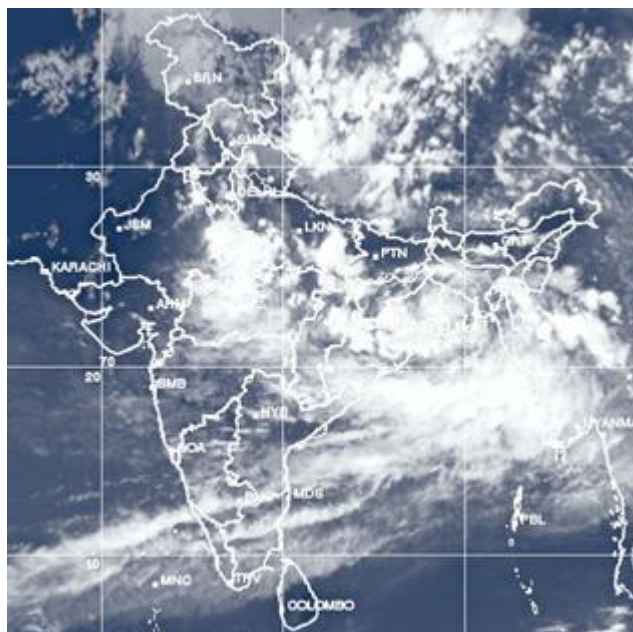


Date : 20.08.2013

THE HINDU

weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on Aug. 19.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	33	25	5	461
New Delhi (Sfd)	33	26	tr	637
Chandigarh	33	24	10	675
Hissar	33	25	0	507
Bhuntar	32	21	6	385
Shimla	23	17	5	678
Jammu	31	24	1	1028
Srinagar	24	19	tr	208
Amritsar	28	25	22	741
Patiala	33	25	2	639
Jaipur	34	24	39	582
Udaipur	31	24	0	617
Allahabad	31	26	12	859
Lucknow	32	24	3	641
Varanasi	34	24	58	589
Dehradun	32	24	1	2422

Agartala	33	25	4	674
Ahmedabad	31	25	0	739
Bangalore	27	20	2	379
Bhubaneshwar	32	25	tr	609
Bhopal	31	24	10	1002
Chennai	33	26	0	423
Guwahati	35	26	0	626
Hyderabad	30	22	12	511
Kolkata	33	25	59	1071
Mumbai	31	25	1	2019
Nagpur	30	25	4	1241
Patna	32	26	0	273
Pune	29	21	0	532
Thiruvananthapuram	29	23	tr	864
Imphal	30	22	6	739
Shillong	26	18	tr	693

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

RAINFALL

Southwest Monsoon has been active over Haryana. The axis of Monsoon Trough on SLC passes through Ferozpur, Merrut, Kanpur, Allahbad and thence South East wards.

RAINFALL: Rain/thundershowers have occurred at most places over Uttarakhand, at many places over Haryana Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and east Uttar Pradesh ,at a few places over Punjab east-Rajasthan and west Uttar Pradesh and at isolated places over rest of the region.

The chief amounts of rainfall in cm are: (6 cm and above) HARYANA: Pataudi 9 and Naraingarh 7, HIMACHAL PRADESH: Dharamshala 10, Gohar 9, Sundernagar 7 and Kasol 6, PUNJAB: Faridkot 6, EAST RAJASTHAN: Kota Kasim 14, Kishanganj 12, Baran 10, Atru 8, Mangrol, Chaksu and Pipalda 7 each, Vansthali , Tizara and Kumher 6 each, EAST UTTAR PRADESH: Patti, Raniganj and Rajghat 7 each, Varanasi Airport, Pratapgarh and Banaras 6 each, WEST UTTAR PRADESH: Lalitpur 16 and Rath 6.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 21st August 2013 : Rain/thundershowers would occur at many places over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand , Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and east- Rajasthan and at a few places over rest of the region.

HEAVY RAINFALL WARNING: Heavy rain fall may occur at one or two places over Punjab, Haryana and Jammu division of Jammu and Kashmir during next 24 hrs.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 21st August 2013: Generally cloudy sky. Rain/thundershowers would occur in some areas.

Irrigation dept. recommends 30 tmcft to SLBC

Water supply to Kurnool, Anantapur hit as no mention made about Hundri-Neeva project

Close on the heels of controversy over Palamur Lift Irrigation Scheme, the Irrigation department raked up another one by recommending 30 tmcft to Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) out of the savings on account of Polavaram project.

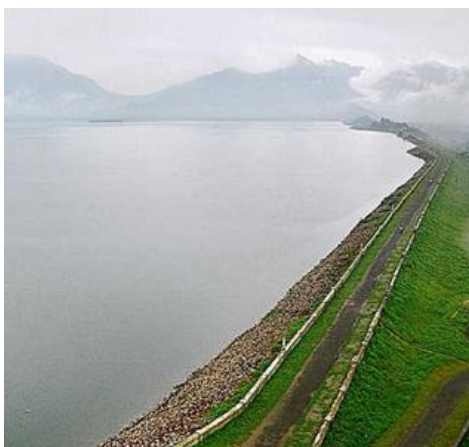
The SLBC which draws water from backwaters of Srisailem reservoir provides irrigation to 2.70 lakh acres in Nalgonda district. The Polavaram project is proposed to divert 80 tmcft to Krishna basin at Prakasam barrage. As per the inter-State accord on Polavaram project, 45 tmcft is to be allocated to the projects above Nagarjunasagar in AP and 35 tmcft to Karnataka and Maharashtra.

A technical Advisory Committee, recommended allocation of 30 tmcft to SLBC and 15 tmcft to drinking water scheme. There was no mention of Hundri-Neeva project which supplies water to irrigation and drinking water needs of Kurnool and Anantapur district. The panel, which convened its meeting in March this year, argued that the government was committed to providing assured water allocation to SLBC through a GO in 1981 and also through subsequent orders. Moreover, a Telangana project should be given priority where only SRSP project provided water through gravity canals and the rest were lift irrigation schemes.

Mettur level

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 118.6 feet on Monday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 9,959 cusecs and the discharge 10,000 cusecs. —Special Correspondent

Water level



Water level in the Papanasam dam on Monday stood at 123.15 feet (permissible level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 626.51 cusecs and 1,504.75 cusecs of water is discharged from the dam.

The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 65.27 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 31 cusecs and 255 cusecs was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 26.50 feet, 65 feet in Perunchani, 11.12 feet in Chittar I, 11.21 feet in Chittar II and 30.35 feet in Mambazhathuraiyaru dam.

Cover for coconut farmers

The coconut yield insurance scheme has been implemented in the district, wherein farmers who grow more than 10 coconut trees can avail insurance for their crops. Damage due to disease, environmental causes, and others will be covered for a period of one year. Coconut Development Board will subsidize 50 per cent of the premium, horticulture department another 25 per cent, leaving the farmer to only pay the remaining 25 per cent of the premium, which comes up to Rs. 4.80 per tree, said a release. For details, contact the taluk horticulture department at 0824-2423628.

Banana kisan mela on August 21



The mela will be on theme 'banana fruit care'.— FILE PHOTO: M. MOORHTY

A release of compilation of research achievements over the last two decades and an exhibition on latest technologies used in banana production will mark banana kisan mela to be organised by National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) on its premises near the city on August 21.

The mela will be on the theme 'banana fruit care'. There is an acute need to improve stakeholders' awareness on fruit care, which includes better production technology, post-harvest handling, storage, value chain management, and consumer satisfaction. It is these endeavours that underpin the mela, a press release from M.M.Mustaffa, Director of NRCB, issued here on Monday said.

The exhibition will showcase technologies for banana fruit care, banana production, quality tissue culture plants, value-added products, inputs for banana cultivation, and management of pests and diseases. The scientists would deliver talks on banana fruit care that includes pre and post harvest practices for better shelf life of banana fruit, marketability, and profitability.

They would also demonstrate in-house technologies for fruit care developed at the processing lab by NRCB.

Rainfall

An average of 53.7 mm of rain was recorded in the district in the 24 hours ended 8 a.m. on Monday. Belthangady received 64.2 mm of rain; Bantwal recorded 67.3 mm; Sullia, 45.2 mm; Puttur, 40.1 mm; and Mangalore received 51.9 mm of rain. So far, the district has received 3,358.1 mm of rain this year, a marked improvement from the 2,226.8 mm of rain received in the same period last year.

TRAINING IN GROWING FRUITS

Karnataka Agriculture Resource Centre, Balgalkot, will conduct a three-day training camp in growing mango, banana, papaya and chikoo by this month end on their premises. The course will cover the intricacies of sapling plantation, irrigation required, fertiliser use, accounts among others, said a release. Stay and food will be provided free of cost. Those interested should send in details within August 24 to the Centre, B.V.V. Association Spinning Mill Complex, Gaddanakeri Road, Bagalkote 587103 or call -587103 08345-244028/244048.

Farmers focus on growth through credit



A farmers' club was formed under the aegis of the Vengeri 'Niravu' residential forum on New Year day of the Malayalam calendar on Saturday. District Collector C.A. Latha inaugurated the club by releasing its logo at a function at the urban agricultural wholesale market at Vengeri.

The club will implement agricultural projects with financial assistance from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through the Thamarasseri branch of Federal Bank, said the forum in a release here.

Enhancing production

The club will be an informal group of farmers who would propagate the principle of 'Development through credit,' emphasising the need to use credit effectively in a scientific manner to increase agriculture production and productivity.

Babu Parambath, project coordinator, said the club would take up different projects encompassing organic farming, biodiversity conservation, energy conservation, value-added products from agricultural products, protection of indigenous cattle breeds, fish, goat, and poultry farms as well as farm visits.

Federal Bank zonal head K.R. Vijayakumar; regional head K. Radhakrishnan; chief manager M. Ajith Kumar; agriculture joint director P.K. Ranjini; novelist P. Valsala; and Niravu president P.P. Mohanan; among others, were present on the occasion.

Agriculture training key to empowering women: study



Vocational training in agriculture is an important step towards empowerment of large sections of women in the State, according to a study conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Thrissur.

The study, conducted by Rinchui Raman of Manipur, a final year student at the College of Cooperation, Banking and Management, Vellanikkara, revealed that the trainees derived significant benefits and floated women's self-help groups. They are earning steady incomes.

Rinchui Raman gathered data from members of two self-help groups, Haritha Sree and Udyan Sree, attached to KVK. The groups are partners of a vegetable seed production programme of KVK after attending a six-month vocational training for skill development in seed production and nursery management.

According to Ranjan S. Karippai, KVK head, the study used a standardised women empowerment index to measure its levels and revealed that the women were involved in income generating activities.

They had better self-esteem, more participation in household decision-making and control over resources.

There was improvement in economic factors such as accessibility to credit, household income, acquisition of assets and an increase in savings, noted the study.

Women's empowerment brought about changes in their mobility pattern, social interactions and change in labour patterns. Most of them have chit-funds savings and some have bought two wheelers.

The statistical analyses indicated improvements in various aspects of household living conditions after formation of SHGs.

A study has revealed that women who attended vocational training in agriculture derived significant benefits and floated self-help groups.

Processing centre to give a boost to jackfruit produce



Agriculture Minister K. P. Mohanan gets a crown made of jack leaves at a function at Pooppathy in Thrissur on Monday. The Minister was in the district to lay the foundation stone for a jackfruit processing centre.— Photo: By special arrangement

Agriculture Minister K. P. Mohanan has urged people not to waste the State's jackfruit produce.

He was laying the foundation stone for a jackfruit processing centre being set up by the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited (KAICO) at Pooppathy in Poyya panchayat on Monday.

The centre will have the capacity to process around 600 tonnes of fruit a year. It will use technology developed by the Kerala Agricultural University (KAU).

The 10,000 sq. ft processing centre will include a canning line, a drying line, a concentration line, a biogas plant and a waste water treatment plant.

In the first phase, KAICO will bring out sweetened jackfruit, jackfruit bulbs in syrup, dehydrated jackfruit flakes, jackfruit bar, jackfruit-based toffee, jackfruit nectar and halwa.

The products will be sold through KAICO's dealer network.

In the second phase, more value-added jackfruit products will be made. In the third phase, value-added mango and pineapple products will be brought out.


The KAICO will procure jackfruit on a large scale through Kudumbasree units. A sum of Rs. 1.13 crore has been sanctioned under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana for the first phase of setting up the centre.

The jackfruit processing centre is being started on land bought for setting up a fruit and vegetable processing centre. The foundation for the fruit and vegetable centre was laid on October 9, 1997. T. N. Prathapan, MLA, also spoke.

'OH'NION

Prices of the commodity leaps by 100 per cent

SHOOTING UP...



- Onion prices a month ago (per kg): **Rs. 20 - Rs. 25**
- **Current price: Rs. 55**

TOUGH TIME FOR CONSUMERS

- Hoteliers are restricting purchase of onion, bringing it down to half their regular purchase
- A new crop is being awaited from Maharashtra, the biggest supplier of onion in the country
- Consumers are already overburdened with the escalating prices of vegetables and pulses

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SALE

The district administration has made arrangements for sale of onion through special counters set up at Rythu Bazaars. The authorities are supplying the commodity at **Rs. 34** a kg, but the supply is restricted to just 1 kg for a person. Meanwhile, there are reports of inadequate supplies at a few places.

More tears are being shed for onion thanks to the sky-rocketing price in the last few weeks. The commodity was sold between Rs. 20 and Rs. 25 a kg a month ago but has now crossed the Rs. 55-mark.

The rise in prices has aggravated the problems of consumers, who are already overburdened with the escalating prices of vegetables and pulses. Many people feel that the government should intervene at least at this stage to check the spiralling prices. "Traders are making the most out of the situation by hoarding stocks and selling them later," Syed Jaleel Ahmed, a kirana merchant from Misrigunj, points out.

On the other hand, hoteliers are now restricting purchases, and many have brought them down to half their regular purchases. "We cannot afford to suffer losses and hence are using it [onion] in smaller quantities for preparing dishes, while we have completely stopped offering it as part of salad," says a hotel owner at Charminar.

Nearly 100 truckloads of onion arrive at the Mahboob Mansion market in Malakpet, and the stocks are sent to various smaller markets across the city everyday. However, the market now sports a near deserted look, with only a few petty vendors turning up.

A new crop is being awaited from Maharashtra, the biggest supplier of onion. "There are reports of a possible decrease in prices in the next one week or 10 days when a new crop is harvested, but we are not sure about it," says Mohd. Ibraj, an onion dealer at Osmangunj market.

Horticulture varsity to set up centres to train farmers



Zilla panchayat president Santoshamma Pundalikappa speaking at the inauguration of a training programme for school dropouts in Bidar on Monday.— Photo: Gopichand T.

University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, plans to open centres to train farmers in advanced farming techniques, and young farmers with integrating farming systems, A.B. Patil, Director of Extension, UHS-B, said in Bidar on Monday.

Apart from the university headquarters, such centres would come up in colleges of horticulture in Bidar and other districts, Mr. Patil added.

He was speaking at the inauguration of horticulture nursery management training for school dropouts so that they can become self-employed.

The training programme was organised by the College of Horticulture, Bagalkot.

Extension is a priority area for the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot. Extension officers are a link between researchers with farmers as they are the ones who take the research findings to the farmers. There is no point in conducting research in any sub-fields of horticulture if the benefits don't reach farmers, he said.

He pointed out that while horticulture was taken up on only 15 per cent of agricultural land, its contribution to the gross domestic product from agriculture and allied fields was as high as 40 per cent. While agriculture addresses issues of food security, horticulture address nutritional security challenges. That is why horticultural sector is so vital for countries like India, Mr. Patil explained.

'Set up nurseries'

G. Venkatesh, Director of research, cited examples of how some enterprising graduates in agriculture and horticulture had taken up nursery management as a full-time profession after giving up jobs in private companies.

"I know a couple who started a nursery on 2,000 square feet of land around their house 10 years ago. Now, they have an annual turnover of Rs. 10 crore. They have also employed a few agriculture and horticulture graduates, he said.

He urged young people to set up their own nurseries after completing the two-week training without waiting for jobs in government or private sector.

Zilla panchayat chief executive officer Ujjwal Kumar Ghosh urged scientists to train farmers in new crop varieties and farming techniques.

We need to reduce dependence on water intensive crops like sugarcane as it is not sustainable in transitional zone districts like Bidar for a long time. Moreover, Bidar has a suitable climate for horticulture. It can replicate the success of Kolar or Bijapur in horticultural sector, he said.

The zilla panchayat plans to make training farmers a regular feature. At least 100 youth will be trained every year.

Zilla Panchayat president Santoshamma Pundalikappa said that the ZP had released Rs. 3 lakh for the nursery management training. We are setting aside another Rs. 30 lakh for horticulture development, innovation and training, she added.

Training Director Praveen Kumar Naikodi and College of Horticulture Dean C.N. Hanchinmani were among those present.

Himachal apples facing competition from China, New Zealand: CM



Sorting of Himachal apples taking place at Azadpur Mandi in New Delhi. Photo: Sushil Kumar Vaerma

The Himachal apple is facing stiff competition from the ones imported from China and New Zealand, Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh said here on Monday.

“The state is already facing the brunt of imported apple from China, New Zealand and other countries,” Singh said.

He was speaking at the launch of a project on ‘sustainable development of apple’ in Shimla, Kullu and Kinnaur districts of Himachal Pradesh.

The project is being done under Corporate Social Responsibility work of CONCOR through The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) headed by R K Pachauri.

Stating the productivity of state’s apple plantations have not reached the desired level, The Chief Minister said it was necessary to produce quality apple that meets international standards for survival of the apple industry.

“The area under apple cultivation in Himachal Pradesh has increased from 3,025 hectares in 1960 to 1.04 lakh hectare in 2011—12, which constitutes more than 48 per cent of the total area under fruits in the state.

“ The CONCOR project includes strategies for improving the productivity and quality of apple orchards through water harvesting, mechanisation and agriculture education, besides training for farmers.

Seeds from Chennai to reach Pudukottai

The discharge of water through the Kallanai Kalvai channel coupled with sharp showers in the coastal blocks have raised the hopes of farmers to go in for a long duration ‘samba’ crop this season.

There has been a growing demand for seeds and the Agriculture Department has made special arrangements for moving the seeds to its godowns.

The seeds – ‘BPT-5204’ and ‘ADT-39’ are the varieties which are used by the farmers to a great extent.

Adequate seeds had been supplied to the depots and primary agricultural cooperative credit societies as also private sales units. The sale has been brisk in the last few days especially in the aftermath of the showers.

Anticipating some rise in the demand for seeds, the Agriculture Department has planned to bring 35 tonnes of ‘BPT 5204’ from the National Seed Corporation, Chennai.

The seeds will arrive here within a couple of days by road, says S.M. Shah Jehan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Pudukottai.

He said that farmers in need of any assistance could contact the office of the Joint Director in Pudukottai by dialling 04322-221666; the offices of the Assistant Directors in Pudukottai 04322-220329 or 98433-22167; Gandarvakottai -- 04322-275996; 94433-18987; Tiruvarangulam 04322-250351 or 94430-08455; Karambakudi 04322-258121 or 99421-35193; Aranthangi 04371-270510 or 94444-25183; Avudaiyarkovil 04371-233950 or 99441-83612; Manamelkudi 04371-250140 or 94438-26047; Tirumayam 04333-274250 or 99443-31844; Arimalam 04333-271445 or 94439-51109; Ponnamaravathy 04333-260011 or 96775-65274; Annavasal 04339-291436 or 98655-29676; Viralimalai 04339-221351 or 89034-89817; Kundrandarkovil 04339-202543 or 94884-00216.

Plea for stepping up discharge:

A section of farmers feel that the discharge of water through the Kallanai Kalvai should be stepped up from the present 2,500 to 3,500 cusecs. The low level of discharge was yet to reach the tail end areas in the district, they said.

Davangere records 450 mm rainfall

Crops likely to be adversely affected by high moisture content in soil



Damaged maize crop in Chimallanhole village in Jagalur taluk. Maize is grown on almost two hectares of land in the district.

Many crops, including maize, groundnut and cotton, are likely to be adversely affected owing to excessive rainfall during the last two-and-a-half months across Davangere district. Farmers, who had sustained huge crop losses owing to drought in the last two years, are likely to incur losses owing to excessive rainfall this year.

Compared to other crops, the adverse impact of high moisture content in soil is likely to be more on maize. Moreover, farmers had sown maize crop a bit late this year, according to the Agriculture Department.

Maize is grown on over 1.95 lakh hectares of land in the district, where a record yield was being harvested in the past few years. However, the excess rainfall this year might adversely affect the crop in over 35,000 hectares.

Of the 18,700 ha of land on which groundnut has been cultivated this year, crops in over 4,600 ha are likely to be affected by excessive rainfall.

Paddy and cotton have been sown in over 55,000 ha and 24,200 ha, respectively. Of this, crops in about 25 per cent of the cultivated area might get affected, according to R.G. Gollar, Joint Director of Agriculture Department.

Mr. Gollar told *The Hindu* here on Tuesday that sowing had been completed in over 3,29,328 ha of the targeted 3.4 lakh ha.

The district has recorded over 450 mm rainfall so far, against the average normal of 375.6 mm for the entire season.

As the monsoon season was not yet over, the district might witness some more rainfall in the coming days. As a precautionary measure, agriculture and field officers were already educating farmers about various steps to be taken to protect their crops.

Apart from excessive rainfall, the maize crop in the district had been hit by root grub disease, which was damaging the crop in many areas. Officials were educating farmers about ways to tackle root grub disease, he said.

Mr. Gollar said that assessment of crop loss owing to excessive rainfall and root grub had not yet been taken up. It would be done after the rainy season was over, he added.

-
- *Maize, groundnut, cotton are major crops of the district*
 - *'Officers educating farmers about ways to tackle root grub'*
-

Survey of standing crops undertaken



Agriculture and Revenue department officials assessing loss of crop due to floods in the Krishna, in Chinchali village of Raibag taluk, Belgaum, on Monday.— PHOTO: MALLIKARJUN S. DANANNAVAR

Officials of the Agriculture and Revenue departments have taken up the survey of standing crops, which were damaged due to floods in the Krishna in July, to assess the extent of losses. The exercise would pave way for the payment of compensation to affected farmers.

According to official sources here on Monday, the flooding of the river had caused loss of standing crops in fields along the river banks. The fields had remained water-logged for more than twenty days, due to which crops like soyabean and vegetables suffered damages in varying degrees.

Two teams of officials are conducting surveys in Bavani Saundatti, Chinchali, Biradi, Diggewadi, Khemlapur, Shirgur, Gundwad and a few other villages along the banks of the Krishna in Raibag taluk. A detailed report would be submitted to the Joint Director of Agriculture and subsequently to the government.

Meanwhile, farmers from other taluks, such as Khanapur, Chikkodi, Athani and Belgaum expect the Agriculture Department to complete the survey works at the earliest.

Kaipad cultivation to be extended in Ezhome

Steps are on to extend the traditional Kaipad paddy cultivation in brackish water fields in the Ezhome panchayat area as the rice produced from the crop is being included in the Geographical Indications (GI) registry of the country.

An official press release here said the Kaipad cultivation in the panchayat limits would be doubled from 75 hectares to 150 hectares next year.

350 hectares

The panchayat had nearly 350 hectares of Kaipad fields, and in the coming years, the fields left fallow for many years would be cultivated.

People's Planning

The release said the Kaipad revival project, under the People's Planning programme, was being implemented by the local Krishi Bhavan.

The uncultivated fields with thick undergrowth would be cleared under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employees' Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Aid to farmers

Farmers would be given Rs. 4,500 a hectare to plough the fields.

The farmers would also get nearly Rs. 10,000 a hectare by way of production bonus and other subsidies. The official release said traditional and hybrid paddy varieties would be used for the Kaipad cultivation.

Kaipad cultivation in Ezhome panchayat limits will be doubled from 75 to 150 hectares next year.

Drop in onion prices a relief for consumers

Prices of big onion dropped on Monday at the wholesale market in Coimbatore, giving a relief to consumers.

M. Rajendran, president of Thyagi Kumaran Market Vegetable Merchants' Association, told *The Hindu* that the wholesale price of big onion was Rs. 64 a kg at the market on Friday.

It dropped to Rs. 40 to Rs. 42 a kg on Monday. This was because of the action taken by the Union Government and the announcement that imports would be permitted.

Karnataka was expected to have a bumper crop and arrivals would start in two weeks. This would bring down the prices further. The prices were not expected to go up further for the next two months.

According to an official at the R.S. Puram Uzhavar Sandhai, the price of big onion on Saturday and Sunday was Rs. 62 and Rs. 60 a kg respectively. It came down to Rs. 57 on Monday at the market.

A leading vegetable retailer in the city said that the retailers had purchased the onions one or two days ago and the retail prices would start declining on Tuesday.

However, the prices would remain low depending on the arrival.

Sale of big onion had dropped during the last few days because of the prices.

Mr. Rajendran said that however, the price of small onion was Rs. 50 a kg on Monday (wholesale). The Karnataka season would end in a couple of weeks and its prices could go up further.

The other high-price vegetable was ginger. It was about Rs. 150 a kg, though the price was lower for the new arrivals.

In the case of other vegetables, the prices were expected to come down in the coming weeks when arrivals would increase.

Potato and tomato prices had fallen because of high arrivals. Nearly 75 per cent of wholesale vegetable arrivals to Coimbatore were sold to Kerala and the Onam purchases would commence from the first week of September. This would push the demand, he said.

THE HINDU Business Line



Kochi, Aug. 19:

Cardamom lost flavour as supply outstripped demand at auctions last week.

On Monday, the individual average dropped further to Rs 612.71 a kg. Upcountry dealers are not buying aggressively. Exporters are also covering. But the availability of exportable variety of 7 mm and above capsules is thin, market sources in Bodinayakannur told *Business Line*. They said that because of the incessant rains the size of the capsules has become small.

According to them, 8mm bold capsules fetched Rs 1,074 last weekend. Cardamom of 7mm and above is being sold at Rs 750 .

According to the trade, good export inquiries were pouring in and an estimated 30-40 tonnes of the material were said to have been bought by exporters last week.

Exportable varieties of capsules would come from the second round of picking which is expected to commence by the month-end.

Last week, total arrivals increased as weather conditions have become favourable. Individual auction average continued to remain above Rs 600 a kg, even though there was a decline in the average at auctions held last week. Total arrivals at the Sunday auction held by KCPMC increased to 80 tonnes from 70 tonnes on the previous Sunday and the entire quantity was sold out, P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, told *Business Line*.

The maximum price was at Rs 945 and the minimum at Rs 420 . The auction average price dropped to Rs 624.31 from Rs 638.05 at previous Sunday's auction.

The current season has begun officially from Aug 1 and hence the total arrival during the season up to Aug 18, stood at 942 tonnes against 889 tonnes during the same period last season. The sales were at 933 tonnes and 842 tonnes respectively. The weighted average price as on Aug 18, 2013 stood at Rs 603.93 against Rs 797.24 on the same date last year.

Prices of graded varieties (Rs/kg): AGEB 800-810; AGB 590-600; AGS 570-580 and AGS -1: 550-560. Bulk was being sold at Rs 400-950 a kg.

Sugar output next season will be higher on better yield: Pawar

Excess rain in Maharashtra, Karnataka will boost yield'



New Delhi, Aug. 19:

Sugar output for the 2013-14 season starting October will exceed the current year's output on higher cane yields, Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar said on Monday.

Sugar production in the current year is estimated at around 25 million tonnes (mt) and the domestic consumption is estimated at 23 mt.

"I have reviewed the sowing situation and it looks like the yields in sugarcane are going to be better than last year," Pawar told reporters after unveiling the statue of Nobel Laureate Norman E. Borlaug, at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Pusa campus.

rainfall

On concerns of excess rains affecting various crops, Pawar said, "It has not reached that stage."

According to the India Meteorological Department, the country has received 14 per cent excess rains since the onset on monsoon on June 1.

Excess rain in drought-affected States such as Maharashtra and Karnataka has brightened the prospects of better yields although the sugarcane acreage has declined due to last year's dry spells and drought conditions.

acreage down

The total cane area across the country is estimated at 48.53 lakh hectares (lh), some 3 per cent lower than last year's 50.06 lh.

Uttar Pradesh has planted a record acreage of 25.17 lh, about 10 per cent more than last year's 22.77 lh.

However, in Maharashtra, the cane acreage is lower at 5.70 lh (9.40 lh).

In Karnataka, the sugarcane area is estimated at 3.48 lh, marginally lower than last year's 3.65 lakh ha.

output estimates

In its initial estimates, the Indian Sugar Mills Association pegged the output in the year starting October 2013 at 23.7 mt – about 5 per cent lower than current year's 25 mt on lower cane acreage as planting was affected by drought in parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

sugar stats

The opening sugar balance for the next season is expected to be around 80 lakh tonnes, about 20 lakh tonnes more than the normative opening balance that the Government would like to have.

23% tea goes unsold at Coonoor sale

Some 23 per cent of the 13.40 lakh kg offered at Sale No: 33 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions remained unsold for want of buyers at asking prices.

Among CTC teas, Pekoe Dust of Homedale Estate, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped the market when Raj Traders bought it for Rs 185 a kg. Five grades of Homedale fetched over Rs 173 a kg. Vigneshwar Estate got Rs 173, Shanthi Supreme Rs 172, Crosshill Estate and Hittakkal Estate Rs 168 each and Deepika Supreme Rs 162. In all, 71 marks got Rs 125 and more .

Corsley orthodox dust tea (Rs 275) was the only one to cross Rs 200-a-kg mark. Kodanad got Rs 195, Higgfield Estate Rs 192, Havukal Rs 186, Kairbetta Rs 183, Chamraj Rs 179 and Sutton Rs 171. In all, 30 marks got Rs 125 and more .

Exporters to Pakistan paid a wide range of Rs 65-103 a kg and to the CIS, Rs 63-96.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 62-65 for plain leaf grades and Rs 115-150 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 66-74 for plain dusts and Rs 120-165 for brighter liquoring dusts.

“The prolonged agitation on Telangana issue in Andhra Pradesh, frequent stir in Kerala over solar panel issue, the ongoing agitations in Bihar, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir – all affect smooth transport of purchased teas from the Nilgiris. We are unable to operate in some of the quality-conscious high-paying upcountry markets. This restricts our bids at Coonoor auctions,” a buyer told *Business Line*.

“The tensions across Indo-Pak border and the political agitations in Egypt, Iraq, Iran and Israel affect our exports,” an exporter said.

Spot rubber slips further

The physical rubber prices lost further on Monday.

The market remained under pressure expecting an improvement in arrivals within a couple of weeks following the resumption of tapping in major plantation areas.

Sheet rubber dropped to Rs 185 (Rs 187) a kg, according to traders. The grade declined to Rs 186 (188) both at Kottayam and Kochi, as quoted by the Rubber Board.

RSS 4 weakened at its September futures to Rs 176.12 (Rs 179.28), October to Rs 169.05 (Rs 171.24), November to Rs 167.01 (Rs 167.98) and December to Rs 167.25 (Rs 167.61) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) firmed up to Rs 162.03 (Rs 159.91) at Bangkok.

August futures closed at ¥ 259.2 (Rs 167.18) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange .

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg : RSS-4: 185 (187); RSS-5: 183 (184); Ungraded: 174 (178) ISNR 20: 170 (174) and Latex 60 per cent: 162.50 (163).

Soya oil gains on global cues



Indore, Aug. 19:

Notwithstanding weak buying support at higher level, soya oil ruled higher on strong global cues with soya refined oil being quoted Rs 655-60 for 10 kg (Rs 649-52).

Similarly, soya solvent also ruled higher at Rs 625-28 (Rs 618-22).

In the futures market also, soya oil traded higher on strong global cues and improved buying support with August and September contracts on the NCDEX on Monday closing at Rs 684 (up 50 paise) and Rs 676.60 (up Rs 9.70).

Arrival of soyabean in State mandis rose to 55,000-60,000 bags. Prices at Indore ruled firm at Rs 3,450-3,550 a quintal despite strong global cues.

Soyabean acentage in Madhya Pradesh this year rose to 62.50 lakh hectares. Contrary to soyabean prices in the physical market, it traded higher in the futures on strong global cues and buying support with its October and November contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 3,170 a quintal (up Rs 109) and Rs 3,190 (up Rs 110.50).

Plant deliveries ruled at Rs 3,525-75 on subdued demand from the crushers.

Soyameal prices ruled at Rs 31,000-31,400 on improved demand, while it ruled at Rs 32,000 on the port on weak export demand.

Bangladesh to get 20 lakh bales Indian cotton

Signs pact on textiles sector collaboration

New Delhi, Aug. 19:

India has promised to supply up to 20 lakh bales of raw cotton to Bangladesh every year irrespective of any ban that may be imposed on its exports in future.

The two countries discussed the finer details of a Cotton Purchase Agreement, yet to be signed, at a meeting between Textile Ministers from both sides on Monday.

“In 2013-14 cotton season, I have assured Bangladesh that the country’s textile mills would not have any difficulties in sourcing cotton from India,” Textile Minister K. Sambasiva Rao said at a joint press conference with his Bangladeshi counterpart Abdul Latif Siddiqui after the meeting.

There is, however, yet to be an agreement on whether the cotton purchase pact would be Business-to-Business (B2B) or Business-to-Government (B2G). While India wants it to be a B2G arrangement, with public sector procurement agency Cotton Corporation of India canalising the exports, Bangladesh wants it to be strictly a B2B affair.

“Bangladesh feels that it is a lot cheaper to buy it from a private seller rather than a Government agency and it also takes less time,” a Textile Ministry official told *Business Line*.

But India’s argument is that when there is a ban on exports of the raw material in the country, the only feasible way to export it would be through a canalising agency.

Bangladesh had wanted to sign a Cotton Purchase Agreement with India since the country imposed a temporary ban on its exports in March last year.

The two countries, on Monday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on textiles sector collaboration that would facilitate trade through a joint working group. The joint working group will develop collaborations between fashion institutes, skill building institutions and research institutions in the two countries.

India’s textile imports from Bangladesh, after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s visit to Dhaka in September 2011 following which import duties were reduced further, has increased to \$289 million in 2012 compared to \$164 million in 2010.

Cotton likely to bloom on low inventories



Rajkot, Aug 19:

Cotton prices ruled unchanged at the higher levels as demand dropped marginally following the recent spike.

On the other hand, *kapas* or raw cotton prices declined.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton traded at Rs 47,000-47,500 for a candy of 356 kg.

Kapas declined by Rs 20-25 to Rs 1,200-1,225 for 20 kg.

About 2,000-2,500 bales cotton arrived in Gujarat and 5,000 bales arrived in the country.

Higher demand from millers and exporters has jacked up cotton prices to nearly a three-year high.

The prices, according to trader sources, have jumped to Rs 48,500 for a candy in the recent trades, but now, the demand has slowed down after the constant rise.

A Rajkot-based trader said that cotton price may decrease for some time but the overall sentiment is not negative as inventories are very low and demand may increase.

According to Gujarat State Agriculture Department data, cotton sowing has reached to 26.62 lakh hectares this year against 22.41 lakh hectares last year.

According to the Textile Commissioner of India data, cotton export registrations during June alone surged by 72.7 per cent to a record 1,42,297 tonnes.

Weak domestic currency heats up edible oils



Edible oils prices increased on Monday tracking weaker rupee that plunged to a new low against the dollar and extended gains in Malaysian palm oil futures.

In Mumbai, imported palmolein, soyabean refined and sunflower refined oils increased by Rs 10 each for 10 kg; cotton refined oil was up by Rs 7 for 10 kg. Local refineries increased their rates by Rs 10 at the beginning of the day. The sentiment was firm despite routine volume on fear of further slide in domestic currency, said sources.

Shailesh Kataria of Riddhi Broker told *Business Line* “domestic soyabean oil futures prices have gone up by Rs 25 in the last seven days tracking bullish overseas trend”.

Sources said that during the day, 900-1,000 tonnes palmolein and 100-150 tonnes soyabean refined were traded.

At the end of the day, Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 575, super palmolein Rs 605 and super deluxe Rs 625, soyabean refined oil Rs 665 and sunflower refined oil Rs 825. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 575, soyabean refined oil Rs 665 and sunflower refined oil Rs 820.

Allana quoted palmolein at Rs 573, super palmolein at Rs 603, soyabean refined oil Rs 663 and sunflower refined oil Rs 818.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil was Rs 1,520 (Rs 1,510) for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) Rs 975 (Rs 975). Soyabean arrivals increased to 80,000 bags and its prices were Rs 3,425-3,475 ex-mandi and Rs 3,525-3,550 for plant delivery.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, soyabean refined oil's September futures shot up by Rs 11.30 to Rs 678.20 (Rs 666.90), October higher by Rs 14.65 to Rs 653.45 (Rs 638.80) and November increased by Rs 14.50 to Rs 646.50 (Rs 632.00).

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's September futures settled higher at MYR 2,393 (MYR 2,367), October at MYR 2,354 (MYR 2,324) and November at MYR 2,333 (MYR 2,309).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: Groundnut oil 990 (990), soya refined oil 665 (655), sunflower exp. ref. 725 (720), sunflower ref. 815 (805), rapeseed ref. oil 710 (710), rapeseed expeller ref. 680 (680) cottonseed ref. oil 665 (658) and palmolein 565 (555).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd has quoted Rs 615 for 10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein for September delivery.

Rice may continue to trade in ranges



Over 5,500 bags of different paddy varieties arrived at the Karnal Grain Market Terminal on Monday.

As expected, paddy arrivals have improved and it may increase gradually in the coming weeks, said Tara Chand Sharma, Proprietor of Tara Chand and Sons.

Despite higher moisture, around 22 per cent, rice millers have shown interest in buying, he added.

In the physical market, aromatic and non-basmati rice ruled almost unchanged on Monday even as buying remained tepid.

After witnessing a fall on August 9, rice prices have been ruling with marginal fluctuations since then.

Traders expect that market may continue to witness a range-bound trend in the coming days.

Pusa-1121 (steam) sold at Rs 8,000 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted at Rs 7,650-7,700.

Pure basmati (raw) quoted at Rs 8,650. Duplicate basmati (steam) sold at Rs 6,550.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Dubar quoted at Rs 3,600, Tibar sold at Rs 4,250 while Mongra was at Rs 2,900.

In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) sold at Rs 4,500-4,600 while Sharbati (Sela) quoted at Rs 4,300.

Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,300-2,350 while Permal (sela) went for Rs 2,300. PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs 2,900 while PR-11 (Raw) quoted at Rs 2,750.

PR14 (steam) sold at Rs 3,100.

Paddy arrivals

Around 5,500 bags of different paddy varieties arrived from the Uttar Pradesh. About 500 bags of Pusa-1121 arrived and quoted at Rs 3,200. Around 5,000 bags of PR arrived and quoted at Rs 1,200.

Enquiries trickle in for sugar exports



Spot prices on the Vashi wholesale sugar market increased by Rs 5-7 a quintal for fine variety, while they declined by Rs 2-4 for fair quality on Monday.

Retail demand was higher as the market will remain closed on Tuesday for *Raksha Bandhan*.

Naka and mill tender rates were unchanged for the sixth consecutive day due to routine demand-supply. Market observer said that in the physical market, retailers' lifting was higher but prices were volatile.

“In the absence of upcountry buying at upper levels, Maharashtra’s mills are forced to sell the commodity in the local markets leading to supply exceeding demand.” Sources said that due to festivals at the domestic level and improved prospects for sugar exports after world prices crossed \$500-mark, the undercurrent remains positive.

Importing nations have already started enquiries in India. If the world market continues to rise, then there will be a good chance to export. On the other hand, higher cost of production will prevent prices from declining further, they said.

Meanwhile, arrivals in the Vashi market were 62-63 truckloads (each of 100 bags) while local dispatches were 64-65.

On Saturday evening, only 9-10 mills offered tenders and sold about 28,000-30,000 bags at Rs 2,910-3,000 (Rs 2,910-3,000) for S-grade and Rs 3,010-3,110 (Rs 3,010-3,110) for M-grade, a level not changed since August 12.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, sugar September futures were up by Rs 2 to Rs 3,019 (Rs 3,017) and October was down by Re 1 to Rs 3,030 (Rs 3,031) till noon.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association’s spot rates were: S-grade Rs 3,044-3,146 (Rs 3,052-3,142) and M-grade Rs 3,182-3,352 (Rs 3,156-3,352).

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 3,005-3,060 (Rs 3,005-3,060) and M-grade Rs 3,120-3,210 (Rs 3,120-3,210).

Turmeric loses colour on selling pressure



Turmeric prices continued to rule lower in Erode markets on Monday as farmers sold their produce at current prices as they need cash.

On the other hand, there is lurking fear that traders in North India are holding stocks and it is the reason why demand is yet to set in from there.

“Our traders are hopeful of getting fresh orders within a week’s time”, said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Prices in other centres ruled at Rs 5,500 a quintal, while on the futures market turmeric was quoted at Rs 4,700.

Arrivals dropped to 3,700 bags on Monday, and 65 per cent was sold.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,519-5,897 a quintal, the root variety Rs 3,396-5,471 .

Salem hybrid crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 5,158-6,417, the root variety Rs 4,900-5,811.

Of 860 bags that arrived, 510 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,000-5,864, the root variety Rs 4,790-5,590.

Of 617 bags on offer, 463 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,799-5,900.

The root variety was sold at Rs 4,699-5,505.

Of the arrival of 599 put up for sale, 529 were traded.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,177-6,210, the root variety Rs 4,801-5,199.

All the 333 bags were sold.

Demand, tight supply keep pepper hot



Pepper spot and futures continued to stay hot on tight supply amid strong domestic demand.

Weakening of the rupee sharply has also made imports costlier.

Availability in Kerala has become tight. Harvest in Tamil Nadu's Palani hills, Yercaud regions was in full swing, though the output is lower. They were buying on cash-and-carry basis from the door steps of the growers and even ready to buy MG 1 at Rs 425 a kg, they said. Gudalur-based dealers were covering from Wayand, they said.

September and October contracts on the NMCE soared by Rs 1,164 and Rs 724 a quintal respectively to Rs 44,100 and Rs 43,800.

Total turnover moved up by three tonnes to 24 tonnes. Total open interest increased by 13 tonnes to 39 tonnes.

There was said to be no trading on the IPSTA platform, they said.

Spot prices continued to gain and rose by Rs 300 to close at Rs 40,300 (ungarbled) and Rs 42,300 (garbled) on tight availability amid strong demand.

Indian parity in the international market stayed at \$6,950 a tonne (c&f) Europe at \$7,200 a tonne (c&f) US.

Business Standard

Cotton prices at 3-year high as demand, export strengthen

Analysts say rainfall in the two months has damaged some crop, which could lead to more strengthening of cotton prices



Increased demand from millers and exporters has jacked up cotton prices to their highest levels in three years. The prices, according to sources, have jumped to Rs 48,500 a candy (356 kg) in recent trades. "There is high demand from millers, mainly because of increased yarn exports. Yarn exporters are getting better prices due to an escalating dollar and increase in international prices," said Arun Dalal, a leading trader in Ahmedabad. A weakening rupee has benefited exporters in sending more cotton and yarn. Government estimates suggest exports are likely to be 10 million bales (170 kg each) in the 2012-13 cotton season, about a fifth of the world total of export.

Prices firmed up on commodity exchanges on Monday. NCDEX cotton for October delivery was Rs 20,000-20,500 a bale. Prices have gained by Rs 2,000 a bale since May. "Domestic and export demand has added fuel to rising cotton prices. This is one of the highest price levels

since 2011,” added Dalal. Analysts say sustained rainfall for the past two months has damaged some crop, which could lead to further strengthening of the prices. “Demand for cotton has gone up within India as well as abroad. China has emerged as a major buyer of yarn from India. This has left India’s cotton market hand-to-mouth,” said a Kolkata-based exporter. “Looking at the demand pressure, prices might touch Rs 50,000 a candy for a brief period. However, as the new crop starts arriving in the market, prices might cool down. But there is less likelihood of prices falling below Rs 45,000 a candy in the coming months,” he said. Cotton export registrations during June surged 73 per cent against the same month last year, to a record 142,297 tonnes.

Onion price dips on MEP, import

Rise in arrivals eases shortage; with new crop expected in weeks at yards, govt says export ban not needed



The government on Monday said a firm ‘No’ to a ban on export of onions, as prices have started softening in the wholesale markets. According to Union consumer affairs secretary Pankaj Agarwal, prices in the wholesale markets of Lasalgaon and Pimpalgaon in Maharashtra’s Nashik district (the state is the largest producer and these are key markets), have started falling. “In any case, there are no exports happening,” he added. To control rising prices, the government had earlier imposed a minimum export price of \$650 a tonne and had directed cooperative major Nafed to import more onions. India had exported 511,616 tonnes, amounting to Rs 776 crore, in the first quarter of 2013-14 against 517,274 tonnes in the same period a year before. As the rains pause and arrivals improve at the markets, prices have started cooling. The price at Lasalgaon (Asia’s largest market) is Rs 3,300-3,500 a quintal as against Rs 4,700-4,900 a qtl five days earlier. “Arrivals have improved from 4,580 qtls a week before to around 9,000 qtls now. Also, owing to high prices, buying was less. So, higher availability and lower demand has brought down the prices,” said a trader at Nashik.

In most other wholesale markets, prices continue to remain above Rs 4,000-4,100 a qtl. However, sources at the Nashik market say most others take price guidance from Lasalgaon. Hence, a fall is likely at other places in a day. In percentage terms, prices have corrected by 32 per cent from its peak levels a week before. Earlier on Monday, consumer affairs minister K V Thomas met agriculture minister Sharad Pawar and reviewed the price situation in onions. Asked when onion prices would cool, Pawar said, "I don't know about prices but I know about the crop condition. The crop in Nashik has been affected due to drought. As on today, the overall crop condition is good." Insiders maintained that fresh arrivals had started from Andhra Pradesh. But full-fledged arrivals would begin from mid-September, when Maharashtra and Karnataka's farmers bring their crop to the market. In Lasalgaon around 9,000 tonnes of onions arrived on Monday; in Pipalgaon, 12,000 tonnes. Arrivals are expected any time from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan but "these states are facing logistics problem due to rain", Pawar told reporters on the sidelines of an event.

"This is a cyclical phenomenon of onion prices, mainly during the transition period between two seasons. This year, due to lesser carryover stock, prices had turned fiery," said a source at the National Horticulture Research and Development Federation. At Ahmedabad's Chimanbhai Patel APMC, prices were Rs 3,200-3,300 a qtl in the afternoon on Monday.

Sources say the 2012-13 market year saw sowing at its lowest in three years, with the crop being five per cent less than the previous year. "Last year's carryover stock was sold out due to rains in Maharashtra. So, there is a shortage in the market till at least the fresh arrivals, which might start latest by the second week of next month," said Ashok Walunj, director of the Vashi wholesale market at Navi Mumbai. To control rising prices, the government had imposed a minimum export price (MEP) of \$650 per tonne and had directed cooperative major NAFED to import onions. India has exported 5,11,616 tonnes of onion amounting to Rs 776.47 crore in the first quarter of this fiscal against 5,17,274 tonnes in the year-ago period, as per official data.

According to the Nashik-based National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), the area under onion crop is down by 10% from 10.87 lakh hectares this year.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Edible oil rises on millers buying, global cues

NEW DELHI: Edible oil prices rose by Rs 100 per quintal on the wholesale oils and oilseeds market today on the back of increased buying by vanaspati units and retailers amid a firming trend overseas. However, non-edible oils held steady in narrow movements. Traders said sentiment bolstered after Palm oil climbed to a five-week high in global markets as soybeans rallied on concern that dry weather in the US may hurt crops in the largest grower of the oilseed crushed to make an alternative oil. Meanwhile, palm oil for contract for November delivery gained 1.5 per cent to 713 dollar a metric tonne, the highest level since July 12, on the Malaysia Derivatives. In the national capital, mustard expeller oil (dadri) and cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) oils rose by Rs 100 each to Rs 6,900 and Rs 6,300 per quintal respectively.

Tracking a firm global trend, soyabean refined mill delivery (Indore) and soyabean degum (Kandla) oils rose by Rs 100 each to Rs 7,100 and Rs 6,800 and crude palm oil (ex-kandla) traded higher by same margin to Rs 5,200 per quintal respectively. Palmolein (rbd) and palmolein (Kandla) oils too traded in positive zone with a rise of Rs 100 each to Rs 6,000 and Rs 5,600 per quintal respectively.

Guar seed futures rises on thin supply; chana falls

MUMBAI: Guar seed futures rose on Monday due to value buying amid thin supply, though hopes of bumper production because of an expanded area under cultivation and conducive weather limited the upside. At 0921 GMT, the October contract was up 0.71 per cent at Rs 4,260 per 100 kg on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, after rising to Rs 4,310 earlier in the day. "Futures are offered at a discount to the spot market. Some lower level buying is expected to support futures," said Mahendra Sonawat, a trader from Bikaner.

Rajasthan, the leading guar cultivating state, has received more rainfall than normal so far in the season, weather department data showed. Guar seed fell Rs 73 to Rs 5,320 per 100 kg at Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

CHANA

Chana, or chickpea, futures fell due to higher supplies and on expectations of a rise in the production of summer-sown pulses. The September contract for chana was down 1.42 per cent at Rs 2,908 per 100 kg. "Supplies are sufficient in the domestic market. Chana prices are expected to consolidate at these levels because prices have already fallen a lot," said Vedika Narvekar, a senior analyst at Angel Commodities. Spot chana fell Rs 50 to Rs 3,050 per 100 kg in Delhi. The government-set support price is Rs 3,000. However, traders expect the festive demand to support prices in the near term. Retail demand for chana flour is likely to pick up in the coming days, ahead of festivals such as Rakshabandhan and Ganesh Chaturthi.

Sugar prices close lower on ample supply

NEW DELHI: Sugar prices drifted by Rs 20 per quintal in the national capital today following ample supply from mills. Marketmen said apart from huge readystocks position, regular arrivals from millsmainly pulled down sweetner prices. In millgate section, Sugar Dorala dropped by Rs 20 at Rs 3,120, while Khatuli slipped by Rs 15 at Rs 3,095 per quintal, respectively.

Sugar: Prices remain steady as rise in demand may offset oversupplies



Sugar output in India may exceed the current year's 25 million tonnes, though revival in exports due to a weak rupee, and a likely rise in retail demand during the festival season could help prices remain stable.

MUMBAI: Indian sugar futures were trading water on Monday as hopes of a revival in exports due to a weak rupee, and a likely rise in retail demand during the festival season offset a forecast of surplus production for a fourth straight year. At 0951 GMT, the key September

contract was up 0.07 percent at Rs 3,019 (\$48.23) per 100 kg on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange. "The market is oversupplied. Next year also production is expected to be higher than consumption," said Mukesh Kuvadia, secretary of the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association.

"Prices are likely to trade in a narrow range over the next few days unless we see a significant improvement in local or overseas demand due to the weak rupee." A weak rupee increases the returns of sugar exporters. The rupee fell to a record low on Monday and looked poised for further losses, with a series of measures unveiled last week failing to stall its decline.

Spot sugar was up Rs 7 at Rs 3,051 per 100 kg at the Kolhapur market in Maharashtra state.

A lack of Pakistani sugar available for exports and strong demand before Ramadan allowed India to sign export deals last month. Sugar output in India, the world's biggest consumer, in the marketing year beginning October 2013 may exceed the current year's 25 million tonnes as good monsoon rains help in increasing yields, farm minister Sharad Pawar said on Monday.

Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, the top two sugar producers in India, have received more rainfall than normal since the beginning of the monsoon on June 1, weather department data showed, boosting the prospects of higher production. (\$1 = 62.6 Indian rupees)



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Onion prices fall 20% at Lasalgaon

NASHIK: The average wholesale rates in the country's largest market at Lasalgaon Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) dropped for the first time on Monday over fears about possible import of the crop from neighbouring countries. Prices are expected to fall even further in the next two or three days, market officials said. The average wholesale onion prices declined by 20.47% to Rs 3,340 a quintal on Monday. On Saturday it was Rs 4,200 a quintal. The retail price of onions also fell marginally to between Rs 40 and Rs 50 a kg.

"The average wholesale prices declined by Rs 860 a quintal and are expected to decline further by Rs 500 a quintal, to around Rs 2,800 a quintal in next two-three days," said a senior official from Lasalgaon APMC.
