

“Farmers will be fully compensated”



Despite Tamil Nadu's repeated pleas, the Central government has not yet notified the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The rights of Tamil Nadu over Cauvery water should be ensured, Chief Minister Jayalalitha said at Kodanad near Kotagiri in the district on Wednesday, while launching the distribution of special Pongal pack. The failure of the monsoon had raised doubts over the survival of the crops in the delta region.

The government would fully compensate whatever loss was incurred by the farmers, she said, referring to the relief package announced.

Further, a committee headed by Finance Minister O. Paneerselvam had been formed to identify areas to be declared drought-hit.

The committee would also work out how much more compensation could be given to farmers, she added.

The Chief Minister said that as the government was keen that all sections of society should celebrate Pongal, it had been decided to give 1.84 crore rice-drawing card holders covered under the Public Distribution System (PDS) the special pack worth Rs.160 which consisted of one kg of raw rice, one kg of sugar and Rs.100 in cash.

On January 13 (Sunday), all the PDS outlets would remain open.

Saris, dhotis distributed

Ms. Jayalalithaa also distributed free saris and dhotis to a few beneficiaries. M.P. Nirmala, Secretary, Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection, explained the salient features of the scheme. The Nilgiris Collector Archana Patnaik spoke. Among those present were Mr. Paneerselvam and Chief Secretary Sheela Balakrishnan.

Maintaining health of dairy animals during winter season



Though reasons such as water shortage, shrinking space, maintenance expense, and low price for milk at the cooperative milk societies are some reasons attributed to the decline in cattle rearing among several farmers in southern states, in Haryana, farmers have been able to cope with these problems.

“In Haryana, presently there are 6,000 co-operative milk societies out of which 1,300 units are being entirely run by women. In our State, unlike in southern parts of the country, cattle and land are not directly linked. Even those who possess no land rear 2-3 buffaloes or cows and supply the milk to the societies and earn a decent income,” says Dr. Rajinder Singh, Sr Extension Specialist (Animal Sciences), Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and animal Sciences. Extension Centre, Rohtak, Haryana.

Two categories

The Livestock farming systems in the State can be broadly divided into two types: Buffalo based and cow/crossbred cows farming systems.

Milk societies in Haryana pay Rs. 28.35/litre for buffalo and Rs 22.95 for cow's milk. If the milk contains 10 per cent fat with 8.8 SNF (saturated non fat), then the farmer gets about Rs. 42 per litre.

More the fat content higher the price. The cooperative system has launched an attractive system for milk suppliers. If SNF is extra then farmers are paid 10 paisa extra.

Buffalo breeds have provide a higher fat percent (6-7 percent) than cow's milk (3-4 percent). To maintain optimum level of fat and SNF, several farmers have been trained by the extension department of the University to particularly maintain this level during winter, because during the cold season temperature falls below zero degree, badly affecting the health of the dairy animals and their milk yield.

Affects production

During this season many animals often refuse to eat, become feverish and pneumonic.

This affects the milk production, health and reproduction of the animal.

Normal cow and buffalo body temperature ranges between 101-102 degree Fahrenheit and suitable ambient temperature is 65-75 degree F.

Severe cold surroundings result in increased energy loss, which has to be compensated by giving extra calorie-rich feed and special care.

Breed, nutrition, age, state of lactation, gestation effects and management are the main factors affecting SNF and fat percentage.

Nutrition, especially balanced rations, fortified and supplemented with protein ingredients like whole cotton seed or cakes, becomes important.

Rations containing about 17 per cent fibre in the animal feed are also helpful to increase fat percentage in milk. Concentrate mixture should comprise grains (40 per cent), oil cakes (32 per cent), brans (25per cent), mineral mixture (2per cent) and common salt (1 per cent).

Apart from this the extra energy-rich grains at approximately 0.8 per cent of body weight should be fed to counter the stress of cold for maintaining normal milk production and other activities.

Water availability

Water, possibly lukewarm, should be clean and available four times a day at their drinking time.

“In the morning, the quantity of milk is more when compared to the milk produced in the evening and the percent of fat is the opposite,” explains Dr. Rajinder Singh.

Rohtak, Hisar, Bhiwani, Jind, Jhajjar and Sonapat districts produce fodder crops, cereals, and ultimately crop residues.

Buffalo is the sole milch animal in these regions. Contrary to this, some rain-fed areas like Mohindergarh, Rewari, Gurgoan, Fraidabad and Mewat districts — have less crop residues.

No difference

Here the animal feed depends mainly on dry fodder, compound feed and seasonal greens. But the milk production does not seem to show any big difference.

Haryana is supporting cattle farmers (both cow and buffalo) to take up crossbred rearing for milk production by providing imported semen for breed improvement and development at their doorsteps.

Farmers are also made aware about the importance of conserving green grass into hay and silage for making them available round the year.

Silage

“Silage is a simple method where the grass or dried straws are packed tightly in plastic barrels or cement cisterns and the containers closed tightly. After some weeks this can be used as feed for the animals.

“Sometimes a small amount of jaggery can be diluted and sprinkled over the silage and then closed inside the barrel to be used later. We find that the animals love the taste of this feed,” he says.

Till date the University has trained more than 800 unemployed youth, women, and farmers on scientific dairy farming as a method of increasing milk productivity and self employment.

For more information interested readers can contact Dr Rajinder Singh, at email:

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Farmers in Tungabhadra command area facing crisis

Farmers in the Tungabhadra command area of Bellary district, served by the low-level canal (LLC), are facing a crisis in the cultivation of their second crop. Although the transplantation of paddy has begun, the process will have to be stopped as water cannot reach their fields.

While there is water in the canal, it is flowing below the distributary point and cannot reach the fields.

A similar problem had cropped up a couple of years ago, for the same reason: Andhra Pradesh has said that it would not be drawing water from the low-level canal at this time. As per that statement, Tungabhadra Board authorities, who monitor the sharing of water between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, have reduced the discharge into the canal.

After catering to the irrigation needs of farmers in Bellary district, the water in the canal will enter Andhra Pradesh.

A third of this water is used by farmers in Karnataka, while the rest goes to Andhra Pradesh.

Guttiganur Virupakshagouda, president of the BJP's district unit, addressed presspersons here on Wednesday and expressed shock over the stand taken by Andhra Pradesh. “We do not know why Andhra Pradesh has said that it does not want water. With the water level going down, farm activities in the district have been severely affected,” he said.

He said that he had been informed by the Chief Engineer of the board that the secretary of the board had convened a meeting on Thursday to ascertain details of the issue from Andhra Pradesh and decide on the matter.

Delegation

“Until Andhra Pradesh seeks water, the water-level in the canal will remain the same. Even though the water being released is Karnataka’s share, it will be of no use to farmers in the district but will flow into Andhra Pradesh. To prevent this, I am leading a delegation, comprising senior party leaders such as K.A. Ramalingappa, chairman of the Central Relief Committee, and farmers, to Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar and Minister for Water Resources Basavaraj Bommai, to ensure that farmers in the district are not deprived of their share of water,” he said.

He also said that he would urge Mr. Bommai to find a permanent solution to the problem.

Farmers to launch agitation over toll

Farmers in Hebbal and surrounding villages have opposed a toll of Rs. 65 that farmers are being charged at a toll gate on NH-4..

Addressing presspersons here on Wednesday, farmers’ leaders Manjunath Gowda, Nijalingappa and Chandra Naika said that after the toll gate was opened on the highway near Hebbal, farmers were being charged Rs. 65 per trip. Farmers in Hebbal and 48 villages in the surrounding area have to come to Davangere almost every day either to purchase seeds and fertilizer or to sell agricultural produce.

The farmers asked why the government was collecting fees from the public when it was already collecting road tax on the purchase of vehicles.

At many toll gates, including those in Tumkur, authorities permitted local farmers to pass through service roads without collecting toll. However, there was no service road in Hebbal, and the authorities were not allowing farmers to pass through the gate without making the payment.

Mr. Gowda said that collecting a couple of rupees in the name of road maintenance was tolerable but collecting Rs. 65 per trip was exorbitant.

The farmers have decided to launch an indefinite agitation in front of the toll gate from January 15, demanding that the toll gate be removed. .

Call to release water to Tamil Nadu

The Central government should direct Karnataka to release water to Tamil Nadu before January 11 to meet the requirement of the farmers in delta districts, Communist Party of India State Secretary D. Pandian said here.

The Centre should look into the difficulties faced by the farmers in the Tamil Nadu due to severe water shortage and urge the Karnataka government to follow the Supreme Court orders, he told reporters after participating in a party meeting that was organised in Bhavani on Tuesday night.

Mr. Pandian also said that he wanted the Union government to provide the entire power produced in the plants at Kalpakkam, Neyveli and Kudankulam to Tamil Nadu.

This would help the State to sort out the ongoing power crisis, he said further.

Release water into canals, demand Mandya farmers

Members of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha staged a demonstration outside the office of Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (CNNL), near the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS), on Wednesday seeking fulfilment of their demands.

Nearly 500 farmers gathered there and requested the district administration to protect the interests of farmers in the Cauvery basin.

The district administration should take steps towards release of water into the canals to save standing crops, they said.

The Irrigation Department had stopped releasing water into the canals because of the proposed modernisation work on the Visvesvaraya canal. The work on the Visvesvaraya canal and other canals must be completed before monsoon, KRRS leader K.S. Puttannaiah, who led the protest, said.

Execution of works should be handed over to contractors from Mandya, Mr. Puttannaiah said.

He demanded that Deputy Commissioner B.N. Krishnaiah hold discussions with bank officials on protecting farmers.

The banks must stop loan recovery. Instead, they (banks) should sanction long-term loans to farmers, he said.

The KRRS leader demanded that the government waive interest on crop loans taken by farmers in the Cauvery basin districts.

The protesters submitted a memorandum to Mr. Krishnaiah, urging the government to consider their demands that included continuous power supply for irrigation pumpsets and establishing goshalas across the district.

K.S. Nanjunde Gowda, Konasale Narasaraju, Shambunahalli Suresh, Haravu Prakash, Kempe Gowda and senior leaders of KRRS were present

Farm doctors on call



Seeking advice: Agricultural activities also need inputs. Photo: K. Ravikumar

Farmer Munshi Lal Saini from Sirka village calls up an agri-clinic at Rampur in Uttar Pradesh. The leaves of the chilli plants he had sown are wilting and he wants advice from Yashpal Singh, who has set up the agri-clinic and agri-business centre.

With almost every farmer owning a cell phone these days or at least having access to telephones, seeking advice on phone has become a norm. An M Sc. in Agriculture, Yashpal

gets a number of calls from farmers every day seeking information or checking availability about fertilisers or soil health, cropping practices or sowing and harvesting related information and technology and the pricing of the crops. Many farmers also visit the clinic to update themselves on the latest schemes for farmers.

Two farmers, Ashok Singh and Devendra Singh, have come from Jagrampur to Yashpal's agri-clinic. Ashok wants Yashpal to organise a demonstration of vermi-composting in his village. Both the farmers are keen to use organic manure as the soil, they say, is becoming less fertile by the day due to the over use of chemical fertilizers. Devendra feels that in addition to the agri-clinics, the old system of village level workers who used to go from village to village updating and advising farmers should be revived.

Yashpal's clinic caters to about 100 villages in a 20-25 sq km range around Rampur. As the 'doctor' at the clinic, he advises farmers on agri- inputs, visits farms, organises agro fairs and holds classes for farmers and takes them on tours to agriculture exhibitions. Last year before the kharif season, he held what are called 'farm classes' that are visited by experts in the field and also took the farmers to the Dhamora Krishi Kendra for agriculture fair and 'kisan goshti'. "This is necessary to build trust," Yashpal says.

Wheat, paddy, sugar cane, mentha, water melon, sweet melon and a variety of vegetables and fruits are grown in this area. For over a decade now, cultivation of poplars has been getting very popular. One can see rows of poplars with yellow mustard fields dotted in between on the way from Moradabad to Rampur.

Yashpal is among thousands of graduates and post graduates who pass out from agriculture universities every year but there are not enough jobs to absorb them. On the other hand, agricultural extension services for farmers have been shrinking. It was against this backdrop that the 'Agri Clinic and Agri Business Centre Scheme' was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture a decade back in association with NABARD and in coordination with the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) and the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE); its guidelines were revised 2011. The scheme is open to agricultural graduates in subjects allied to agriculture like horticulture, sericulture, forestry, veterinary science, animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, agri-engineering, food technology and other allied activities.

Under the scheme, unemployed agricultural graduates are provided training at designated training centres and successful candidates can later apply for loans to start their agri-clinics and business centres in any specified venture. They do not need to deposit collateral security for loans up to Rs. five lakh. The loan period can vary between five to ten years depending on the activities.

The objective of the scheme is to supplement the efforts of the government extension system, make available supplementary sources of input supply and services for farmers and to provide gainful employment to agricultural graduates in various areas of the agricultural sector.

Yashpal belongs to the small village of Thakurdwara ka majra gadai kheda. Son of a farmer, he wanted to do a job and even worked in a pesticide company for two years. But frequent transfers and other pressures led him to seek other avenues. Then he saw an advertisement about agri- clinics and agri-business centres. He applied for it and took two months' training. Later, he took a loan and started his own clinic.

KVK develops durable and easy-to-assemble goat shed



The model of an easy-to-assemble-and-dismantle goat shed designed and developed by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Kannur (KVK) at Panniyur here is attracting the attention of goat farmers in the region.

The unit, billed as high-tech, has been designed by T. Gigin, Assistant Professor (Vet Science) of the KVK which comes under Kerala Agricultural University. The relative advantages of the goat shed include strength, utility, comfort, and durability, KVK officials said. The unit is made of galvanised iron (GI) frame, fibre-reinforced plastic inter-lockable slat floor, and GI roof. The shed, with an area of 100 sq ft, can accommodate 10 to 20 goats, and is said to be strong enough to support many times the weight of the number of goats that can be housed inside.

“It is designed in such a way that the total unit can be assembled by combining a few frames in easy steps, and when in need, this can be dismantled, easily transported, and reassembled in another place,” Dr. Gigin said. It ensured good protection from predators, he said, adding that animals could be reared exclusively inside the shed as it had feeding facilities

The model shed has facilities for ensuring proper hygiene and sanitation. The fibre-reinforced plastic inter-lockable slat floor ensures that the goats inside do not get wet or dirty. The plastic, resistant to heating and cooling, protects the animals from temperature variations. A unit is estimated to cost Rs.1 lakh.

The KVK officials said though the initial cost was high, it would work out to much less considering the fact that the unit would last over 15 years. A similar structure made with locally available materials would cost nearly 60 per cent less, but last only up to two years.

KVK head K. Abdul Kareem said the institution had received a lot of inquiries from goat farmers. One of the advantages of the model shed was that it could be reassembled and reinstalled. The shed was designed and developed for extension purposes.

Red gram growers disrupt meeting, seek higher MSP

‘State should immediately intervene to check fall in prices’



Tense situation: Farmers and trade organisation members forcing their way into the Deputy Commissioner’s office in Gulbarga on Wednesday.— Photo: Arun Kulkarni

Tension prevailed at the Deputy Commissioner’s office for some time on Wednesday after farmers and traders disrupted a meeting, demanding the minimum support price for red gram be fixed at Rs. 5,000 a quintal.

The protesters were led by president of the Karnataka Pranta Raitha Sangha Maruti Manpade, the former Ministers S.K. Kanta and C. Gurunath, president of the Hyderabad Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry Umakant Nigudgi, and general secretary of the Karnataka Red Gram Growers' Association Karisiddappa Patil.

They picketed the office before forcing their way into a meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner E.S. Prasanna Kumar, pushing past a few policemen at the main gate.

The Deputy Commissioner requested them to wait till the meeting was over, but the farmers insisted that he hear their grievances first, as they were more serious than any other issue. The meeting was, however, completed, and after 45 minutes, Mr. Kumar and Additional Deputy Commissioner Lathakumari returned to meet representatives of farmers and traders' organisations.

Grievances

Mr. Manpade and Mr. Kanta said the MSP of Rs. 4,000 for red gram was unscientific and unacceptable. They demanded that it be hiked to Rs. 5,000. Mr. Kumar promised to urge the State to take up the issue at Thursday's Cabinet meet.

To their demand that the government intervene to stop the fall in prices, he said this would happen from January 15. However, the protesters rejected this, calling for immediate intervention.

Mr. Kumar also announced that procurement centres would be opened in the district from Thursday, offering MSP of Rs. 4,000.

Despite his assurances, the protesters said they would keep up the pressure till their demand on MSP was met.

Farmers seek power

Over 70 members of the Tamilaga Vivasayigal Sangam led by its district president N.A. Ramachandra Raja were arrested when they staged a dharna here demanding Rs.25,000 an acre of compensation for the crop lost due to drought.

Mr. Ramachandra Raja said that the crops raised as per the instruction of the officials of the Agriculture Department had withered due to want of water for irrigation because of the unprecedented failure of monsoon. The farmers could register their crops under the Crop Insurance Scheme as no announcement was made public.

The farmers demanded that the six-hour of three-phase power promised to the farmers of Delta region should be extended to the farmers of Virudhunagar district also.

The protestors also demanded Rs.10 lakh compensation to the family of the farmer, A. Pandian, who committed suicide in Pudukottai.

Among those who took part in the agitation were the district secretary, P. Ammaiyappan, State vice-president, I.B.R. Raghupathy Raja, and district vice-president, Baskara Raja.

More than 24 lakh cotton bales purchased

More than 24 lakh bales of cotton have been purchased so far this year and all steps are being taken to mitigate the problems of cotton farmers, Commissioner and Director Marketing Venkat Ram Reddy said here on Wednesday.

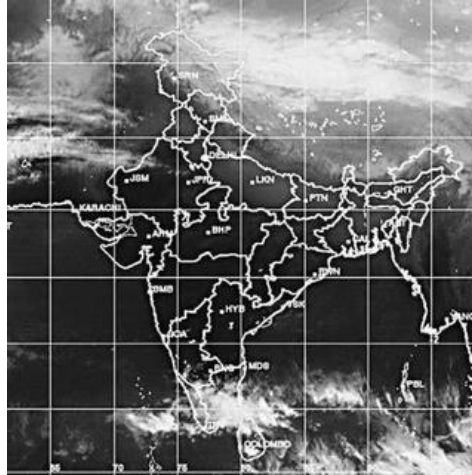
At a press conference here, he said the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) had opened 95 purchase centres and bought 14.24 lakh bales till now as against 36.25 lakh bales during 2008-09. NAFED purchased 1.5 lakh bales and private traders another 8.37 lakh bales.

He said that while China used to import 65 per cent of cotton from India every year, it had reduced the quantity of imports to seven million bales this year.

The exports to China last year were to the tune of 12 million bales.

Cotton was cultivated in 22.69 lakh hectares and an output of nearly 80 lakh bales was expected.

weather



New Delhi (Plm)	15	4	0	0
New Delhi (Sfd)	15	4	0	0
Chandigarh	9	3	0	0
Hissar	12	3	0	0
Bhuntar	17	-2	0	0
Shimla	11	5	0	0
Jammu	10	5	0	0
Srinagar	8	0	1	1
Amritsar	10	1	5	5
Patiala	13	5	0	0
Jaipur	22	6	0	0
Udaipur	21	5	0	0
Allahabad	20	3	0	0
Lucknow	15	-1	0	0
Varanasi	17	1	0	0
Dehradun	17	2	0	0
Agartala	22	5	0	0
Ahmedabad	24	12	0	0

Bangalore	31	17	0	0
Bhubaneshwar	26	13	0	1
Bhopal	22	6	0	0
Chennai	31	22	0	0
Guwahati	15	6	0	0
Hyderabad	31	20	0	0
Kolkata	19	9	0	12
Mumbai	31	19	0	0
Nagpur	26	6	0	6
Patna	11	1	0	0
Pune	29	12	0	0
Thiruvananthapuram	28	23	4	4
Imphal	21	4	0	0
Shillong	14	2	0	0

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

Rainfall

Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are prevailing in many parts of Uttar Pradesh. Cold day conditions are prevailing in some parts of Punjab and Haryana (including Chandigarh and Delhi).

Rainfall : Rain/snow has occurred at isolated places in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. Rain/thundershowers have occurred at isolated places in Punjab. Weather was mainly dry over rest of the region.

MINIIMUM TEMPERATURES: The minimum temperatures rose appreciably in Jammu and Kashmir and west Rajasthan, rose in Himachal Pradesh, east Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and changed little elsewhere. They were largely below normal in east Uttar Pradesh, markedly

below normal in west Uttar Pradesh, appreciably below normal in Haryana and Uttarakhand, below normal in Punjab and east Rajasthan and normal in rest of the region. The lowest minimum temperature in the plains was -01.0°C recorded at Gorakhpur and Ghazipur (Uttar Pradesh).

FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 11th JANUARY 2013: Rain/snow may occur at one or two places in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh during next 24 hours and mainly dry weather thereafter. Weather would be mainly dry over rest of the region. Fog conditions would continue to prevail in some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh during next 48 hours. Cold day conditions would prevail in some parts of Punjab and Haryana during next two to three days.

WARNING: Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions would occur in some parts of Uttar Pradesh and Cold day conditions would occur in some parts of Punjab and Haryana during next 48 hours. Ground frost would occur in some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during next two nights.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 11th JANUARY 2013: Mainly clear sky. Fog/Mist in the morning.

Management of thrips in garlic

Garlic is widely used as a condiment in Indian cuisine, especially for its medicinal properties.

It is grown in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Tamil Nadu (Nilgiris and Kodaikanal hills).

Among the insect pests, the onion thrips, *Thrips tabaci* is a major one injuring garlic.

Damage symptoms

Both nymphs and adults cause injury to the plants by sucking the vital leaf sap.

They remain in dense concentrations at leaf bases and whorls and feed by lacerating the tissues and imbibing the oozing cell sap.

The infestation develops a spotted appearance on the leaves, subsequently turning into silvery white blotches. The leaf tips fade and the basal portions get blighted and distorted from tip downwards and finally the plant dries up. The affected plants yield less, with small sized bulbs.

Adults are slender, yellowish brown and measure about 1mm in length and have narrow fringed wings.

Eggs are laid singly in tender leaves by making slits with sharp ovipositors by the females.

A single female lays 40-50 eggs which hatch after 4-9 days. The entire life cycle is completed in 11-21 days. There are more than ten generations per year. The pest occurs on garlic from November to May and migrates to other crops from June.

Management

Varieties with open type growth and circular leaf structure are not preferred by thrips.

Tolerant varieties of Garlic viz. G-2, G-19, LCG-1, Ooty-1 may be utilised for cultivation.

Higher doses of nitrogenous fertilizers and close planting should be avoided.

Clean cultivation, regular hoeing and flooding of infested field will check the thrips population.

Insect predators like green lacewing fly and tiny ladybird beetles check the population of this pest.

Application of profenofos or malathion 0.05 per cent, methyl demeton 0.025 per cent , monocrotophos 0.036 per cent, formothion 0.025 per cent, dimethoate 0.03 per cent, carbaryl 0.1 per cent or phorate 10G at 10kg/hectare could control the pest.

(J. Jayaraj, associate prof and R.K. Murali Baskaran Professor & Head, Dept of Entomology, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai 625 104, email: vu2jrj@rediffmail.com, phone: 0452- 2422956 Extn: 214.)

Bumper Bengal gram harvest expected in State

Growers of Bengal gram (kadale bele) are expected to harvest a bumper rabi crop owing to increase in the area under cultivation as well as timely and adequate rainfall in October-November in major growing areas of the northern districts of the State.

11.18 lakh hectares

Acreage under Bengal gram increased during the rabi season due to shortfall in the coverage of pulses during the 2012 kharif season. Acreage under the crop was 11.18 lakh hectares this season against the normal coverage of 8 lakh hectares.

Area under pulses — toor, horse gram, black gram, cowpea and others, avare and moth bean — was 11.56 lakh hectares against the target of 15.96 lakh hectares during the 2012 kharif season. Most of the crops sown in May and June were destroyed during the vegetation period itself owing to deficit rainfall, officials in the Agriculture Department told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

Crops sown in a majority of places in north Karnataka districts, except in Gulbarga and Bidar, were destroyed owing to erratic monsoon. The yield of pulses will be around two to three quintals a hectare against six to seven quintals, the officials maintained.

11 districts

Rain that lashed the State in the wake of cyclone Nilam in October-end brightened the prospects of Bengal crop growers. The crop is cultivated mainly in 11 districts of north Karnataka — Bidar, Bagalkot, Belgaum, Bellary, Bijapur, Chitradurga, Dharwad, Gadag, Gulbarga, Koppal and Raichur.

Officials said farmers were expected to get a yield of 10 quintals a hectare owing good vegetative growth compared with previous years. The State's normal yield of Bengal gram is 6 quintals a hectare.

Moreover, under the Union government's National Food Security Mission (NFSM), farmers had been provided chemicals and equipment to control pests and diseases affecting Bengal gram plants. Seed of high-yielding varieties, nutrient kits and pest-management kits were distributed under the Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) in north Karnataka districts for increasing the area under the crop, the officials said.

According to Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, growers expected to get Rs. 3,100 to Rs. 3,300 for a quintal of Bengal gram in February, March and April 2013. The Union government has fixed the minimum support price (MSP) at Rs. 2,100 for a quintal.

State envisages environmentally sustainable aquaculture

The draft aquaculture policy submitted to the government on Thursday has recommended the adoption of modern technologies and participatory methods for environmentally sustainable aquaculture in Kerala.

Prepared by a committee set up for the purpose, the draft document moots the establishment of demonstration aquaculture farms, broodstock banks and live fish markets, an aquaculture crop guarantee fund to compensate farmers hit by natural calamities and Green certification for ornamental fish farming. It also recommends a leasing policy to promote aquaculture in water bodies.

The document proposes zonation for aquaculture farms using remote sensing, GIS and GPS technologies. It urges the government for steps to promote aquaculture as a social venture with support from the government and local bodies.

The 12- member committee chaired by fisheries expert M.N. Kutty proposes introduction of commercially valuable species and a subsidy package to promote diversification. It stresses the need for quarantine facilities at major ports for import and export of ornamental fish and mobile aqua clinics for disease diagnosis and control. An ecosystem approach based on community participation has been mooted to promote aquaculture.

The document calls for promoting organic methods of fish farming. It also highlights the relevance of integrating aquaculture with agriculture and animal husbandry. The draft policy proposes district-level master plans for aquaculture and the extension of fish farming to all reservoirs. The committee has also suggested that the Department of Fisheries be renamed as the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The panel including representatives from the Fisheries University, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, University of Kerala and Kerala

Agricultural University held discussions with fisheries experts and representatives of fish farmers.



weather

Chennai

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Thursday, Jan 10

Max Min

30° | 23°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 89

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:34

Sunset: 05:58

Barometer: 1013

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Friday, Jan 11

Max Min

31° | 22°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday Jan 12	Sunday Jan 13	Monday Jan 14	Tuesday Jan 15	Wednesday Jan 16
30° 22° Partly Cloudy	25° 23° Overcast	26° 23° Cloudy	26° 22° Sunny	26° 22° Cloudy

Airport Weather

Delhi

Delhi

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 07:15

Humidity: 93

Sunset: 05:42

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1016



THE HINDU Business Line

TODAY FARM NEWS

10.01.2013 A.M

9th jan 2013

Holiday break lends colour to turmeric

Traders continued to buy turmeric in Erode markets despite heavy arrivals in view of a 10-day long holiday break. This, in fact, helped prices of quality turmeric to rise.

“Heavy arrivals did not affect the price. On Wednesday, 7,560 bags arrived and 85 per cent was sold.

‘Exporters to fulfill the *Sankaranthi* orders purchased huge stocks by quoting higher price The market will be closed for 10 days from Friday for Pongal,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association. He said medium quality hybrid turmeric prices decreased by Rs 250 a quintal.

Similarly in Regulated Market Committee, the price decreased by Rs 250 . But in the other three markets, prices of both varieties increased by Rs 300. Prices will remain higher on Thursday also, said traders.

But they predicted a fall in price after January 20 as they expect arrival of the new crop. Farmers said within 15 days the prices increased due to demand from North India.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,481-6,755 a quintal, the root variety Rs 4,296-6,099.

Salem hybrid crop: The finger variety sold at Rs 6,734- to Rs 7,190, the root variety Rs 6,194-6,404. Of 1,757 bags that arrived, 35 per cent of the stocks was sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,709-6,699, the root variety Rs 5,599-6,279. Of 1,413 bags on offer, 917 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,7996,421; the root variety Rs 5,539-6,219. Of 732 bags put up for sale, 603 were bought.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,272-6,831; the root variety Rs 4,772-6,412. Of 228 bags that arrived, 201 were sold.

Tur seen bullish on need to import



Even as arrival of new tur has gained momentum in Maharashtra, improved demand perked up tur (Maharashtra) in local mandis on Wednesday to Rs 4,050-4,075 a quintal (Rs 3,950-4,000; tur (Madhya Pradesh) remained stable at Rs 3,000-3,400.

Despite rise in arrivals, tur appears to be bullish. With expected decline in domestic crop output, dependency on imported tur, may give a push to prices in the coming days, a trader told *Business Line*.

Tur dal ruled stable even as demand in pulses in the past couple of days has increased.

On Wednesday, tur dal (full) quoted at Rs 5,900-6,000 (up Rs 200 from last week); tur dal (sawa no.) at Rs 5,200-5,300; tur marka ruled at Rs 6,700-6,800.

Moong has gained Rs 100 in the past couple of days on improved buying support ahead of Makar Sankranti festival. On Wednesday, moong (best quality) ruled at Rs 5,000-5,300; moong (medium) was at Rs 4,500-4,700 (up Rs 200 from last week). Moong dal also ruled stable with moong dal (medium) ruling at Rs 6,000-6,200; moong dal (bold) at Rs 6,500-6,600; while moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,000-7,300.

Urad and its dal ruled stable with urad (bold) quoted at Rs 3,400-3,500, while urad (medium) at Rs 3,000. Urad dal has gained Rs 100 in the past one week on buying support with urad dal (medium) quoted at Rs 4,000-4,100; urad dal (bold) at Rs 4,700-4,800; urad mongar at Rs 5,700-6,000.

Stocks weigh on retail demand in sugar



The sentiment in the Vashi wholesale sugar market was weak on Wednesday. In the physical market, prices for fair — lower quality sugar dropped by Rs 4-10 for S grade and Rs10-16 for M-grade.

Naka rates remained unchanged for the fourth consecutive day.

Mill tender rates for new sugar ruled unchanged while fair quality was sold at Rs 10 lower. Supply of fine variety sugar remained tight, said sources.

B. Bhogilal and co official said: “Continuous selling by mills in the absence of neighbouring States buying in Maharashtra and over 100 truckloads inventory in Vashi kept activities static.

Bulk consumers and stockists prefer new purchases as per need tracking retailers demand’.

Crushing season is on at national levels forcing mills to continue selling in local markets to avoid stocks burden. Supply is ample and retail demand is slowing down.

After Diwali sugar prices have dropped due to limited demand and higher selling by mills, he said.

In Vashi market, arrivals were 58-60 truckloads (each of 100 bags) while dispatches were 60-62.

On Tuesday evening, about 18-20 mills sold about 68,000-70,000 bags (each of 100 kg) at Rs 3,120-3,170 (Rs 3,120-3,170) for S-grade and Rs 3,230-3,280 (Rs 3,240-3,280) for M-grade.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, sugar prices for February were Rs 3,257 (Rs 3,260), March Rs 3,291 (Rs 3,290) and April was Rs 3,340 (Rs 3,337) till noon.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates: S-grade Rs 3,262- 3,332 (Rs 3,266-3,342) and M-grade Rs 3,336-3,472 (Rs 3,352-3,482). **Naka delivery rates were:** S-grade Rs 3,230-3,260 (Rs 3,230-3,260) and M-grade Rs 3,280-3,420 (Rs 3,280-3,420).

Poultry feed unchanged despite cheaper ingredients

Despite a downtrend in the prices of its key ingredients, poultry feed prices remained unchanged this week.

Aditya Mishra, a commodity expert, told *Business Line* that prices of a few ingredients have come down but it hasn't made any major impact on the cost of production.

If the soya-meal and mustard prices go further down, poultry feed prices may decrease, he added.

Soyameal eased by Rs 70 to Rs 2,830 a quintal. Bajra dropped marginally by Rs 5 and sold at Rs 1,395, while maize quoted at Rs 1,550, down by Rs 5. Di-calcium phosphate sold at Rs 36.50 a kg, while meat and bone meal sold at Rs 32. Rice bran oil was at Rs 56, while mustard de-oiled cake was Rs 140 down at Rs 1,530 a quintal.

Broiler concentrates feed quoted at Rs 1,860 for a 50-kg bag while broiler starter mash was at Rs 1,460.

"Broiler pre-starter concentrate 30 per cent" sold at Rs 1,600 for a 30-kg bag while layer concentrate quoted at Rs 1,425 for a 50-kg bag.

Pre-lay mash quoted at Rs 1,030 while broiler finisher sold at Rs 1,440 for a 50-kg bag.

Poultry Products

Meanwhile, better demand pushed egg, broiler and chick prices further up, on Wednesday.

Egg increased marginally by 5 paise and sold at Rs 3.50, broiler went up by Rs 12 and quoted at Rs 70-78 a kg, while chick improved by Rs 5 and sold at Rs 17-18.

Profit booking drags castorseed

On the back of profit booking and weak demand in the spot market, castorseed futures price declined more than two per cent on Wednesday.

Spot castorseed prices also dropped on higher arrivals.

On the Rajkot Commodity Exchange, castor March contract dropped by Rs 75 to Rs 3,916 a quintal.

RCX spot castorseed decreased by Rs 25 to Rs 3,682.50.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), castor January contract traded lower by Rs 68 at Rs 3,724 for 100 kg, with an open interest of 7,320 lots. NCDEX February contracts declined by Rs 81 or 2.09 per cent to Rs 3,790 with an open interest of 1,42,140 lots.

About 25,000-27,000 bags arrived in Gujarat and price moved down by Rs 5 to Rs 735-745 for 20 kg.

Around 3,200-3,300 bags arrived in Saurashtra and the price was quoted down by Rs 10 to Rs 700-725 for 20 kg.

A Rajkot-based castor trader said: "Castorseed demand in the spot market has declined in the past few days as shippers and stockists bought heavily last week. Due to weak demand in spot market, participants booked profit in the futures market."

However, there are some rumours about the crop failure due to cold wave in Gujarat. According to market sources, the severe cold wave could result in about 20 per cent of the crop getting damaged in castor.

Edible oil stockists build inventories at lower rates

Edible oils prices ruled marginally weak but a smart recovery was witnessed in the overall volume as stockists came forward with fresh orders tracking firm futures markets. About 2,300-2,500 tonnes of edible oils – mostly palm group of oils - were traded on Wednesday.

A sharp cuts of Rs 9 for palmolein by a leading refinery pulled down prices.

Groundnut oil dropped by Rs 5 and rapeseed oil declined by Rs 3 on better rabi crop prospects.

Soyabean and sunflower oils were unchanged. Cotton refined oil was up by Rs 3. The sentiment was cautious ahead of key industry data of Malaysia and the US, said a leading broker.

Shailesh Kataria of Riddhi Broker said: “A firm trend was witnessed in futures markets ahead of production, exports and stocks data from Malaysia for palm oil and the US for soyabean.” “On expectation of positive data and sharp price reduction by a local refinery, local traders put fresh orders which lead to higher volumes”.

Sources said Liberty sold 600-700 tonnes palmolein at Rs 511-513 and 100-150 tonnes super palmolein at Rs 565. Ruchi sold about 900-1,000 tonnes palmolein at Rs 505 ex JNPT and sunflower oil 90-100 tonnes at Rs 785. Resellers off loaded 400-500 tonnes palmolein in the range of Rs 503-507.

Some quantity of soya oil and cotton oil also changed hand.

In Saurashtra – Rajkot, groundnut oil dropped to Rs 1,960 (Rs 1,960) for *telia tin* and Rs 1,275 (Rs 1,280) for loose (10 kg).

Towards the end of the day, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 511-513 for Jan and Rs 530-532 for February. Super palmolein Rs 565, soya refined oil Rs 685 and sunflower refined oil Rs 800. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 517 for Jan and Rs 525 for Feb 1-25, soyabean refined oil Rs 680 and sunflower refined oil Rs 785 for Jan. Allana’s rates for palmolein was Rs 515 and super palmolein Rs 565.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, soyabean refined oil's February futures were up Rs 699.00 (Rs 691.35), March was Rs 685.80 (Rs 681.30) and April was Rs 681.10 (Rs 679.20). Malaysia's crude palm oil's February contracts closed higher at MYR 2,366 (MYR 2,338), March at MYR2,412 (MYR2,390) and April was MYR2,442 (MYR 2,430) a tone.

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: Groundnut oil 1,275 (1,280); soya refined oil 685 (685); sunflower exp. ref. 720 (720); sunflower ref. 790 (790); rapeseed ref. oil 812 (815); rapeseed expeller ref. 782 (785) cottonseed ref. oil 615 (612) and palmolein 505 (506).

Vikram Global Commodities, Chennai has quoted Rs 573 for 10 kg Malaysian super palmolein.

Pepper continues to head north

The pepper market continued to head north on Wednesday on good buying support amid tight supply. All the active contracts increased and closed above the previous day's closing.

February contract opened on an easier note at Rs 34,785 a quintal and touched the lowest price of the day at Rs 34,395, down by Rs 50 a quintal in the opening session itself and traded with volatility till the afternoon. Then it moved up and hit the highest price of the day at Rs 35,395, up by Rs 660 a quintal, from the lowest price of the day and thereafter slipped and traded with volatility and the last traded price was Rs 35,100 a quintal.

Spot pepper was not available while there was good domestic demand for physical pepper. Tamil Nadu-based dealers were covering aggressively from the high ranges. There were said to be buyers at Rs 380 a kg high range pepper from Idukki but no sellers were forthcoming. Whatever material available was being bought by these dealers directly from the farmers at terminal market price, market sources told *Business Line*.

More and more buyers are emerging. At the same time, because of the cloudy weather in the growing areas growers were not harvesting, they said.

On the spot, 12 tonnes of fresh pepper arrived from the southern districts which was sold at Rs 350, 360 and 373 a kg, they said.

February contract on the NCDEX increased by Rs 365 a quintal to close at Rs 35,105 a quintal. March and April were up by Rs 200 and 100 respectively to close at Rs 34,165 and 33,800 a quintal.

Turnover

Total turnover increased by 941 tonnes to close at 2,001 tonnes. Total open interest rose by 170 tonnes to close at 3,941 tonnes.

February open interest went up by 104 tonnes to 2,862 tonnes while that of March and April increased by 44 tonnes and 21 tonnes respectively to close at 755 tonnes and 301 tonnes.

Spot prices in tandem with the futures market trend was up by Rs 100 a quintal to close at Rs 37,300 (ungarbled) and Rs 38,800 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market today at spot prices moved up to \$7,400 a tonne while at Feb prices it was at \$6,700 a tonne (c&f). Appreciation of the rupee also aided the price rise, they said.

Pepper futures spurt on short-covering



Pepper prices surged by nearly 1 per cent to Rs 34,300 per quintal in futures trading on Wednesday, as speculators covered—up their short positions at prevailing levels.

However, weak export and estimates of output restricted the gains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, pepper for delivery in March shot up by Rs 335, or 0.99 per cent, to Rs 34,300 per quintal, with an open interest of 733 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in February moved up by Rs 310, or 0.89 per cent, to Rs 35,050 per quintal in 2,795 lots.

Analysts said covering—up of pending short positions at current levels by speculators helped pepper to trade higher at futures trade but higher output and weak export limited the gains.

Mixed trend in spot rubber

Spot rubber showed a mixed trend on Wednesday. The undercurrent appeared weak following the overall declines in domestic futures on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. The absence of genuine and quantity buyers continued to cast its shadow over the sentiments. Meanwhile, growers preferred to hold their produce as the peak production season is almost at its final lap. Sheet rubber slipped to Rs 163 (163.50) a kg as quoted by the traders. The grade continued to rule flat at Rs 163 a kg at Kottayam and Kochi, according to Rubber Board.

The January series dropped to Rs 164.74 (166.22), February to Rs 167.10 (168.82) and March to Rs 170.05 (171.64) a kg, while the April, May and June series remained inactive on the NMCE.

RSS 3 (spot) recovered to Rs 185.03 (183.42) a kg at Bangkok. The January futures improved to ¥293.7 (Rs 184.13) from ¥291 during the day session and then to ¥296 (Rs 185.66) in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 163 (163.50); RSS-5: 158 (158); ungraded: 152 (153); ISNR 20: 155 (154) and latex 60 per cent: 108 (108).

Sip a cup of coffee and tour Karnataka

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has partnered with Coffee Board, Karnataka Tourism and Thomas Cook to offer Kaapi Trail in Kodagu and Chickmagalur.

Kaapi Trail is a tourism concept that BIAL built around coffee that connects all the four States in the South with Bangalore. Currently, the trail covers coffee regions of Karnataka that include Kodagu (Coorg) and Chickmagalur and will soon cover other coffee regions in South India.

The trail covers wild, leisure and heritage concepts and offers various coffee growing regions in the South: Kodagu (Coorg), Chickmagalur, BR Hills, Baba Budangiri, Travancore, the Nilgiriss, Palani Hills, Shevroy Hills and Araku Valley.

Announcing this to reporters, Sanjay Reddy, Managing Director, BIAL, said: "Last year we offered the regions' coffee to our passengers at the airport and the response received surpassed our expectation and we promised to work on a concept wherein the passengers could physically go and experience the coffee growing regions of South India. This year our team has worked the promise come alive, we now have a single click option for people across the world to come and explore our rich coffee experience."

"Since the operations of this airport began, we have worked closely with the Karnataka Tourism to promote the region and its rich culture and heritage," he added.

Jawaid Akhtar, Chairman, Coffee Board, said: "Kaapi Trail provides an opportunity and a platform to explore coffee in a distinctive way. This unique experience will help coffee enthusiasts a new way to explore the bean. We are excited as coffee experts will get to meet a broad cross-section of interested and interesting coffee consumers. "

Thomas Cook India's Kaapi Trail packages aim at creating value for the region not only through awareness, but also by promoting tourism via experiential travel packages and unique meaningful experiences, said Madhavan Menon, Managing Director, Thomas Cook-India Ltd.

The packages, being offered by Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. at their outlets across India and overseas, cost between Rs 28,000 and Rs 32,000 a person for a six-day trip. A special offer of an early bird discount of 5 per cent is being offered on bookings made till January 31.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Jadhav, Additional Chief Secretary, Karnataka State Tourism, said: "Undoubtedly, coffee is integral to the culture of South India, and we believe that an initiative like this will help increase the popularity of the region as a much sought after travel destination."

Seafood exports slide on global economic slowdown



Seafood exporters will have to expand their markets and export value added, processed products rather than commodities, according to Union Commerce Secretary S.R. Rao.

Seafood exports in current fiscal have dropped about 7 per cent as of now compared with last year when exports touched Rs 16,597 crore for the full year. Shrimps account for nearly half the exports.

The prevailing global economic scenario, Euro zone crisis and the slowdown in the US are the reasons for the drop. Also, increased competition from Vietnam and the Philippines has hit realisations.

New markets

Indian exporters will have to look at new markets such as Africa and China, focus on value added, processed products exports and exploit the strengthening trade ties with Japan and South Korea to grow. India hopes to double exports in the next two years, Rao said.

A team led by Leena Nair, Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority, will be in the US on January 14 to represent India's case against the possible countervailing duty that the US is contemplating on shrimp exports from India.

India does not subsidise shrimp production, he said.

Nair said exports are down in dollar terms but the initial numbers indicate a quantitative growth.

Quarantine facility launched

The officials were addressing media persons at the inauguration of expanded aquatic quarantine facility in Chennai and to launch further stages of expansion.

G.C. Pati, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries, Government of India, said the facility is to hold imported broodstocks of Pacific White Shrimp, 'Litopenaeus vannamei', which is the dominant species under culture in shrimp farms. Over 1.30 lakh tonnes of this exotic species is being produced in India for exports. The other major variety is the Black Tiger Shrimp 'Penaeus monodon', which accounts for about 80,000 tonnes.

The parent stock for the exotic species is imported and has to be quarantined before release to hatcheries. The capacity at the quarantine facility in Neelangarai to the south of Chennai has been expanded to hold about 83,000 broodstock against 47,000 previously. Over the next one year the capacity will go to 2.37 lakh broodstock.

Cold wave brightens wheat output prospects

Central Pool Food Stocks as on Jan 1			(in lakh tonnes)
	In Storage	In Transit	Total
Rice	319.11	3.1	322.21
Wheat	341.5	2.33	343.83

Source: FCI

The

prevailing cold wave in North India will help wheat crop, raising the prospects of yet another bumper harvest this year.

The planting of wheat is almost over and the acreage is set to exceed last year's 290 lakh hectares (lh). Encouraged by a Rs 65 a quintal hike in minimum support price at Rs 1,350, farmers in major wheat growing areas of Punjab, Haryana Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have planted more wheat this year, even though the acreage dropped in Maharashtra over the last year.

"The cold condition is helping wheat crop, which is in the tillering stage. The tillering is good and there are high number of effective tillers, that yield more grains," said Indu Sharma, Director of the Karnal-based Directorate of Wheat Research.

"If there is no drastic variation in temperatures during the grain formation stages, we could possibly see yet another good harvest," Sharma said.

Last year, India produced an all-time high of 93.9 million tonnes (mt) of wheat. For the current year, the Government has set a production target of 86 mt. As on January 4, wheat was planted on 286.38 lh, about 2 per cent more than the corresponding last year.

Storage issue

However, a good wheat harvest may create further storage issues for the Government, which is sitting on a huge stockpile. Foodgrain stocks in the Central Pool in the beginning of the year stood at 66.6 mt, more than thrice the buffer requirement of 20 mt. According to Food Corporation of India data, wheat stocks stood at 34.38 mt on January 1, while rice stocks were 32.22 mt.

The buffer requirement for wheat stocks, as of January 1, was 8.2 mt, while that for rice it was at 11.80 mt. The strategic reserve requirement for rice is two million tonnes and for wheat it is three mt. Central pool stocks were more than twice after meeting the buffer and strategic reserve requirement.

Meanwhile, rice procurement in the ongoing kharif marketing season 2012-13, starting October, saw a 7 per cent increase at 18.8 mt as of January 8, over last year's 17.55 mt.

Coonoor tea auction volume hits 26-week high

Following last week's buoyant opening sale of Coonoor Tea Trade Association, a 26-week high volume of 19 lakh kg has been catalogued for Sale No: 2 to be held on Thursday and Friday, reveals an analysis of brokers' listing.

This is as much as 3.22 lakh kg more than last week's offer and as much as 4.10 lakh kg more than the offer this time last year.

Of the 19 lakh kg on offer, 13.58 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 5.42 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 17.73 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 1.27 lakh kg, orthodox variety. In the leaf counter, only 0.78 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 12.80 lakh kg, CTC. Among the dusts, only 0.49 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 4.93 lakh kg, CTC.

Upcountry traders are anticipating continuance of last week's increased demand as hot tea consumption has shown increase in the Northern States which are reeling under severe cold. Besides, volumes are low in the North due to reduced harvest and winter closure of factories.

Domestic demand for broken cashewnut cushions shellers

Cashew market was by and large steady last year after a roller coaster ride in 2011 when kernel prices moved up from \$3.75/lb in January to \$4.75 in August 2011 and back to \$3.80 in December.

Whereas, the year 2012 was a period of great stability. Except for a brief period in April-May 2012, when prices jumped up to \$3.60-3.80 range, the market was vacillating between \$3.25 and \$3.40 for almost the whole year.

A major change the industry faced in 2012 was that the differential between wholes and brokens and white and scorched grades widened substantially. In the last few months, even with the wider differentials it has been difficult to sell the lower grades. Part of the problem is increased supply of brokens due to mechanisation. To a smaller extent, the deteriorating quality of West African RCN has increased the availability of second grades.

Shellers have been hugely affected by this because the realisation from a tonne of RCN is significantly lower than what it used to be adding to the carrying cost. Impact on Indian shellers has been cushioned by good domestic demand for broken grades. Imports into the US during 2012 have been higher than 2011. "Although we do not have exact figures of imports in the second biggest importing region (EU), we believe that their imports also have been higher than 2011. Usage in India and most other markets has also been higher in 2012. Apart from the lower prices, we believe that stable prices and improved supplies have lead to revival of consumption," Pankaj N. Sampat, a Mumbai-based dealer claimed..

However, according to the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPC) exports during the first eight month of the current fiscal (April – Nov 2012) stood at 60,585 tonnes valued at Rs 2,477.42 crore against 74,093 tonnes valued at Rs 3,002.34 crore in the corresponding period the previous fiscal. During the first eight months of the current financial year, the average unit value showed a marginal increase to Rs 408.92 a kg from Rs 405.21 in the same period last year.

However, the unit value fell to Rs 395.60 a kg in Nov 2012 where as, it was Rs 443.59 a kg in Nov last year and notwithstanding the exports in Nov fell to 7,549 tonnes valued at Rs 298.63 crore from 9,377 tonnes valued at Rs 415.96 crore, the CEPC sources said.

Probably for the first time, India imported 3,245 tonnes of cashew kernels valued at Rs 53.02 crore at a unit value of Rs 163.38 kg during Apr-Nov 2012. The imports in Nov this year stood at 298 tonnes at unit value of Rs 194.96.

The cashew market, Pankaj said, continued to remain quiet last week witnessing some stray trading, but with no changes in the prices. Offers made were in the range of W240 \$3.75-3.90; W320 \$3.25-3.40; W450 \$3.05-3.15; SW320 from \$2.90-3.05; SW360 \$2.70-2.90; splits \$2.10-2.20; butts at around \$2.25; pieces \$1.40-1.50 an lb (fob).

Business Standard

TODAY FARM NEWS

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Sugar declines 0.06% on subdued demand

Sugar futures for February shed Rs 2 or 0.06% to Rs 3,258 per quintal in 33,270 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the January contract traded lower by Re 1, or 0.03% to Rs 3,209 per quintal in 11,420 lots.

Slackened demand against higher supplies triggered the downtrend.

Potato rises 3.96% on limited supply

Potato futures for April surged by Rs 29.10 or 3.96% to Rs 762.90 per quintal in 237 lots.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, the March contract jumped up by Rs 21.30 or 2.73% to Rs 801.20 per quintal in 526 lots.

Potato prices rose as speculators enlarged their positions on firming spot markets, amid restricted arrivals from producing regions

Chana rises 0.86% on high-buying activity

Chana futures for January rose by Rs 35, or 0.86%, to Rs 4,099 per quintal in 38,540 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the April contract rose by Rs 23, or 0.64%, to Rs 3,593 per quintal in 56,000 lots.

Speculators increasing their holdings, restricted arrivals influenced chana prices.

Reports of crop damage in [Rajasthan](#) and [Madhya Pradesh](#) due to cold wave also influenced the trading sentiment.

Turmeric falls 2.18% on mounting stocks

Turmeric futures for April fell by Rs 150 or 2.18% to Rs 6,728 per quintal in 31,050 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the May contract traded Rs 130, or 1.86% lower at Rs 6,786 per quintal in 7,215 lots.

Mounting stocks and subdued exports affected the trade.

Improved spot demand and hopes of a lower output capped the loss.

Pepper surges near 1% on short-covering

Pepper futures for March shot up by Rs 335, or 0.99%, to Rs 34,300 per quintal in 733 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the February contract moved up by Rs 310, or 0.89%, to Rs 35,050 per quintal in 2,795 lots.

Speculators covering up their short positions triggered the uptrend.

However, weak export and output estimates restricted the gains.

Jeera declines 1.22% on profit-booking

Jeera futures for March declined by Rs 177.50, or 1.22% to Rs 14,340 per quintal in 13,344 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the April contract traded lower by Rs 175, or 1.20% to Rs 14,400 per quintal in 4,065 lots.

Speculators reducing their exposures affected [jeera futures](#).

Higher cultivation, conducive weather at growing regions weighed on the jeera futures trade.

Cardamom falls 0.71% on subdued demand

Cardamom February futures declined by Rs 7.30, or 0.71%, to Rs 1,020.20 per kg in 345 lots.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, the January contract fell by Rs 5.80, or 0.58%, to Rs 981.80 per kg in 327 lots.

Speculators reducing their positions, weak spot market and increased supplies affected the [cardamom futures](#).

Crude palm oil up 0.83% on strong spot demand

Crude palm oil January futures rose by Rs 3.70, or 0.83%, to Rs 446 per 10 kg in 247 lots.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, the February contract moved up by Rs 2.10, or 0.46%, to Rs 452.90 per 10 kg in 351 lots.

Fresh positions by speculators, a firming trend in the spot market and pick-up in demand supported [crude palm oil](#) futures trade.

On the [Malaysia Derivatives Exchange](#), the March contract climbed 0.7 % to 2,407 ringgit (\$ 791) a tonne while dropping 4.4% in the four days through yesterday.