

Celebrating with fresh, regional produce



People throng the 'Kanni Market' in Gulbarga on Thursday to purchase fresh vegetables to celebrate the Ellu Amavasya scheduled on Friday.— PHOTO: ARUN KULKARN

Kanni market, the farmers' market here, was teeming with people early on Thursday in preparation for Yellu Amavasya, which will be celebrated on Friday.

Yellu Amavasya is the second-most important festival for the farmer community, after Sankranti.

Farm fresh

During this time, fresh vegetables and pulses, especially red gram, Bengal gram and horse gram are available in plenty. People, cutting across caste and communal lines, spend the day on their fields or those of their friends and family. On the menu for the day are special dishes made of the freshest of greens, vegetables and pulses, varieties of chutney — a green-tomato, green chilli and jaggery one is especially popular among people — as well as jowar and bajra rotis.

Seminar on farming of spices

More scientific bodies must participate in agriculture sector's growth, Mayor A.K. Premajam has said. She was inaugurating a seminar on 'Production Technology of Spices' conducted by the Regional Science Centre and Planetarium and the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices

Development on Wednesday. “The government should formulate policies to develop high-yielding crops. Agriculture is the foundation of every culture,” she said, adding that for a farmer, destruction of crops was like death in the family.

The seminar discussed scientific techniques to produce pepper, ginger, and other spices. Special focus was given on methods to protect spice crops from diseases and pests.

The sessions were led by leading scientists from the Indian Spices Research Centre in Kozhikode.

High-level panel touring delta areas to assess crop damage

Members outline efforts made by government to secure Cauvery water



The committee led by Finance Minister O. Paneerselvam inspecting a field in Nagapattinam to ascertain crop damage in delta districts.

A high-level committee, led by Finance Minister O. Paneerselvan and accompanied by ten IAS officers, toured the district to ascertain the extent of crop damage in the tail-end areas on Thursday.

Commencing the tour from Kaliappanallur near Sirkazhi, the team, comprising eight Ministers, visited fields and interacted with farmers to comprehend the damage.

At Kaliappanalur, Mariappan, a retired professor of TNAU, outlined the conditions under which samba crop was taken up. Unlike last year, when Mettur water was released in June, this year, due to delayed release, the crops were lost. However, based on government assurances, farmers had invested on the fields spending up to Rs. 20,000 per acre. A reasonable yield

would have fetched the farmers up to Rs.30,000, Mr. Mariappan said. According to him, the government should compensate the loss suffered by farmers.

Speaking to the team in Thethi in Keezhvelur, Kaveri Danapalan of Cauvery Delta Farmers Welfare Protection Association said any loss of productivity that exceeded 50 per cent should be construed as total loss as the quality of the crop could not be redeemed.

Earlier, an in-camera consultative meeting was held at the Collectorate, where the team met the farmers associations of Communist Party of India (Marxist) that had on Wednesday concluded its three-day picketing and protests following Chief Minister's assurance of compensatory relief. The members of the Tamizhaga Vivasagal Sangam reiterated their demand for Rs.25,000 per acre for farmers, and Rs.10,000 for agricultural labourers. The team also visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Sikkal.

Fields in Thirukuvalai, Easanur, Puthur, Arundhavampulam, Neermoolai, Voimedu in Vedaranyam were inspected. Briefly interacting with the farmers, Mr. Paneerselvam outlined the interventions made by the government to secure Cauvery water for agriculture.

Thanjavur Special Correspondent writes:

The committee visited villages in Tiruvarur district and assessed the samba crop damage.

C. Balakrishnan, president of Tiruvarur District Paddy Producers Association, and M.G. Ramachandran, a farmer from Marudavanam village, briefed the team about severe drought situation.

They appealed to the team to impress upon the government to pay a compensation of Rs. 25,000 per acre to the farmers, Rs.10,000 each to the family of farm labourers.

P.R. Pandian, State council member of Tamil Nadu Vivasagal Sangam, said insurance should be decided on village-basis and not on firka- level.

S.Natarajan, Tiruvarur district Collector, explained to the committee about artificial re-charge of rivers and canals in the district.

KVK develops durable, easy-to-assemble goat shed



Comfort zone: The goat shed at Panniyur is billed to be high-tech.

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.

Karnataka gets 526 crore Central aid for drought relief

The High-Level Committee (HLC) on Drought on Thursday approved a central assistance of Rs. 1,304 crore to Maharashtra and Karnataka, parts of which faced drought in the kharif cropping season last year.

“The High Level Committee (HLC) for central assistance to States affected by natural calamity approved assistance of Rs. 526.06 crore to Karnataka and Rs. 778.09 crore to Maharashtra,” said an official statement. Other than Karnataka and Maharashtra, parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat had been declared drought-hit.

Of the assistance provided to Karnataka, an input subsidy of about Rs. 563 crore has been given for agriculture, Rs. 91 crore for horticulture, Rs. 73 crore for animal husbandry and about Rs. 50 crore for water supply.

For Maharashtra, an input subsidy of about Rs 297 crore has been given to agriculture and Rs. 159 crore to horticulture sector. The animal husbandry sector has been provided about Rs. 38 crore while rural water and sanitation sector has been given about Rs. 30 crore.

An Inter-Ministerial central team had visited the two States for an assessment.

Farmers battle high machinery costs, labour shortage

Farmers in the district seem to be caught between the devil and the deep blue sea as they are faced with severe scarcity of farm labour in the face of high machinery costs.

In most of the areas in the district, the cotton which came for harvest was left as it is owing to the shortage of farm labour. An unexpected spell of rain can completely damage the crop resulting in misery for farmers.

“Now, most of the villagers are working under MNREGS where they get high wages for less work. There is flexibility in working hours. They are not showing interest in farm operations as the average farmer cannot pay. Even if some agree to pay, labourers are not interested,” explained Sankineni Purnchandrarao of Lybarthi village.

The only solution to the problem is mechanisation. But due to high costs, machines still remain out of the reach of farmers. A transplanter costs Rs. 35 lakh which neither an individual farmer nor a society can afford.

According to the sources, Joint Director (Agriculture), Warangal has Rs 9.5 crore funds earmarked for encouraging farm mechanisation. However, it remained un-utilised for the past one year for reasons only known to officials. Though the banks have been talking about extending liberal loans, the stringent procedures still discourage farmers. The banks want farmers to mortgage land but farmers individually possess small holdings ranging from two to five acres which is not sufficient for a loan. Even as a society, they cannot mortgage land as it is registered only on individual names.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, District Agricultural Technology Transfer (DATT) centre coordinator Dr. R. Uma Reddy said that since the farm equipment was imported, it cost a lot. Unless they are produced on the domestic front, they cannot be made affordable. "Engineering students should come forward to produce a drum seeder indigenously so that it can be made accessible to small and marginal farmers. Tractor prices have remained high for decades," he observed.

LLC farmers seek water till March-end

Farmers stage protest urging government to ensure water supply to save the standing crops

The farmers under Tungabhadra LLC staged a protest here on Thursday urging the government to ensure water supply through the canal till the end of March to save the standing crops.

The farmers said they could not sow paddy this season due to delay in monsoon and tight supply of water in the canal. As result, most of the farmers cultivated alternate crops sowing them in September or November.

If the authorities decided to stop water supply, the farmers would suffer and incur huge losses. According to them, they cultivated crops like chilli, cotton, groundnut and jowar. The farmers urged the authorities to draw 800 cusecs from the dam for ensuring supply to the tail end areas.

Also, the central forces should monitor the canal to prevent illegal drawing of water by Karnataka farmers.

The farmers were concerned about diverting of water to factories in Karnataka and also to the Anantapur district through HLC. When farmers under the LLC were struggling to irrigate the fields, it was unfair to divert the water, they pleaded.

Appointment of EE sought

They felt that an executive engineer be appointed exclusively for the LLC and that the staff were stationed at Adoni.

They urged the authorities to indicate the water supply position well before the crops were sown instead of announcing the early closure of the canal at a later date.

The canal works should be completed early so that water could be released every year by June 10.

The farmers displayed the withering and tender plants from their fields.

Coconut procurement

Procurement of raw coconut by the Agriculture Department through Krishi Bhavans will begin on Sunday in the northern districts. Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan will launch the procurement at a function at the Agricultural Wholesale Marketing Centre at Vengeri. Union Minister of State for Home Mullappally Ramachandran will inaugurate a 'Vegetable polyhouse' and Social Welfare Minister M.K. Muneer will distribute agriculture pension at the function, according to a statement here. — Special Correspondent

Seed festival begins today

A three-day 'seed fest' will be organised by the Fair Trade Alliance Kerala (FTAK) at Cherupuzha, near here, from Friday.

Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan will inaugurate the event. Exhibition and sale of a variety of seeds and other agro products will be held. Several breeds of cattle and poultry and exclusive varieties of vegetables and fruits will also be available at the venue. Actor-director Revathi and director Ranjith will participate in the inaugural function, according to the organisers.

Drive to collect fodder launched

To ease fodder scarcity, the district administration on Wednesday launched a drive to collect fodder. Deputy Commissioner B.N. Krishnaiah, Mandya tahsildar B.K. Mamatha and other

officials visited Kiragandur village in Mandya taluk and collected fodder from residents. Officials also collected fodder in P. Halli, Hosahalli, Doddapalya and other villages in Srirangapatna taluk.

Team to meet Pawar on MSP for red gram

A delegation of the Nationalist Congress Party will leave for New Delhi soon to meet Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar to request that the minimum support price for red gram be fixed at Rs. 5,000 a quintal.

In a release issued here on Thursday, district president of NCP Irannagoud R. Patil said the delegation would be led by State president of the party Mahendra Kumar Gouda.

Red gram growers in north Karnataka were in distress because of the fall in prices of red gram, and the MSP fixed by the Union government for red gram at Rs. 3,850 a quintal was not sufficient.

Red gram procurement centre set up

It will buy the produce from farmers at Rs. 4,000 a quintal



An official from the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange explaining the procedures followed in testing the quality of red gram to Chairman of the Red Gram Development Board Venkatesh Gaddimani at a procurement centre in Gulbarga on Thursday.

The State government has set up a procurement centre here for red gram, offering a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs. 4,000 a quintal for the produce.

The centre was established at the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) yard on Thursday, by the Red Gram Development Board (RGDB).

The procurement and quality testing will be done by the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).

Weighing machines, grading equipment and assayers to check the quality of produce, its moisture content and size of the grain are available at the centre.

Last year too, the RGDB procured more than 55,000 quintals of red gram directly from farmers through NCDEX, offering the same MSP.

Chairman of RGDB Venkatesh Gaddimani, who inaugurated the centre, told presspersons that 16 more centres would be set up in all taluk centres in Gulbarga, Yadgir and Bidar districts.

A maximum of 15 quintals of red gram would be purchased from a single farmer, if the produce cleared quality tests. The farmer had to produce photocopies of land records and a certificate from a village accountant to show that he or she had cultivated the red gram.

Payments would be made through cheque and farmers should produce a photocopy of the bank passbook.

Dr. Gaddimani said RGDB would use the Rs. 9 crore available with it now for purchasing red gram at the procurement centre. The State had been requested to release Rs. 20 crore from the revolving fund. "The government has assured us that they will release the additional funds in phases." The board chairman said it made a profit of Rs. 1 crore from the sale of red gram last year.

Meanwhile, representatives of traders' organisations and farmers continued their indefinite dharna outside the APMC for the third straight day, demanding that the MSP be fixed at Rs. 5,000 a quintal, given the increase in cost of cultivation.

Paddy cultivation banned in Tungabhadra command area

Deputy Commissioner Amlan Aditya Biswas has banned the cultivation of paddy as a second crop in the Tungabhadra command area in Bellary district.

The decision was taken because of shortage of water in the Tungabhadra reservoir owing to failure of the monsoon for two consecutive years. Moreover, there was every possibility of an increase in the demand for drinking water during summer.

Appeal

As suggested by the executive engineer of the Tungabhadra dam, Mr. Biswas has requested farmers in the command area, served by the low-level canal in Hospet, Siruguppa and Bellary taluks, to cultivate crops that require less water, such as jowar, bajra, green gram, cowpea, black gram, groundnut and sunflower.

'We're not responsible'

Mr. Biswas made it clear that the district administration would not take responsibility for crop failure due to shortage of water if farmers cultivated paddy.

He also warned that stern action would be initiated against those drawing water illegally from irrigation canals.

Farmer's death: report submitted

A report submitted by field level officials to the Commissioner of Agriculture on the suicide of P. Subramani (49), a farmer near Palladam on Tuesday, had attributed the death to multiple reasons.

Official sources told *The Hindu* that he was under debt following dip in farm revenues despite investing heavily on creation of borewells, which put immense pressure on him for the last few years.

Adding to the woes, the prevailing drought conditions prevented him from diversification of farm activities from the traditional coconut and maize grown in his fields.

With people from whom he borrowed money started pressurising him to pay back, he took the extreme step, the sources said.

The findings had ruled out any pressure on him from any pawnbroker or unorganised-sector money lenders leading to his suicide.

“He has borrowed money for setting up four borewells over the last few years, only from people in the locality, after water dried up in the two open wells in his 4.5 acre farm,” sources in Department of Agriculture told *The Hindu* .

The officials had also stated it ‘wrong’ the news going around that Subramani was pressured by a bank to repay the loan that led to his suicide.

“A check revealed that he has obtained loan from a nationalized bank at Kallipalayam but repaid it completely. Even the account of him opened at the bank has balance of around Rs. 5,000 in it and is remaining ‘inactive’ for last few years since he has not used it for any transaction,” the officials added.

Mettur level

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 34.63 feet on Tuesday, against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 648 cusecs and the discharge, 1,500 cusecs.

Farm implements distributed

Farm implements worth about Rs.39.61 lakh were distributed to 23 agriculturists under the National Agriculture Development Programme by the Agricultural Engineering department here recently. C.Manoharan, Collector, who gave away the implements, said that the department released a subsidy of Rs.14.60 lakh under the scheme. Mini tractor, power tillers and implement for clearing weeds were distributed.

Not a sweet Pongal for jaggery makers



This Pongal is not sweet for sugarcane growers who produce jaggery and farmers supplying cane to these units, as price for jaggery has not gone up as expected. They claimed that this is mainly because of increase in demand for crystal sugar among consumers who earlier used jaggery. The Farmer's Jaggery Market at Pilikalpalayam in Paramathi Velur Taluk, here established in 1997 is one of the major wholesale markets in Tamil where traders from different parts of the State and across the country gather to buy jaggery – popularly known as 'vellam' in Tamil.

It was formed to help cane farmers sell jaggery to traders in an organised manner and at a better price. The market is conducted twice a week – Wednesdays and Saturdays. Price is fixed for a bag of jaggery weighing 30 kg each (called chippam) based on its quality. Secretary of the market S. Raju told *The Hindu* that on Wednesday – the last market before Pongal – a total 810 tonnes was brought to the market in 27,000 bags of 30 kg each. “The best quality traditional ball jaggery was sold for Rs. 900 to Rs. 1,000 against Rs. 1,550 a bag during Deepavali. Low quality ones that was sold for Rs. 750 to Rs. 800 fetched more than Rs. 1,000 during Deepavali.

Jaggery moulded using machines that went up to Rs. 1,600 for Deepavali is sold for only around Rs. 1,200 a bag,” he said. According to him jaggery could have fetched them a better price if the State Government had continued distributing jaggery (free of cost) for the ration card holders for Pongal.

“Sadly sugar has replaced jaggery for Pongal this year,” Mr. Raju said.

Farmer L. Velusamy (60), of Vetuvankadu near Velur, who is growing cane and making jaggery for about 45 years said that Pongal has not been a season for them to cherish in the recent years as prices have not gone high as expected.

“The other major problem is the increasing cost of production. It cost Rs. 600 to produce a tonne cane which has climbed to around Rs. 1,300 to Rs. 1,400 in about five years.

Farmers said that on the other hand recovery of juice from canes that was grown in 2012 was very less due to the poor rainfall in failed monsoons. “We used to get 110 kg to 115 kg of jaggery from one tonne of cane but this year it is only 100 kg to 105 kg a tonne – a ten percent drop as the plants did not get adequate water during the last few months before harvest.

High-level panel touring delta areas to assess crop damage

Members outline efforts made by government to secure Cauvery water



The committee led by Finance Minister O. Paneerselvam inspecting a field in Nagapattinam to ascertain crop damage in delta districts.

A high-level committee, led by Finance Minister O. Paneerselvan and accompanied by ten IAS officers, toured the district to ascertain the extent of crop damage in the tail-end areas on Thursday.

Commencing the tour from Kaliappanallur near Sirkazhi, the team, comprising eight Ministers, visited fields and interacted with farmers to comprehend the damage.

At Kaliappanalur, Mariappan, a retired professor of TNAU, outlined the conditions under which samba crop was taken up. Unlike last year, when Mettur water was released in June, this year, due to delayed release, the crops were lost. However, based on government assurances, farmers had invested on the fields spending up to Rs. 20,000 per acre. A reasonable yield

would have fetched the farmers up to Rs.30,000, Mr. Mariappan said. According to him, the government should compensate the loss suffered by farmers.

Speaking to the team in Thethi in Keezhvelur, Kaveri Danapalan of Cauvery Delta Farmers Welfare Protection Association said any loss of productivity that exceeded 50 per cent should be construed as total loss as the quality of the crop could not be redeemed.

Earlier, an in-camera consultative meeting was held at the Collectorate, where the team met the farmers associations of Communist Party of India (Marxist) that had on Wednesday concluded its three-day picketing and protests following Chief Minister's assurance of compensatory relief. The members of the Tamizhaga Vivasagal Sangam reiterated their demand for Rs.25,000 per acre for farmers, and Rs.10,000 for agricultural labourers. The team also visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Sikkal.

Fields in Thirukuvalai, Easanur, Puthur, Arundhavampulam, Neermoolai, Voimedu in Vedaranyam were inspected. Briefly interacting with the farmers, Mr. Paneerselvam outlined the interventions made by the government to secure Cauvery water for agriculture.

Thanjavur Special Correspondent writes:

The committee visited villages in Tiruvarur district and assessed the samba crop damage.

C. Balakrishnan, president of Tiruvarur District Paddy Producers Association, and M.G. Ramachandran, a farmer from Marudavanam village, briefed the team about severe drought situation.

They appealed to the team to impress upon the government to pay a compensation of Rs. 25,000 per acre to the farmers, Rs.10,000 each to the family of farm labourers.

P.R. Pandian, State council member of Tamil Nadu Vivasagal Sangam, said insurance should be decided on village-basis and not on firka- level.

S.Natarajan, Tiruvarur district Collector, explained to the committee about artificial re-charge of rivers and canals in the district.

Tamil Nadu bids farewell to northeast monsoon

The northeast monsoon, which is on its last legs, is likely to withdraw from Tamil Nadu in a day or two.

Chennai is one of the 20 districts that had deficit rainfall this season. The city recorded a little over 100 cm of rainfall against the annual average of 140 cm.

Since October, the rainfall was short by over 30 per cent. Districts in the southern parts of the State however, benefited from the present spell of rain.

Addressing a seminar on the northeast monsoon 2012 organised by the Indian Meteorological Society, Y.E.A. Raj, deputy director general of meteorology, regional meteorological centre, said that the seasonal rainfall throughout last year had been deficit over the State, resulting in a shortfall of annual average rain by 23 per cent.

The deficiency in rain last year broke the rare phenomenon of eight consecutive years of unprecedented rainfall since 2004, according to the data available from 1871.

He also highlighted the variation in global climatic features — southern oscillations and the El Nino — that influenced the performance of the monsoon and long dry spells.

R. Venkatesan, a scientist from the National Institute of Ocean Technology, highlighted the role of the ocean buoy network in forecasting weather.

The data assimilated from nine buoys in the Bay of Bengal and nine more in the Arabian Sea is shared with the meteorological department.

“We do not share underwater parameters such as conductivity and temperature due to government regulations,” he said. The institute soon plans to introduce gliders, equipment that can travel up to any depth under the sea to acquire accurate data, he said.

PCCF faces farmers' ire

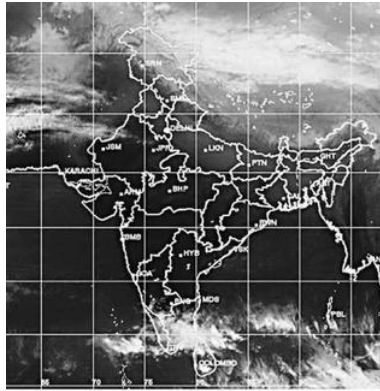
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Deepak Sharma on Thursday faced the ire of farmers demanding immediate solution to elephant menace, during his visit to villages in Alur taluk.

Farmers alleged that the government was not concerned about the problems they were facing owing to elephant menace.

The officer visited villages affected by elephant attacks in the run-up to the January 31 hearing in the Karnataka High Court on the issue of relocation of elephants from the region.

Farmers gathered at Rayara Koplpu questioned the officer on the delay in taking steps to tackle elephant menace and releasing compensation for crop loss due to elephant attacks. Mr. Sharma told the farmers that a procedure had to be followed before releasing compensation.

weather



New Delhi (Plm)	21	5	0	0
New Delhi (Sfd)	21	6	0	0
Chandigarh	19	6	0	0
Hissar	19	5	0	0
Bhuntar	19	-1	0	0
Shimla	12	4	0	0
Jammu	17	4	0	0
Srinagar	9	-3	0	1
Amritsar	11	3	0	5
Patiala	19	6	0	0
Jaipur	24	8	0	0
Udaipur	23	6	0	0

Allahabad	22	7	0	0
Lucknow	17	1	0	0
Varanasi	19	4	0	0
Dehradun	21	3	0	0
Agartala	15	3	0	0
Ahmedabad	27	9	0	0
Bangalore	30	17	0	0
Bhubaneshwar	26	11	0	1
Bhopal	25	7	0	0
Chennai	31	21	0	0
Guwahati	16	6	0	0
Hyderabad	29	17	0	0
Kolkata	20	10	0	12
Mumbai	34	17	0	0
Nagpur	28	7	0	6
Patna	15	4	0	0
Pune	29	12	0	0
Thiruvananthapuram	32	24	0	4
Imphal	21	0	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.

Cold wave

Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are prevailing in some parts of Uttar Pradesh.

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

MINIIMUM TEMPERATURES: The minimum temperatures rose appreciably in Haryana and west Uttar Pradesh, rose in Punjab, east Rajasthan and east Uttar Pradesh and changed little elsewhere. They were appreciably below normal in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and normal in rest of the region. The lowest minimum temperature in the plains was -0.4°C recorded at Adampur (Punjab).

FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 12th JANUARY 2013: Rain/snow would occur at one or two places in Jammu and Kashmir during next 24 hours and increase thereafter. Rain/snow may occur at one or two places in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand from 12th January onwards. Weather would be mainly dry over rest of the region.

WARNING: Cold wave conditions would continue to prevail over some parts of Uttar Pradesh during next 48 hours. Ground frost may occur in isolated pockets of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during next two nights.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 12th JANUARY 2013: Mainly clear sky. Mist/Shallow fog in the morning.

weather

Chennai

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Friday, Jan 11

Max Min

29° | 23°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 94

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:34

Sunset: 05:59

Barometer: 1015

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Saturday, Jan 12

Max Min

31° | 23°

Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday Jan 13	Monday Jan 14	Tuesday Jan 15	Wednesday Jan 16	Thursday Jan 17
31° 23° Partly Cloudy	26° 23° Cloudy	26° 22° Sunny	25° 22° Cloudy	25° 22° Cloudy

Airport Weather

Delhi

Rain: 0

Humidity: 100

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 07:15

Sunset: 05:42

Barometer: 1017



THE HINDU Business Line

TODAY FARM NEWS

11.01.2013 A.M

10th jan 2013

Increasing arrivals pound turmeric



Spot turmeric prices decreased by Rs 100-200 a quintal.

“Because of the 10-day holiday for Pongal, turmeric farmers brought huge stocks of about 8,000 bags. The buyers have purchased minimum quantity quoting lower price. Stockists procured huge stocks,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

The stockists have purchased more than 3,500 bags.

Even the hybrid variety decreased by Rs 250, despite nest quality hybrid crop arrived for sale.

On Thursday, of 8,000 bags of turmeric, 6,200 were sold. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,211-6,739; the root variety at Rs 3,899-5,919.

Salem hybrid crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 6,400-6,969; The root variety Rs 5,909-6,329.

Of 1,645 bags that arrived, 520 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the root variety fetched Rs 5,590-6,270. Of 1,516 bags on offer, 983 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety sold at Rs 5,769-6,599; the root variety Rs 5,369-6,289.

All the 874 bags put up for sale got sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety sold at Rs 5,430-6,766; the root variety Rs 4,869-6,366. Of 291 bags put for sale, 249 got sold.

Holiday for turmeric market: In connection with the Pongal and Hanumath Jayanthy, the Erode turmeric markets will be closed for 10 days. Next sale would be on Jan 21 in all the four markets at Erode.

Improved buying support perks up mustard oil



Improved buying support and weak arrivals perked up mustard oil in Indore mandis by Rs 8 for 10 kg in the past one week.

On Thursday, mustard oil in Indore mandis ruled at Rs 770 for 10 kg, while it has gained Rs 10 in Neemuch and Rs 5 in Morena in the past one week.

In Neemuch, it ruled at Rs 765, while it was Rs 775 in Morena. In Rajasthan mandis also, mustard oil has risen by Rs 5 with its price in Kota and Ganga Nagar being quoted at Rs 775 each, while it ruled at Rs 790 in Jaipur.

In Gujarat mandis, the rise is by Rs 10 to Rs 770. Contrary to rise in prices, demand continues to be slack and it may continue at least for a month till its price comes in parity with soya refined which currently is ruling at Rs 695.

Besides weak arrival, the rise is attributed to fear about damage to crop in some parts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh on account of intense cold wave. Contrary to mustard oil, mustard seeds continue to rule stable at Rs 4,500- 4,600 a quintal amid subdued demand and buying support. Similarly, raida also ruled stable at Rs 3,700. Arrival of new mustard seeds has also been reported and quoted at Rs 4,000.

Given a rise in the area till January 4, sowing had been completed in 66.18 lakh hectares against 64.35 lakh hectares last year.

With rise in acentage, production this year is expected to be around 64.35 lakh tonnes this year against 56-57 lakh tonnes last year, provided there is a minimum damage to mustard crop this year on account of ongoing cold wave.

Plant deliveries in Jaipur rose to Rs 4,180- 4,200 (Rs 4,185-90) on buying support.

Mustard seeds traded lower on weak buying support with its January on the NCDEX closing at Rs 4,238 (down Rs 9).

April contracts closed Rs 34 lower at Rs 3,516. Arrival was recorded at 70,000 bags including 4,000 being offloaded in Madhya Pradesh, 6,000 in Uttar Pradesh, 40,000 in Rajasthan, 8,000 in Punjab and Haryana.

Aromatic, sharbati rice drop on correction



After hitting the peak for this season earlier this week, the rice market saw some correction with prices of aromatic and sharbati rice going down by Rs 50-150 a quintal on Thursday.

The market has seen some unjustified rallies over the last few weeks, said Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company. Despite sluggish domestic demand, Pusa-1121 prices have increased by Rs 1,200 since the first week of December. Retail traders are keeping off the market as they do not want to make fresh purchase on current levels. In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) was down by Rs 100 at Rs 7,200 a quintal while Pusa-1121 (sela) at Rs 6,200, Rs 50 down. Price of pure basmati (raw) down by Rs 150 at Rs 8,050. duplicate basmati (steam) at Rs 5,800, Rs 100 down.

Sharbati (steam) prices eased by Rs 70 and quoted at Rs 4,430 while Sharbati (sela) went down by Rs 50 at Rs 4,350.

PR varieties remained unchanged at their previous levels. PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs 2,550-2,650 while PR-11 (raw) quoted at Rs 2,550-2,600. Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,200-2,300 while Permal (sela) went for Rs 2,150-2,300.

About 2,000 bags of PR variety were sold at Rs 1,200; 2,000 bags Sharbati at Rs 2,200; 1,000 bags Sugandha 999 at Rs 2,850 and 2,000 bags of Pusa-1121 quoted at Rs 3,550.

Higher sugar output in South draws eastern buyers



Sugar prices in the Vashi wholesale terminal market remained unchanged on Thursday on routine demand – supply.

Spot prices were up by Rs 6 a quintal for M-grade, while for S-grade prices declined by Rs 10. Naka and mill tender rates ruled steady despite Rs 5-7 rise in freight charges from Kolhapur, Karad and Sangli line.

Sources said: "Local demand remained need-based and there is ample supply from producers. Mills are continuously selling in local market as demand from neighbouring States is lacking since long in Maharashtra".

Higher sugar production in southern States has diverted eastern side demand there forcing producers here to concentrate in local markets.

Freight rates from Kolhapur, Karad and Sangli line improved by Rs5-7 this week but not affected on market price due to routine activities.

Sugar futures showing range bound volatility keeping speculators, hedgers away from markets.

In the Vashi market, arrivals were 62-63 truck loads (each of 100 bag) while dispatches were 58-60 truckloads. Inventories increased to more than 100 truckloads. On Wednesday evening, about 15-17 mills offered tenders and sold about 54,000-55,000 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 3,230-3,280) for M-grade.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, February futures prices were Rs 3,257 (Rs 3,258); March Rs 3,291 (Rs 3,293) and April Rs 3,339 (Rs 3,339).

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 3,252- 3,332 (Rs 3,262-3,332) and M-grade Rs 3,342-3,472 (Rs 3,336-3,472). **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).

Pepper futures gain on strong demand



Pepper prices moved up by Rs 110 to Rs 34,250 per quintal in futures trading on Thursday, as speculators enlarged their positions, tracking a firm trend of pick—up in demand at spot market.

Besides, tight supplies in the physical markets also influenced spice prices.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, pepper for delivery in February moved up by Rs 155, or 0.44 per cent, to Rs 35,260 per quintal with an open interest of 2,878 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in March gained Rs 110, or 0.32 per cent, to Rs 34,250 per quintal in 764 lots.

Market analysts said speculators enlarging their positions on pick up in spot markets demand against restricted supplies mainly led to rise in pepper prices at futures trade.

However, expectations of higher output and weak export demand capped the gain.

Turmeric futures skid on glut, weak export demand



Turmeric prices fell by Rs 124 to Rs 6,514 per quintal in futures trade on Thursday, due to higher stocks and weak spot and exports demand.

However, reports of lower area under cultivation this year due to scant rainfall during the planting season limited the gains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, turmeric for delivery in April fell by Rs 124, or 1.87 per cent, to Rs 6,514 per quintal, with an open interest of 29,940 lots.

Likewise, the spice for delivery in May lost Rs 114, or 1.69 per cent, to Rs 6,644 per quintal, with an open interest of 7,230 lots.

Marketmen said, adequate stocks in spot markets and weak exports, mainly weighed on the turmeric prices at futures trade here, the area under cultivation this year, is lower due to short rainfall which also capped the losses.

83 youths trained under CII-HPCL scheme get jobs at food chains

West Bengal Labour Minister Purnendu Basu on Thursday gave away appointment letters to 83 youths trained under the CII-HPCL Swavalamban project.

These youths, which include both men and women, have been offered assignments at leading fast food chains including Dominos, Future Group, Speciality Group of Restaurants and Café Coffee Day. All the candidates underwent a two-month long training programme under CII-HPCL Swavalamban in partnership with Future Sharp Skills Ltd, a division of Future Group, said a press statement issued by CII (Confederation of Indian Industry).

According to Basu, there are over 7 million registered unemployed youths in West Bengal. “An endeavour such as this is what we require to accelerate our employment initiatives. The State Government will be happy to help such endeavours,” he said.

With a view to develop requisite skills required for industries, CII has focused on skill development programmes across the country under the CII-HPCL Swavalamban Project. About 9,427 youths have been trained under the project across the country.

Drought will be draining for sugarcane growers in 2 States



Drought in parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka has hurt fresh sugarcane planting, which may affect cane availability for sugar year 2013-14 starting October.

Areas such as Marathawada, Vidarbha and parts of Northern Karnataka are reeling under the impact of drought induced by erratic monsoon in 2012.

shift to ther crops

“Currently, the planting registration is down by 50 per cent of the normal area, and a clearer picture will emerge in March when the planting season ends,” said Narendra Murukumbi, Managing Director of Shree Renuka Sugars Ltd. Sugarcane is planted in Maharashtra and Karnataka mainly from November to February.

Except for districts such as Kolhapur and Satara in Maharashtra and Gulbarga and Bagalkot in Karnataka, where water availability is better, farmers are not confident of planting cane in these States, Murkumbi said. Cane-growing areas of Belgaum and Solapur have seen farmers shifting to other crops such as jowar that require less water.

Farmer leader and parliamentarian from Hatkanangle in Maharashtra Raju Shetti said except for areas in the Krishna valley, cane planting has been poor. “It will have a major impact next season.”

Cane crushing, which started late by a month, will be over by March-end, Shetti added.

Vinay Kumar, Managing Director, National Sugar Cooperative Federation Ltd, said: “Fresh cane planting in Maharashtra is definitely lower than last year. It is too early to quantify the acreage, and a correct picture will emerge by end-February.”

Rains in Marathawada and Vidarbha in Maharashtra were deficient during October-December. According to the India Meteorological Department data, rainfall was down 48 per cent in Vidarbha, while it was lower by 29 per cent than normal for the October 1- December 31 period.

Even the *adsali* planting or the 18-month crop, which gets planted by August, has been lower by about a third in Maharashtra this year. Indian Sugar Mills Association Director-General Abinash Verma said: “Only two-thirds of the area was covered in *adsali* planting due to lack of water.” He added that it was too early to comment on the impact of the cane acreage.

Shortage of seed cane

Verma also pointed out that some cane-growing areas in Maharashtra could face shortage of seed cane. Erratic monsoon had led to diversion of the standing cane crop to fodder in Maharashtra last year, which may result in shortage of seed cane.

According to the Association data, Maharashtra produced 2.9 million tonnes till December-end, about 4 per cent more than the last year. Sugar recovery has so far stood at 10.46 per cent, almost same as last year, due to partial dry-cane arrivals. Maharashtra is expected to produce about 6.5 million tonnes in the 2012-13 sugar year, down from 8.95 million tonnes in the previous year as dry spells had hurt the cane crop. In Karnataka, the output till December-end is higher by 17 per cent at 1.55 million tonnes.

Global black tea output down 39 mkg

The November tea production figures of Sri Lanka, Kenya, Malawi, Bangladesh and Indonesia have come out but India's data stands limited to October.

"According to our compilation of the latest available data, global black tea production in 2012 has fallen by 38.57 million kg (mkg) to total 1746.95 mkg," Rajesh Gupta, publisher of *Global Tea Digest 2012*, told *Business Line*.

Helped by favourable weather, production in the Nilgiris, the largest tea growing district in the south, increased in December. However, because of lower crop in the previous months, the overall production in the district in 2012 is estimated to have fallen by about 12 per cent over 2011. The corporate sector has reported a production of 13.11 mkg against 14.82 mkg in 2011.

Compared with 2011, productivity fell in most estates in 2012. The overall district yield average has fallen to 1,594 kg a hectare from 1,787 kg in 2011, marking a decline of 10.8 per cent.

The present winter high-grown Nilgiri orthodox quality tea is a premium in world markets. The blackish, well-rolled, clean and type-defined teas with bright infusion and brisk in cup are among the most preferred ones, which face competition from Assam and Sri Lanka. Availability of quality teas has increased in the auction centres this week. Intake has risen in Mombasa auctions following showers with intermittent sunshine in most plantation pockets of Kenya.

Limbe auction is getting higher volumes because of rains in Malawi plantation areas. The arrival at Colombo auction is moderate as dry weather is seen in most plantation areas of Sri Lanka but rains are forecasted. Jakarta auction is receiving good arrival following wet weather in Java and Sumatra areas of Indonesia.

World tea, coffee expo-seminar at Mumbai

Mumbai will host World Tea and Coffee Expo 2013 from February 15 to 17. Over 100 exhibitors from India and abroad are expected to showcase the latest products, brands and technologies.

Supported by leading promotional agencies such as the

Tea Board, Federation of Indian Tea Traders Association (Bombay), Tea Traders Association, India-China Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Small and Medium Business Development Chamber of India, Confederation of Indian Small Tea Growers Association and Darjeeling Tea Association, the trade event seeks to bring together various stakeholders in the value chain for networking and business promotion.

According to event organisers Sentinel Exhibitions Asia, an estimated 10,000 visitors are expected to attend the expo. The participants' profile covers tea and coffee estates, processors, trading houses, importers, exporters and machinery suppliers. Given rising incomes and evolving food habits, gourmet tea and coffee as well as flavoured beverages are likely to draw attention, the organisers pointed out.

World Tea and Coffee Expo 2013 will be accompanied by a seminar where leading experts will offer their views on product development, consumer trends, packaging innovations, and distribution and pricing issues.

India is a leading tea producer, but per capita availability is low at about 700 gm a year. About a fifth of the domestic production is exported. Rising incomes and promotional activities are seen driving domestic demand.

LT Foods seeks more time to ship rice to Indonesia

LT Foods Ltd has sought more time from Indonesian Government agency Bulog to deliver rice shipments.

The company had bagged a deal from Bulog in October to supply 30,000 tonnes of rice by December 25 but couldn't execute the shipments in time due to lengthy procedures in awarding the contract.

The Indian rice exporter has already shipped out 21,000 tonnes to Indonesia and the remaining 9,000 tonnes are lying at the Kandla Port.

"We have sought an extension in the contract till end-January to deliver the shipment," said S. Venkatesh, Head of International Business at LT Foods Ltd.

The exporter has nominated vessels to carry the rice cargo and is waiting for Bulog to approve them.

Though the tender was awarded in October-end, other formalities such as the verification of stocks by Bulog at the exporter's warehouses, issue of contract letter and opening of line of credit took another month, leaving less time for the shipments. LT Foods has raised this issue through the Governments and trade channels both in Indonesia and India.

In 2012, the company shipped 3.2 lakh tonnes of rice to customers in Russia, South Africa, East Africa and Indonesia.

LT Foods' stock ended about a per cent lower at Rs 60.10 on the Bombay Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

Rubber Board financial aid

The Rubber Board is offering financial assistance to the rubber producers' societies (RPSs) and self-help groups (SHGs) to develop primary infrastructure facilities for strengthening the smallholder sector.

The scheme is aimed at the productivity enhancement and quality upgradation of produce in the small holding sector. The Board has an outlay of Rs 25 lakh for this in the current fiscal.

The assistance for setting up the input distribution centre is 50 per cent of actual rent of the building (maximum Rs 500 a month). The RPSs and SHGs will also be provided with a portion of their expense for the common service centre, rubber nursery and labour bank.

The scheme has also provisions to support RPSs for pollution control and environment protection measures in their community processing centres. Such RPSs will be assisted with 50 per cent of the actual expenditure or Rs1 lakh, whichever is less, to set up effluent treatment plant.

The financial assistance is also available for cover crop seed collection, plant protection measures, rain guarding and group management of small rubber holdings. Details are available from the regional / field stations of the Board.

Scientists develop eco-friendly prawn feed from grass

A species of mangrove grass, which has so far been left unused by islanders in the Sundarbans, can now be utilised to prepare a cheap and eco-friendly feed for freshwater prawns, a team of scientists from Kolkata has recently demonstrated.

To prove how floral feed can offer better aquaculture nutrition and eco-friendly prawn farming, a pilot project led by Calcutta University's marine biologist Abhijit Mitra was executed at Swarupnagar village of North 24 Parganas district, few kilometres from here.

Mitra said the formulated feed from salt marsh grass *Porteresia coarctata*, available naturally in the Sundarbans, not only improves the aquatic health of ponds but also increases the growth and protein level of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*, a species of prawn.

It is estimated that annually India produces over 30,000 tonnes of the giant fresh water prawn, the export prices of which range between Rs 500-600 a kg.

Prawns reared on floral feed exhibit greater weights and redder colouring (both attributes with high consumer appeal), and grow more quickly than those surviving on commercial feed.

Besides mangrove grass, the other ingredients of the scampi feed preparation includes soybean dust, muster oil cake, rice bran and wheat bran.

Govt can't ban field trials of GM crops: Pawar



Dismissing Parliamentary panel's suggestion to halt all field trials of GM crops, Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar has said the government can't take "luxurious decision of banning" them because such kind of farm research is important for ensuring food security.

In August, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, headed by Basudeb Acharya, had recommended to the Government to stop all open-field trials of transgenic crops until it develops a better system of monitoring and oversight.

The panel had also called for a complete overhaul of the regulatory system and thorough probe into how permission was initially granted in 2009 to commercialise Bt brinjal.

"We are not supporting that (Panel's recommendations). Ultimately, food security is the important issue for a nation like India and here we cannot take this type of luxurious decision of banning field trials," Pawar told PTI in an interview.

Research in Genetically Modified (GM) crops and their field trials should continue in a country which has huge population, he said.

Pawar said, however, that caution should be exercised while allowing GM crops for commercial cultivation.

“We have to take abundant precaution that it will not affect either environment and other crops or animal and human health. We need to be very, very cautious,” he said.

Meanwhile, sources said the Ministry in the Action Taken Report on the panel's contention has stated: “Ban on GM crop field trails will be highly detrimental and not in the national interest. Adoption of this recommendation would bring to a halt the process of testing the safety of GM crops.”

The Government has allowed commercial cultivation of Bt cotton, while moratorium has been put on Bt brinjal.

Permission has been given to private companies to conduct field trials of GM crops such as cotton, corn and maize in Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

Business Standard

TODAY FARM NEWS

11.01.2013 A.M

Sugar industry to lose Rs 1,200 crore in Q1

With the State Advised Price (SAP) payable to sugarcane farmers raised 17% in Uttar Pradesh without any assurance for the proportionate increase in sugar price, mills in the state is likely to lose Rs 673.75 crore in the first quarter itself. According to an estimate by the apex trade body the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), 121 operational mills produced 19.25 lakh tonnes of sugar for the quarter ended December 2012 with around 8.74% of recovery.

Bitter pills (per kg)					
Particular	Production cost	Ex-mill realisation	Loss	Production (As on Dec 31, 2012)*	Total Loss #
Uttar Pradesh	36	32.5	3.5	19.25	673.75
Maharashtra	32	30.5	1.5	29.07	438.75
Tamil Nadu	33	31	2	3	60

Abinash Verma, Director General of ISMA said that continuous falling sugar prices in the last quarter would result into higher cost of production than the actual realization.

According to him, cost of production in Uttar Pradesh, India's second largest sugar producer, works out to Rs 36 a kg with the revised cane price at Rs 280 a quintal. Against that, mills realization currently works out to Rs 32.50 a kg which means operational units incur a loss of Rs 3.5 a kg for every kg of sugar produced in Uttar Pradesh.

In Maharashtra, India's largest sugar producer, the overall loss during the quarter is estimated at Rs 438.75 crore with 161 operational mills producing 29.07 lakh tonnes of the sweetener.

Although, there is no SAP system adopted in the state, largely politicians – linked sugar mills pay incentives to attract farmers. Consequently, the cost of production works out at Rs 32 a kg against the ex-mill realization at Rs 30.5 a kg resulting into a Re 1.50 loss for every kilogram of sugar produced by mills in the state.

The recovery from sugarcane stands around the same as that of last year which was about 10.46%. The reason for slowing pace in recovery revival over last year in Maharashtra is because of partially dry cane arrival to sugar mills. ISMA has projected 65 lakh tonnes of sugar production in Maharashtra this year as compared to 91 lakh tonnes in the previous year.

Sugar mills in other states including Karnataka are just breaking even or making a negligible profit.

The 38 operational mills in Tamil Nadu produced 3 lakh tonnes of sugar by December 31 in the current crushing season. Against the current ex-mills price of Rs 31 the cost of production works out to Rs 33 a kg resulting into mills witnessing Rs 60 crore in the first quarter of the current financial year.

Data compiled by [Bombay Sugar Association](#) showed that spot sugar prices fell 8% between October – December quarter from Rs 3,731 a quintal to Rs 3431 a quintal. During the period, however, the fundamentals have not changed. Nor the government has come out any concrete proposal including a raise in levy sugar or ethanol prices. Hence, the weak sentiment continued in sugar section throughout this quarter, said an analyst with a leading city – based broking firm.

Meanwhile, sugarcane arrears have shot up to Rs 2,227 crore towards the first week of January this year out of the total payable amount of Rs 4,222 crore. Towards the end of the last season, however, the arrears stood at around Rs 50 crore.

Wheat down 0.67% on hopes of bumper crop

Production goes up during cold weather

Press Trust of India / New Delhi January 10, 2013, 13:41 IST



Wheat futures for February fell by Rs 10, or 0.67%, to Rs 1,488 per quintal in 10,200 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the January contract shed Rs 6, or 0.39%, to Rs 1,539 per quintal in 1,890 lots.

Speculators reducing their positions on hopes of a bumper crop affected trade.

Chana down 0.49% on increased supply

Hopes of higher output put pressure on chana

Press Trust of India / New Delhi January 10, 2013, 12:45 IST



Chana futures for January fell by Rs 20, or 0.49%, to Rs 4,084 per quintal in 35,760 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the February contract declined by Rs 19, or 0.53%, to Rs 3,555 per quintal in 60,020 lots.

Speculators reducing their positions, increased supplies and subdued demand affected the trade.

Expectations of a higher output also put pressure on chana.

Chilli down 1.07% on sluggish demand

Hopes of higher output influenced the trade

Press Trust of India / New Delhi January 10, 2013, 12:41 IST



Chilli futures for April softened by Rs 70, or 1.07%, to Rs 6,492 per quintal in 3,605 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the March contract declined by Rs 60, or 0.94%, to Rs 6,302 per quintal in 4,885 lots.

Speculators offloading their positions, weak spot market affected the trade.

Expectations of higher output also influenced chilli futures.

Potato down 1.33% on increased arrivals

Sluggish demand too affected the trade

Press Trust of India / New Delhi January 10, 2013, 12:00 IST



Potato futures for March fell by Rs 10.50, or 1.33%, to Rs 780.90 per quintal in 169 lots.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, the April contract shed Rs 5.80, or 0.76%, to Rs 757 in 87 lots.

Speculators reducing positions on higher arrivals affected the trade.

Sluggish demand kept potato futures at low level.

Cardamom down 0.19% on sluggish demand

Increase supply too affected the trade

Press Trust of India / New Delhi January 10, 2013, 11:54 IST



Cardamom futures for January declined by Rs 1.90, or 0.19%, to Rs 986.40 per kg in 404 lots.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, the February contract traded lower by 40 paise, or 0.04%, to Rs 1,025.80 per kg in 821 lots.

Sluggish spot demand against increased supplies affected the trade.

Pepper up on strong spot demand

Tight supplies also influenced the spices

Press Trust of India / New Delhi January 10, 2013, 11:45 IST



Pepper futures for February moved up by Rs 155, or 0.44%, to Rs 35,260 per quintalin 2,878 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the March contract gained Rs 110, or 0.32%, to Rs 34,250 per quintal in 764 lots.

Speculators enlarging their positions, a firm trend of pick-up in demand boosted the trade.

Tight supplies also influenced spice prices.

However, expectations of higher output and weak export demand capped the gains.

[Cotton yarn exports registration sets a record](#)

DGFT has registered for over 100 mn kgs of exports in November 2012

Dilip Kumar Jha / Mumbai January 10, 2013, 11:25 IST

Registration for exports of cotton yarn has hit the highest in at least two years on burgeoning demand from India's perennially importing countries i.e. Bangladesh and China.

Data compiled by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) showed that the exports registration authority has registered for over 100 million kgs of exports in November 2012. The quantity works out to 32% higher than the same in corresponding month last year and a marginal 5% increase from the previous month.

While the cotton yarn exports registration was recorded at 76.36 million kgs in November 2011, the same stood at 94.46 million kgs in the October 2012.

After a staggering growth in June and July 2012 with 82.42 million kgs and 94.51 million kgs respectively from the level of 62.81 million kgs in April, exports registration fell steadily by September to 64.27 million kgs. But, the hope of better growth in Chinese economy coupled with a recovery signal from the western economies, the demand of textile products is expected to rise going forward resulting into higher registration of cotton yarn exports, said an analyst.

The textile ministry forecast cotton yarn production to rise in 2012-13 financial year after a steep decline in 2011-12.

Cotton yarn production has varied from 3,079 million Kg in 2009-10 to 3,490 million Kg in 2010-11 and an estimated 3126 million kg in 2011-12. A decline was witnessed in cotton yarn production in 2011-12 due to stress levels of textiles industry. The trend has been reversed in 2012-13. The production of cotton yarn declined in 2011-12 due to sudden crash in prices of cotton/cotton yarn leaving industry with high cost inventories.

Turmeric slips 1.87% on sluggish exports

Higher stocks also affected the trade

Press Trust of India / New Delhi January 10, 2013, 11:21 IST



Turmeric futures for April fell by Rs 124, or 1.87%, to Rs 6,514 per quintal in 29,940 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the May contract lost Rs 114, or 1.69%, to Rs 6,644 per quintal in 7,230 lots.

Higher stocks and weak spot, exports demand affected the trade.

However, reports of lower area under cultivation limited the gains.

At Nizamabad, turmeric fell by Rs 32.50 to Rs 5,699 per 100 kg in yesterday's trade.

Jeera down 0.32% on weak spot demand

Higher area under cultivation affected the trade

Press Trust of India / New Delhi January 10, 2013, 11:13 IST



Jeera futures for April declined by Rs 45, or 0.32%, to Rs 14,150 per quintal in 4,119 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the March contract traded lower by Rs 22, or 0.16%, to Rs 14,095 per quintal in 13,440 lots.

Higher area under cultivation and weak spot demand triggering offloading of positions by participants affected the trade.

Sugar down 0.24% on ample supplies

Weak winter season demand affected the price

Press Trust of India / New Delhi January 10, 2013, 11:03 IST



Sugar futures for March declined by Rs 8, or 0.24%, to trade at a three-month low of Rs 3,285 per quintal in 8,110 lots.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, the February contract shed Rs 4, or 0.12%, to Rs 3,254 per quintal in 34,800 lots.

Reduced off-take by bulk consumers and weak winter season demand amid adequate spot affected the sugar futures



THE TIMES OF INDIA

TODAY FARM NEWS

11.01.2013 A.M

Cumin crop on brink of failure near Little Rann

RAJKOT: Nothing can be a worst irony for [farmers in Surendranagar](#). While on one hand lakhs of gallons of precious Narmada water is simply flowing into the Little Rann, on the other large number of farmers are facing a grim prospect of cumin (jeera) crop failing.

Farmers said that if they don't get water for irrigation in the next two days, the entire cumin crop will fail. "We did not have enough rain in our native village. So we came to Dasada and hired lands to grow cumin. But if water is not provided, the crops will not survive," a resident of Kharakhoda village Kanu Patel said.

A group of farmers from various villages on Thursday went to [Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd](#) (SSNNL) office in Patdi and demanded immediate release of water in agricultural fields to save the crops.

According to sources, cumin constitutes major cultivation in Rabi season in [Surendranagar](#) district. Out of the total 2.20 lakh hectares cultivation in the district in Rabi season, cumin has been cultivated in 1.35 lakh hectares.

"We will lose Rs 35,000-Rs 40,000 per bigha if we don't get water in time," a resident of Goriyavad village in Patdi taluka Manibhai Patel said.

Farmers said around 6,000 hectares of cumin crop will be badly affected if they are not supplied irrigation water within next few days.

"Cultivating cumin is a gamble. If everything goes fine, farmers get hefty returns. This year weather is very good for the crop, but the only need is water," another farmer said.

Cotton dealers surrender Rs 15 cr, post I-T survey

INDORE: The [Indore](#) division of the [income tax](#) department carried out surveys in the cases of Under the overall guidance of Surendra Mishra , [CCIT](#), Indore and the control and supervision of SK Anand, commissioner of income tax-I, the sleuths of the department carried out survey in the cases of cotton dealers involved in ginning & pressing of cotton on Tuesday and Wednesday.

These businesses were being operated from areas like Kukshi and Gandhwani falling under Dhar district. The work was concluded on Wednesday.

The business premises of JK Quality Cotton Industries, Shiv Cotton Processors, Shriram Fibers and Shri Nijanand Fibers were surveyed during the operation.

A team of 16 to 30 officials of the department covered the seven premises of the three business establishments. The survey actions were conducted to find out the unaccounted stocks and advances. The action has resulted in the detection of unaccounted stocks /cash and hundis with the surrender of unaccounted income of Rs 15 crore. The incriminating documents found at the business premises were also impounded.

"The department has gone to the interior areas to find out the unaccounted business carried by the assesses operating from that area. The business establishments covered were operating from these small areas, having population of not more than 20000. The department is not only concentrating on urban centres but also on the businesses operated from smaller areas", added S K Anand, income tax commissioner, Indore division.

Investors meet in coconut processing

KOCHI: Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC), in association with the Coconut Development Board (CDB), the Department of Agriculture, and [Kerala Agriculture University](#), is organizing a one-day investor meet in coconut processing on January 11 at Kozhikode.

The meet is organized with the aim of supporting coconut-based [investors](#) in Kuttiady industrial park being established by KSIDC.

[KSIDC](#) is developing 135 acres of land at Kuttiady in Kozhikode for 'Kera Park' and will provide space to potential investors in coconut processing.

Agriculture minister K P Mohanan will inaugurate the meet. Agriculture production commissioner Subrato Biswas, KSIDC MD Tom Jose, and CDB chairman T K Jose will be attending the meet.

The meet will discuss value addition, processing, and new marketing strategies for coconut-based products, aimed at national and international markets.

KSIDC will also facilitate interested investors from Malappuram, Palakkad, Kozhikode and Kannur districts. For more information, contact: 9847330785.

Paddy farmers of Palakkad battling peacock menace

MALAPPURAM: Peacocks are causing a heavy dip in paddy production in Palakkad, reveals a study.

The scientific study conducted by the wildlife department of [Kerala Forest Research Institute](#) (KFRI) shows that there is a 40% dip in the total production of paddy due to the straying of peacocks to the farms around Chulannur sanctuary. The three-year study proves that the number of peacocks straying into the paddy fields are increasing every year.

Acres of paddy fields in Kuthanur, Mathur, Kuzhalmannam, Alathur, Vemballur, Muppuzhakkadu, Peringottukurishi, Kongad, Koduvayur, Manishery, Pazhambalakkode, Kunishery, Ethanur, Pallashana, Kakkayur, Kollankode, Pallavoor, Thiruvillwamala , Koonampara are being seriously affected by the bird. The study says the areas around the Chulannur Peacock Sanctuary are the most affected. The loss of paddy worth Rs 20,000 per hectare was recorded in the region.

"The birds usually feed on the grains that are ready for harvesting between January and February," said E A Jayson, scientist of the wildlife department of KFRI Peechi, who headed the study.

"The birds have attained almost domestic status here and the farmers are reluctant to scare them away using crackers mainly because of the religious importance of the birds," said Jayson. "About 10,000 acres were affected by the birds in Kuthanur last year," said P P Ullas of Koonampara Padshekhara Samithi. Sumeesh, a paddy farmer in Kuthanur said the Civil Supplies Corporation could only collect paddy worth Rs 1.5 crore last year.

C Gopalan, the [agricultural officer](#) of Kuthanur said the authorities should be more vigilant as the fresh harvest season is about to begin within a few days. Suresh K Govind, a member of the research team, said climate change in the forest is a major reason that forces the peacocks to enter human habitations.

DECCAN Chronicle

TODAY FARM NEWS

08.01.2013 A.M

Half of all food in the world is wasted, claims UK group



London: Half of all the food produced in the world, about two billion tonnes, is wasted every year because of poor infrastructure and storage facilities, over-strict sell-by dates, “get-one-free” offers, and consumer fussiness.

The global annual production of food is some four billion tonnes. “Between 30 per cent and 50 per cent, or 1.2 to 2 billion tonnes, of food produced around the world each year never reaches a human stomach,” according to Global Food; Waste Not, Want Not, a report released on Thursday by the UK’s Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

The colossal waste of food means that huge quantity of water is also wasted: The study has quantified wasted water at about 550 billion m³.

“The demand for water in food production could reach 10 to 13 trillion cubic metres a year by 2050,” the study said. This is between 2.5 and 3.5 times greater than the total amount of fresh water used by humans today, and could lead to dangerous water shortages, the study warned.

“The amount of food wasted and lost around the world is staggering. This is food that could be used to feed the world’s growing population - as well as those in hunger today. It is also an unnecessary waste of the land, water and energy resources that were used in the production,

processing and distribution of this food,” Dr Tim Fox, head of energy and environment at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, said.

“The reasons for this situation range from poor engineering and agricultural practices, inadequate transport and storage infrastructure through to supermarkets demanding cosmetically perfect foodstuffs and encouraging consumers to overbuy through buy-one-get-one free offers.”

The study also warned about the effect of increase in global population on food production. “By 2075, the United Nations predicts that the world’s population is set to reach around 9.5 billion, which could mean an extra three billion mouths to feed. A key issue to dealing with this population growth is how to produce more food in a world with resources under competing pressures – particularly given the added stresses caused by global warming and the increasing popularity of eating meat – which requires around 10 times the land resources of food like rice or potatoes.”

The study said that it takes 20-50 times the amount of water to produce one kilogram of meat than one kilogram of vegetables.

In some good news, the study said that there is the potential to provide 60-100 per cent more food by eliminating losses and waste while at the same time freeing up land, energy and water resources.