

Ugadi awards for farmers on April 15

The Agriculture Department will present Ugadi awards to farmers who got good yields through innovative and sustainable methods, in a function to be held here on April 15. Agriculture Minister Kanna Lakshminarayana will participate as the chief guest. - Staff Reporter

Nafed plans to supply farm inputs through societies

National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation (Nafed) director P. Suryanarayana Raju has said that plans are afoot to supply fertilizers and seed to farmers through cooperative societies and Markfed for the kharif-2013.

At a press conference here on Monday, Mr. Raju said that he convened a meeting of Assistant Directors (agriculture), District Manager (Markfed), DCMS Chairperson and others at the ZP Conference Hall on April 13 to finalise modalities for supply of seed and fertilizers to farmers. The societies would identify farmers under their jurisdiction for receiving the inputs. Mr. Raju said that he would ask members of Parliament in this region to use their good offices for setting up Nafed regional office in Visakhapatnam city.

Kin of deceased farmers awaiting compensation, says Human Rights Forum

Ex gratia not extended to families even a year after the farmers committed suicide

Human Rights Forum expressed dismay over the government's failure to extend compensation to the families of farmers who committed suicide a year ago in Mahabubnagar district.

A six-member HRF team, which visited villages in Bijinapally and Jadcherla mandals in Mahabubnagar district on Saturday, said that while 14 farmers committed suicide in just Bijinapally mandal, not even one single family had so far been compensated under GO 421.

Highlighting what it called 'the sorry state of affairs', HRF general secretary V. S. Krishna and Mahabubnagar district convenor Madhu Kagula said in a release here that out of 108 farmers' suicides reported in the district last year, just one family, that of D. Anandam in Jangamaipally in Ghanpur mandal in August 2012, had been paid compensation.

Under GO 421, the government extended ex gratia of Rs.1 lakh besides loan settlement up to Rs. 50,000 as one-time settlement to creditors to help the poverty stricken families come out of distress.

The team, which met families of seven farmers who committed suicide in two mandals, said they were small and marginal farmers who had accumulated debts of not less than Rs. 2 lakh each due to successive failure of crops, particularly cotton.

Tribal farmers lay siege to mandal revenue office

Tribal farmers lay siege to the mandal revenue office at Karepalli on Monday demanding sanction of pattas under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Tribal farmers from Cheemalapadu, Relakayalapalli and other tribal habitations from across the mandal staged a dharna under the aegis of A.P. Rythu Sangham mandal unit in front of the mandal revenue office for several hours till late in the afternoon.

Long-pending claim

Addressing the protesters, the Rythu Sangham leaders alleged that the officials concerned had failed to settle the long-pending claims of the tribal farmers to grant the right over the lands as per the provisions of the RoFR Act. They lamented that a large number of tribal farmers of the mandal were deprived of land pattas owing to “official apathy”.

Local leader of the Rythu Sangham M. Satyanarayana, several former sarpanches and vice-sarpanches from various villages spoke.

The protesters called off their agitation after officials assured them that their demand would be immediately brought to the notice of the higher officials and suitable action would be taken.

Enhancing crop intensity a challenge for scientists

The crop intensity in Chittoor, Kadapa and Nellore districts is a mere 1.16, much below the State average of 1.3, which is a grave indicator that all is not well with the southern zone vis-à-vis agriculture.

Farm scientists and agricultural officials huddled in at the Southern Zonal Research and Extension Advisory Council (ZREAC) meet here on Monday and admitted that the foremost challenge before them is to up the crop intensity to 1.5.

The number also means that a mere 16 per cent of the cropping area in the three districts is fortunate to get a second crop, making a mockery of the calls to make farming sustainable and profitable.

Though attributing the unimpressive figure to the irrigation sources, soil and climatic conditions, ANGRAU Dean of Agricultural Engineering T.V. Sathyanarayana, however, made no bones of his disenchantment and called for urgent action. He also admitted that mechanisation did not get patronage as it should have over the years.

Observing that the 'Mechanised SRI' system had been embraced by right-thinking farmers, he suggested that power tillers and paddy transplanters be made smaller in size for better manoeuvring to suit the small farm holdings typical of India.

Dr. Sathyanarayana called the southern zone 'a blend of rain-fed, irrigated and dry land areas' which posed a great challenge for scientists to prove their mettle.

Court seeks government stand on plea on anti-cattle slaughter Bill

The Karnataka High Court on Monday asked the Advocate-General to get instruction from the government with regard to a public interest litigation petition that has questioned the delay by the Governor in granting assent to the Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Cattle Preservation (Amendment) Bill, 2012.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice D.H. Waghela and Justice B.V. Nagarathna issued the direction to the Advocate-

General while hearing the petition filed by Sampathraj Bagrecha and others.

Nod without delay

The petitioners have sought a declaration from the court that assent to a legislation duly passed by the legislature has to be granted without delay and the President or the Governor have no discretion in the matter, and this is not a function or power to be exercised in their discretion.

Questioning the action of the Governor in referring the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill, 2010 to the President for his consideration, the petitioner pointed out that there was no justification on part of the Governor to delay or deny assent to the Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Cattle Preservation (Amendment) Bill, 2012, which was enacted by the State legislature by incorporating the suggestions from the Union government.

“The President/Governor cannot act without or contrary to the advice of the Ministers. He exercises his powers/functions only upon and in accordance with such advice. That is true with regard to assent to Bills. Even to reserving a Bill for the consideration of the President, the Governor has to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers except where the Constitution itself requires and mandates reservation. Granting assent is a constitutional duty. Unfortunately over the years, a myth has been created and the duty has been converted into perceived discretion,” the petitioner said.

Cable TV

The High Court on Monday extended till April 9 its interim order staying the March 31 deadline to switch over to the digital signal through set-top boxes from the present analogue signals for cable television in Bangalore and Mysore cities.

The hearing on the petitions filed by the cable operators' associations remained inconclusive on Monday.

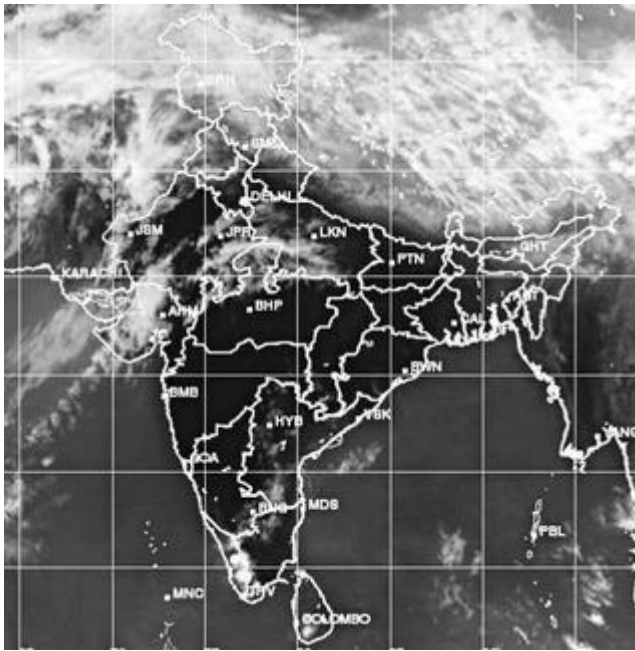
KPSC selection

The High Court on Monday ordered issue of notices to the Election Commission of India (ECI), the State government and the Karnataka Public Service Commission on a petition questioning putting off of interviews scheduled for selection for the post of KAS gazetted probationers in view of the election code of conduct.

Justice D.V. Shylendra Kumar passed the order on a petition filed by Amit J. of Bangalore questioning the directive given by the ECI to the State and KPSC on April 2 asking them to postpone the interviews as the model code of conduct for Assembly elections is in place.

The KPSC is a statutory body and the ongoing selection process does not come under the purview of the model code of conduct for Assembly elections, the petitioner claimed while contending that the Supreme Court had already clarified that the election code of conduct would not be applicable for selection process undertaken by the UPSC.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on April 8th.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	38	21	0	22
New Delhi (Sfd)	37	20	0	20
Chandigarh	34	18	0	25
Hissar	37	16	0	39
Bhuntar	29	9	0	104
Shimla	21	13	0	99
Jammu	31	18	0	33
Srinagar	20	7	0	93
Amritsar	33	16	0	4
Patiala	35	18	0	23
Jaipur	38	23	0	7
Udaipur	37	17	0	0
Allahabad	41	20	0	9
Lucknow	38	18	0	1
Varanasi	40	21	0	6
Dehradun	34	18	0	17
Agartala	35	25	0	33
Ahmedabad	39	22	0	0
Bangalore	37	24	0	19
Bhubaneshwar	42	26	0	0
Bhopal	39	22	0	21
Chennai	38	27	0	32
Guwahati	33	18	0	20
Hyderabad	40	27	0	42
Kolkata	38	26	0	1
Mumbai	32	23	0	0

Nagpur	41	21	0	15
Patna	38	21	0	1
Pune	37	15	0	3
Thiruvananthapuram	35	27	0	80
Imphal	30	15	0	72
Shillong	26	14	0	22

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (tr-trace) and total rainfall in mm since 1st March.

DRY WEATHER

RAINFALL: Weather was mainly dry over the region.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES: The maximum temperatures rose in Uttar Pradesh and changed little elsewhere. They were appreciably above normal in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand, above normal in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, west Rajasthan and west Uttar Pradesh and normal in rest of the region. The highest maximum temperature in the region was 41.0°C recorded at Bundi (Rajasthan) and Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh).

FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 10th April 2013: Rain/thundershowers would occur at one or two places over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over west Rajasthan on 9th and 10th Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and north Rajasthan on 10th. Weather would be mainly dry over the rest of the region.

WARNING: Thunder squalls may occur at one or two places over Jammu division of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and north Rajasthan on 10th.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 10th April 2013: Mainly clear sky becoming partly cloudy sky.

Water level

: Water level in the Papanasam dam on Monday stood at 73.95 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 181.51 cusecs and 504.75 cusecs is discharged from the dam.

The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 86.77 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 29 cusecs and 5 cusecs is discharged.

Nagercoil

Water level in the Pechipparai dam stood at 11 feet, 27.60 feet in Perunchani, 4.23 feet in Chittar I, 4.33 feet in Chittar II and 2.40 feet in the Poigai dam.

Water level in Periyar dam was 112.80 feet with an inflow of 100 cusecs and discharge of 100 cusecs. The water level in Vaigai dam was 45.93 feet with an inflow of 40 cusecs and discharge of 60 cusecs. The combined Periyar credit was 2,128 mcft.

Rainfall recorded in the region (in mm): Periyar dam 8.2, Vaigai dam 4.2, Veerapandi 2, Uthamapalayam 4.6 and Kodaikanal 17.

hindustantimes

Weather Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Tuesday, Apr 9

Max Min

32° | 27°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 84

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:00

Sunset: 06:21

Barometer: 1009

Tomorrow's Forecast








Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Apr 10

Max Min

36° | 27°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday Apr 11	Friday Apr 12	Saturday Apr 13	Sunday Apr 14	Monday Apr 15
				
36° 27°	36° 27°	36° 27°	36° 27°	37° 28°
Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Overcast	Overcast	Cloudy

THE TIMES OF INDIA

‘Bank recovery of loans from farmers leading to suicides’

JAIPUR: The Rajasthan high court on Monday issued a notice to the state government on a public interest litigation that accuses banks and financial institutions of recovering loans from farmers in violation of the tenancy law. The PIL claims that the banks and financial institutions' alleged arbitrary actions were responsible for farmers' suicide. A division bench comprising [Chief Justice Amitava Roy](#) and Justice Meena V Gomber granted two weeks time to the state government to file its reply.

The PIL moved by an advocate Dhiraj Kumar pointed out that the nationalized banks and government financial institutions were providing loans to farmers against "usufructuary mortgaged" properties rather than the "simple mortgaged" ones. Kumar's counsel Arvind Chawla argued before the court that under Section 43 of the [Rajasthan Tenancy Act, 1955](#), the

loan of an 'usufructuary mortgaged' property automatically expires after five years. "Whatever loan recovery the bank or financial institute is to make from the farmer against the usufructuary property, has to be done in five years," Chawla said.

As per section 58 (d) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, under a usufructuary mortgage, the farmer delivers the possession, expressly or by implication, of his mortgaged property to the mortgagee (banks/ financial institutes), authorizing them to retain profits accruing from that property until the payment of the mortgaged money. The bench was told that any bank/financial institute recovering loan of usufructuary mortgaged property beyond five years was violating Rajasthan Tenancy Act. tnn

Jaipur: The Rajasthan high court on Monday issued a notice to the state government on a public interest litigation that accuses banks and financial institutions of recovering loans from farmers in violation of the tenancy law. The PIL claims that the banks and financial institutions' alleged arbitrary actions were responsible for farmers' suicide.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Amitava Roy and Justice Meena V Gomber granted two weeks time to the state government to file its reply.

The PIL moved by an advocate Dhiraj Kumar pointed out that the nationalized banks and government financial institutions were providing loans to farmers against "usufructuary

mortgaged" properties rather than the "simple mortgaged" ones. Kumar's counsel Arvind Chawla argued before the court that under Section 43 of the Rajasthan Tenancy Act, 1955, the loan of an 'usufructuary mortgaged' property automatically expires after five years. "Whatever loan recovery the bank or financial institute is to make from the farmer against the usufructuary property, that has to be done within the five years," Chawla said.

As per section 58 (d) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, under a usufructuary mortgage, the farmer delivers the possession, expressly or by implication, of his mortgaged property to the mortgagee (banks/ financial institutes), authorizing them to retain profits accruing from that property until the payment of the mortgaged money (loan).

The bench was told that any bank/financial institute recovering loan of usufructuary mortgaged property beyond five years was violating the Rajasthan Tenancy Act. In fact, the PIL mentioned, the banks/financial institutes keeping such mortgaged property under their possession after years were liable to be treated as encroachers. The petitioner alleged that the violation of law by the banks/financial institutes was driving the farmers to commit suicide. Newspaper reports were submitted before the court to stress that the number of farmers committing suicide was increasing.

South Gujarat farmers find pomegranates juicer!

SURAT: Move over ValsadiHafos and chikoos of south Gujarat. [Farmers](#) in the region are ready to add something

more juicer to your fruit basket!.

Large number of farmers in districts of south Gujarat are switching over from their regular [cash crops](#) to grow [pomegranates](#), which not only has a huge export market but also yielding more profit.

Satish Patel (39), a farmer of Itakala village of Valiya taluka of Bharuch district, used to grow papaya on his 40-acre farm. At times, he cultivated cotton or tuver (pigeon peas) but the returns were not good.

"In started pomegranate farming in February last year and reaping a rich harvest of Rs 2.5 lakh per acre," Patel said.

My farm is new and before taking the first fruit we need to be careful as branches and stem needs to be strengthened sufficiently to bear the weight of the fruit. So the first fruit will be after 1.5 years, but after that every year we can take good crops," Patel added.

According to sources in horticulture department, more than 500 farmers spread across 300 hecatres from Vagra, Rajpipla, Jaghadia talukas of Bharuch and Narmada district, Mandvi and Mangrol in Surat district and Utchal and Nizar of Tapi are switching over to this fruit. These areas are relatively arid and conducive for pomegranate cultivation.

"With an investment of Rs 70,000 per acre, farmers get a yield of at least Rs 2.5 lakh," assistant director, horticulture, in charge of Bharuch and Surat, Dinesh Pataliya said.

Locally called Dadam, the fruit, also has great medicinal value making it lucrative for export.

"Large number of pomegranate farmers especially from Maharashtra export their product to European countries during October to February," said Pataliya adding, "Unlike [mango](#), it needs dry cool climate without much rains and some of our talukas of South Gujarat provide the best weather for the fruit to grow."

Pratap Pednekar, who owns a 100-acre farm in Nagar district of Maharashtra said, "We have asked the farmers of south Gujarat to change the variety as the one that we grow has a maturity period of 6 to 6.5 months after flowering. We have recommended another variety that has short maturity period of three-four months after flowering so it doesn't cause loss even if it rains."

India exports nearly 7,000 to 10,000 tonnes of pomegranate, 30 per cent of which goes to Europe and remaining to Middle East countries.

THE  NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

Will finish ongoing irrigation projects'

Congress is committed to completing the ongoing irrigation projects within the next five years and the focus would be on the Justice Bachawat Award for the Krishna Basin, said KPCC President G Parameshwara on Monday.

After releasing the audio and video CD of its achievements here Parameshwara said his party was committed to provide "clean governance and able leadership". He said that time was ripe for the people to bring in a change.

Recalling former prime minister late Rajiv Gandhi's contribution to the IT Revolution, Parameshwara said that the party would adopt modern technology and pointed at his initiative to launch the new age media platforms. He also mentioned that Congress was the first party to go interactive on Google Hangout and gave out his website address



Opposition leader in the Assembly Siddaramaiah, KPCC president Parameshwara and others launching an audio and video CD on the party's achievements in Bangalore on Monday | Express Photo

<http://www.drgparameshwara.com>, Facebook account: GParameshwara and Twitter account DrGParameshwara.

He said that the Congress was certainly not happy with the pace of development in the agriculture sector, and assured that it would give top priority to the same if voted to power. Reiterating party's commitment to empower women socially and economically, he said they would strive to bring in entrepreneurial activities for youths in urban and rural areas.

Arecanut prices decline 26% as imports flood markets

Product worth Rs 500 cr imported from six countries that are signatories to SAPTA

The new season for arecanut (betel nut) has commenced with prices moving in the southward direction owing to subdued demand in major consuming centres. Prices of white arecanut are currently ruling at Rs 130 a kg, a 26 per cent drop from the previous year. Last year, the season had opened with a price of Rs 176 a kg.

The decline in prices of new arecanut is attributed to a combination of factors that include ban on gutkha in several states and flooding of inferior and cheap variety from Bangladesh and Nepal, industry sources said.

"The north Indian markets are flooded with imported arecanut from Bangladesh and there is no demand for good quality arecanut grown in southern states. We have seen about 24 per cent decline in our sales this year. As a result, we are unable to pass on higher prices to our farmer members," Suresh Bhandary, managing director, Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative Limited (Campco), said.

Campco is a multi-state cooperative society involving Kerala and Karnataka, engaged in the promotion of arecanut and cocoa.

He said drastic increase in imports was hurting arecanut growers. The imports have gone up ever since the government of India allowed duty-free import of arecanut from least developed countries in the SAARC region. Particularly, imports from Bangladesh have gone up seven times to 53,000 tonnes in 2012-13 (till December) as against 7,600 tonnes in 2009-10. The government of India allowed duty-free imports from November 9, 2011.

Areca nut worth Rs 500 crore had been imported from the six countries that are signatories to South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA) in the nine-month period ended December 2012. Of this, 63 per cent came from Bangladesh. The imports from Bangladesh are higher than what it grows and consumes, Bhandary said.

Unlike other countries, such as Indonesia, which also exports areca nut to India, consumption in Bangladesh is very high. When it produces areca nut in the region of 50,000 tonnes and also has very high internal consumption, how can it export such a huge quantity to India, he pointed out.

"We have taken up the issue with the ministries of agriculture and commerce to find out from where Bangladesh is getting such huge quantity of areca nut. As per the notification issued on November 9, 2011, the least developed countries, including Bangladesh, can only export to India areca nut grown in their territory and are not supposed to import from other countries and then re-export it to India," he said.

Prior to allowing duty-free imports, Indian traders were importing areca nut from Indonesia paying an import duty of 108 per cent. However, in last two years, imports from Indonesia have reduced to 6,000 tonnes as against 29,000 tonnes in 2009-10.

Members of Parliament from Karnataka, Kerala and Assam recently met Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar and Commerce Minister Anand Sharma and urged them to take measures to re-impose import duty on areca nut and take up the matter with Bangladesh.

They have also requested the government to fix a specified tariff value for the commodity at Rs 125 per kg as against Rs 75 per kg based on the present cost of cultivation.

"In order to save the country's exchequer and also protect the interest of the domestic areca nut growers, we humbly request the government to appoint Central Plantation Crop Research Institute (CPCRI) as the nodal agency for

identifying the country of origin and testing the quality of arecanut imported into the country," the members said in their memorandum.

Arecanut is grown on around 400,000 hectares of land in India. The country's production in 2012-13 was estimated at 477,000 tonnes.

Maharashtra claims advantage on sugar, post-decontrol

Price and availability are at Maharashtra's advantage

After the partial decontrol of sugar, sources in the trade here have claimed Maharashtra would be a favoured purchase destination for various state governments.

For, they say, the state enjoys the advantage of low price as compared to other producing states. Availability is another factor in Maharashtra's favour.

The central government had decided to do away with the release mechanism (deciding how much a mill can sell in the open market) and the levy obligation (to sell a fixed percentage of output to it at below market price). The onus is now on the government of each state to procure their sugar requirement for the public distribution system (PDS) through the open market.

A Maharashtra state cooperation department official, who did not want to be identified, told Business Standard: "Despite drought, Maharashtra's sugar production will be eight million tonnes (mt), with carryforward stock of 1.95 mt. Besides, the prevailing ex-mill price, excluding duty, is Rs 2,800-2,900 a quintal in Maharashtra, compared to Rs 2,800-2,850 a qtl in Karnataka, Rs 3,200-3,250 a qtl in Uttar Pradesh and Rs 2,900-3,000 a qtl in Gujarat." He also contended the state's sugar quality was superior.

An official at the Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories said it had started receiving queries from various states and traders for possible purchase from

factories. Yogesh Pande, president, Maharashtra Sugar Merchant & Brokers Association, noted the state contributed nearly a third of the country's total production. Adding: "Maharashtra offers cheaper sugar compared to other states, though prices in Karnataka are almost similar. However, sugar production in Karnataka is low, compared to Maharashtra." He said other states would start building stocks for the coming festival season.

Chilli down 2.5% on weak demand

Prices moved down as speculators reduced their holdings

Chilli futures for April moved down by Rs 158, or 2.49% to Rs 6,200 per quintal in 2,010 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), the May contract traded lower by Rs 128, or 1.89% to Rs 6,632 per quintal in 20,230 lots.

Prices moved down as speculators reduced their holdings due to weak spot market demand against adequate stocks position.

Potato falls 0.8% on adequate supply

Increased arrivals from producing regions strengthened the availability of stocks

Potato futures for June fell by Rs 8.10, or 0.79% to Rs 1,011.50 per quintal in 38 lots.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the May contract declined by Rs 5.40, or 0.53% to Rs 1,004.50 per quintal in 39 lots.

Prices fell as speculators engaged in trimming their positions driven by fall in spot market demands against adequate stocks position.

Increased arrivals from producing regions strengthened the availability of stocks.

Turmeric up more than 2% on export demand

Prices rose as speculators enlarged their positions

Turmeric futures for May gained Rs 136, or 2.03% to Rs 6,842 per quintal in 28,895 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), the April contract traded higher by Rs 132, or 2.01% to Rs 6,698 per quintal in 1,260 lots.

Prices rose as speculators enlarged their positions amid rising exports demand.

Estimates of lower output this season affected the trade.

THE HINDU Business Line

Cotton likely to rule weak

Rajkot, April 8: Cotton price ruled almost steady on the back of limited buying by mills and exporters.

According to market sources, the weak trend is likely to continue this week as demand is limited.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton was traded at Rs 38,700-39,000 a candy of 356 kg.

V-797 cotton A grade was offered at Rs 29,300-29,600.

Cotton ready delivery quoted at Rs 4,050-4,140 a quintal in Punjab, Rs 4,020-4,030 in Haryana and Rs 4,020-4,030 in Rajasthan.

Cotton 29 MM (3.8+ micronaire) traded at Rs 38,700-39,100 a candy, 29 mm (3.6 micronaire) cotton traded Rs 38,500-38,700 a candy in Maharashtra.



About 26,000-27,000 bales of cotton arrived in Gujarat and around 80,000 bales arrived across the country. Kapas or raw cotton also traded flat on Monday. It was quoted Rs 975-1,005 for a maund of 20 kg in Rajkot APMC.

Kadi delivery cotton price stood at Rs 990-1,015 a maund. According to cotton brokers, domestic mills and some exporters were active in the markets to cover their commitments.

Traders said that downside potential is limited for cotton in near term due to lower local supplies.

Meanwhile, forecast of normal monsoon by Indian Meteorological Department has boosted prospects for next crop.

Turmeric drops as traders curb buying



Erode, April 8: Spot turmeric prices decreased by Rs 200 a quintal despite lower arrivals on Monday. However, the hybrid variety fetched good price.

“All the traders were disappointed as only 5,200 bags arrived for sale on Monday.

So, traders quoted lower price and purchased very limited stocks” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President of Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said all the traders have received only nominal orders from North India and are buying fine variety turmeric.

They also competed in buying the hybrid variety. Of the total arrival of 5,200 bags only 50 per cent stocks was sold.

Chenniappan, a veteran grower, said that due to hot weather, they brought only limited stocks. Also, currently they have both medium and fine varieties.

Farmers have decided to sell the medium variety now and will bring the fine variety after a couple of days.

He said the current price is unfeasible as the production cost is increasing.

He hoped that within a month, the price will touch Rs 10,000 a quintal.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,499-7,565; the root variety Rs 4,196-6,589.

Salem Hybrid crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 6,229-8,611 the root variety Rs 5,506-6,911. Of the total arrival of 1,079 bags, 492 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 6,653-7,699; the root variety Rs 5,691-6,687. Of the arrival of 262 bags put up for sale, 212 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 6,689-7,789.

The root variety sold at Rs 5,911-6,837. All the 558 bags of turmeric on offer were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 6,809-7,979; the root variety Rs 5,550-6,697.

All the 99 bags of turmeric were sold.

Rice rallies as millers hold on to stocks

Karnal, April 8: An unexpected rally in the market pushed up aromatic and non-basmati prices further by Rs 70-500 a quintal on Monday.

An uptrend in the market was expected but a rally at this time was not expected, said Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company.

Market sentiments are still largely positive at present and market may witness some good buying in the coming weeks, he said.

Apart from low availability of stocks and good domestic demand, new trade enquires are also giving good support to the market.



When asked about the low availability stocks, Amti Chandna said that rice millers are expecting that rice prices may go up further and, hence, they are not off-loading heavy stocks in the market.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) went up by Rs 300 and sold at Rs 8,100, while Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted Rs 200 up at Rs 7,000.

Pure basmati (raw) moved by Rs 100 to Rs 8,600. Duplicate basmati (steam) moved up by Rs 500 and traded at Rs 7,000. For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Dubar improved by Rs 300 and quoted at Rs 3,700; Tibar up by Rs 400 and sold at Rs 4,700; Mongra was quoted Rs 200 up at Rs 2,900. Similarly, non-basmati varieties improved on buying interest.

Sharbati (steam) moved up by Rs 300 and quoted at Rs 5,300; while Sharbati (sela) was Rs 200 up at Rs 5,000.

Prices of PR-11 (sela) increased by Rs 200 and sold at Rs 3,400-3,450 while PR-11 (Raw) improved by Rs 250 and quoted at Rs

3,100-3,150. Permal (raw) went up by Rs 100 and sold at Rs 2,500 while Permal (sela) went up Rs 70 to Rs 2,400.

Poultry sector seeks relief package to overcome crisis

Chennai, April 8: Hit by a spurt in raw material costs and unremunerative prices, the poultry industry has sought a relief package to ride out the downturn.

A delegation of National Egg Coordination Committee, consisting of poultry farmers, breeders and other stakeholders of the industry, led by its Chairperson Anuradha J. Desai met the Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar last week and urged the Government to extend a revival package for the Rs 57,000-crore industry.

“We have sought a relief package to provide immediate succour to farmers, who are facing the worst crisis due to an unprecedented rise in the price of poultry feed raw materials - soyameal and maize,” Desai said in a press release.

rising prices

The delegation said that during the past two years, prices of these two ingredients have been constantly increasing, and have now reached unaffordable levels, due to various reasons such as forward trading, exports and speculation and hoarding by traders and multinational companies in anticipation of a substantial increase in the volume of export of these commodities.

Maize prices increased from Rs 1,170 a quintal in March 2011 to Rs 1,630 currently. Similarly, the price of soyameal increased from Rs 1,821 a quintal a year ago to Rs 3,512 in March and currently, it is hovering at Rs 3,900.

Soyameal prices in the international markets have been steadily falling during the past few months, and, are presently available for import at \$515 c.i.f. (approximately Rs 27,000-28,000 a tonne). In

contrast to this trend, the price has increased from Rs 28,000 to Rs 39,000-40,000 during the past 15 days alone.

As a result of such steep increase in the cost of production, farmers have incurred heavy losses, and, the working capital of farmers – and even many breeding farms and hatcheries – has been wiped out, the release said.

proposals

The delegation sought a moratorium for one year on repayment of interest and instalments towards term loans availed by the poultry industry, interest subvention of at least six per cent for a period of 2-3 years, allocation of 2 lakh tonnes each of damaged wheat and rice/paddy, for exclusive use of poultry farmers at a subsidised price of 50 per cent of the Minimum Support Price, besides a waiver of customs duty on import of soyameal by the poultry industry for captive consumption, for a period of one year.

Wheat prices may drop in U.P. as arrivals gather pace

Private trade waits for the fall to fulfil its needs



New Delhi, April 8: Private traders are waiting for wheat prices to drop with arrivals picking up in Uttar Pradesh, the country's largest producing State, but with relatively low governmental procurement operations.

The central UP districts of Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Mainpuri, Etawah and Kanpur are among the key markets from where millers and exporters procure wheat to meet their requirements. The arrivals this year have been delayed due to high moisture in the

grain because of the recent rain and are expected to pick up after April 15.

“It will take some time for the full-scale arrivals. We expect the prices to come down by about Rs 100-150 a quintal by end-April and May,” said Adi Narayan Gupta, President of the Roller Millers Federation of India.

Currently, the average prices in UP are around Rs 1,420 a quintal, marginally higher than the Government’s minimum support price of Rs 1,350. However, in mandis such as Shahajanpur and Sitapur, the prevailing prices are below the support price.

On Monday, arrivals in Shahajanpur were at over 5,250 quintals and the average price of milling ‘dara’ wheat was Rs 1,280 a quintal.

“We are waiting for the arrivals to pick up in UP and Rajasthan to cover our requirements,” said Pramod Kumar, Executive Director of the Bangalore-based Sunil Agro Foods. UP produced about 30 million tonnes (mt) of wheat last year, a third of the country’s output.

M.P. scenario

Meanwhile, in Madhya Pradesh, the procurement by Food Corporation of India has picked up and the Government agencies have, so far, procured about 1.4 mt, almost same as that of last year.

The MP Government has announced a bonus of Rs 150 a quintal, resulting in a higher procurement price of Rs 1,500. MP is targeting a procurement of 11.5 mt, up from 8.5 mt produced last year. The wheat harvest is almost over in Gujarat, while it is yet to begin in Punjab and Haryana.

The total wheat crop this year is expected to be higher than last year at around 96 mt. The Centre expects to procure a record 44 mt of wheat in the rabi marketing season 2013-14 that has started from April 1. This is about 6 mt or 15 per cent more than 38.14 mt procured last year.

Exports

“Prices are definitely expected to fall further,” said Anil Monga, Managing Director of Emmsons International, a wheat exporter. The declining trend in wheat prices of Black Sea origin on rebound in production and a softening corn prices will exert further pressure on the Indian wheat.

The Government has so far allowed exports of 4.5 mt from the Central pool stocks by the State trading agencies – STC, MMTC and PEC. Of this, about 3.6 mt has been tendered, while the actual shipments by these agencies are about 3 mt.

Amidst price decline, the state agencies cancelled two tenders last week as they did not receive any bids from global buyers.

This may force the Government to review the floor price for export of Rs 1,480 a quintal as storage may become a major issue with the commencement of full-scale procurement operations in the weeks ahead.

Though the Government has decided to give the private players access to about 5 mt of wheat for export from the Central pool, it is yet to notify the same.
