

Dharmapuri farmers urged to cultivate traditional crops



Bid to revive neglected crops: Traditional Kattu Yanam variety of paddy cultivated in Kettukottai village in Karimangalam Panchayat Union in Dharmapuri district and (right) capsicum cultivated on the land of a farmer in Elumichanaalli village.— Photos: Special Arrangement



Focus on food crops that are resistant to disease and pests

DHARMAPURI, December 2, 2013 - The district administration is taking special initiative to encourage farmers to undertake cultivation of traditional varieties of food crops.

As part of this programme, former M.L.A. T. Madhappan has cultivated traditional variety of paddy called 'Kattu Yanam' (coarse grain) on half acre land at Kettukottai village in Karimangalam Panchayat Union in Dharmapuri district.

This followed his field tour organised by district authorities to Thiruthuraipoondi in Tiruvarur district recently. A farmer in Thiruthuraipoondi is cultivating traditional varieties of crops.

Mr. Madhappan obtained seeds from the farmer and cultivated the crop under the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method.

This variety of paddy will withstand drought and flood, has self immunity from pest attack and will grow to the height of 6 feet and be ready for harvest in 180 days.

Besides this, it would not allow weeds to grow in between the plants.

It has self-immunity against disease and pests, P. Manoharan, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture said.

Rich in protein, this variety will give additional strength to veins and is easily digestible, the official said.

On seeing the crop in the field, farmers elsewhere in the district are showing keen interest in this variety. The paddy is to be used for seed purposes owing to the interest shown by fellow farmers.

Samraj, a farmer from Elumichanaalli village cultivated capsicum on 4,000 sq.m. land, under shade net. Each capsicum weighing between 200 gm and 250 gm is fetching good price from northern states.

Inspection

Collector K. Vivekanandan inspected the paddy and capsicum field on Saturday.

He requested the farmers to cultivate English variety of vegetables and fruits as the salubrious weather condition prevailing in the district were favourable.

Subsidy was being extended by the government to the tune of Rs. 4.61 lakh for setting up green houses on 1,000 sq.m. of land.

The district administration is taking efforts to market pulses and horticulture products produced by the farmers, and also add value to the products.

An action plan has been initiated to encourage the farmers and entrepreneurs to set up agriculture-allied industries.

P. Ramar, District Revenue Officer; P. Manoharan, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture; and K. Kalaiselvi, Deputy Director, Department of Horticulture, accompanied the Collector.

Farmers' festival

MADURAI, December 2, 2013 - The State government in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry, Madurai and TNAU will be organising "Vivasaaya Thiruvizha 2013" a three-day farmers' festival from December 5 at the Agricultural College and Research Institute campus here.

Weather information is just an SMS away

The new service launched through the farmers' portal

The Agriculture Department has launched SMS service to give instant information to farmers in the district about weather forecasts and agriculture activities such as plant protection measures, fertiliser application and crop insurance.

The new service has been launched through the farmers' portal, using the Farm Crop Management System (FCMS), developed by the State Government to enhance the information channels between farmers and the department, Joint Director of Agriculture N.V.Krishnamoorthi said.

The SMS service in Tamil, which was launched on an experimental basis last week, has received good response from the farmers, he said adding the department has sent 58 types of messages to the farmers during the last one week.

Mobile phone numbers of 1.78 lakh farmers in the district with their size of land holdings and pattern of crop cultivation have been stored in the FCMS, developed by the government in partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras' Rural Technology and Business Incubator (RTBI), he said.

The FCMS has facilities to reach out to targeted fishermen, he said.

The Information and Communication Technology has become an effective tool to speed up agriculture extension activities and spread messages to thousands of farmers just by a touch of a button, Mr S.S.Shiek Abdullah, Assistant Director of Agriculture (Headquarters), who is the nodal officer for FCMS in the district said.

"The service is handy to reach out to the farmers in no time," he said adding recently the department has alerted the farmers on a loan mela being conducted in their block and advised them to insure their paddy crops by visiting the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies.

"The department, which had been informing the farmers through print and electronic media on the availability of pesticides, fertilisers and subsidy pattern has directly established contacts with the farmers thanks to the SMS service," he told *The Hindu* .

Banana festival in Coimbatore

TIRUCHI, December 2, 2013 - 'Kela mela', a two-day banana festival, will be organised by the Tamil Nadu Banana Growers Federation in coordination with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) from December 14 at Coimbatore.

Addressing media persons here on Saturday, G. Ajeethan, general secretary of the federation, said that scientists and experts from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, National Research Centre for Banana, Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology and officials from the Agriculture and Horticulture departments would participate in the conference. Agricultural equipment manufacturing firms and entrepreneurs from all over the country will participate.

He said that the federation and the CII organised stake holder consultative meetings.

Farmers' association demands compensation for crop damage

PERAMBALUR, December 2, 2013 - The Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam affiliated to Communist Party of India (CPI) said that the farmers who had raised rain fed crops had suffered heavy loss due to the failure of North-East monsoon and demanded adequate compensation to the affected farmers.

The farmers had raised crops fetching huge loans, and the State government should sanction a compensation of Rs.25,000 per acre to corn and cotton farmers and Rs.5,000 per tree to the coconut and mango farmers, a resolution adopted at the district conference of the sangam held here recently said.

Another resolution urged the government to construct a check dam across river Kallar in between Krishnapuram and Vembavur villages in Veppanthattai block. This facility will provide irrigation facility for 15,000 acres of land in Venbavur, Valikandapuram, Mettupalayam, Agaram, Pudur, Pimbalur and other villages. Besides it will also improve the ground water level, thus solving the drinking water problem.

Another resolution said the irrigation channel carrying water from river Vellar at Keezhakudikadu to the PWD tanks in the villages of Athiyur, Vayalur, Kizhmathur is in a poor condition and should be desilted immediately.

The poor condition of the channel has affected farm activities in 20,000 acres. The conference also urged the government to construct a check dam across river Vellar in Keezhakudikadu. Yet another resolution referred to the acquisition of 5,000 acres of farm land for the proposed Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in the district.

The project has not been implemented and the acquired lands are lying idle for the last four years. According to latest reports 900 acres of land is adequate enough for the SEZ project.

☐ ***'State should sanction a compensation of Rs.25,000 per acre'***

☐ ***'Poor condition of the channel affects activities in 20,000 acres'***

Power crisis, rising prices of farm inputs, key issues

SALEM, December 2, 2013 - A total of 2,40,290 voters will decide the fate of the AIADMK and DMK candidates who are in the fray for the Yercaud Assembly seat, by-election to which will be held on December 4.

The seat fell vacant after the death of C. Perumal of AIADMK, the three-time MLA of the constituency. The constituency is reserved for persons from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community since it was formed in 1957.

Though there are 11 candidates in the fray, the main contest is between P. Saroja (wife of Perumal) representing the AIADMK, and V. Maran of DMK. The Yercaud voters will also have

the 'None Of The Above' (NOTA) option to choose. This is the first election in Tamil Nadu to go with the option.

A majority of voters are living in the plains. Of the total of 290 booths in the constituency, only 41 booths are in Yercaud taluk, 167 in Vazhapadi taluk, followed by 58 in Salem taluk and 24 in Attur taluk.

The constituency, which is part of the Kallakurichi (part of Villupuram district) Lok Sabha segment, has a population that is dominated by Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste communities. Vanniyars account for a sizeable share of the population.

A majority of the people are labourers in coffee estates and in other plantations. Tourism is an up-and-coming industry. Agriculture is the major occupation in Vazhapadi and Attur. Thousands of power and handlooms in the plains are a major source of living for the people of the constituency.

The key issues that would reflect in the by-election are the power crisis that affected a cross-section of the industries, and the increasing prices of farm inputs. Lack of basic amenities such as roads to the villages atop the Yercaud Hill is another issue of concern. Of the 13 elections held in the constituency, AIADMK had won six times, followed by the DMK which emerged victorious on four occasions and the Indian National Congress three times.

'Positive approach to farmers' problems'

BANGALORE, December 2, 2013 - Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday reiterated that the government would initiate action against sugar factories that failed to implement its order on paying arrears of sugarcane to farmers. Speaking to presspersons here, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the law stipulated payment of arrears to sugarcane growers within a timeframe. He said that the kin of the farmer who committed suicide on Saturday would get compensation according to the rules. Mr. Siddaramaiah said that his government had adopted a positive approach to solving farmers' problems.

High-tech dairy farm to be set up in Kalpanahalli village

DAVANGERE, December 2, 2013 - H.K. Palakshappa, director of Shimoga Milk Producers' Union, has said that a high-tech dairy farm will be set up in Kalpanahalli village on the outskirts of Davangere at a total cost of Rs. 45 crore.

He was speaking at a function to inaugurate the new building of the Milk Producers' union at Hosakunduwada village on Sunday.

He said that 14 acres of land had been reserved for the proposed high-tech dairy farm.

Though the project was proposed many years ago, commencement of works had been delayed owing to many reasons. But now work was in full swing and the dairy is expected to

be commissioned in one year, he said. Mr. Palakshappa said that over 56 lakh litres of milk was being produced per day from the three districts under SMPU and of it 46 lakh litres was being sold. The remaining was used for preparation of milk products. Farmers evinced interest in dairy farming after the government announced Rs. 4 per litre as incentive.

Farmers rally against WTO

MANGALORE, December 2, 2013 - Farmers of different states in South India will participate in a protest rally on Tuesday from APMC yard, Baikampady, to New Mangalore Port, said a release from the South Indian Co-ordination Committee of Farmers Movements, Bangalore. The rally aims at taking direct action against the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and free trade agreements (FTAs), which facilitate cheap import of agricultural products leading to depressed prices of Indian agricultural products.

Farmers urged to vaccinate cattle

KALPETTA, December 2, 2013 - The Animal Husbandry department has directed dairy farmers to vaccinate their cattle to combat foot-and-mouth disease, in the wake of an outbreak of the disease in Wayanad district.

Dr. B. Bahuleyan, project officer, Animal diseases control, said that the disease was posing a serious threat to cattle. The fast spreading disease had affected 550 cattle and killed 25 of them so far in the district, he added.

Free medicines had been provided to the disease affected animals and ring vaccination had been applied to curb further spread of the disease in those areas, he said.

Close to 50 percent of animals had been vaccinated under the Goraksha project and 22 percent were vaccinated under a joint project of the department in association with local administrative bodies and the dairy department in the district.

Farmers can call 04936-202729, 9388315471 and 9447409406 for further details.

Multiple-storey farming to be promoted: Minister

KANNUR, December 2, 2013 - The innovative design of the multiple-storey farming model developed by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kannur at Panniyur will be promoted, Agricultural Minister K.P. Mohanan has said.

The integrated farm unit for converging agriculture, animal husbandry, and dairy farming would be established in all panchayats, the Minister said while inaugurating the farm on the KVK campus on Saturday.

The model vertical farm is built in one-cent area and, therefore, could be set up in urban areas where shortage of land was a major obstacle to farming activities, he said. The design of the vertical farm unit is developed under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

According to T. Giggin, assistant professor, KVK, who developed the design, the efficiency of the farm depends on how well the components are managed throughout the year.

The pyramid structure was modified as galleries where the fodder and crops of the farmer's choice could be grown, he said.

Farming methods

KVK programme coordinator P. Jayaraj said that the vertical farm was like an apartment where animals were grown in different storeys and adequate micro-climate was assured for the animals and crops to have a sustainable production of eggs, meat, milk, and vegetables. Stating that directions would be issued for the establishment of the vertical farm in all panchayats with the technical support from the KVK here, P.V. Balachandran, Director of Extension, Kerala Agricultural University and Director of the Project Planning and Monitoring Cell, said the vertical farm was the outcome of the researchable issues raised under ATMA.

Farmers' panel urges PM not to accept Peace Clause

NEW DELHI, December 2, 2013 - The Indian Coordination Committee of Farmers Movement on Friday urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh not to accept at the ninth World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting the 'Peace Clause', which is a time-bound immunity against penalty for breaching the 10 per cent ceiling on farm subsidy provided to developing countries like India. The panel comprises farmers' groups in various States and State units of the Bhartiya Kisan Union.

"It is sad that the United Progressive Alliance government, in a hasty move, agreed for this temporary reprieve instead of holding to its original position for a permanent solution through changes in the Agreement on Agriculture [AoA], i.e. allowing such subsidies under the green box, which contains no conditionality on subsidy limits. This would have removed the imbalance in the AoA, whereby the developed countries have the flexibility to provide high subsidy directly to their population in the form of food stamps, but developing countries are unable to meet similar objectives," the committee said in a letter written to Dr. Singh.

"By accepting the 'Peace Clause', India may help with the deal on Trade Facilitation and the successful end of the WTO Ministerial in Indonesia, but the Congress-led UPA will be condemned for compromising price support system (or minimum support price) which provides livelihood support to millions of subsistence farmers and ensures adequate food production for public stockholding essential to run the food security programme in India," the letter said.

“As an eminent economist, it must be clear to you that India can ensure food security only by supporting both production and consumption. Weakening the production, as the ‘Peace Clause’ is bound to do, will not help food access. The Indian government has to defend its right to freely procure food from 600 million farmers and get it across to its 870 million hungry people in the country,” the letter said.

📄 ***The UPA will be condemned for compromising price support system: Letter***

📄 ***“The U.S. and the E.U. have not fulfilled their commitments on reducing their subsidies”***

Postmodernism design solution in farm, food sector helps women

BHUBANESWAR, December 2, 2013 - *Application of value added products in farm sector will help counter rising rural wages*

In a bid to explore value added products in agriculture and food processing, techies and farmers emphasised on postmodernism in development approaches in the sector which employs women.

“Postmodernism Design Solutions is not only a necessity but it places people at the Centre of development,” experts told a workshop organised by Central Toolroom and Training Centre (CTTC) here.

Application of value added products in farm sector would help counter rising rural wages as well as low turnout of workers that had hitherto made agri enterprises unprofitable for farmers, they said.

Any MSME, either single or in a group, could implement a Design Solution by applying for a Design Project up to Rs 25 lakh of which 60 per cent was a grant from the government. While workers viewed the farm sector as a market to sell their labour power, the manufacturers and suppliers had taken a long time to look into the requirements in the field, the experts said.

Skill building

Speakers also suggested Skill Building of women with Gender Sensitivity ideas to the Design Clinic Scheme such as making Women Friendly Workstations in Agriculture, Post—Processing and Management and Food Processing.

Terming it to be difficult to have globalisation of practices in Agriculture and Food Processing due to differences in culture, agro climatic conditions, lifestyle of people and differences in technology levels, they put thrust on context specific approaches in the sector. The programmes being conducted at CTTC also encourage young student designers from technical institutes and engineering colleges to improve their competencies for design and innovation with a grant of Rs 1.5 lakh for each project.

Stipend

Students would get a stipend and reimburse their expenses for giving shape to their innovation, they said.

Experts including Associate professor of College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology under Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) Kalpana Raiguru participated.

Paddy procurement centres opened

BELLARY, December 2, 2013 - The paddy procurement centres established by the district administration started functioning from Saturday. According to Deputy Commissioner Amlan Aditya Biswas, the minimum support price for paddy was fixed at Rs. 1,310 per quintal. In addition, Rs. 290 per quintal would also be given by the State government as incentive, taking the total procurement price to Rs. 1,600 per quintal. Farmers could sell paddy with 17 per cent moisture at these procurement centres set up at the godowns of the Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation in the APMC yards in Bellary, Sirguppa, Kampli and Hagari Bommanahalli taluks. For more details contact 08392-276283. —Staff Correspondent

Paddy harvesting begins in Krishna district

MACHILIPATNAM, December 2, 2013 - *Crop damaged during recent rain will be cut after it becomes dry*



Agriculture workers harvesting paddy near Pammarru in Krishna district. — PHOTO: CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

Following welcome relief from the adverse weather conditions, which haunted the farmers in November, harvesting of paddy crop began in many parts of Krishna district.

Harvesting is in full swing now in Tiruvuru, Pamaru, Vuyyuru mandals and parts of Central Krishna district while stage is set to complete the kharif paddy harvesting within next three weeks. Since the standing crop, which was damaged in cyclone, requires at least a week to get dry, crop cutting is getting delayed in the most cyclone-affected mandals.

Delay in sowing of the saplings is the prime reason that impacted the crop that still requires a few weeks to attain the stage of crop cutting. In Krishna-Godavari delta, paddy harvesting began early and almost completed in East and West Godavari districts whereas the harvesting operations have just begun in Krishna district, one of the largest paddy producer in Andhra Pradesh. “Among the 30 Paddy Purchasing Centres (PPCs), as many as five centres have been opened in Tiruvuru and its surrounding areas in the first phase,” Krishna Joint Collector P. Usha Kumari has told *The Hindu*. According to an agriculture official, 92 PPCs will

be opened across the district within couple of weeks in order to give the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Crores of fruits and veggies go waste in India annually...

MUMBAI, December 2, 2013 - India, the world's second largest producer of fruits and vegetables, throws away fresh produce worth Rs 13,300 crore every year because of the country's lack of adequate cold storage facilities and refrigerated transport, a report said.

"The value of fruits, vegetables and grains wastage in India, at Rs 44,000 crore annually.

"Fruits and vegetables account for the largest portion of that wastage. Eighteen per cent of India's fruit and vegetable production valued at Rs 13,300 crore is wasted annually,"

according to data compiled in a new report by Emerson Climate Technologies India, a business of the U.S.—based manufacturing and technology company Emerson.

The report says that two of the biggest contributors to food losses are the lack of refrigerated transport as also the lack of high quality cold storage facilities for food manufacturers and food sellers.

Without improvements to its cold chain infrastructure, from farm harvest to table, food problems in India, which is the world's second largest producer of fruits and vegetables, will remain vast and are likely to grow, warns the report.

Currently, India has 6,300 cold storage facilities unevenly spread across the country, with an installed capacity of 30.11 million metric tonnes. Studies have shown this is half the amount of cold storage facilities that India actually needs. Cold storage capacity for all food products in the country should be more than 61 million metric tonnes, it said.

In order to reach that target, the report says an investment of more than Rs 55,000 crore is needed by 2015-2016 just to keep up with growing fruit and vegetable production levels.

"While progress is being made, this report confirms the cold storage situation is more acute than many realise.

Emerson is seeing this in the marketplace and we commissioned this report to keep the spotlight on the issue," said Pradipta Sen, president of Emerson's India, Middle East and Africa region.

"India has more than 1.2 billion people. Better protection of the integrity of our fruits and vegetables from harvest to table should be of paramount importance. Part of the solution is more effective, more efficient and well-thought-out cold storage infrastructure in India," Sen said.

Stating that financial investment in cold storage facilities and refrigerated transport is vital, the report highlights additional challenges faced by India's cold storage industry today. PTI

'Pay compensation for the cattle lost to FMD'

KARUR, December 2, 2013 - Kongu Nadu Makkal Desiya Katchi has urged the State government to consider adequately compensating farmers who have lost their cattle to foot-and-mouth disease.

The State must pay Rs. 10,000 for each animal lost, said party's general secretary E.R. Eswaran, here on Sunday.

The State in general and the industrious Kongu belt in particular was pegged back by power scarcity. Both the AIADMK and the DMK had neglected power generation during their reign and were blaming other.

People must ponder the reason behind the grim power situation.

The officials were bent on closing down dyeing units and there was no solution in sight for the woes of the thousands of workers who have been left in the lurch by the actions of consecutive State governments. A permanent and workable solution must be found to the pollution issue and efforts must be made to revive the textile industry that is in the doldrums due to the closure of dyeing units, Mr. Eswaran said.

Collector warns of action against quacks treating cattle

TIRUVANNAMALAI, December 2, 2013 - Strict action will be taken against quacks treating cattle suffering from foot-and-mouth disease, Collector A.Gnanasekaran has said.

In a statement here on Sunday, he said, "The disease has been affecting cattle in the district for the past two months and government veterinarians have been treating the affected animals. The animals that were given proper treatment by government veterinarians recover fast. All the animals in the district are being inoculated and a preventive method called bio-security method is being adopted in all villages. However, reluctance on the part of cattle owners to report to the government symptoms of disease in their cattle has been working against the government's efforts to contain the disease. The cattle of Selvi, a resident of Arani town, died of foot-and-mouth disease after being treated by Nandhakumar and Sangeetha, who were trained by Tamilnadu Livestock Development Agency to merely give artificial insemination. To avoid this kind of situation, we request people to avoid getting the cattle treated by persons not qualified for the job. Action will be taken against quacks offering treatment to cattle affected by the disease."

Water Levels

Madurai - The water level in **Periyar dam** was 119.10 feet with an inflow of 595 cusecs and a discharge of 800 cusecs.

The water level in **Vaigai dam** was 46.59 feet with an inflow of 411 cusecs and a discharge of 60 cusecs.

The combined storage in Periyar credit was 3,302 mcft.

Rainfall - The rainfall recorded (in mm) in the region during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday was as follows: Peranai: 1, Madurai: 2, Pulipatti: 1, Kodaikanal: 4.4 and Viraganoor recorded 9 mm rainfall.

The water level in the **Mettur dam** stood at 85.04 feet on Sunday, against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 3,374 cusecs and the discharge 5,000 cusecs.

Water level in the **Papanasam dam** on Sunday stood at 95.30 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 547.92 cusecs and 1,004.75 cusecs of water is discharged from the dam.

The level of **Manimuthar dam** stood at 70.07 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 80 cusecs and 35 cusecs of water is discharged.

Kanyakumari - The water level in **Pechipparai dam** stood at 26.90 feet, 60.80 feet in Perunchani, 12.60 feet in Chittar I, 12.69 feet in Chittar II, 4.50 feet in Poigai dam and 50.77 feet in Mamabazhathuraiyaru.

With no basic infrastructure, Kasimedu fishing harbour rots



A pothole-filled road at Kasimedu fishing harbour in Chennai. —Photo: B.Jothi Ramalingam

CHENNAI, December 2, 2013 - Bad roads, piles of garbage, streetlights that don't work, no toilets or drinking water — all this, at the heart of the metropolis in the Kasimedu fishing harbour.

Though the harbour is where most of the city's daily consumption of 100 tonnes of

fish lands, its infrastructure inside is pathetic, say fishermen.

In February this year, the chairman of the Chennai Port Trust visited the harbour and promised that basic amenities would be improved. The visit came after talks with fishermen about their demands, including reclamation of around 100 metres of land where their fishing stalls would come up.

The land on which the stalls are presently located is required to widen a portion of the road that forms part of the Ennore Manali Road Improvement Project.

P. Sessa of the Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram Mechanised Fishing Boats Owners Association said that since the Port Trust controlled the harbour, agencies like Chennai Corporation and Chennai Metrowater could not enter the premises.

“It is the duty of the Port Trust to arrange for water supply, which it has not done. The two toilet complexes that are coming up now are hardly enough for the 5,000 persons who work here. On weekdays around 10,000 people come to the harbour and on Sundays, the number doubles,” he said.

As there are no dustbins and no clearance of garbage, fishermen are forced to dispose of thermocol and plastics in the water, he said.

Nanjil Ravi of Akila Indhiya Meenavar Sangam said that among the seven demands of the fisherfolk was power connection for the sheds in which fish are packed in ice to be sent to markets outside. But that has not been done, he said. Mr. Ravi also said that welfare funds meant for improving facilities inside the harbour and neighbouring villages have not been spent so far by the Port Trust. M. D. Dayalan of the Indhiya Meenavar Sangam said that in case of emergencies, the harbour does not even have a first aid station or an ambulance.

“Last year alone we had several instances of fisherfolk returning home injured or people getting injured on the wharf but we have had to rush them to hospitals in autorickshaws,” he said.

Ko. Su. Mani of the Tamil Nadu Meenavar Makkal Sangam said that with hundreds of companies setting up units along the coast, the catch in the State had begun to dwindle.

“Thanks to immense pollution, fish exports from the Kasimedu harbour are almost nil. All the associations have been demanding that the State government take over the harbour so that facilities can be improved,” he said.

Dry fodder distribution centres to be set up

NAGAPATTINAM, December 2, 2013 - As part of drought relief, dry fodder distribution centers are proposed to be established in the district. The department of Animal Husbandry has proposed to set up the dry fodder distribution centers in Keezhvelur and Vedaranyam veterinary hospitals for Nagapattinam division; and in Sirkazhi Veterinary hospital for Mayiladuthurai division.

The scheme of distribution envisages small and marginal farmers owning cattle as the sole beneficiaries. Dry fodder will be distributed at Rs.2 per kg. This entails distribution of three kilos per day for an animal. Under this, a family is entitled to fodder at subsidized price for a week for five animals.

Those seeking to benefit under the scheme are required to procure a special identity card issued by the department of animal husbandry.

Small and marginal farmers are required to arrive with their family card along with fodder identity cards issued by the department.

Farmers are requested to contact the nearest veterinary hospital, and submit a written application for the same.

Vet institute to increase outreach programmes

PUDUCHERRY, December 2, 2013 - Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research, Puducherry, would give priority to conduct outreach programmes to treat domestic animals affected by diseases, said S. Thilagar, the institute's dean.

Presenting the annual report at the annual day celebration at the institute here recently, he said that the focus of outreach programmes was to provide infertility treatment to milch animals and administer vaccines.

The institute would also conduct disease investigation programmes to ascertain diseases and take preventive steps to control the outbreak of any disease.

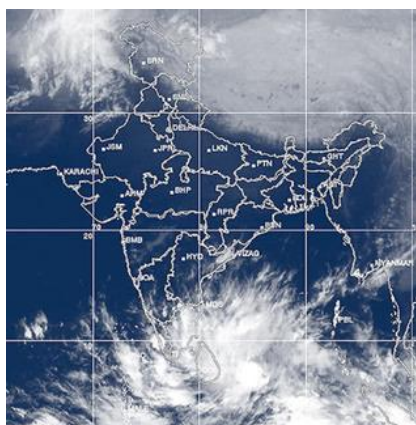
During 2012-13, the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex had handled as many as 20,525 cases.

It had been undertaking research projects at a cost of Rs.1.9 crore, sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

S. Velmurugan, Chairman, Pondicherry Veterinary College Society, released the college magazine, *Elysium*, and presided over the annual day function.

P. Karthikeyan, Member of Legislative Assembly, Charujith Narayanan, speaker, students' council and Mohammed Assim, associate patron of students' council, spoke.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on December 01st.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	26	12	0	53
New Delhi (Sfd)	27	10	0	73
Chandigarh	25	9	0	43
Hissar	28	7	0	10
Bhuntar	24	1	0	26
Shimla	20	9	0	80
Jammu	25	8	0	140
Srinagar	15	-3	0	23
Amritsar	26	8	0	100
Patiala	27	9	0	11
Jaipur	28	11	0	5
Udaipur	27	9	0	55
Allahabad	29	11	0	301
Lucknow	27	7	0	42
Varanasi	28	11	0	141
Dehradun	25	9	0	48
Agartala	30	16	0	190
Ahmedabad	31	16	0	63
Bangalore	30	20	0	244
Bhubaneshwar	31	23	0	674
Bhopal	28	12	0	26
Chennai	30	24	7	367
Guwahati	30	15	0	215
Hyderabad	29	18	0	253
Kolkata	29	19	0	530
Mumbai	34	25	0	72
Nagpur	30	16	0	169
Patna	27	12	0	194
Pune	27	18	0	38
Thiruvananthapuram	32	25	3	459
Imphal	27	9	0	69
Shillong	18	9	0	77

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (tr-trace)

MAINLY DRY WEATHER

Rainfall: Weather was dry over the region.

MINIMUM TEMPATURE : The minimum temperatures fell in east Uttar Pradesh and changed little elsewhere. They were normal over the region. The lowest minimum temperature in the plains was 04.4°C recorded at Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh).

FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 04th DECEMBER 2013: Rain/snow could occur at one or two places over Jammu and Kashmir during next 48 hours and mainly dry weather thereafter. Weather would be mainly dry over rest of the region. Shallow fog may occur at isolated pockets of Punjab, Haryana and east Uttar Pradesh.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 04th DECEMBER 2013: Mainly clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning.

Loss and damage claims in climate justice



GOING FORWARD:As India will be one of the most severely affected countries by climate change, it would be in its best interests to understand the issue better and join forces with other developing countries. —PHOTO: AP

India joined nearly 140 countries in staging a walkout during the recent climate negotiations in Warsaw to oppose the attempt to avoid creating a strong institutional mechanism to address “loss and damage.” In the final moments of the conference, however, some form of compromise was found on

loss and damage as well as a future course of action to “initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions” to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Notwithstanding India’s overt solidarity with other developing countries, its lack of engagement in discussions on loss and damage indicates that it does not have a clear understanding of the broader ethical and political implications of the concept, nor how it could be important strategically.

Impact of extreme weather

The term “loss and damage” was introduced into international climate negotiations by small island nations and least developed countries in Cancun in 2010, and is now formally a part of the language of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As a legal concept, it conveys the historical liability for climate change that is largely borne by the rich countries of the world. During the past century-and-a-half or so, carbon has been mined in enormous quantities from the depths of the earth and burned in engines generating vast amounts of goods and services while releasing about two trillion tonnes of carbon dioxide, much of which remains in the atmosphere today. Developed regions such as the United States, Europe and Japan are responsible for more than two-thirds of the stock of carbon dioxide, with the remaining portion due to India, China and the rest of the developing world. Climate change is expected to cause severe droughts in some parts of the world and flooding in others, and coastal erosion and an increased frequency of extreme weather events such as cyclones, tornadoes, storm surges and heatwaves. One of the sad ironies, however, is that the countries that have emitted the least amount of greenhouse gases will suffer the worst impacts due to warming. People living on small islands, delta regions, those who will suffer droughts and floods and extreme events, are, for the most part, from poor countries, and the poorest from among them will be the worst affected. Bangladesh, which has been a minuscule contributor of greenhouse gases, will have most of its people at risk due to climate change.

Compensation

“Loss and damage” entails claims by the developing world from rich countries to provide compensation for the “losses and irreversible damage, including non-economic losses” (taken from G77 and China’s submission to COP 19 on loss and damage) associated with climate change. The idea is taken directly from tort law, which is probably why North America, Europe and Australia have been virulently opposed to having a separate track discuss the issue. Part of the problem is that the notion of loss and damage might also include non-monetary forms of compensation, whose character might sometimes be unclear. For instance, if small island nations like the Maldives and Kiribati were to become submerged as a result of sea level rise from climate change, the resulting disappearance of these nation states would require unusual measures of recompense, including mass migration to other countries and citizenship rights for the migrants, rather than just money. In cases of civil negligence, in the U.S., but also elsewhere, courts have long established that where a proximate cause to a loss can be established, whether the action was intentional or not, the perpetrator will bear the liability and will have to pay for damages. This means that if enshrined in international law, the countries most responsible for historically caused losses associated with climate change will have to provide the most compensation for various identified damages that will mostly be in developing countries.

For India

India has long recognised the importance of equity in the climate dialogue, by stressing Article 3.1 of the Convention, which speaks of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.” India’s stance has been that every person should have equal access to development, implying an equal share of the earth’s carbon budget. That is to say, if carbon dioxide emissions were to be reduced globally, the rich should be the first and fastest to do so and the poor, the last. India has used its low per capita emissions to push the point that its engagement in emissions reductions efforts should be deferred until after countries with higher per capita emissions reduce theirs. Since the global climate negotiations in Durban, however, the centrality of this position has been shaken, in part because of a new understanding of the urgency and severity of global emissions reductions needed to avert climate catastrophe and also because of shifts in political positions. Loss and damage belongs to the same overall framework of climate justice. For one thing, India will be one of the most severely affected countries by climate change, given its sheer size, climatic geography and the impacts associated with Himalayan glacier melt, droughts in various regions, coastal vulnerability from sea level rise, reductions in agricultural production, livelihood loss for the poor, increased severity of cyclones, and potential threats to the entire monsoon system. For another, compensation or reparation for damages associated with any country’s contribution to historical emissions amounts to a “duty to make amends” rather than an act of charity.

Paying attention to “loss and damage” from historical emissions maintains equity with regard to the current “stock” of the carbon space that has been unequally distributed among countries. With regard to “flows” or annual emissions of greenhouse gas emissions, India may want to join with other countries to develop a separate equity-based agreement that is consistent with its own understanding of climate justice. India itself may not be in a position to claim damages, depending on how its own responsibilities and capabilities are accounted for, but it is nevertheless in its clearest interest to understand the issue better and join forces with other developing countries.

(Sujatha Byravan and Sudhir Chella Rajan are based in Chennai and work on climate change policy.)

Compensation or reparation for damages associated with any country's contribution to historical emissions amounts to a 'duty to make amends' and is not an act of charity

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Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Monday, Dec 2

Max Min
28° | 24°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 94

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:15

Sunset: 05:40

Barometer: 1013

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Tuesday, Dec 3

Max Min
31° | 22°

Extended Forecast for a week

Wednesday

Dec 4



31° | 23°

Cloudy

Thursday

Dec 5



27° | 26°

Overcast

Friday

Dec 6



26° | 26°

Overcast

Saturday

Dec 7



26° | 25°

Overcast

Sunday

Dec 8



27° | 25°

Overcast

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Farmers' canteen a hit among health freaks in Madurai

stands out from other [eateries](#) in the city. Those who have had enough of idli, dosa and pongal proceed to Uzhavan Unavagam for nutritious millet-based food. The canteen, which is run by a group of farmers, has its regular patrons. As more and more people turn health conscious and try out new dietary habits, Uzhavan Unavagam which offers millet cuisine is

the right destination.

The menu at Uzhavan Unavagam includes samai pongal (little millet), kelvaragu (ragi), kambu (pearl millet). Idli and dosa made of millet flours and medicinal greens such as mudakathan, vallarai, thoodhuvelai, and mullumurungai are also a hit among the customers.

The patronage of the canteen, which was inaugurated in 2011, has been steadily increasing. Top officials like Madurai district superintendent of police V Balakrishnan and district collector L Subramanian visit the canteen, [farmers](#) running the [canteen](#) said.

"A group of nine farmers from Madurai district sell their products at the canteen. Some sell idly and dosa made of minor millets and medicinal herbs. A few others take charge of evening snacks including valappu vad'. Even biscuits and packaged snacks prepared from millets are available. Right from the beginning, the number of customers is increasing. We have around 300 regular customers and in the weekends the number would be more," said K Arumugam, agriculture officer, who manages the canteen leased out by the district administration to the farmers' group.

"With increasing health problems, a large number of people, particularly from the elite class, has turned towards millet foods. I have been selling biscuits and packaged snacks prepared using mineral-rich minor millets. Customers who are satisfied with the food have also placed orders for outdoor functions," said B K Balaji, a farmer from Achampattu.

Lalitha Chandrasekar, a regular customer from Reserve Line area, said "Millet dosai varieties like varagu pongal, thinai and kavuni (black rice) are my favourites at Uzhavan unavagam. Paniyaram and millet snacks are also good. I am visiting the canteen everyday for its healthy and mouth-watering dishes," she said.

"I give millet biscuits to my son. He too loves the products which have high fibre and mineral content. I visit the canteen with my family every Sunday," G Karuppasamy, a product manager in a private company.

Christopher Sherwood, a retired professor, said he was surprised by the variety of healthy food on offer. "Mulmurungai and mudakathan dosai are my specials. Sprawling space and good customer service are the other attractions of the canteen," he said.

Dairy industry in Madurai on slippery ground

MADURAI: [Dairy farmers](#) within the city limits are facing bleak times with many moving away from the business as they face multitude of problems on different fronts.

Unlike other cities, Madurai still has an active dairy industry. North Maasi Street, Obula Padithurai, Pechiamman Padithurai, Sellur, Avaniyapuram, Madhichiyam Sellur,

Avaniyapuram, Anupanadi, Keerathurai and Kamarajapuram are known for dairy farming.

However, people keeping dairy cows find the trade increasingly unviable. Even disposing dung and other wastes from [cow sheds](#) is a headache as civic body has set stringent conditions. Above all, the dairy farmers are confronted with high prices of [fodder](#) and medicines. Resultantly, the number of cows has fallen steeply in the city limits.

A few people like Ayar T Kumar still manages to earn a livelihood from his stable. "Those who see dairying as a business are out of the dairy farming in the city. We are still keeping cows as we are doing it out of interest and there are buyers for fresh milk. There is not much income from this. Only livelihood is assured from this, reasoned 27-year-old Kumar, a resident of Ramayanachavadi Street, near North Maasi Street.

Another issue that city dairy farmers face is ballooning prices of paddy straw, a popular cattle fodder. "The price of paddy straw has sharply increased in the last two years. A small bundle which was sold at Rs 20 two years back now costs Rs 50. It is not available even if we are ready to pay for it. Introduction of machines in paddy harvest has resulted in the shortage. Machines would chop off the straws into three pieces at least, whereas in manual harvest one can get complete straw," explained K Saravanan, another dairy farmer.

"Merchants from Kerala have become competitors for us in procuring the paddy straw. They are paying double the amount than what we pay. Obviously, farmers chose them. We have to rely only on vegetable waste from city markets. No wonder, people lets loose their cows on streets for food due to food shortage," said B Jayakumar, another dairy farmer in corporation limits.

Reminding the good old period R Radhakrishnan, a dairy farmer from North Masi Street, said, "All houses in our area had at least one cow until two decades back. Our primary source of income was from dairy farming. Rapidly developing city and corporation's stringent actions have affected dairy trade."

Shoppers meet Muthukumar for rare millet varieties

MADURAI: While awareness on the [health benefits](#) of [millets](#) is rising, finding millets for purchase is not easy as the cultivation of millets has declined considerably in Madurai and surrounding districts. Only a few like Agappai Muthukumar knows where the best qualities of samai, thina, varagu and kambu are available. Not all provision stores stock palm jaggery and traditional rice varieties too which are used in the preparation of millet dishes.

Muthukumar, 36, has been creating awareness about the health benefits of millets among school students. His house on North Masi Street is sought after by [friends](#) and relatives who like ragi roti, aval butter milk, gingili balls, corn balls and gingili vada.

His search for rare millets often leads him to Jawadhu Hills in Tiruvannamalai and Servarayan hills in Salem. Knowing Muthukumar and his interest in promoting the millet varieties, his friends too are helping him. "I can't refuse when people, who get my contact number from my friends circle, approach me for rare millet varieties. I procure them from wherever it is available. After directly procuring from farmers, I would send packaged millets to the needy. I take only a minimum margin to compensate for my travel and livelihood expenses," he said.

Rare millet varieties are also available at Usilampatti and T Kallupatti in Madurai and Andipatti, Bodi and Chinnamanur in Theni district.

Muthukumar got acquainted with millets during his visits to his maternal house in Ramanathapuram district. Millet farms were common there in his childhood. After returning from Malaysia, Muthukumar has been promoting millets. "I am interested in promoting millet varieties and creating awareness on the healthy food items based on them. I am not interested in marketing these eatables. Interested people can come to me and learn the preparation. Otherwise, I would share my knowledge when I get invitation from like-minded NGOs," Muthukumar said.



Sugar Mills in UP to Resume Ops Today

By Subhash Mishra - LUCKNOW

Ending a month-long deadlock, sugar millers in UP have agreed to start crushing sugar canes from Monday, but not before extracting concessions worth `879 crore, which gives no relief to the farming community agitating for arrears and a hike in cane prices.

The sugar millers had been demanding that cane's state advisory price be slashed to `225 a quintal from `280, which the government has refused to do. In view of the deadlock, the govt had agreed not to charge entry and purchase tax from the millers and has also agreed to bear the commission paid by the private millers to the cane societies.

The govt also stalled the operation of recovery certificates to the mills which hadn't been clearing their cane arrears from the past year. Asked why the Samajwadi Govt had made huge concessions to private sugar mills, Chief Secretary Javed Usmani said the govt was prioritising cane growers' interests. The govt, Usmani said, wanted sugar production to start at the earliest so that the farmers could sell their canes. The Chief Secretary said the govt was also concerned over the delay in the beginning of the crushing season. Cane growers are not able to reap their crops, which causes a delay in rabi sowing as well, he added.

The Opposition decried the concessions, accusing the govt of cutting a “secret deal” with the millers and ignoring farmers’ interests.

'Agriculture Price Commission Soon'

By Express News Service - GULBARGA

With an intention to give good support price for various crops, the state government has taken steps to constitute the Agriculture Price Commission, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Saturday.

At the inauguration of a new campus of Central University of Karnataka at Kadaganchi village, the Chief Minister said final touches are being given to the commission and it would include representatives from the farming community, agricultural universities and experts. The government will accept the recommendations of the commission from time to time, he said.

The Chief Minister said the government has given top priority to education sector by providing `15,680 crore for primary education and `3,543 crore for higher education.

The Central University of Karnataka and other varsities could play a major role in providing skill-based education to youths, he said.

The CM also asked CUK to provide employment to locals. Siddaramaiah also assured that his government would address the drinking water problem of the varsity by finding a lasting solution.

Siddaramaiah hailed the efforts of Union Minister Mallikarjun Kharge in amending Article 371(J) of the Constitution for Hyderabad-Karnataka.

The then NDA government had rejected the people’s demand to amend Article 371, but the UPA government has done it and the rules for the implementation of the amendment have already been notified.

According to the amendment, Hyderabad-Karnataka Region Development Board led by the Governor of Karnataka will be constituted, Siddaramaiah said.

THE HINDU Business Line

Tea Board may get new chairman

Kolkata, Dec. 1: Is Tea Board going to have a new Chairman soon? The present Chairman M.G.V.K. Bhanu, according to tea industry sources, is likely to go back to Assam in January. A 1985-batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service, Bhanu belongs to the Assam cadre. He joined as Tea Board Chairman in November 2011 on a five-year term.

Inquiries reveal that Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi wants Bhanu back in the State at the earliest and has accordingly urged the Union Government to release him from Tea Board without delay. When contacted, Bhanu declined to comment, except saying, "I've not received any official order."

Meanwhile, speculation is rife over the appointment of next Tea Board Chairman. The Bengal Government, it is learnt, wants some one from the State cadre to succeed Bhanu and has accordingly held preliminary discussion with the authorities concerned in Delhi.

It's business as usual for AP sugar factories

Hyderabad, Dec. 1: Even as strong postures by sugar factories and farmers rock Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka, sugar factories in Andhra Pradesh have begun crushing without almost any delay.

It, however, doesn't mean that the factories and farmers are happy. The issues, as existed in other States, do exist in the State. Only, there is no cohesive leadership that can rally around the farmers. With the Government and political parties deeply struck in the bifurcation issue, there is none to look into the issues.

Eight out of the 36 factories have begun crushing and made 1.17 lakh quintals of sugar in the last three weeks. This constitutes a little over one-tenth of the estimated sugar production of 10 lakh quintals for the season.

About two lakh tonnes (lt) of cane had been crushed so far. The industry expects to crush 100 lt against the crushing capacity of 1.24 lt. The State crushed a record 176 lt a few years ago. By now, 11 factories had started crushing, producing 1.47 lakh quintals.

Most of the factories could not start crushing because of successive cyclones that had hit farm activities in the coastal areas.

Though there was a dip in acreage in Seemandhra area, gains in Telangana have helped the crop retain last year's acreage. The State grows the crop on 1.76 lakh hectares.

"We are expecting to make 10 lakh quintals of sugar, almost reaching last year's production.

On an average, the factories are giving Rs 2,600 a tonne," Bhale Rao, an executive of the Sugar Mills Association of Andhra Pradesh, told *Business Line*. The industry claims that the last year's average was at Rs 2,425 a tonne.

Farmers, however, are not a happy lot. They said that they deserve more as the factories earn additional income in the form of by-products.

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Mixed trend at Kochi tea sale

Kochi, Dec. 1: Tea prices continue to witness a mixed trend at Kochi auction. In sale no 48, the quantity on offer in Dust CTC grades was 12,98,500 kg.

With a fair demand, the market for select best good liquoring teas barely remained steady. Others were irregular and lower by Rs 3-7 a kg. As the sale progressed, the decline in prices was to the tune of Rs 5-10 and sometimes more. It also witnessed lot of withdrawals.

However, the drop in prices was less for clean black plainer teas compared to high-priced and medium teas. Though better export enquiries were noticed at lower levels, there was a subdued demand from upcountry buyers.

The quantity on offer in orthodox grades was 12,000 kg and the market was irregular and lower by Rs 2-3. A small quantity offered was absorbed by exporters.

In the best CTC dusts, PD varieties quoted Rs 95/107, RD grades fetched Rs 95/120, SRD ruled at Rs 106/141 and SFD fetched Rs 110/148.

The quantity on offer in orthodox leaf category was 165,000 kg. With a good demand, the market for Nilgiri broken and fannings was fully firm to dearer. Well-made, clean, black, tippy grades and bolder broken were firm to dearer. Others were irregular and tended to ease.

There was a good demand in CTC grades and the quantity on offer was 65,000 kg. The market for good liquoring teas was firm to dearer, while others barely remained steady and irregularly easier.

In the dust grades, Manjolai FD and Pasuparai SFD and Kallyar SFD fetched the best prices of Rs 150 each followed by Sholayar SFD at Rs 148. In the leaf category, Chamraj FOP (S) (green tea) quoted the best prices of Rs 312 followed by Pascoes Hyson Green Tea at Rs 300.

Rising arrivals may crush tomatoes further

Karnal, Dec. 1: Bearish trend continued in the market with tomato prices dropping further by Rs 350-600 a quintal on Sunday.

Rising arrivals have impacted the prices in Karnal mandis over the last one week by almost Rs 1,000 a quintal said Vikas Sachdeva, a trade expert.

Domestic demand hasn't picked up but the availability of stocks has improved and that is the prime reason behind the continuous fall in tomato prices over the last 10 days, he added. He said that market sentiments are low and any recovery from here is unlikely.

Around 950 crates (of 25 kg each) of different varieties of tomato arrived at the Karnal vegetable market and were quoted between Rs 2,800 and Rs 4,500 a quintal.

Around 1,300 crates of varieties such as Desi Rajsthan, Abhilash, Nasik, Himsona and Hybrid were received in the markets of Karnal district.

Out of the total arrivals, about 10 per cent stock was of low quality; around 30 per cent medium quality while the rest was of superior quality.

Prices of superior quality eased by Rs 600 and quoted at Rs 4,200-4,500 while the prices of Medium quality produce went down by Rs 400 and quoted at 3,000-3,200 while low quality produce was at Rs 2,800 a quintal, Rs 350 down.

Traders expect tomato prices to continue tumbling as arrivals are likely to pick up further in the coming days. Arrivals may touch 1,000 crates-a-day mark within next couple of days.

Slack demand takes sting off pepper

Kochi, Dec. 1: Even as the pepper prices continued to soar in other origins, they have been falling in the Indian futures and spot markets. The reasons attributed to the fall are wedding festivals and elections in some of the north Indian States, market sources told *Business Line*. Consequently, there were no activities in the pepper market as the dealers reportedly stayed away. The domestic demand, thus, became thin pushing the prices down. On the other hand, those who were thinking of buying stayed away from the declining market. As the prices started declining some selling pressure also was visible from certain areas. Because the prices were ruling high lower grade material was in great demand. Low grade pepper is added to the pepper and the mixed material is sold after semi-processing, they said. As adulteration is rampant by mixing low grade material, even the pepper arriving from the high range, which is used to be of 560 and above GL, were of 530-535 GL, they claimed. Last week resellers, who were picking up whatever material available in the primary markets, and some of the primary market dealers in Idukki and Wayanad (Pulpally and Bathery), were selling at a time when there were no buyers from the upcountry markets. This phenomenon aided the markets also to fall.

At the same time, some in the trade believe that once the domestic demand picked up the prices are likely to bounce back as the availability continued to be tight in India and in all the other origins this year and till the next Vietnamese crop hits the market in March/April 2014.

All the active contracts on the national and regional exchanges witnessed sharp fall last week. On the NMCE, Dec and Jan contracts decreased by Rs 1,630 and Rs 1,840 respectively to Rs 50,970 and Rs 50,850. Turnover went up by 45 tonnes to 107 tonnes while net open position moved up by two tonnes to eight tonnes. On IPSTA, all the active contracts dropped by Rs 1,529 and Rs 2,500 respectively to Rs 50,800 and Rs 50,000 a quintal. Spot prices last week fell by Rs 1,100 to close at Rs 48,600 (ungarbled) and Rs 50,600 (garbled) a quintal.

According to the International Pepper Community, pepper prices in the producing countries were further up to 4 per cent for black, with the exception of price recorded in India. In Lampung, local price increased by IDR 3,500 to IDR 82,500 a kg this week. Three per cent increase was recorded in Vietnam for black pepper from VND 1,54,500 to VND 1,57,500 while in Kochi, spot price of ungarbled black decreased from Rs 494 at the beginning of the week to Rs 486 on Saturday.
