVARTHAN



**Space constraint: The regulated market for turmeric in Erode. —**

ERODE: The regulated market for turmeric in Erode, one of the largest markets in the country, is facing serious shortage of space.

The authorities have shifted the market from Park Road to a new premise in Sunnambu Odai in August this year. The new premise has just 27,000 sq ft space.

“The available space is inadequate as the market gets huge arrivals every day. A large number of farmers depend on the market to keep their stock safe and to sell,” officials pointed out.

The market, which functions under the State Government's Agriculture Marketing department, handles over 30,000 tonnes of turmeric every year and its revenue from the cess has crossed over Rs. 2 crore during the previous fiscal.

“As the turmeric prices have gone up several folds, farmers are keeping huge amount of yellow spice at the market,” officials pointed out.

Officials in the market are expecting huge arrivals in the coming months as well. “Turmeric prices crossed Rs. 14,000 a quintal in April. This had encouraged more number of farmers to take up turmeric cultivation this year. The total acreage under turmeric crop has almost doubled in Erode district alone,” officials pointed out.

Shortage of staff is another area of concern for the regulated market committee.

As against the 148 sanctioned posts, only 88 are filled.



From watchmen, to office assistants to market superintendents, many posts are vacant.

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## **Agricultural activities heading for total mechanisation**

Special Correspondent

Photo:S. James



**A new beginning: Paddy seeds being readied with the help of machines at Porusupatti in Madurai district. —**

MADURAI: With machines replacing men, paddy cultivation looks simpler. Conventional method of sowing seeds, plucking weeds, et al, may soon be history in the district, say agricultural department officials.

With shortage of labour among other practical difficulties experienced by the farmers, introduction of the 'novel' equipment is a boon.

The seeding machine helps in mixing seeds with the soil. The paddy weeder removes the weeds. The rice transplanter is used for planting. The number of rows and space to be provided is all done with precision. Finally, the harvester machine cuts the paddy and separates the hay\_ all in a matter of time.

Agricultural Department officials had arranged a live demonstration of the farm equipment

at Thethampatti near here on Monday in which farmers' and agricultural land owners' participated.

Progressive farmer N.R.K.A. Ayyanan Raja of Porusupatti near Mangulam says that he will utilise the best out of the equipment this season. "I am cultivating paddy on 25 acres. Earlier, in the conventional method, mobilising the work force for the vast area would be a Herculean task. With shortage of labour problem, when we were keeping our fingers crossed, such an end-to-end mechanisation has given us a new hope," he noted.

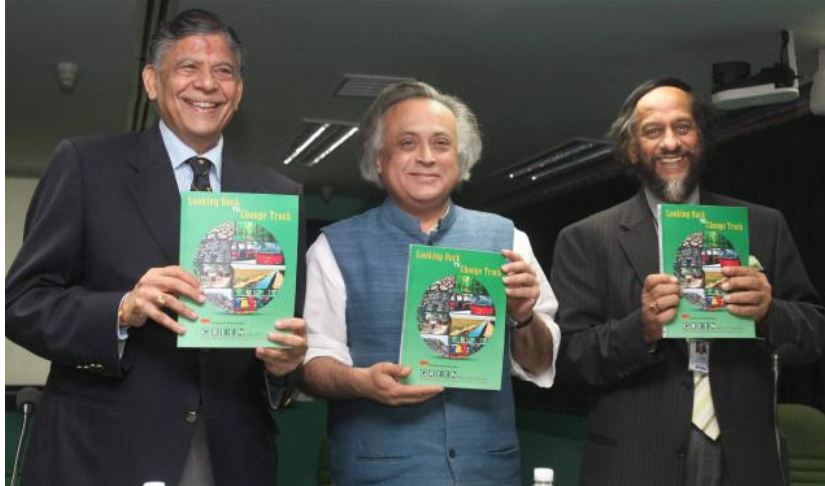
Endorsing the views, another farmer, K.P. Govindasami, says that the whole process looks simple as the imported machine arranges the nursery with precision. As for the cost factor, he feels that in conventional method, a farmer incurs about Rs 7,000 per acre for completing the process of sowing, transplanting, among others, while it is likely to be 30 per cent less with machines," he adds.

Speaking to The Hindu, Joint Director (Agriculture) Sankaralingam says mechanisation will give additional yield per acre by a minimum of 10 to 15 per cent. The germination is perfect, wastage is avoided, and water is saved.

Assistant Director S. Kanagaraj says that the alternative system of using machines from start to end is expected to give a fillip to the farm sector. The imported seeding machine costs around Rs 2 lakh and for details farmers' can contact Radhakrishnan at 92442-13263 , say officials.

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**Green India Mission document submitted to PM council**



PTI In this November 2009 file photograph, Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh, flanked by TERI Girector General R.K. Pachauri (right) and 13th Finance Commission Chairman Vijay Kelkar releases the TERI's Green India 2047 report in New Delhi.

The environment ministry has submitted the final draft of the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), part of the country's plan to fight climate change, to the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, officials said Tuesday.

The mission, one of the eight under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, aims at increasing the capacity of India's forests to absorb green house gases to 6.35 percent of the country's total emissions by 2020.

The draft of the Mission projects an ambitious target of 20 million hectares of forest cover by 2020, at a cost of Rs.46,000 crore (Rs.460 billion).

According to Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh, the overarching objective is to increase forest cover in 5 million hectares and improve the quality of forest cover in an area of corresponding size.

"It proposes a fundamental shift in mindset from our traditional focus on merely increasing the quantity of our forest cover, towards increasing the quality of our forest cover and improving provision of ecosystem services," Mr. Ramesh said.

The Mission will be implemented through an autonomous organisational structure reducing red—tape and rigidity, while ensuring accountability.

The mission also aims at monitoring additional parameters like ground cover, soil condition, erosion and infiltration, run—off, and ground water levels to develop water budgets as well as biomass monitoring indicators.

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**THE ECONOMIC TIMES**

Wed, Oct 13, 2010 | Updated 06.50AM IST

12 Oct, 2010, 02.26PM IST, REUTERS

### **Soybean eases on arrivals; palm drags soyoil**

MUMBAI: Indian soybean futures were trading water on Tuesday afternoon as profit taking driven by rising arrivals outweighed gains in overseas markets and strong export demand for soymeal. Soyoil futures eased tracking weak Malaysian palm oil, while rapeseed dropped on expectations good rains in northern India will help farmers raise area under the winter-sown oilseed, analysts said.

"Active buying by oil millers in the spot market is offsetting arrival pressure," said Badruddin Khan, senior research analyst, Angel Commodities Broking . "A few big farmers are holding on to stocks after harvesting as they are expecting prices to rise in the coming months due to rising soymeal exports."

India's oilmeal exports in September rose 53 percent from a year ago, its third straight monthly rise, owing to higher demand from traditional buyers in Japan and China, data from a trade body showed on Wednesday. At 1:50 p.m., U.S. soybean futures for November delivery were up 1.21

percent at \$11.66 a bushel, while benchmark Malaysian palm oil futures was down 1.16 percent at 2,891 ringgit per tonne.

November soybean futures contract on India's National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) was 0.2 percent lower at 2,204 rupees per 100 kg, after hitting upper circuit in the past two sessions. In the Indore spot market, soybean nudged down a rupee to 2,126 rupees per 100 kg, while soyoil rose 3.1 rupees to 514.15 rupees per 10 kg. November soyoil eased 0.66 percent to 519.65 rupees per 10 kg, while rapeseed for November delivery fell 0.31 percent to 557 rupees per 20 kg.

In the Jaipur spot market in Rajasthan, the country's top rapeseed producing state, the price edged down by 1.15 rupees to 550.6 rupees per 20 kg. India is likely to produce 17.27 million tonnes of oilseeds in 2010/11 from summer-sown crops, higher than 15.66 million tonnes a year ago, the farm ministry had said last month.

## Business Standard

Wednesday, Oct 13, 2010

### Tea deficit to widen on pest attack, rain

BS Reporter / Kolkata October 13, 2010, 0:04 IST

The tea production in Assam and North Bengal declined by 20 million kg during April-August.

Overall, however, production in India stood at 585 million kg, a decline of 10 million kg. The overall figures were offset by south India, which registered an increase of 10 million kg, according to figures released by the Indian Tea Association (ITA).



The crop in north Bengal and Assam suffered this year on account of heavy rain and pest attack. "The overall deficit in the country is going to widen," industry sources said.

The consumption in the country grows at about 30-35 million kg every year. With the deficit at the beginning of the season, India is likely to face a shortfall of about 60-70 million kg. All-India auction prices were lower by Rs 4.66 a kg at Rs 93.98 a kg during January-July.

Prices for Assam and North Bengal rose Rs 1.84 a kg at Rs 108.70 a kg. Prices in south India were lower by Rs 14.30 a kg at Rs 88.50 a kg.

Meanwhile, the country's tea imports during the January-July period of the current year dipped by 15 per cent to 11.2 million kg, according to ITA data. It had imported 13.17 million kg tea during the same period last year, it said.

India, the world's largest consumer of tea, imports tea only to re-export to other countries. The dip in imports thus signals less re-exports.

During the first seven months of the year, 3.47 million kg tea was imported from Nepal, the maximum, and lowest import was registered from Sri Lanka at 0.21 million kg. Vietnam and Kenya were the two leading exporters of tea to India during the January-July period. While Vietnam docked 1.96 million kg, the African country had shipped 1.54 million kg to India.

Though the quantity dipped, average price of imported tea went up to Rs 88.15 a kg during the January-July period of the current year from Rs 83.93 a kg in the year-ago period. Tea production in India stood at 979 million kg last year.

### **Sugar mills smell big gains in global market**

**Sanjay Jog / Mumbai October 13, 2010, 0:03 IST**

The central government is being lobbied to allow sugar exports, especially with prices soaring in global markets. The market opened today at \$693 a tonne for futures, a jump on the London Exchange by \$100 a tonne over the past four trading sessions.

The industry has made repeated pleas for allowing exports, especially with India expected to have a record production of 25 million tonnes in the crushing season of 2010-11. Besides, the carry-forward stock would be 4-5 mt.

A senior government official, who did not want to be named, told Business Standard: "The issue has been taken up by the cooperative and private sugar mills. However, the government has yet to take a decision."

Industry sources recalled that the Centre had already taken a decision to allow advance license export obligations of about a million tonnes to be honoured. They suggested the government consider allowing a certain percentage of the new production to be exported over three months, starting October. It could review in December and decide whether to extend this by another three months.

Sources at the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories and the Indian Sugar Mills Association argued the time was ripe to allow Indian sugar to enter the global market. "The government's decision to allow exports will help reduce the probable inventory out of fresh production. This will also help farmers to get better realisation for their cane. Further, domestic prices, which are still ruling at below the production cost, can receive some reprieve," said one.

However, these sources admit there is another school of thought in the industry which believes that if the export gates are opened, unlimited quantities might flow out. This would mean a resort to imports. "There is a possibility of rise in domestic sugar prices, which may attract criticism from a large section of the society," sources said.

Yogesh Pande, founder-president of the Maharashtra Sugar Brokers Association, said the Centre should soon take a decision on allowing sugar exports. "On the domestic side, prices of sugar are dull due to very high release orders in Maharashtra, which has received over 35 per cent excess release as compared to the previous month. Also, sugar mills are under financial pressure and are offering sugar at every given price.

Currently, sugar is in the range of Rs 2,470-2,500 a quintal (ex mill, ex duty). Compared to international prices, we are now selling at very large discount. It is the perfect time to open exports, initially for 2.5 mt."

Business Daily from THE HINDU group of publications

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

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**Back** Turmeric output seen higher on more acreage

*Analysts bullish but guarded in their outlook.*

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*"We wouldn't be surprised if we get an output of 80 lakh bags (70-75 kg each) this year,"  
— Mr R. V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Assoc.*

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M.R. Subramani

Chennai, Oct 12

Mr Vadivelu, a farmer of Kodumudi village in Tamil Nadu's Erode district, is one of those who has benefitted from the bull run in turmeric this year. In view of the gains he got, the farmer increased the area under the golden spice to four acres from two acres last year. Mr Venkataraman, a farmer in the same area whose family owns 75 acres, has increased the coverage of turmeric in his farm to 14 acres from seven acres last year.

These are just two examples of how farmers in the Erode belt have increased the area under turmeric. There are examples of farmers such as Mr Murugesan of Modakurichi who have been unable to increase the area under the crop. "This is because our farms fall under the Lower Bhavani Project canal where water for irrigation is provided in turns. We



are not sure of getting water this time,” he says.

“There is no doubt that most of the farmers have doubled the area under the crop. We wouldn't be surprised if we get an output of 80 lakh bags (70-75 kg each) this year,” says Mr R.V. Ravishankar, President of Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Though analysts are bullish, they are a little guarded in their outlook for the crop.

“Turmeric production in 2010-11 is expected to improve by 43-45 per cent to 65-70 lakh bags compared with 48 lakh bags in 2009-10,” says Ms Nalini Rao, an analyst (agriculture) in Angel Commodities.

“Turmeric production is expected to touch 65-67 lakh bags against 45 lakh bags last year,” says Mr Ashok Mittal, Vice-President and Country Head of Karvy Comtrade Limited.

“More than 150 per cent of returns earned by farmers this season have induced them to increase the area under turmeric. According to trade sources, total acreage in 2010-2011 under turmeric may be around 2.06 lakh hectares compared with 1.80 lakh hectares last year.”

Andhra Pradesh contributes nearly 31 per cent of the area under turmeric. Acreage under turmeric in the State has increased by 0.05 lakh hectares (lh) to 0.64 lh. In Tamil Nadu, the area under turmeric is expected to increase 9 per cent to 0.43 lakh hectares.

Ms Rao says major gains could come from Nizamabad and Erode where the production is likely to increased to 16 lakh bags (11 lakh bags) and 30 lakh bags (22 lakh bags) respectively.

Hopes of a higher crop could cap increases in prices of far month contracts, says Ms Rao.

But Mr Anand James, Chief Analysts of Geojit Comtrade Ltd, says that higher prices since 2008 have encourage farmers to increase the area under turmeric.

“We may have to wait for another season or two before this turmeric cycle plays out to the full extent and buyers start withdrawing in the wake of consistently higher supply over

seasons," he said.

All the analysts are unanimous that prices of near-month contracts may not witness any sharp fall in view of a lower carryover stock, estimated at three lakh bags.

"Currently, there are 12-13 lakh bags of turmeric stocks," says Ms Rao.

Mr Mittal of Karvy says that turmeric prices are expected to drop on hopes of higher production amid higher acreage.

"Generally, the new crop hits the market during February-March. But this year it is expected to arrive a little early. Farmers will bring the crop early due to high returns earned last year. Therefore, traders are expecting new arrivals to start coming from mid January. Therefore, increased arrivals at spot market will put pressure on the prices next year," says Mr Mittal.

"As of now stocks available in the spot market are 6-8 lakh bags and the average monthly consumption is 2-2.5 lakh bags. Therefore, looking at the current stocks level and production projections, we are expecting that turmeric prices may come down next year on new crop arrival."

Ms Rao and Mr James say that other factors that will determine the price trend are export demand and domestic purchases. In the long-term, they say the market will pick cues from the way the crop progresses before harvest.

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**[Back](#) Wheat gains as arrivals peter out**

Our Correspondent

Karnal, Oct. 12

Wheat market witnessed a price rise of Rs 35-40 in the dara wheat variety because of low arrivals, while the prices of desi wheat varieties rose by Rs 50-70 a quintal, at the

beginning of this week.

Prices of dara variety ruled at Rs 1,225-1,230 a quintal against Rs 1,190-1,195 quoted last weekend. The fine quality ruled at Rs 1,250 a quintal and around 150 quintals of dara wheat arrived on Tuesday.

In the absence of fresh arrivals, prices of desi wheat witnessed a rally and touched the highest levels for the season. Tohfa variety ruled at Rs 2,330-2,370 a quintal; Lok-1 at Rs 1,890-1,920; Kitchen queen new marka at Rs 2,100-2,120; Parley-G variety at Rs 2,180; and Nano at Rs 2,150 a quintal.

Mr Sewa Ram, a wheat trader, told Business Line that fresh local demand and low arrivals of dara variety from Uttar Pradesh lifted the wheat prices. There is no local stock present in the market, he said. In the case of desi wheat, he said that because of the rains in recent past the moisture level of the stock was high that damaged the stock. Now, traders are ordering the stock according to the demand, he said.

Low availability of fresh wheat lifted the flour prices by Rs 20 (90-kg bag) and was quoted at Rs 1,220 . Some correction was witnessed in the Chokar prices as it dropped by Rs 15 (49-kg bag) and ruled around Rs 560 (49-kg bag).

#### Paddy Trading

The Karnal grain market continued to witness low arrival of fresh paddy as just around 90,000 bags of different paddy varieties arrived on Tuesday. PR paddy varieties such as PR-11 were quoted at Rs 1,000-1,100; PR-47 at Rs 950-1,045 a quintal; PR-14 at Rs 950-1,065; while the PR-13 was quoted at Rs 900-1,000 a quintal.

Sharbati variety ruled between Rs 1,350 and Rs 1,500. Sugandha-999 ruled at Rs 1,400-1,650; RS-10 variety at Rs 1,250-1,350 a quintal. The stock of Pusa (duplicate basmati) was around Rs 1,600-1,900. The entire stock was lifted by the agencies and the millers.

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## Back 'Poor maintenance affecting sugarcane productivity'

*Farmers seen behaving like absentee landlords.*

Our Bureau

Dharwad, Oct. 12

There is an urgent need to enhance sugarcane productivity in Karnataka. The productivity in the State which stood at 110 tonne a hectare a few years ago has now fallen drastically to the levels of 40 tonne a hectare.

Speaking at a workshop on 'Improved cultivation of sugar cane for the cane development staff of sugar mills in north Karnataka', organised by the S. Nijalingappa Sugar Institute, Belgaum, today at Dharwad, Dr R.R. Hanchinal, Vice-Chancellor, University of Agriculture Sciences (UAS), Dharwad, said farmers are behaving like absentee landlords. This attitude is leading to poor maintenance of the land, nil soil preparation, seed treatment and bad water management.

"Poor or nil maintenance of sugarcane fields is leading to soil salinity in the Krishna basin. This has affected productivity and with this scenario, there is urgent need to train farmers in soil preparation and micro nutrient management," he added.

Farmers should initiate crop rotation system on their lands to enhance productivity.

Dr Hanchinal, said: "Farmers at the end of every three years, should take up soyabean cultivation in kharif and wheat during rabi season. Also, it is time that supplementary crops such as sugar beet and sweet sorghum are introduced in Karnataka." "By introduction of these crops, it will enhance the crushing period and profitability of sugar mills," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr A.K. Monnappa, Karnataka commissioner for cane development and director of sugar, said at present there are 54 working sugar mills with installed capacity of 210 lakh tonnes a day and but annual can requirement is around 336 lakh tonnes. "The agronomical and climatic condition in north Karnataka are conducive for growing sugarcane in north Karnataka particularly in Belgaum division. The lands here has potential to grow get 150 tonne a hectare, however due to lack of knowledge on improved

cultivation methods the average yield a hectare is reduced to 85 tonne," he added.

According to Mr M. Prabhu, Director, S. Nijalingappa Sugar Institute, Belgaum, there are 55 participants from the sugar mills of north Karnataka taking part at the workshop.

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### **Back Area under pulses to expand**

Madurai, Oct. 12

A massive effort to expand areas under pulses cultivation under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM-P) has been taken up for the first time in Theni district. To begin with, the scheme is being implemented in Andipatti and Chinnamanur blocks. It would be extended to all the eight blocks in the district in the coming months and a total of 500 farmers would derive the benefit under the scheme this year. They would be raising black gram, pigeon pea and green gram, according to the District Collector Mr P. Muthuveeran. All assistance, including economic assistance, quality inputs, high quality seeds, technical expertise including pest and irrigation water management would be extended to these farmers. The Central Government has granted a subsidy of Rs 18.86 lakh for this purpose. The officials would take area specific plans and tests in the execution of the scheme.

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### **Back Water for irrigation released from Papanasam dam**

Madurai, Oct. 12

Water for irrigation was released on Monday from Papanasam dam in Tirunelveli district for the second paddy season. According to the District Collector, Dr M. Jeyaraman, 600 cusecs of water was being released in the Palayam, Tirunelveli and Kodagan channels. Earlier, water was released in four other channels in the district. Over 40,000 acres in Tirunelveli, Ambasamudhram and Palayamkottai taluks and 48,107 acres in Srivaikundam,

Thiruchendur and Sattankulam taluks will benefit

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### Back Higher inflow cools coconut oil

C.J. Punnathara

Kochi. Oct. 12

Although coconut oil prices fell in Tamil Nadu and Kerala markets last week, the plunge was relatively more in Tamil Nadu markets. The primary reason for the fall was the sharp increase in arrivals and poor demand as corporate buyers kept away from the market.

In a corresponding move, increased copra arrivals were reported from Pollachi and Pallukottai in Tamil Nadu and the Northern districts of Kerala, taking the prices down.

Coconut oil prices fell to Rs 6,500/quintal in Tamil Nadu from Rs 6,800/quintal last week, while in Kerala prices fell more gradually to Rs 6,900 from Rs 7,100 last week, Mr Prakash B. Rao, Director of the Cochin Oil Merchants Association (COMA), said.

With increased sales from Tamil Nadu, prices are expected to fall further. As arrivals in the Tamil Nadu market have increased, Kerala prices are also expected to come under pressure. This was also indicated in the intra-Kerala prices, where Thrissur prices quoted lower than those at Kochi.

The market was happy that the old demand-price equilibrium between Kerala and Tamil Nadu has been regained.

Earlier, the trend was that in Kerala, where the demand was more, prices were higher than Tamil Nadu where the production was higher than demand.

### COPRA SLIPS

With increased arrivals from Tamil Nadu and northern districts of Kerala, prices of copra

also dipped.

The NAFED is now offering copra at Rs 4,900/quintal, down from Rs 5,100/quintal last week.

However, market sources said that copra is now available at Rs 4,700 levels. The prices in Tamil Nadu were even lower at Rs 4,500/quintal.

The increase in demand during the forthcoming Dussera-Diwali festivals are not expected to boost the market and sources said that the weak trends are likely to continue.

In contrast, palm oil prices moved up to Rs 4,800 while palm kernel prices weakened to Rs 6,800/quintal.

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**Back Pepper futures move up on good buying support**

G. K. Nair

Kochi, Oct 12

Pepper futures market on Tuesday moved up as demand outweighed supply as exporters and domestic dealers started showing buying interest.

In fact, the bull group had become active, market sources told Business Line. There was no selling pressure as the investors, who were selling validity-expired stocks at Rs 2-2.5 a kg and farm grade pepper below Rs 3 and Rs 3.5 a kg, did not show any interest to sell even after the buyers were ready to buy at a lesser discount, they said.

More and more buying interest was seen from domestic and export segments. But sellers found it rather profitable to switch over to November and December as the difference between October price and November and December has widened, they said.

Therefore, switching over was huge today. Some quantity was also liquidated by the

investors.

This has pushed up the futures price, and that, in turn, aided the spot prices also move up.

## Prices

October contract on the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange went up by Rs 205 a quintal to close at Rs 18,380, while November and December increased by Rs 235 and Rs 254 to close at Rs 18,621 and Rs 18,857 a quintal. Total turnover moved up by 222 tonnes to 10,621 tonnes. Total open interest declined by 139 tonnes to 14,907 tonnes indicating liquidation.

October open interest fell by 872 tonnes, while that of November and December increased by 667 tonnes and 59 tonnes, respectively, to 5,230 tonnes and 1,113 tonnes showing huge switching over, they said. Spot prices moved up by Rs 100 on good demand to Rs 18,600 (MG1) and Rs 18,100 (un-garbled) a quintal.

The rise in the futures market price did not reflect on the Indian parity in the international market which dropped to \$4,350 a tonne because of weakening of the rupee against the dollar, they said.

Following decline in the Indian parity Brazil, which is reaching the harvesting season, and Indonesia have resorted to aggressive marketing by reducing their prices so as to keep the Indian parity much above them, they said, adding this might diminish the chances of demand coming to India from the overseas markets, and rather lower the chances even from the selected overseas pockets.

An overseas report from the US brokers said Indian parity has eased while other origins remained more or less unchanged. Prices quoted for black pepper of different origins a tonne in dollar, September/October shipments, c & f New York were : MG1asta – 4,425-4,525; Vietnam asta – 4,375-4,400 February/March; Lampong 500g/l – 4,000 (f.o.b); Lampong 550g/l – 4,050 (f.o.b); Lampong asta – 4,100-4,150 (f.o.b); Ecuador asta – quantity limited – 4,275-4,300; Sri Lanka 500g/l – 3,800-3,900 (f.o.b); Sri Lanka 550g/l – 3,900-4,000 (f.o.b); Brazil B2 500g/l – 3,950-4,000 (f.o.b); Brazil B1 560g/l – 4,000-4,050 (f.o.b); Brazil asta – 4,100-4,150 (f.o.b); Spot MLSV asta – 4,475-4,500 ex warehouse New



York/New Jersey.

White pepper prices quoted a tonne (c & f New York) in dollar were :Vietnam 6,350 : Muntok 6,025-6,100; Ecuador white pepper – 6,225-6,250 (limited quantity), and Brazil W1 – 6,250 (f.o.b).

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**Back Edible oil rules steady on lack of fresh demand**

Our Correspondent

Mumbai, Oct 12

Edible oil spot prices, after rising continuously for three consecutive days,, ruled steady on Tuesday at higher level on absence of fresh demand.

In line with sharp rise in foreign market on Monday, most edible oil rose by Re 1- Rs 5 in Mumbai. Palmolein and soya oil rose by Re 1, cotton oil by Rs 3, sunflower oil by Rs 5, rapeseed oil by Rs 3, and groundnut oil by Rs 5 for 10 kg.

But the rally couldn't sustain and prices declined on profit booking, increased speculative selling. Malaysia's high price volatility kept volumes very thin. Indore NBOT soya futures also showed profit booking selling at higher level.

Bursa Malaysia crude palm oil futures for November, December delivery closed lower by 28 and 25 ringgits (MYR) on speculative selling amid crude oil's slide, and concerns over palm output. Futures prices rose to a 27-month high on Monday. Malaysia's September crude palm oil output fell 2.7 per cent on month to 1.56 million tonnes, the Malaysian Palm Oil Board said on Monday.

A wholesaler said that in Mumbai spot market there was absolute zero volume of trade. With the decline in Malaysian market in the first session, importers/refineries reduced their quotation/rates for palmolein and soya oil but due to dull demand, the response was very poor. No direct trade took place, and very few trade may have taken place in resale of

palmolein in the range of Rs 472-473.

Speculators were sellers in the market. There was no demand for indigenous oils. Groundnut oil price was firm in producing State Gujarat on demand from southern States and the continued buying by exporters. Demand for Dusshera and Diwali is supporting the price. Gujarat is the biggest user of groundnut oil in India.

Malaysia's BMD and NBOT futures: Crude palm oil futures closed lower with November at MYR 2,901 (MYR 2,929) and December at MYR 2,900 (MYR 2,925).

Indore NBOT soya oil futures after sustaining rally initially ruled lower against Monday. October futures were at Rs 510.5 after reaching a high of Rs 512.3 and November futures were Rs 518.9 after reaching high of Rs 521.7 during the day.

Mumbai commodity exchange spot rate (Rs/10kg): Groundnut oil 865 (860), soyabean refined oil 493 (492), sunflower expeller refined 565 (560), sunflower refined 625 (630), rapeseed refined 575 (572), rapeseed expeller refined 545 (542), cotton refined 510 (507) and palmolein 474 (473).

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**Back Groundnut oil stable on sustained offtake**

Our Correspondent

Rajkot, Oct 12

Groundnut oil price ruled stable at Rs 1,495-1,500 for a 15-kg tin as demand was normal. New arrival of groundnut is also on the rise.

In Gujarat, groundnut oil price was Rs 1,495-1,500/15-litre tin and loose oil was Rs 875-880 for 10 kg. About 30,000-35,000 bags of groundnut arrive every day. Price of groundnut was Rs 650-700/20 kg.

At the annual general meeting of Saurashtra Oil Mills Association (SOMA), the President,

Mr Ukabhai Patel, said: "Groundnut oil price should be over Rs 1,500 and groundnut price should be more than Rs 700/20 kg."

Mr Samir Shah, Managing Director of Rajmoti Oil Industry, said: "Good price will encourage farmers to move back to the groundnut crop and it will up the production in the State. Our main problem is availability . "

Export of groundnut is not being allowed in the last couple of years. SOMA wants Government to remove this ban and for that a SOMA delegation will soon meet the concerned officials and Ministers at the Centre.

According to SOMA , this year's groundnut production will be 18-20 lakh tonnes (lt), up 6-7 It compared to last year. This year groundnut production is up so there is no need to continue the ban.

PTI reports : In the national capital, groundnut mill delivery oil (Gujarat) shot up by Rs 300 to Rs 8,600/quintal, while groundnut solvent refined traded higher by Rs 50 to Rs 1,450-1,460 a 15-kg tin.

In Mumbai, groundnut oil firmed up further at the oilseeds market due to sustained demand from retailers and traders on the back of ensuing festivities.

Groundnutoil gained by Rs 5 for 10 kg to Rs 865 from overnight closing level of Rs 860.

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**Back Downtrend in pulses continues**

Our Correspondent

Indore, Oct 12

Pulses continued to trade lower due to sluggish domestic demand. Added to this, trading interest in pulses further declined on Tuesday due to inclement weather. Chana dal edged lower by Rs 25 to Rs 2,775-2,875 a quintal on Tuesday with simultaneous decline in both

the futures and in the spot market where chana quoted Rs 10 lower at Rs 2,180 a quintal.

On the other hand, tur dal ruled steady at Rs 5,600-5,700 a quintal, while cheap quality quoted Rs 4,900-5,000. Urad dal recorded steep decline with its prices in the spot plunging Rs 200 lower at Rs 6,800-7,400 a quintal.

Decline in urad dal was mainly attributed to increased arrival of urad (about 4,000 bags in the local mandi) and low buying interest because of lack of arrival of good quality of urad.

Moong dal remained steady at Rs 5,600-5,700 a quintal. Similarly, masoor dal quoted Rs 50 lower with its prices in the spot quoted Rs 3,850-4,100 a quintal.

According to traders, downtrend in both pulse seeds will continue for sometime as stockists have already built up their inventories for Navratri.

Among the pulses, chana declined by Rs 10 at Rs 2,180 a quintal, masoor, tur and urad remained steady at Rs 3,400, Rs 3,800 and Rs 4,300 a quintal respectively.

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**Back Tepid demand grounds turmeric**

Our Correspondent

Erode, Oct. 12

The decline in turmeric prices continues. On Tuesday, prices in the regulated market showed some improvement, but decreased by Rs 150-200 a quintal in other markets. Arrivals have also dropped.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants' Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 9,096-13,995, the root variety was sold at Rs 9,069-13,879 a quintal.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 12,691-14,296, the root variety at Rs 12,331-14,169 a quintal. At the Erode

Cooperative Marketing society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 13,639-14,104 a quintal, the root variety at Rs 13,250-14,049 . In the Regulated Market, finger variety was sold at Rs 13,900-14,169 a quintal — Rs 234 higher than Monday's price. The root variety was sold at Rs 13,900-14,115 a quintal — Rs 180 higher than Monday's price.

“The price will fluctuate by around Rs 300 a quintal till November 15. After that , there will be a big fall in prices, ranging from Rs 1,000-1,500,” according to Mr R.K. Viswanathan, a trader in Erode. After November 15, traders across the country will discontinue bulk purchases. Farmers and sellers will not hold on to their stocks and the market will witness heavy arrivals, he said.

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**Back Call for sharing biodiversity database**

Our Bureau

Kozhikode, Oct 12

Experts attending a national consultative meet on bioinformatics in horticulture at the Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) have called for evolving a data sharing policy by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the area of biodiversity.

The suggestion came up during a technical session on biodiversity informatics, held as part of the 'Hortinformatics 2010', organised by IISR, on Tuesday. They said that there was a huge database on biodiversity available in various institutes and the policy should facilitate the exchange of the information.

The panel of experts stressed on the need for maintaining a single biodiversity base at the national level on the lines of GRIN Global and EOL (Encyclopaedia of Life).

2-day meet

The two-day meet, which commenced on Monday, had four interactive sessions during which the speakers highlighted the importance of biodiversity database, DNA bar-coding,

biodiversity informatics of plant associated bacteria and insect genomics.

#### Dna-barcoding

A presentation on 'DNA bar-coding – problems, progress and prospects' threw light on the major problems pertaining to the barcode of plants. The session recommended a tiered approach for DNA bar-coding of plants and insects.

A session on cheminformatics emphasised the need for moving from model organism and extend the research on bioinformatics to improve crops such as brinjal and okra. The experts also suggested convergence of bioinformatics and plant breeding for further refinement of horticultural crops.

Earlier inaugurating the meet, Dr H.P. Singh, Deputy Director-General of Horticulture, IACR, said that in agriculture, the outcome of biotechnology and bioinformatics research should reach the resource-poor farmers.

He said that understanding the potential benefits of research in bioinformatics, ICAR was developing a strong expertise and building capacity to take up bioinformatics research to tackle the problems facing crops, fishes and animals.

ICAR had already launched a national agricultural bioinformatics grid as a national facility for the scientists.

According to him, utilisation of bioinformatics tools and initiation in genomics had made better understanding of pathogenic organisms such as phytoplasms, viruses and bacteria associated with diseases in many crops.

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**Back Virus attack on soyabean in MP 'not huge'**

Mumbai, Oct 12

Yellow mosaic virus, which stunts plant growth, has hit the soyabean crop in Madhya

Pradesh, but is unlikely to lead to any significant crop loss as just over 1 per cent of the area has been affected, Soyabean Processors Association of India said on Tuesday.

Madhya Pradesh is the top producer of soyabean in the country, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

“So far, it seems only 60,000-65,000 ha areas were affected out of 5.5 million hectares in Madhya Pradesh. This is not huge,” said Mr Rajesh Agrawal, spokesperson for SOPA said. An expert team, which is visiting the affected areas, will submit its report in a couple of days, he said.

The virus attack occurred due to dry weather during the final leg of crop growth, he added. “The rains were sufficient during the plant growth and flowering. But when the seed started developing, rains stopped and affected the pod growth,” Mr Agrawal explained. The stress in pod filling stage could affect yield, he said. “In some districts, the yield may be affected by as high as 40 per cent. But change in average yield across the state would not be much.”

The affected districts were Bhopal, Sehore, and some places adjacent to Indore, the official said. — © NewsWire18 Pvt. Ltd. 2010

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**Back AP to introduce harvesters for groundnut**

Our Bureau

Hyderabad, Oct. 12

Andhra Pradesh will introduce mechanical harvesters to help resource-starved groundnut farmers. Mostly focussed in Anantapur district, farmers grow groundnut in 23 lakh acres.

“A Kolkata-based manufacturer has introduced a harvester for Rs 1.80 lakh. But farmers cannot afford to buy the machines at this price. We have asked the university (Acharya N.G. Ranga Agriculture University) to develop an affordable price of Rs 70,000. We will

subsidise the machines when they are ready,” Mr N. Raghuveera Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, said.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, he said the district, second only to Jaisalmer (Rajasthan) in terms of poor rainfall, had suffered drought in 74 years in the last 120 years.

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