

THE HINDU

Pilot scheme to ensure stable income for farmers

To be implemented in Villupuram district at a cost of Rs. 15 crore

A pilot scheme to ensure a stable income for farmers in the long run is to be implemented in Villupuram district at a cost of Rs 15 crore.

Agriculture Minister S. Damodaran told the Assembly on Friday that the plan envisaged integration of schemes of various departments and financial institutions for implementation in the farms of farmers for three years to make the district a model in integrated farming scheme.

Tamil Nadu stood first in the country in food production in 2012 with a total foodgrain yield of 101.52 lakh tonnes, he said while revealing the steps taken to double the yield and triple farmers' income. Soil maps would be prepared using Global Positioning System technology for all areas at a cost of Rs. 6 crore to prevent crop loss and soil decay. The map, the Minister was confident, would help in protecting soil wealth and minimise production cost. Another step to protect soil would be the formation of land cover using shredded cane heads in sugarcane fields. It would prevent burning of cane heads on the field and help in retention of soil moisture. A sum of Rs. 1 crore would be provided for 12,500 acres, at the rate of Rs. 800 per acre, for the purpose.

SMS and voice mail

The Department of Agriculture would soon introduce a system to advise farmers on agricultural practices for a particular season based on weather predictions, and provide marketing through short messaging service and voice mail. Machinery to refine small millets would be procured at a cost of Rs. 5.25 crore for farmers' groups. A centre to undertake higher research in small millets would be started at a cost of Rs. 1 crore at the Government Seed Farm in Athiyendal of Thiruvannamalai district. Infrastructure in rural markets would be improved at a cost of Rs. 10.2 crore.

Food Processing Incubation Centres would come up at Srirangam and Pollachi at a cost of Rs 2.2 crore for horticultural produce. Besides providing storage facility, the centres would train farmers and entrepreneurs in food processing. In order to protect onion farmers against price fluctuation, storage centres would be opened in 12 districts. Mr. Damodaran said Rs. 15 crore would be allocated for production of quality certified seeds and saplings in horticultural farms. Do-it-yourself kits would be provided to the public in Chennai and Coimbatore to raise kitchen gardens.

Earlier, participating in the debate, DMDK member R. Santhi called for the waiver of all crop loans in view of the prevailing drought condition. The DMK member, I. Periasamy, pleaded for direct procurement of coconut to ensure fair price for farmers. While calling for the rejection of decontrol of sugar industry, the CPI (M) member, R. Ramamurthy, wanted the government to enhance the support price for sugarcane to Rs 3, 500. K. Krishnasamy of Puthiya Tamilagam appealed to the government to provide the same quantum of compensation of crop loss to farmers of southern districts as in the case of the delta region.

State's first farmer- producers company opens shop in Karur

The State's first farmer producers company sponsored by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956, came into being at Nachalur village in Karur district on Thursday.

The company has paved the way for farmers turning traders to market their products at a remunerative price. The Nachalur Farmers Producers Company Limited, with a paid up capital of Rs. 9.90 lakh and 120 equity shareholders, aimed to get remunerative price for the farmers even as it strove to provide consumers better quality products at affordable cost. Karur Collector S. Jayandhi handed over the NABARD's sanction letter of Rs. 23 lakh credit to the company for establishing a seed processing unit.

The unit plans to supply quality seeds to farmers to undertake System of Rice Intensification method of paddy cultivation. Ms. Jayandhi, who formally inaugurated the company, said that farmers joining hands to overcome difficult situation was a welcome development that could be replicated all over the State.

With a sense of ownership, the farmers could concentrate on improving their economic condition in a more diverse manner than just raw agriculture.

The State government was always ready to help the farmers improve their revenue generation processes. Ms. Jayandhi said their transformation from being a farmer to a trader would definitely bestow numerous benefits on them.

The Rs.23-lakh credit would include a grant-in-aid component for purchasing office automation equipment. The company has already bagged the dealership for Nagarjuna Fertilizers and was all set to distribute fertilizers and pesticides to farmers in the region, according to Managing Director G. Karikalan, who himself is a farmer.

Many farmers yet to get annewari certificate

A section of farmers raising horticulture crops in the district are a concerned lot as the revenue officials have not given them the 'annewari certificate' that gives the position of crops this year vis-à-vis last season, despite the district been declared 'drought hit.' The certificate is one of the requisites if the farmers have to seek restructuring of crop loans obtained.

C. Ponnusamy, horticulture farmer and former president of Mangalam Water Users Association, told *The Hindu* that a large number of farmers who raised turmeric and banana suffered huge losses due to the dry spells this year. "But their cases are yet to be considered for restructuring of the short-term crop loans obtained by them from Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies because of the non-issuance of the annewari certificate," he said. With the farmers in financial trouble and repayment period of the loans due to end soon for many of them, their only hope lies in getting the short-term crop loans restructured into long term loans so that the credit already been taken would not be considered as non-performing assets. "Restructuring of loans will not only give us a breather in repaying the credit back but also enable us to get fresh loans for raising the next set of crops," the farmers said. Mr. Ponnusamy said the plight of the horticulture farmers who were yet to receive the annewari certificate, had been taken to the notice of the Collector and the District Revenue Officer and the officials had assured to look into the matter.

District gets ready to celebrate festival for farmers

The district administration has planned to conduct "Uzhavar Peruvizha" (a mega festival for farmers) at 505 villages for 30 days from April 14 to May 20 (excluding government holidays) in the forenoon.

Speaking at a preparatory meeting held here on Thursday, Collector T. N. Hariharan said that many departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Public Works, lead bank, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Primary Agriculture Cooperative Bank, cooperative dairy farmers, private and government sugar mill operators would participate in the event.

The Collector appealed to the officials in various departments, institutions and societies to hold exhibitions showcasing new implements, methods for eradication of rodents and steps to set up integrated farm.

Besides, they should enlighten farmers about the latest developments in farming, share the experience of progressive farmers and those who have won prizes for exceptional yield or cultivation.

All other requirements of farmers should be met and assistance should be extended under various subsidy to those farmers who are attending the programme, the Collector said. Joint Director (agriculture) K. Subbaiah and Regional Joint Registrar of Cooperative Societies Gurumurthy, among others, attended the meeting.

Farm crisis not a poll issue



Political parties are using the problems of farmers in Malnad only to blame one another, while none is making any promise to solve them.

Farm crisis in Malnad not a poll issue for any party

No political party is making credible promises to address the issues of farmers in the region



Ask any farmer in the hilly regions (Malnad) of Karnataka what worries him most now, and he will talk about fluctuations in prices of agricultural produce, dip in rainfall and various diseases affecting crops.

However, political parties in their electioneering are using the problems of farmers to blame one another, while none are making any credible promises to solve problems.

The districts of Shimoga, Chikmagalur, Kodagu and parts of Hassan form the Malnad region of the State. Coffee, paddy and areca are the main crops here. Hassan, Chikmagalur and Kodagu districts cover 66 per cent of the coffee cultivation area of the country. Areca is a major crop in Shimoga and Chikmagalur, where rice is also grown.

In the last few years, while areca plantations have been affected by a range of diseases, coffee growers are facing severe shortage of labourers and face constant fluctuation in prices. On the other hand, share of paddy that was 78 per cent of the total cultivable area in Shimoga district in 1995-96 has come down to 60 per cent in 2011-12.

During the byelection to Chikmagalur-Udupi Lok Sabha constituency, the Congress sought votes by focussing on relief provided by the Centre for coffee growers and assured a package for areca growers. As the Centre has not announced a package for areca farmers, the BJP is now using the issue to criticise the Congress.

At the campaign for Assembly election at Koppa, all BJP leaders talked about the plight of areca growers and assured them relief if returned to power. However, their main focus during the subsequent campaign was projecting Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi as the party's Prime Ministerial candidate.

The Janata Dal (Secular), which won five of seven Assembly constituencies in Hassan in 2008, has been making attempts to seek votes by blaming both the national parties for "injustice" to the State on the Cauvery issue, but problems of farmers from this region — such as elephant menace faced by farmers in Alur and Sakaleshpur taluks — have hardly figured on their agenda.

In Shimoga district also, politicians have maintained silence over the plight of areca, paddy growers and the problems faced by bagair hukum farmers. This is ironic, considering that satyagraha staged by landless farmers in Kagodu, a small village in Sagar taluk in the year 1951, was historic and many elections subsequently were fought on the issue of land reforms. This issue figured in the campaigns of S. Bangarappa and J.H. Patel, who went on to become chief ministers. Charismatic socialist leaders like Shantaveri Gopala Gowda, Konandur Lingappa were discussing in detail on the importance of land distribution.

However, even as agricultural crisis is palpable all over Malnad, this crisis is all but a peripheral issue in the elections. Of the 82,936 applications submitted by bagair hukum farmers for land ownership, more than 90 per cent of them were rejected by officials on technical grounds, but this is not on the agenda of any party.

In Shimoga, all the focus is on the dynamics of the battle between the former Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa who heads Karnataka Janata Paksha and Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa in their election campaigning.

Weather Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 79

Wind: normal

Saturday, Apr 6

Max 34° | Min 28°

Sunrise: 06:02

Sunset: 06:20

Barometer: 1007

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Sunday, Apr 7

Max 34° | Min 26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday Apr 8	Tuesday Apr 9	Wednesday Apr 10	Thursday Apr 11	Friday Apr 12
34° 27° Partly Cloudy	33° 26° Overcast	32° 26° Overcast	31° 26° Overcast	31° 26° Overcast

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Nabard lent Rs 2842 cr to Bihar during 2012-13

PATNA: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) set a new record by extending financial support of Rs 2,842 crore in 2012-13 to Bihar, an increase of 65% over the previous year.

Addressing mediapersons on Friday, Nabard's chief general manager (CGM) D V Deshpande said, "Nabard has been a major contributor in development of rural infrastructure in [Bihar](#) and sanctioned new projects worth Rs 1,490 crore in different sectors such as roads, bridges, irrigation etc in 2012-13." He added that [Nabard](#) has provided Rs 480 crore for the construction of bridges as part of the Indo-Nepal border road project.

Another major achievement of Nabard has been computerization of almost 95% of cooperative banks in the state and linking them through core banking system. "The remaining co-operative banks will be linked by the end of April. It will help in maintaining transparency in banking transactions," he said.

Nabard has also helped in the formation of nearly 1,400 new farmers club in the last financial year, which educate farmers to take up developmental activities through credit. It has also promoted the

formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLBs). "We have been supporting village development plan to promote [convergence](#) of various development activities by the government. In 2012-13, we gave Rs 16.2 lakh for the development of nine villages," said Deshpande.

It provided Rs 1,598 crore to regional rural banks and cooperative banks in the state to meet the credit requirement of farmers. "Nabard also administers Interest Subvention Scheme of the Union and state governments, so that the farmers paying their loans regularly get further loan at an interest rate of 3% only," he added.

The CGM said that so far, Nabard had sanctioned cumulative amount of Rs 6,906 crore to the state government for implementing 11,730 odd projects.

DECCAN Chronicle

Traders seek mango storage facility



Chennai: Mango traders in Chennai demand a storage facility to ripen mangoes during the summer season. Stating that the Koyambedu market has huge open space, which could be utilised for opening the storage facility, wholesale trader R. Manivanan explains, "Every year food safety officials inspect our shops to check for artificial ripening of mangoes. Some traders use chemicals to ripen mangoes. But during the inspection many loads of mangoes are taken away."

Further, he points out that the customers feel insecure to buy the fruits.

“Instead of conducting only inspections, if they could provide us a good storage facility to keep the mangoes and allow them to ripen similar to bananas, it would help us in a big way,” he said

Another trader said that shopkeepers at Koyambedu would love to use the storage facility for a minimal fee and customers would also feel safe about consumption.

“Ripening of bananas is never a problem because scientific methods are adopted. In case of mangoes, we are forced to store the fruits out in the open and wait for ripening,” he said to stress on the need for the facility.

With the summer heat on, city folks look upon mango as one sure way to beat the climate blues and retailers started to trade this yellow fruit in volumes much to the relief of mango lovers who are game to taste all these varieties.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

310 lakes, 63 dams in State to be renovated, says Jaya



Recalling that the IAMWARM Scheme was being implemented since 2005 with financial assistance from the World Bank, the CM said, the corrected estimate of the scheme was Rs 2,816 crore. | EPS/File

Chief Minister J Jayalalitha on Thursday told the State Assembly that accepting the State government's request, the World Bank has given its nod to extend the duration of the Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water-Bodies Restoration and Management (IAMWARM) project till September 2014, as a few more irrigation systems have to be renovated under the scheme.

Following this, 310 lakes, 63 reservoirs and water canals would be renovated and upgraded at a cost of Rs 258.73 crore, she said. To complete these works, the IAMWARM project has been extended from April 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014, she added.

Recalling that the IAMWARM Scheme was being implemented since 2005 with financial assistance from the World Bank, the CM said, the corrected estimate of the scheme was Rs 2,816 crore.

Under the scheme, steps were taken to renovate 4,910 lakes, 662 reservoirs and canals to the extent of 8,071 km. Most of the works have already been completely and the remaining works are on the verge of completion," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister also said, with a view to tap the surplus water in Maruthaiyar river during the north-east monsoon season, a reservoir would be constructed at a cost of ` 108 crore across the river near Kottarai village in Perambalur district.

Around 4,194 acres of land in the villages of Kottarai, Athanur, Bujangarayanallur, Nochikulam, Thondapadi, Azhagiripalayam, Koodalur and Sathanur would benefit from this scheme, she said.

Business Standard^{beta}

Loss by Maharashtra coop sugar mills factories to fall Rs 960 cr

Govt on Thursday partially deregulated the levy mechanism on sugar



Maharashtra cooperative sugar mills have received a partial benefit due to partial decontrol. The loss on account of mismatch between the market price and the price at which levy sugar was sold will fall by Rs 960 crore during the current crushing season. Factories will earn at least Rs 115 to 120 per quintal following the relaxation of 10% levy obligation.

In all 170 sugar factories comprising 108 cooperative and 62 private mills are participating in the present season and are expected to produce 8 million ton of sugar.

Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil, chairman, Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories in Maharashtra, a representative body of over 170 units, told Business Standard "Against ex-mill price of Rs 2,800 to 2,900 per quintal, factories had to sell 10% levy sugar at the government determined price of Rs 1,850 per quintal. The loss incurred by them was Rs 1,100 to Rs 1,200 per quintal. But with the removal of 10% levy obligation, the loss will now come down by Rs 960 crore from the total estimated loss of Rs 3,300 crore," he informed.

Mohite-Patil said factories will now able to use Rs 960 crore earned by them to pay cane growers. "Definitely, cash flow of factories will increase as they will be able to take a call on sale of sugar as per the market conditions," he noted.

Moreover, Mohite-Patil called upon the Centre to keep consistency in the decontrol regime despite surge in sugar price.

Market pulse for agro commodities : Mangal Keshav

Total arrivals of mustard seed crop stood increased to more than 6lakh bags across major trading center while spot rates were up & quoted between '34.5-'36.5 per kg based on quality & location,



Arrivals of chilli crop declined to about 0.7- 0.8lakh bags while off-take remains steady due to demand from local buyers & exporters at auctions held at Guntur market. Spot rates were unchanged & quoted at '55-'60 per kg.

Arrivals of jeera crop increased to 38,000-40,000 bags while trades were declined to about 35,000 bags at auctions held at Unjha market. Spot rates were steady & quoted at '128-'130 per kg, as per local traders.

Spot rates of pepper garbled increased '363 per kg and that of un-garbled was up at '348 per kg while arrivals increased to 35 tons & trades too were up at 33 tons at auctions held at Kochi market, as per IPSTA.

Arrivals of turmeric crop increased to 20,000 bags at while trades were eased slightly to about 15,000 bags at auctions held at Nizamabad market. Spot rates were down quoted at '55-'58 per kg, as per local traders. Erode market for turmeric will remain close till April 8.

Average price of small cardamom increased to '663.9 per kg while maximum price offered was down at '931 per kg, as per spice board. Total inflow of small cardamom crop increased to 61.1 tons from which ~60.9 tons were sold at auction held at Nedumkandam.

Arrivals of Soya bean crop stood steady ~70,000- 75,000 bags across MP market & 1,500-2,000 bags at mandis of Indore while supply at mandis of Rajasthan were unchanged ~15,000 bags & at mandis of Maharashtra ~20,000-22,000 bags, as per local traders.

Spot rates of soya bean crop offered by planters were up above '39 per kg while rates across mandis of Indore increased to '37-'38 per kg, as per local traders. Inflow of mustard seed crop increased to 169,286 quintals, while average of closing spot rates were down at '3,039.4 per quintal, as per agriculture marketing board of Rajasthan.

Total arrivals of mustard seed crop stood increased to more than 6lakh bags across major trading center while spot rates were up & quoted between '34.5-'36.5 per kg based on quality & location, as per market reports.

Chana futures traded positively on the exchange counter while spot rates too were up at '34-'34.5 per kg, supported by higher demand for the new crop at major mandis. Spot rates of mentha oil were down by another '30-'40 per kg to around '1,120-'1,125 per kg while futures declined after initial short-covering.

Absence of buyers & steady supply has been weighing on prices, which have fallen below their mid-July 2011 levels.

THE HINDU Business Line

Higher arrivals



Prices may slide: Arrival of the premium variety Alphonso mangoes has picked up in Delhi markets. Alphonsoes are currently priced at Rs 600 a dozen and with a glut in the crop in the main growing region of Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, traders expect the prices to come down further in the days to come. — Kamal Narang

Ginger prices rise to record on short supply

Kochi, April 5: Ginger prices soared on short-supply even as demand for raw ginger continued to remain strong.

Raw ginger prices touched Rs 3,800 for 60-kg bag, a record, against Rs 3,600 a bag in 2011, P.V. Eliyas, a ginger grower and trader in Kerala's Wayanad district told *Business Line*.

Due to unremunerative prices last year on over production, growers gave up cultivation this year and consequently, the total output is only one-third of the demand.

“Around 1,500 – 2,000 tonnes of raw ginger are usually moved out on a daily basis to various markets in South and West from Karnataka and Kerala. Currently, we are only able to send only one-third of it for want of material,” he said.

Eliyas said that if last year one lakh acres were planted with ginger, in the current season the acreage is only 25,000 acres.

Many farmers gave up cultivation in the absence of remunerative prices, on the one hand, and high investment, on the other. According to him, for cultivating ginger in one acre an investment of around Rs 3.5 lakh is needed. All inputs cost have increased significantly. The yield per acre on an average works out to 300 bags of 60 kg, i.e., 18 tonnes, he said.

Dry ginger

High raw ginger prices have made dry ginger conversion uneconomical, dealers here said. The recovery rate of dry ginger when raw ginger is dried is 30-35 per cent. Currently, dry ginger prices are in the range of Rs 130-140 a kg. Raw ginger price, on the other hand, ranges between Rs 63 and Rs 65 a kg and at this range the cost of one kg of dry ginger would be between Rs 189 and Rs 195 a kg, they said.

Growers, therefore, are not making dry ginger. Similarly, primary market dealers are also not venturing into making it.

New crop of dry ginger used to arrive in quantum from March onwards for a short period till May and that has not happened so far this year.

Indian prices and parity were lowest among all major producing nations, China and Nigeria.

Speculation is that there could be further upward movement in prices as conversion cost of raw ginger to dry ginger is still not remunerative enough for the processors to begin peeling.

Cochin ginger

Kochi-based ginger traders said that uneconomical prices have led to gradual disappearance of cultivation of the well-known high quality “Cochin Ginger” popular in the international spice markets.

Cochin ginger is considered as one of the best in the world market because of “its characteristic lemon like flavour” and the absence of fibre content, export sources said. It is usually traded at a premium, as this unique variety has low fibre content, special aroma, and pungency.

North-West may witness rain, stormy weather

Thiruvananthapuram, April 5: The western disturbance that crosses the international border and rolls into North-West India, is forecast to suddenly acquire depth and intensity and trigger some weather in the region.

Earlier in February, a series of such monsters had made back-on-back appearances and sprayed snow, ice and rain in the hills and plains at times accompanied by hailstorm.

While crossing the border, the sheer depth and intensity caused them to sweep through even peninsular India, and in a rare feat, generated hailstorms in central parts and adjoining peninsular India.

RAIN GENERATOR

These systems were largely instrumental in bringing rain into most of North-West, Central and East India. A couple of them had interacted with weather system in the South to drop rain there also.

In the instant case, the deep and intense (active) western disturbance is forecast to enter North-West India early next week.

The system could feature a likely low pressure area embedded into it, which signals the strength and intensity of the western disturbance.

LOW PRESSURE

The 'low' is shown as sitting smack on the Southwest Rajasthan border on Tuesday, and will weaken immediately as it encounters the desert region.

But associated weather would likely have been triggered in the form of high winds, thunderstorms and rain across the plains as it moves north-northeast.

This is because maximum temperatures are forecast to rise by 2-3 deg Celsius over the plains of North-West and adjoining East and Central India.

Cooler winds blowing across the border into the plains would thus trigger a lot of churn in the atmosphere and therefore associated weather.

THUNDER SQUALLS

Meanwhile on Friday, troughs with likely implicit weather ran down from Vidarbha to south Tamil Nadu across interior Andhra Pradesh and from west Assam to north Bay of Bengal.

The latter seems to be the more volatile, with thunder squall being forecast over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura during next two days.

The India Meteorological Department has forecast rain or thundershowers for south Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep.

Cotton may fall to Rs 38,500 a candy



Rajkot, April 5: Cotton prices declined as demand from the mills and exporters dropped marginally on Friday.

According to market sources, weak foreign market also supported the downtrend in domestic market.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton traded down by Rs 100-200 at Rs 39,100-39,200 for a candy of 356 kg.

The Kalyan variety cotton quoted at Rs 30,000-30,500.

Cotton ready delivery quoted at Rs 4,080-4,185 for a quintal in Punjab; Rs 4,070-4,085 in Haryana and Rs 4,070-4,080 in Rajasthan.

arrivals

About 27,000-28,000 bales of cotton arrived in Gujarat and around 80,000 bales cotton arrived across the country.

Kapas traded weak by Rs 10-15 for a *maund* of 20 kg in Rajkot APMC. It was quoted Rs 880-1,004.

Surendranagar kapas futures declined and closed at Rs 923 for 20 kg.

A Rajkot-based cotton broker said that currently, export demand lower than normal and mills are also slow in buying putting further pressure on the market.

It may decline further in next week also.

outlook

Cotton price may decline to Rs 38,500-38,700 for a candy in the next 8-10 days.

Weak global market also one of the reasons for downfall in cotton, said the broker.

US impact

Cotton futures slid on Thursday after US jobless claims rose for a third consecutive week, trumping an increase in US exports of the fibre.

Cotton for delivery in May on ICE Futures US was down 0.8 per cent at 88.47 cents a lb.

Wheat likely to fall as harvest nears



Karnal, April 5: Reduced off-take coupled with easy availability of stocks pulled down wheat and flour prices down by Rs 10-20 a quintal on Friday.

Radhey Shyam, a commodity expert, told *Business Line* that absence of bulk buying mainly dragged wheat and flour down.

Following fear of a drop in prices with harvest near-by, demand at present in the local market is quite low and only need-based buying is taking place in the market, he said. Traders expect that wheat prices may fall further by Rs 40-50 next week.

In the physical market, dara wheat prices eased by Rs 20 and quoted at Rs 1,500-1,505. Around 100 quintals of dara variety arrived from Uttar Pradesh and the stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,500, while delivery at the chakki was Rs 1,505. Desi wheat was quoted at Rs 2,700.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, wheat futures showed a bearish trend. Wheat for April contracts decreased by Rs 15 and traded at 1,403 with an open interest of 2,860 lots. It had touched a high at Rs 1,416 earlier in the day.

May contracts went down by Re 1 to Rs 1,396. Wheat spot prices on the exchange went down by Rs 5 and traded at Rs 1,480.

Flour Prices

Following a downtrend in wheat, flour too went down by Rs 10 and quoted at Rs 1,725. Chokar witnessed the major fall, dropped by Rs 50 and sold at Rs 1,270.

Manual harvesting has started in some parts and wheat arrivals are likely to start within a week.

According to the reports, the Government may lower the floor price for wheat sales to private traders for exports from state warehouses to Rs 13,500 a tonne from Rs 14,800, plus taxes.

Masoor firms up on weak crop prospects



Indore, April 5: Masoor ruled firm on decline in buying support at the higher rate. On Friday, masoor (bold) ruled at Rs 4,250 a quintal, while masoor (medium) ruled at Rs 3,700-3,800. For the past 2-3 weeks, masoor has been witnessing an uptrend on higher demand and weak arrival. Besides weak domestic crop prospects, depreciation of rupee against dollar has made masoor imports costlier, leading to rise in its prices in the physical market. Imported masoor on Mumbai port is currently at Rs 4,100.

Contrary to firmness in masoor prices, masoor dal declined on slack demand.

On Friday, masoor dal (average) declined to Rs 4,650-75 (Rs 4,700-4,725); masoor dal (medium) ruled at Rs 4,750-75; masoor dal (bold) declined to Rs 4,325-50 (Rs 4,825-50).

However, compared with a fortnight ago, masoor dal is ruling Rs 450 a quintal higher.

Uptrend also continued in moong and its dal on higher demand and weak arrivals. Moong (bold) ruled at Rs 5,800-6,100; moong (medium) Rs 5,200-5,400.

With rise in buying support to moong in the spot, moong dal in the physical market has also gained Rs 200 a quintal in the past two weeks.

Moong dal (medium) ruled at Rs 6,400-6,500; moong dal (bold) Rs 7,100-7,200, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,300-7,600.

Buying support has also lifted urad with urad (bold) ruling at Rs 3,500-3,600, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,000-3,200.
