

26 July, 2013

An invention in the waiting

The Mangal Turbine needs to be promoted to help farmers, save fuel and go green

Several years after a rural innovator Mangal Singh had obtained a patent for a device which lifts water from streams without using diesel or electricity (See Periscope, May 11,2012), its many-sided usefulness continues to get recognition from several sources.

The Rural Development Ministry asked a former director of the National Rural Development Institute Dr. B.P. Maithani to inquire into various aspects of this innovation, particularly the problems which cropped up in the official programme meant to 'support' the device and its innovator.

In his report (copy of which was obtained under RTI) Dr. Maithani has praised and recommended the innovation. His report said that the Mangal Turbine (MT), "is undoubtedly unparalleled in its simplicity and utility. Its cost benefit cannot be restricted to the extent of area irrigated and increase in production and income on account of that. Its benefits are multiple and multi-dimensional.

"Bundelkhand is a drought prone area and its main problem is lack of irrigation. Unfortunately, our policy makers and planners prefer big and extravagant projects which allow pilferage and splurge. Mangal Turbine offers the low cost, environment friendly and sustainable solution to the irrigation problem of Bundelkhand."

Earlier a report titled 'Problems and Potential of Bundelkhand with Special Reference to Water Resource Base' was prepared by the Centre for Rural

Development and Technology (CRDT), IIT Delhi and Vigyan Shikshan Kendra (VSK). This report also examined MT carefully and recommended it for its great utility. This report said, “Most significant aspect is that the entire system designed by Mangal Singh is easily fabricated in the village itself, using available material and local workmanship. Besides, it requires minimal maintenance compared to other types, expertise for its maintenance is available in the village itself.”

“Using his engineering skills (through he had no formal training in engineering), Mangal Singh coupled a sugar cane crusher to the main shaft using a belt drive. Simultaneously, both water pumping and crushing could also be done. Similarly, the energy generated could be used for running a grain thresher, grinder etc. He uses this energy for operating the machines tool of a local workshop. Effectively water wheel becomes a source of rotational energy which can be used for any purpose.”

“This turbine is a fine example of common people's inventiveness, and should be encouraged by all means for people's benefit. It is unfortunate that in the pervasive atmosphere of ‘foreignomania’, this device has not got the recognition it deserves.”

Despite these commendations, Mangal Singh today is a shattered man, for he has never received the recognition he deserved. His bag full of documents proves how badly he was treated by officials and government agencies. If he had received the help and encouragement that was rightly his, then by this time he would have saved the country billions of rupees (also foreign exchange) and what is even more important, massive amounts of fossil fuel in these days of climate change.

Mangal Singh has created the potential of saving millions of litres of diesel per year and the accompanying reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, apart from helping millions of farmers. There should be no delay to promote the Mangal Turbine and take advantage of our home-bred barefoot scientists.

Kiran seeks crop loans for farmers

Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy has asked bankers to speed up the process of giving crop loans to farmers as the sowing season has gathered momentum after the recent rains.

Banks disbursed Rs. 73,648 crore as crop loans against a target of Rs. 52,972 crore last year. But disbursement during the current year is only Rs. 13,951 crore till date while the target had been fixed at Rs. 67,224 crore.

The Chief Minister reviewed the steps being taken by the Agriculture department and the seasonal conditions with senior officials on Thursday.

One-year repayment period

He wanted the officials to insist that bankers stipulate one year repayment period for the loans they extended. This would enable farmers to avail interest free loans as the government would spend over Rs. 500 crore on loans up to Rs. 1 lakh and another Rs. 60 crore under pavala vaddi (three per cent interest a year).

The officials informed the Chief Minister that sowing during the current season was likely to be over 86.95 lakh hectares against the usual 81.12 lakh hectares. Food grain production was expected to be 119.34 lakh tonne during the current season against the normal 99.78 lakh tonne.

The department had accordingly positioned 12.67 lakh quintals of seed for distribution among farmers on subsidy of which 9.94 lakh quintals involving an estimated Rs. 163.12 crore had been distributed till date.

Adequate quantities of fertiliser was also made available in the districts while ensuring strict vigilance on the cross border movement. Claims of crop insurance made last year worth Rs. 424 crore had been settled benefiting 2.77 lakh farmers.

Under the weather based crop insurance scheme, claims worth Rs. 344 crore had been settled benefiting over 6.6 lakh farmers.

According to an official release, Kiran wanted to make all arrangements required for the successful conduct of World Agriculture Congress being held here from November 4 to 7 this year.

Honeybees to help Idukki cardamom farmers

SC/ST families to get honeybee colonies under KAU project to promote beekeeping as livelihood support



Cardamom farmers in Idukki may soon turn to a tiny winged ally to improve the yield from their plantations.

The planters stand to benefit from a project to be launched by the Kerala Agricultural University in the hill district to promote beekeeping as livelihood support.

Proposed under the Idukki package, the project is expected to enhance the yield in 41,593 hectares of cardamom plantations through improved pollination by honeybees, Vice-Chancellor P.Rajendran told *The Hindu* .

S.Devanesan, principal scientist attached to the All India Coordinated Research Project on Honeybees at the College of Agriculture, Vellayani, said the pilot project would be implemented at Vandanmedu.

“As many as 30 SC/ST families will be provided with honeybee colonies and equipment for beekeeping as well as scientific inputs for enhancing cardamom yield. The colonies will be multiplied and sold to other beneficiaries of the project in Idukki for sustainable beekeeping.”

A study by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) in Udumbanchola taluk in Idukki earlier this year had revealed that indiscriminate application of pesticides had converted the cardamom plantations into a ‘no insect land,’ affecting pollination and bringing down the yield.

It estimates that organic farming and apiculture could result in a 30 to 50 per cent increase in cardamom yield through better pollination.

The KSBB is gearing up to promote apiculture in an organically cultivated cardamom estate. It estimates that the spicy honey from cardamom will fetch a good market for farmers.

The KAU is working on another project

to disseminate advanced technologies in commercial meliponiculture using stingless bees to provide an alternative livelihood for the tribes of Palakkad.

“There is ample scope to take up meliponiculture for empowerment of women across the State. Such units can be recommended for old-age homes, orphanages and schools,” says Dr.Rajendran.

The university is preparing to take up a project named Oro Veettillum Oru Cherutheneecha Koodu, under which each household will be provided with a colony of stingless honeybees.

“Kerala has about 600,000 Indian bee colonies.

There is potential to rear an additional 49 lakh colonies in rubber plantations, a rich source of nectar for the bees. The State’s forest cover spanning an area of 10,81,509 ha can also provide pollen and nectar,” Dr.Rajendran said.

The university has drawn up plans to supply disease-free healthy Indian bee colonies by utilising the mass multiplication technology standardised at the Vellayani centre.

“A beekeeper starting with 10 colonies can generate an income of Rs.1,20,000 through the sale of colonies or Rs.2,00,000 through the sale of honey” explains Dr. Devanesan.

Cabinet sub-committee to look into deemed forest issue

CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE FOR DEEMED FORESTS

Minister for Forests B. Ramanath Rai on Thursday assured the Legislative Assembly that the government has the “willpower” to address the problems faced by farmers after the Forest Department had identified areas where they were living and cultivating as deemed forests. Assuaging the members, including Leader of the Opposition H.D. Kumaraswamy, Madhu Bangarappa, the former Speaker K.G. Bopaiah and Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri on the issue, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that a Cabinet sub-committee would be constituted to solve the problem.

Mr. Rai said he had convened a meeting of Ministers and officials from the Revenue and Law departments where it was decided to conduct a joint survey of the areas. — Special Correspondent

Launch of food security scheme on August 20

A food security scheme under the National Food Security Ordinance which is yet to be named, will be launched in the State on August 20 to ensure ration to all people in the State.

However, no decision has been taken on whether its formal launching will be made by Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy.

Under the scheme, drawal of ration by 7.64 lakh white card households in the State -- 7.5 lakh out of them already existing and 14 lakh planned for being issued during the next round of Rachabanda tentatively planned from August 8 to 28 -- will be facilitated.

The Chief Minister, who reviewed the arrangements being made for grounding scheme with Civil Supplies Minister D. Sridhar Babu and senior officials here on Thursday, agreed to enhance the commission payable to fair price dealers, meeting their long-pending demand.

A decision was taken to make the eldest woman in the family its head in the ration card under the scheme.

Mr Reddy asked officials to take steps for procurement of additional quantity of rice required for the scheme from within the State, ensuring remunerative prices to farmers.

The government will require an additional quantity of 94,000 tonnes of rice to ensure supply to the existing 7.5 lakh white cards holders in addition to

3.06 lakh tonnes being obtained from the Centre. Another 25,000 tonnes is required to cover the 14 lakh white cards being issued now.

The scheme will enable 7.64 lakh white card households in the State to draw ration

Crop loss leaves farmer distraught



A shattered farmer couple Palepu Bakkanna and Ashamma gesture towards their flooded field at Kamai in Adilabad district on Thursday.-

PHOTO: S. HARPAL SINGH

“Motham Gangala kalisindi”, (everything got assimilated into Ganga) observes a distraught Palepu Bakkanna as he makes an assessment of the crop lost in the floods brought about by a now receding Penganga river.

“We will have to look for work on others’ fields to keep the flame burning,” he tells his equally upset wife, Ashamma, while contemplating the future.

The farmer family from Kamai village located on the bank of the Penganga in Jainad mandal has lost crop in the meagre 2.4 acres of land for the third time in succession. In the current season itself, their field was submerged twice under 15 ft of water which came flooding as the Penganga breached its bank. “Please help me at the earliest as I desperately need to tide over

the crisis,” he pleads with authorities as he talks about release of compensation for crop damage. Bakkanna, like many other Scheduled Caste farmers in Kamai, was allocated a piece of land under the Land Purchase Scheme of the SC Corporation in 1990. The seemingly useless stretch was converted into a productive unit by the hard-working couple over the years.

“I did not repay last year’s crop loan so I could not get financial assistance from the bank. This year I invested about Rs. 15,000 in sowing cotton, soyabean and red gram by borrowing it from a private money lender,” Bakkanna reveals.

Bakkanna was on the verge of tears when *The Hindu* asked him if could raise money from somewhere to go in for another round of sowing. “Who will lend me money knowing that I have nothing of the crop left to be able to repay the debt,” he says.

“Also, there is no guarantee that the seeds which are sown now will not be destroyed by another flood in the coming days,” he adds. “I can opt for cultivation of bengal gram in August provided the government comes to my rescue quickly,” he says of an alternative, which also applies to hundreds of other farmers whose crops were similarly devastated by the Penganga.

The farmer family from Kamai village has lost crop in the meagre 2.4 acres of land for the third time in succession

Chief Minister seeks timely crop loans for farmers

Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy has asked bankers to speed up the process of giving crop loans to farmers as the sowing season has gathered momentum after the recent rains.

Banks disbursed Rs. 73,648 crore as crop loans against a target of Rs. 52,972 crore last year. But disbursement during the current year is only Rs. 13,951 crore till date while the target had been fixed at Rs. 67,224 crore. The Chief Minister reviewed the steps being taken by the Agriculture department and the seasonal conditions with senior officials on Thursday.

One year repayment period

He wanted the officials to insist that bankers stipulate one year repayment period for the loans they extended. This would enable farmers to avail interest free loans as the government would spend over Rs. 500 crore on loans up to Rs. 1 lakh and another Rs. 60 crore under pavalavaddi (three per cent interest a year).

The officials informed the Chief Minister that sowing during the current season was likely to be over 86.95 lakh hectares against the usual 81.12 lakh hectares. Food grain production was expected to be 119.34 lakh tonne during the current season against the normal 99.78 lakh tonne.

The department had accordingly positioned 12.67 lakh quintals of seed for distribution among farmers on subsidy of which 9.94 lakh quintals involving an estimated Rs. 163.12 crore had been distributed till date.

Adequate quantities of fertiliser was also made available in the districts while ensuring strict vigilance on the cross border movement. Claims of crop insurance made last year worth Rs. 424 crore had been settled benefiting 2.77 lakh farmers. Under the weather based crop insurance scheme, claims worth Rs. 344 crore had been settled benefiting over 6.6 lakh farmers.

According to an official release, the Chief Minister wanted the officials concerned to make all arrangements required for the successful conduct of World Agriculture Congress being held here from November 4 to 7 this year.

Polyhouse farms take root, slowly



Polyhouse farm near Vilayodi in Chittoor taluk of Palakkad district.—

Photo:H.Vibhu

Kerala's ambitious polyhouse farming programme, aimed at increasing vegetable production in the State, is going through teething troubles though the State Horticulture Mission is optimistic about a robust future .

Two years young, as director of the Horticulture Mission K. Prathapan describes it, the new farming programme has its flaws. "But we are not sitting idle or waiting for farmers to come to us," he said about the proactive role being played by the Mission in addressing issues that crop up time and again with the new, sophisticated farming programme.

Polyhouse farming, made popular by The Netherlands and Israel — two countries which face extreme weather and soil conditions — involves cultivation of vegetables in a controlled atmosphere, under ultraviolet film roofing and nets to keep pests out. Polyhouses also deploy water soluble fertilizers and micro-managed irrigation, helping save on water, labour, fertilizers and pesticides.

Dr. Prathapan said the programme faces trouble in identifying a proper team to erect the polyhouse and quality materials etc. But the potential is high. He said the farming saves 60 to 70 per cent of labour cost compared to open field cultivation and the yield can be five to eight times more than in the conventional cultivation.

Polyhouse farming also promises to extend the harvest life of vegetables like cowpea by one to one-and-a-half months.

Capsicum, salad cucumber, tomatoes, bitter gourds and cowpeas have been great success in the polyhouses in Kerala, and the number is expected to go up to more than a 1,000 this financial year.

Dr. Prathapan said the Horticulture Mission had received nearly 400 applications for subsidies this financial year, the last date for submitting the applications being July 31. The Central and state governments offer a combined subsidy of 75 per cent of the expenditure in erecting a 1,000 sq. metre polyhouse.

Three hundred farms were up and running in the State and 212 more are coming, he said. The government spent nearly Rs. 10 crore on polyhouse subsidies last year and an equal amount was expected to be disbursed this year too, he added.

However, veteran farmer and political leader K. Krishnankutty, who was the chairman of the committee that put out a draft agricultural development policy for the State early this month, said there was no research going on into what was suited best to Kerala. He said there were three major technologies available in the world. The Israeli technology could be best for us despite the fact that Kerala gets more rains. Polyhouse farming's posterboy Digaul Thomas in Mananthavady, Wayanad, agrees that Kerala

needs to finetune the technology that is best suited to the State's conditions. However, he has made it big as a farmer, thanks largely to the 1,000 sq. metres of polyhouse cultivation he has developed over the last three years.

He was selected as the best farmer in the State by the government of Kerala in 2012, his polyhouse farm being a major factor in winning the award.

. He is optimistic about the future of polyhouse farming. It is possible even with the imperfect practices to make a living out of polyhouse farming, he told *The Hindu* on Thursday from Wayanad.

He said that he harvested 3.5 tonnes of bitter gourds and three tonnes of vegetable cowpea from his polyhouse farm last season. At 33, he was an interior designer, but then turned to agriculture because he loved it so much, he said.

Delta farmers ready to wait

Second week of August considered to be the right time for samba crop



WISE COUNSEL: S. Ranganathan, Secretary, Farmers' Welfare Association, speaking at farmers' grievances day meeting in Tiruvarur on Thursday— Photo: B. Velankanni Raj

Farmers of Tiruvarur district have suggested to the government to open the crest gates of Mettur dam in the second week of August. "It is better if the dam is opened on or after August 10 as we are determined to cultivate only one long-term samba crop in canal-irrigated areas, , " said farmers at the monthly grievances day meeting in Tiruvarur on Thursday.

S. Ranganathan, secretary, Cauvery Delta Farmers' Welfare Association, expressed satisfaction over the copious inflow into Mettur dam. However, farmers should not demand the release of water from Mettur dam in haste considering the dry soil which may absorb more water . "We can wait for a few more spells of rain before releasing the water," he said.

P.R. Pandian, State council member, Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, said farmers need adequate water for samba crop and hence sufficient build up should be ensured at the dam. Farmers were going in for direct sowing to save water.

S. Natarajan, Collector, who presided, said that he would convey farmers' views to the government. It had been suggested to the government to raise community nurseries and supply seedlings to farmers during the samba season, the Collector said and added that sub-surface dykes were constructed at various places in the district to recharge groundwater.

One such massive dyke had been built across the Vennar at Munar head near Needamangalam. This year, sites would be identified for such dykes, Mr.Natarajan said.

Steps had also been taken to prevent seawater intrusion. V. Ramakrishnan, a farmer, said that artificial recharging should be done between Mudikondan and Kothavasal in Thirumalairajan river.

Farmers demanded adequate samba paddy seeds, and fertilisers, in time to take up cultivation . P. Manimaran, District Revenue Officer, and Mayilvahanan, Deputy Director of Agriculture, participated.

Grant for seed production

The district has received Rs. 30.60 lakh as grant to be disbursed to the farmers in the form of certified paddy, gram and small grain seeds with which the farmers should scientifically produce high-yielding seeds to be used by them in their fields.

Training

The State government has allotted another Rs. 7.05 lakh to train the farmers on producing seeds by organising training programmes in all the 19 blocks in the district.

As the seed manufacturing companies fulfil only 25 to 30 per cent of the actual requirement, the farmers themselves have to prepare their own seeds with the inadequate facilities available with them in an unscientific manner.

Though the farmers prepare seeds from the previous season's harvest, the quality and germination capacity of seeds are affected to a greater extent owing to pathogens present in the environment.

To encourage the agriculturists to scientifically prepare the paddy, gram, small grain and oil seeds, Rs. 30.60 lakh-worth certified seeds are being given to them with 50 per cent subsidy and Tirunelveli district has received this whopping in this connection.

Moreover, the beneficiary farmers will be trained in modern techniques on producing high-yielding seed varieties and ways of scientifically storing them.

“In Tirunelveli district, 47 training programmes are to be conducted very soon in all 19 blocks. Hence, interested farmers can approach the Agriculture Officers or Assistant Director of Agriculture concerned,” Mr. Samayamoorthy said.

Sowing of kharif crops resumes in Gulbarga

Sowing operations in Gulbarga district which were disrupted for over a fortnight due to incessant rain, resumed following a respite from the rainfall for the past 24 hours.

Sources in the Agricultural Department told *The Hindu* here on Thursday that farmers had completed sowing in 4,442,642 hectares as against the target of 5,71,200 ha fixed by the government for the kharif season so far. Farmers are busy sowing red gram, a staple of the district, and other oilseed crops including sunflower and soya bean.

July has been a bountiful month for the district. For the first time in several years, the district has received excess rainfall this early in the year. As against the average rainfall received by the district in July – 159.01 mm – Gulbarga has received 201.94 mm. All seven taluks, apart from Jewargi, recorded excess rainfall.

Afzalpur received 150.3 mm rainfall; Aland 188.3 mm; Chincholi 253.6 mm; Chittapur 248.8 mm; Gulbarga 195.1 mm; and Sedam received 251.1 mm. Jewargi received 126.4 mm, less than the average of 141.5 mm. Sources said farmers had completed sowing of red gram on 2,85,018 ha as against the target of 3.65 lakh ha fixed by the government. Going by the choice of the farmers and the brisk pace of sowing, the area under red gram is likely to exceed the target.

The targets set for green gram and black gram are likely to shift correspondingly with this trend.

One of the surprising factors this year was the choice of soya bean as a prominent crop; farmers have already exceeded the target set by the government and have planted soya bean on 13,600 ha; sowing has not ended yet.

Sources said that soya bean would emerge as a major oilseed crop this year. Soya bean is popular among farmers as it fetches a good price .

Insurance scheme for eight crops

A weather-based crop insurance scheme for eight crops, a joint initiative of the Agricultural Insurance Company of India Limited, United India Insurance Company, Union Ministry of Agriculture and the State government, has been launched in Wayanad district.

The project will be implemented in all districts in the State except Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta. Paddy, pepper, turmeric, coconut, ginger, areca nut, cardamom and plantain would be covered under the scheme in the district during the Khariff season, K.V. Philip, Assistant Manager, Kalpetta Branch of the United India Insurance Company, said.

Farmers should pay 50 per cent of the premium and the remaining amount would be provided by the State and Central governments, Mr. Philip said. The objective of the scheme was to provide insurance coverage to the notified insured crop in case of adverse climatic incidence, he said.

Policy cover

The policy covers crop failure owing to inadequacies in weather requirements such as rainfall and humidity, as specified in the policy document, he added.

As many as 13 reference weather stations (RWS) had been set up in the district and the data collected from the centres would be utilised for determining weather conditions, he said.

The last date for submission of application for the scheme is July 31. Further information can be had from the nearest Krishi Bhavans or United India Insurance company offices.

Fungal diseases affect cardamom plants

The Spices Board has asked the farmers to take measures against the spread of fungal diseases affecting the cardamom plants. The continuous heavy rains have resulted in spread of fungal diseases on the cardamom plants and decay of beans at the tender period. Farmers were unable to apply pesticides as it needed sunny days for at least two days to counter the fungal attack. Since the heavy rains were continuing in the High Ranges, there is a chance that the production might considerably fall in the

current season Toxin-free vegetables, fruits from Mankada

Mankada block panchayat has been selected for the implementation of a vegetable and fruit development project under the aegis of the Hill Area Development Agency (HADA).

The project aims at producing toxin-free fruit and vegetables through careful application of manure and by controlling pests and pesticides.

The production, procurement and marketing of fruit and vegetables will be unified under the block panchayat.

SHGs, clusters

As much as Rs.26 lakh has been granted for the project in the first phase. Self-help groups (SHGs) and vegetable clusters will be selected for the conduct of the project.

Nurseries dealing in vegetable and fruit plants will soon be opened.

Free saplings

Vegetable saplings will be given to farmers free of cost, and fruit plants will be given at subsidised rates.

Special markets will be launched at block level for the sale of fruit and vegetables.

Biocompost and biofertilisers will also be distributed to farmers.

A procurement centre will be opened for this.

Polyhouse cultivation to get a fillip

Farmers' clubs and self-help groups are encouraged to take up this farming
Under the dual monitoring of projects by Goa Agriculture Department as well as bankers financing the projects and marketing back-up being extended by the State Horticulture Corporation, Goa is encouraging polyhouse cultivation among farmers in a big way.

S.S.P. Tendulkar, Director, Agriculture Department, told *The Hindu* on Thursday that with the project-based 100 per cent subsidy, marketing support given by the State-owned Goa Horticulture Corporation Limited and liberal finance from the banks across the State, the State today has 1.5 hectare (approximately 30,000 sq. mts.) of land covered under polyhouse

cultivation growing high value cash crops such as colour capsicum and other vegetables, orchids, gerbera, anthurium, and other flowers and different types of lettuce and herbs.

Mr. Tendulkar pointed out that Canacona zonal agriculture office in south Goa, under its Urban Cluster Scheme of vegetable cultivation, has adopted a polyhouse system to raise seedlings of water melon, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, chilli, etc., at Gaondongrim.

Cancona apart, polyhouse farmers are located in Valpoi, Ponda, Dharbandora, Cuncolim, Loutolim, Sattari and Usgao. Farmers' clubs and self-help groups are encouraged to take up this farming.

Landholdings

The average size of landholdings in Goa being around 2000 sq. metres, this concept is ideal for farmers who have land from 1000sq. mts. upward, said Mr. Tendulkar.

About 12 polyhouse farmers, who took it up after getting trained in plasticulture by the State Agriculture Department, were earning on an average Rs.20, 000 a month all year round.

The polyhouse cultivation among the farmers is sought to be popularised during off season farming, said Mr. Tendulakar. His only concern was over saturation of market if farmers go on producing the same vegetables or flowers. Goa being a small State, its local market for commodities was also limited.

He said farmers growing exotic vegetables and fruits under polyhouse cultivation in Goa will be given preference to market their produce under the cold cart programme, which is being proposed by the State-owned Goa State Horticulture Development Corporation at beaches in Goa.

Kisan Sabha to launch nationwide struggle to prevent farmers' suicides

The All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) is anguished over the alarming rate of suicides occurring in the farming community ever since the advent of the new economic policy, said N. Varadharajan, national general secretary of the Sabha.

According to statistics, over three 3 lakh farmers ended their lives across the country from 1996 till now. It meant 50 farmers were taking away their lives every day and two farmers were committing suicide every hour. "Such incidents are quite high in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh," he said at a press conference at the AIKS national conference venue here on Thursday. To reverse such a gloomy situation, the AIKS has proposed to launch a nationwide struggle, involving the family members of those unfortunate farmers, to prevail upon the government to evolve suitable farmer-friendly policies and to pre-empt it, he said.

In most of the occurrences, the farmers committed suicide for the following reasons: Anti-peasantry policies pursued by the Centre; the reluctance of the nationalised banks to extend financial assistance; the unrealistic crop insurance policy and exorbitant interest charged by money lenders.

The AIKS was of the opinion that the farmers should also be given individual crop insurance policy, like in life insurance.

Farmers demand proper utilisation of SEZ land

Farmers who surrendered lands for the special economic zone in the district urged the district administration to press upon the Government to get the project through without further delay and also enhance the share for the farmers proportionate to the cost of the land.

Participating in the farmers grievances day meeting held here Thursday, the farmers expressed apprehension about the start of the project and said that the land acquired for the project should be either properly utilised for the industrial purpose or restored back to its previous owners. Initiating a discussion, Ramesh, Kurumbalur unit leader of Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, said that the farmers had lost their livelihood after surrendering the land for the project. Raju, another farmer from Kaikalathur and Chelladurai, district secretary of Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, urged the district administration to ensure employment for the land owners.

Darez Ahamed, Collector, assured that he would look into the issue.

A.Venugopal, district secretary of the CPI led Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, pleaded for cleaning the silt in irrigation channels and tanks well before the onset of monsoon.

Loan mela

The Collector said that a special loan mela would be held from August 1 – 22 to sanction loans to eligible farmers in all the blocks.

Aadhar cards

The second phase of videographing of the residents for the issue of Aadhar cards will commence in the district shortly to cover those who were omitted in the previous phase.

Move afoot to create 5 lakh MT godown space

State Cooperation Department has been asked to prepare detail plan for creating an additional storage space of 5 lakh metric tonnes at Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) and Regulated Market

Committee (RMC) yards since PACS procure more than 80 per cent of the total paddy.

Revenue Divisional Commissioners would finalise the locations and co-ordinate with the Cooperation Department where PACS will take-up construction of godowns basing on the quantity of procurement of paddy, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department informed Cooperation department recently.

Recently, a high level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary J. K. Mohapatra resolved to create additional storage space for 5 lakh MT at PACS and RMC level. Mr. Mohapatra had even advised Cooperation Department to construct 50 per cent of stores in PPP mode and 50 per cent of stores through department. The meeting had even decided to create 2 lakh MT storage space for rice in private sector under State Guarantee Scheme.

Food Supplies department said godowns of the capacity of 1,750 MT, 1,000 MT and 500 MT would be created.

In the year 2012-13 KMS the initial target was set to procure around 44 lakh MT of paddy which was further enhanced to 59 lakh MT. Against this target a total quantity of 53, 71,568 MT of rice had been procured.

Weather satellite INSAT-3D launched successfully

The payload of INSAT-3D adds a new dimension to weather monitoring through its atmospheric sounding system, and provides vertical profiles of temperature, humidity and integrated ozone.

India on Friday successfully launched its advanced meteorological spacecraft INSAT-3D by a European rocket from the spaceport of Kourou

in French Guiana, enhancing the country's capability in weather forecasting and disaster warning fields.

After a smooth countdown lasting 11 hours and 30 minutes, the Ariane-5 launch vehicle of the French commercial space transportation company Arianespace lifted off on schedule at the opening of the launch window at 1.24 a.m. IST.

The rocket, after a flight of 32 minutes and 48 seconds, placed INSAT-3D in an elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), very close to the intended one.

Soon after the separation of INSAT-3D from Ariane-5's upper cryogenic stage, the satellite's solar panel automatically got deployed and ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan in Karnataka took over the control of the spacecraft.

Ariane-5 rocket also launched Alphasat, a co-passenger of INSAT-3D and Europe's largest telecommunication satellite-ever manufactured.

In the coming days, orbit raising manoeuvres will be performed on INSAT-3D using the satellite's own propulsion system to place it in the 36,000 km high Geostationary Orbit, the Bangalore-headquartered ISRO said.

"Preliminary health checks of all the subsystems of INSAT-3D bus were performed and the satellite's health is satisfactory," it said.

After placing the satellite at 82 deg East orbital slot, it is planned to turn on the meteorological payloads of INSAT-3D in the second week of next month to extensively test them.

INSAT-3D will add a new dimension to weather monitoring through its atmospheric sounding system, which provides vertical profiles of

temperature, humidity and integrated ozone from surface to top of the atmosphere.

“I am happy to inform you that the MCF has already received signals from INSAT-3D,” Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K. Radhakrishnan said minutes after the launch.

“We are looking forward to an excellent operational performance of INSAT-3D for the next seven years making a difference for the weather forecasting and disaster warning systems for the country,” said Mr. Radhakrishnan, also Secretary in the Department of Space.

Mr. Radhakrishnan did not travel to Kourou for the launch of INSAT-3D, designed to provide meteorological observation and monitoring of land and ocean surfaces.

However, senior ISRO officials including INSAT-3D Project Director S.C. Rastogi and Director of ISRO Satellite Centre S.K. Shivakumar were among those present at the Kourou spaceport.

With a lift-off mass of 2060 kg, INSAT-3D carried four payloads — Imager, Sounder, Data Relay Transponder (DRT) and Satellite Aided Search & Rescue payload.

The six channel imager can take weather pictures of the earth and has improved features compared to the payloads in KALPANA-1 and INSAT-3A, the two Indian Geostationary Satellites providing weather services for the past one decade.

The 19 channel sounder payload of INSAT-3D adds a new dimension to weather monitoring through its atmospheric sounding system, and provides vertical profiles of temperature, humidity and integrated ozone.

The DRT will be used for receiving meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic data from remote, uninhabited locations over the coverage area from Data Collection Platforms (DCPs) like Automatic Weather Station, Automatic Rain Gauge and Agro Met Stations.

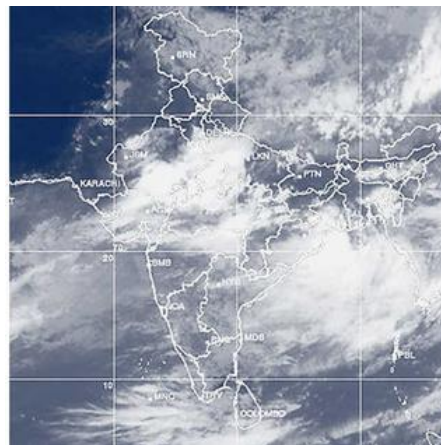
India Meteorological Department and ISRO have established more than 1800 DCPs.

INSAT-3D is equipped with a search and rescue payload that picks up and relays alert signals originating from the distress beacons of maritime, aviation and land based users and relays them to the mission control centre to facilitate speedy search and rescue operations.

The major users of Satellite Aided Search and Rescue service in India are the Indian Coast Guard, Airports Authority of India, Directorate General of Shipping, Defence Services and fishermen.

The Indian service region includes a large part of the Indian Ocean region covering India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania for rendering distress alert services

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on July 25th.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	37	27	0	314
New Delhi (Sfd)	37	26		19406
Chandigarh	35	28	0	437
Hissar	37	27	0	234
Bhantar	29	19		15313
Shimla	23	17		68522
Jammu	28	25		25436
Srinagar	30	16		18133
Amritsar	34	26	0	253
Patiala	34	28	0	441
Jaipur	35	27	0	277
Udaipur	33	25	9	382
Allahabad	35	28	tr	529
Lucknow	35	26	0	476
Varanasi	36	28	0	341
Dehradun	31	23		421697
Agartala	34	25	tr	440
Ahmedabad	36	26		40481
Bangalore	27	20	1	311
Bhubaneshwar	29	23		10493
Bhopal	32	23		65723
Chennai	31	26	0	302
Guwahati	32	26	0	490

Hyderabad	29	23	0	392	The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (tr-trace) and total rainfall in mm since 1st June.	
Kolkata	34	27	7	580		
Mumbai	26	25	35	1767		
Nagpur	30	24	0	933		
Patna	36	29	0	155		
Pune	25	22	11	446		
Thiruvananthapuram	30	22	17	722		
Imphal	32	23	3	432		RAINFALL
Shillong	24	18	0	481		The axis of Monsoon trough at Sea level chart passes through Sriganaganagar, Narnaul, Centre of Lopar and thence southeast-wards.

RAINFALL: Rain/thundershowers have occurred at most places over Uttarakhand, at many places over Himachal Pradesh, at a few places over Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, east Rajasthan and west Uttar Pradesh and at isolated places over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm are: (3 cm and above) HARYANA: Kalka and Panipat 3 each, HIMACHAL PRADESH: Kangra and Shimla 7 each, Paonta 5, Baijnath, Dharamshala, Bajaura and Baldwara 4 each and Sujanpur Tira, Sundernagar, Kandaghat, Kasauli and bangana 3 each, JAMMU AND KASHMIR: Jammu 3, PUNJAB: Phillaur 5 and R.S.Dam Site 3, EAST RAJASTHAN: Dug 8, Papalkhunt and Pratapgarh 5 each, Jagpuraa 4 and Loharia, Atru, Kisanganj, Kanva, Nithua, Salumber and Sarara 3 each, WEST RAJASTHAN: Churu 5, Rawatsar and Bilara 4 each and Suratgarh 3, EAST UTTAR PRADESH: Fatehgarh 3, WEST UTTAR PRADESH: Najibabad 9, Puranpur 7, Narora 5, Sambhal and Muzaffarnagar 4 each and Meerut, Bijnor, Saharanpur, Aonla and Nawabganj 3 each and

UTTARAKHAND: Karanprayag 7, haridwar 5, Dehradun, Munsiyari and Bhatwari 4 each and Tharali, Rudraprayag, Barkot and Uttarkashi 3 each.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 27th July 2013 : Rain/thundershowers may occur at many places over Jammu division of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and east Rajasthan. Rain/thundershowers may occur at many places over Haryana and at a few places over Punjab during next 48 hrs and decrease thereafter. Rain/thundershowers may occur at a few places over rest of the region.

HEAVY RAINFALL WARNING: Heavy rainfall may occur at one or two places over west Uttar Pradesh, southern parts of Uttarakhand and Haryana during next 24 hours.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 27th July 2013: Generally cloudy sky. Light rain /thundershowers may occur in some areas.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

World Bank says global food prices fell again in latest period

Global food prices fell by 2 per cent in the latest four-month period, marking the third straight period of declines, as declining imports in the Middle East and North Africa, and lower demand pushed prices down 12 per cent from their August 2012 peak, the World Bank said on Thursday.

The World Bank's Food Price Index showed international prices of wheat fell by 2 per cent, sugar by 6 per cent, soybean oil by 11 per cent, and maize, or corn, by 1 per cent during the four-month period between February and June.

The index, which weighs export prices of food, fats and oils, grains, and other foods in nominal US dollars, fell by 2 per cent.

Improved weather conditions after last year's droughts helped bolster the production of wheat. The bank said it expects good harvests from the major producers to continue as long as unfavorable weather in northern and central Europe, Russia and China does not drag on production.

Global maize production is expected to reach a record high this year, according to the report, partly driven by a revival in demand from US ethanol producers.

While prices have stabilized recently, the volatility of food prices in recent

years has prompted developing countries with high poverty and weak safety nets to respond by ratcheting up consumer food subsidies, the poverty-fighting institution said.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have made a big push in the past year to urge countries to scrap subsidies on consumer food to ease pressures on government budgets and free up more funds for health and education spending.

Both institutions have also questioned whether such subsidies truly improve poverty - as they can often go to large-scale farmers or well-connected people instead of the poorest.

"Poorly designed food subsidy programs that lack transparency and accountability in implementation do not benefit poor people," said Jaime Saavedra, active vice president for poverty reduction and economic management at the World Bank. "These programs can be very costly and prone to corruption, and waste scarce fiscal resources."

According to the report, more direct forms of transfers, such as food stamps and public works, are more effective in helping the poor.

Food policy will upgrade rural economy: Aier

The Nagaland parliamentary secretary for agriculture, Benjongliba Aier, here said the state needed a well-planned food policy which would ensure an all-round development of agriculture, especially in the field of marketing

systems, to uplift the economy of the rural populace.

He lamented that due to poor marketing linkages and lack of proper infrastructure in the state, marginal farmers were exploited by middlemen.

Speaking at the two-day state-level Agriculture Officer's Conference 2013 here, Aier advised the officers to undertake measures to improve infrastructure, marketing networks and post-harvest facilities to increase productivity and marketing of different crops. He suggested the need to train more field staffs on subject matter and location specific trails in farmer's field for adoption of various techniques.

The minister said, "If proper attention is paid, Nagaland can become the agricultural bowl of the northeastern region." Despite the noteworthy performance in the production of foodgrains in recent years, he said the state continues to be in deficit on food production. He called for improvement in productivity rather than increase in area of productivity.

He said it was better to use fertilizers than to use chemicals for crop protection which caused health and environmental hazards. "To achieve this, the need to practice the 'Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management System' in the foodgrain production programme is important," he added.

Dairy farmers of Punjab pick up ideas from Israel

Punjab government recently sent a delegation of progressive dairy farmers to Israel to get them acquainted with modern techniques under the initiative

"intensive dairy cattle production training programme". A 10-member delegation of dairy farmers and experts was exposed to latest techniques in Israel with a view to enhancing promotion of allied agricultural activity and supplementing income.

Muktsar deputy director (dairy) Karnail Singh, who was part of the delegation, said, "We visited many large, modern dairy farms in Israel and got information about latest techniques used by dairy farmers there."

He said that dairy farms in Israel are either owned by cooperatives and by individuals or families locally known as Kibbutz and Moshav, respectively. In Israel, there are 776 family-owned dairy farms, each with 50 to 200 Holstein Frisian (HF) cows. In the cooperative farms, strength of cows varies from 200 to 1,000 and there are 163 Kibbutz farms in Israel. Karnail said that each cow produces an average 11,667 litres of milk per lactation period and per day milk yield per animal is 38 litres. "Dairy farmers of Israel send those cows to slaughter houses whose average yield decreases," he said. Karnail said weather conditions of Israel are similar to Punjab, still they make special arrangement to control heat stress.

"Solar power systems are installed in each cattle shed to generate electricity for farm needs. All dairy farms in Israel are computerized and every information like fat, protein in milk and fodder quality is noted. Farms are fully mechanized and manual labour intervention is limited. We would also promote such techniques in Punjab to increase per capita milk," the deputy direction stated.

Scattered rain a puzzle for denizens

Heavy showers in few areas like Muttiganj caused waterlogging, while other parts of the city had to do away with slight drizzle on Thursday. The phenomenon of scattered rain is becoming a routine affair in the city. The weatherman said that the day temperature remained at 35.3 degrees while the night temperature was 27.1 degrees. The city recorded rainfall of 3.6mm.

"It is a phenomenon which is becoming more evident with passing years. It has a direct relation with the concretisation and rising pollution level in urban pockets. Heat domes and pollution zones along with varied vegetative cover and direction of winds decide which area in a given city will receive what amount of rain", said weather expert Prof S S Ojha of the Geography department of the Allahabad University. Since the northern plains of the country receive rain from South-East Monsoon, easterlies i.e, winds blowing from east to west, carries the humid clouds along with them. As the cloud moves, it gathers humidity present in the atmosphere of the micro-level of the city and when the amount of humidity crosses 100%, it comes down in form of rain, he explained.

Every city has scattered vegetative, pollution and concrete cover which decides the amount of rainfall that would lash various pockets in a city, said Prof Savindra Singh, former head of the department of Geography, AU. The localities situated on the river side would receive more rain as humid clouds collect the humidity from over the rivers and descend in form of rain. "Be ready for scattered rains as the ever increasing amount of heat being

released in the atmosphere by generators and air conditioners plays a vital role in formation of heat domes over the city because of which there occurs heavy rain in one part of the city whereas the area, located just few kilometres from it, could go thirsty for even a single drop of rain", said Singh.

The reason explained by these weather experts stands true when seen at the micro-level of Allahabad city. Areas like Talirganj, Govindpur, Mumfordganj, Katra and Old Cantt, Muttiganj etc received substantial rains whereas the localities of the inner circle including Civil Lines, Khuladabad, Sulem Sarai etc received scanty rain. Likewise, localities like Mumfordgnaj, Telirganj, Govindpur and Katra witnessed rains for around half-an-hour resulting in sewerwaterlogging whereas city west was almost dry. The trick of scattered rains is more evident when compared to vegetative cover as pockets of Old Cantt and New Cantt along with its adjoining localities gets abundant rain whereas those dominant with concrete jungle fall on scanty side. The phenomena of scattered rain has less impact on the urban population whereas the farmer community is a harried lot as fields are ready with paddy for which the late arrival of rains could be devastating. "The farmers of the eastern part of northern plains get more rain as compared to western parts because of which we have areas like Sankargarh, which struggles with frequent drought despite being merely 40kms from Allahabad." said Prof Singh.

Weather experts are of the opinion that unprecedented rains lashing the western part of India, including Rajasthan and Gujarat, is playing a decisive

role in driving away the humid clouds loaded with abundant rains. Since the rains in western part is creating a high pressure area winds are blowing towards the landmass of east direction. These winds are pushing back the easterlies, which is responsible for bringing monsoonal clouds in northern plains, said Prof Ojha.

The hide and seek of rains is also bewildering the commuters and schoolchildren who are unable to decide whether to wait for rains to stop or move ahead as it is raining heavily at one crossing while the next crossing is dry. "It is hard for our mothers to believe that we have not played Holi but we were drenched by rains while returning from school. We confront heavy rains only to see that roads of our locality are dry", said Atul, a student of the city.

Maharashtra set to brand its rice & tur, floats a tender to appoint a consultant for the exercise

Although India is known the world over for its basmati rice, there are hundreds of local non-basmati varieties that are rich in taste and aroma but still not known to urban consumers. Maharashtra is likely to be the first state to take steps for branding and marketing of these varieties.

Maharashtra, a major producer of pulses but not so known for rice, has recently floated a tender to appoint a consultant for branding rice and tur. "There are at least 26 rice varieties in the five districts of Vidarbha. So are there other varieties much superior to the basmati rice in Konkan and western Maharashtra. But urban consumers do not know about them," said

Maharashtra agriculture minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil while speaking to ET.

"The farmer growing these varieties is at the mercy of the single government procurement system or rice millers. There is some price stability since the ban on exports of non-basmati rice is removed. Branding and direct marketing by farmers' groups will not only increase the price received by farmers by at least 40%, it will also lead to an improvement in productivity. We have already experienced success in the direct marketing of vegetables by farmers in Mumbai," said Vikhe Patil.

Consumers in Maharashtra pay 50- 60 per kg for aromatic non-basmati varieties like Ambemohar and Kolam, which are imported from other states. Rajesh Shah, one of the biggest dealers of the Kohinoor brand basmati rice, said, "Lower quantities of production, non-availability of state-of-the-art rice mills and lack of marketing have been the reasons for the local rice varieties not becoming brands."

Vikhe Patil made it clear that the state government does not want to get into the business of buying and selling commodities. "We will appoint a consultant to find out a mechanism by which the state government can act as a facilitator. If need be, we will also invest in setting up the infrastructure for value-addition like milling and packaging," said Vikhe Patil.

Tur farmers would have suffered the fate of paddy farmers if there was no minimum support price mechanism, he said. Many national brands are

already present in rice, especially basmati rice, while pulses branding has recently started by the Tata group and Adani Wilmar. Rajen Sundaresan, executive director, All-India Rice Exporters' Association, said, "According to a guesstimate, about 35-40% of rice produced in India is sold as branded."

Yet the private sector is optimistic about the government's initiative of branding the commodities. "Branding will help in standardisation of products. Packaging in consumer packs helps in the distribution of the commodity and increases its availability. Pulses in consumer packs has a potential to grow at 20% per annum. Branding of pulses started by some private players is in its nascent stage and on a very small scale," said Pravin Dongre, chairman, Indian Pulses and Grains Association.

Agro-farming changes lifestyles

Ravi Oraon of Sato village in Maoist-hit Bishunpur block in Gumla would hardly make a living by practicing old ancestral mode of farming in his field till four years ago. But now he is riding a two-wheeler and has a mobile phone buzzing all through the day. He has also bought an irrigation pump to water his fields.

The change that has been brought about is improving his lifestyle and other farmers like Santosh Oraon and Dhuri Bhagat, who too own two-wheelers. This has been possible owing to the agriculture revolution ushered in the hinterland of the district by setting up Krishi Vgyan Kendra in Bishunpur block headquarters in 2006. Since 2008, they were associated with the

seed production programme of the KVK and would grow high yield variety of paddy in the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) by following what has been taught to them by KVK scientists and free distribution of farm goods - seed, fertilizers and pesticides among the farmers.

The scientific mode of farming and new agro-technologies, introduced to the fields of hundreds of farmers in the district, has given a new confidence to the farmers in several villages and they are reaping rewards.

"In the past, I grew crops which scarcely supported my family. Now, I harvest paddy crops on three acres of my field two times more," said Ravi over the phone while preparing his field for transplantation from Sato. "This year, I sold Lalat variety of paddy seed worth Rs18,000 and bought a scooter. Almost all farmers of my village and nearby Navatoli have followed my and others footsteps to become progressive farmers in the area," he said.

Other agro projects are also being executed in the district by KVK and they are providing 50 acres of plot for the same and bringing a host of scientists in the Red-hit landscape. Tribal hamlet Salem Navatoli has emerged as a demonstration centre for peasants in the state and even allures scientists from Birsa Agriculture University.

"Since tribal's livelihood depends on farming, mono crop cultivation pattern was only in subsistence standard, it was thought to groom them in new farm technologies for multiple cropping. Youths were made self-sufficient

through training them in agronomy and now a new orientation is under current, " said he.

Over 500 farmers from 13 villages like Jamtoli, Birjiyatoli, Darntoli, Range, Balatu and Salem-Navatoli now grow well known variety of mangoes and vegetables as inter cropping between rows of mango plants for which saplings and other support was provided, said Niraj Kumar Vaishya, a scientist with the KVK. During this season several farmers have sold mango at least worth Rs 1000, he claimed.

But a novel trend is being seen in four villages- Gonia, Belagada, Jargatoli and Burhu where KVK is executing the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research(ICAR). In place of only paddy cultivation farmers of these villages grew wheat in 50 hectares last year. Also, water conservation initiative in which farmers have erected a earthen check dam across a 70ft wide river which has enhanced area under cultivation and intensive farming as well, said KVK coordinator cum scientist Sanjay Kumar Pande from Hyderabad where he is engaged in documentation of a best farm practice of Gumla, Gumla KVK is 10 best KVKs for carrying out NICRA projects in the country.

Corporate sector's greener pastures attract law grads

Legal education in India which has been essentially nation-centric so far is finally witnessing a sea change with globalization and corporatization being the keywords. A graduate from any of the top National Law Schools can

now aspire to find employment not only in law firms but also in corporate houses, non-government organizations and other organizations specializing in outsourcing legal process. This is in sharp contrast to the situation that prevailed barely 20 years ago, when those who studied law hardly aspired to be employed by firms operating in such fields.

Besides, earlier there were few specializations in legal education - chiefly civil, criminal and corporate. Today, there are many more largely because of the globalised market and the exchanges taking place across various streams of study.

Also, the long gestation period between studying law and reaching a position of prominence has now become history with even fresh law graduates aspiring to become magistrates. "Opportunities have increased manifold what with the services of people with legal expertise in specialised fields being sought after by organizations," said Prof R G B Bhagavath Kumar, vice-chancellor, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU).

"The manner in which law is being taught has also changed. Earlier, it was entirely based on case law, where students were encouraged to think like lawyers. These days they are being taught in a manner that can help them become citizens with a strong knowledge base in law and expertise in the ever increasing number of branches," said Prof Kumar.

There is also a huge gap between the required number of legal experts and

the number passing out of law schools every year, said Raj Ranjan, a second-year student at DSNLU. This has led to a major rush for the few seats in law schools. "The 15 National Law Schools have a combined intake of 1,500, while at least 30,000 students appear for the exam," he said.

Sources in DSNLU, however, noted that things are yet to change in most state university law schools as they churn out graduates who qualify simply as lawyers. Many such graduates take up the study of law to prepare for entry into public services or simply because they wish to add another feather to their cap. DSNLU students noted that there was a lot of student-teacher interaction in National Law Schools (NLS).

However, sources fear that most of the NLS alumni have distaste for litigation as many of the toppers from these institutions are offered nothing less than Rs 70,000 to begin with in the corporate sector. On the other hand if they were to persist with litigation the gestation period is considered too long by students who are of the opinion that they would run short of time in the process.

Leading corporate lawyer and former chairman of Bar Council of India D V Subba Rao lamented that the very purpose of establishing National Law Schools was being defeated with increasing number of the alumni avoiding litigation. "It was meant to generate bright young experts in the field to help improve the declining standards in courts. Unfortunately, due to liberalisation the number of NSL graduates involved in litigation is not as

much as it should have been. For a practitioner the early days are full of toil and sweat and that is something these youngsters wish to avoid," he said.

However, Prof Rambhatla Venkata Rao, vice-chancellor of the National Law School Bangalore, did not completely agree. "There may not be as many involved in litigation as we want. But on an average 20%-25% of the graduates from National Law School do opt for practice. There are also a few, who initially join the corporate sector and later move on to litigation. Moreover, advocacy does not mean Black Coat advocacy alone. Today, there is a huge requirement for solicitors and negotiators. To claim that National Law School alumni do not take to litigation is not correct," he pointed

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Friday, Jul 26

Max Min

33° | 27°

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 05:52

Humidity: 52

Sunset: 06:37

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1005

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Saturday, Jul 27

Max Min

33° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Jul 28

Jul 29

Jul 30

Jul 31

Aug 1



33° | 26°

31° | 24°

29° | 25°

33° | 25°

33° | 25°

Cloudy

Overcast

Overcast

Overcast

Overcast

Airport Weather

Delhi

Delh

Rain: 9.0

Sunrise: 05:38

Humidity: 79

Sunset: 07:16

Wind: norma

Barometer: 99

|

8



Store your food right this monsoon

The merry showers have brought a smile on everyone's face. But, monsoon has its share of woes too. Say for instance, you've just taken a bowl of crispies to pair up with your ginger tea, and you find them soggy. Or, you feel like eating hot khidchi to beat the cold, but you find worms creeping in the rice and pulses, and fungus around the spices.

Spoilage of food due to microbial growth is a common problem in this season. But there's a way out. And, who better to know the tricks than chefs who have to store large quantities of various food items in their kitchens. So, we talk to a few city chefs to find out how to keep food fresh and crisp during the rainy season.

Bread

The appearance of mellow green moulds on the bread is very common in monsoon. The best thing to do it away is to buy small packs of bread that you can use up quickly in a day or two. If you must keep it for a longer period, leave them in the refrigerator, wrapped properly so that air or moisture does not seep inside. Also, do not forget to heat and toast the bread well before you eat. Learn to bake fresh bread at home, and have it oven fresh.

Sugar and salt

Basic ingredients, such as sugar and salt, often melt and become runny during the monsoon. Keep the jars away from a damp area or in direct contact with a concrete shelf as that is usually cold in the monsoon. Ditch plastic/aluminum jars and store them in glass bottles. Tighten the lid every

time after you've used them. Throw in a little raw rice into the container so that the moisture inside is absorbed.

Munchies

Biscuits, cookies and chips often get soggy and limp during the rain. Wrap them carefully in blotting paper and store in a dry container. You can also keep crispies in between the wax papers if you are layering them in a store box. Open packets of biscuits or potato chips can even be stored in a refrigerator and before eating, put them in the microwave for a minute.

Food grains

Grains like wheat and pulses often invite worms in the rainy season. Spread them out in a newspaper under the sun at least once a week, and before storing back, microwave them for a few minutes. Cool and store in a dry, air-tight jar. You can also store the packets of pulses in the fridge to prevent bacterial growth. Tie camphor pieces in a piece of cloth and put them in your rice jar to keep worms away.

Vegetables

Vegetables often rot faster in monsoon than other seasons, and thus need special care. Wash them well, and wrap veggies such as cauliflower, spinach, coriander, beans, carrots, cabbage and capsicum in newspapers and seal them in zip lock bags as a foolproof method to keep them fresh. The newspaper will soak up the moisture and keep the veggies fresh for long.

Spices

Sun-dry your spices when there's some sun amid the showers. This will free the spices of fungal growth. Roast whole spices such as cardamom, cinnamon, pepper etc for a few seconds on the tawa, cool them and lock

them in air tight containers, with a dry bay leaf each. To prevent the growth of white layer of fungus on powdered spices, such as red chilli powder, add a few cloves to prevent clumping. Most importantly, never use a wet spoon to take out the spices from the jars.

Business Standard

Pawar asks PM to ensure stable agri export policy

Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar has written a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, urging him to maintain a stable policy environment for the export of agriculture products, in the interest of farmers and the general economy.

His letter comes in the wake of talks of a curb on export of farm commodities such as onions to check domestic prices.

Officials said Pawar in his communique, which has also been sent to Finance Minister P Chidambaram and Commerce Minister Anand Sharma, has said sudden policy changes in knee-jerk reactions to domestic price situations create an environment of uncertainty and cause unintended distress to farmers.

Pawar said onion exports had remained at 1.5 million tonnes since 2006-07, despite an increase in production from 8.9 million tonnes to 16.6 mt during the same period, clearly showing it was not exports which caused volatility in domestic prices.

"Exports serve to stem volatility and it is abrupt changes in policy which cause prices to react disproportionately," the minister said.

The agriculture minister said that because of a stable policy environment adopted in the last two years, exports of agriculture products had almost

doubled from Rs 1.20 lakh crore in 2010-11 to a record 2.32 lakh crore in 2012-13. India had emerged as a major exporter of rice, cotton, bovine meat, marine products, oilmeals and guar gum.

Discarding the theory that large-scale exports had resulted in a rise in domestic prices of some commodities, the agriculture minister wrote the record export of 2012-13 constituted less than 10 per cent of the total domestic production of wheat, rice, onions, sugar etc and did not pose any threat to food security, but instead gave incentive to farmers to increase production and productivity due to integration with international markets.

He gave the example of cotton, where despite apprehension from the textile ministry, free exports in the last two years had resulted in stable domestic prices. According to an internal assessment done by the agriculture ministry, the share of agriculture exports in India's total exports had risen from 10.22 per cent in 2008-09 to 13.08 per cent in 2012-13 and is now valued at Rs 232,000 crore.

THE HINDU Business Line

Rasi Seeds to unveil new cotton hybrid

A new cotton hybrid suited for mechanical plucking of the bolls at harvest is in the making. Private seed company Rasi Seeds is at it.

Managing Director M. Ramasami told *Business Line* that they have been working on this for the last 2-3 years.

‘We are now preparing to take up field trials on pilot basis. We have organised around 10 acres, in and around Athur. Last year, we conducted a trial,’ he added.

The company is yet to christen the hybrid.

Emphasising the need for developing such varieties, Ramasami said ‘there is an acute shortage of farm hands.

‘People are not ready to work in the field and if they do, their demands seem unaffordable.’

While mechanical harvesting of cotton is yet to take off here, Punjab farmers have been quite aggressive, said the Rasi Seeds chief.

According to Ramasami, the crop, planted in around 300 acres in Punjab, is for machine picking.

‘Planting is over. One farmer has used 7-8 packets of seed/acre; he has spent close to Rs 8,000 on seed alone,’ he said and explained that in mechanical harvesting of cotton, the farmers should go for close planting.

‘Normally, around 4,000 plants are raised in one acre, but when one opts for machine plucking, the seed requirement is over six times this number at 25,000 plants.

Plant growth regulators are sprayed to control height and fruiting bodies. The farmer will be able to take 30-35 bolls per plant from this 90-day crop,' he said.

He said that companies were coming up with such implements.

'The farmer has to be trained/ educated about the use of such implements.'

He conceded that the trash content in mechanical harvesting was high at 7-8 per cent against two per cent trash in hand picking of the bolls.

Rasi Seeds is working with John Deree for developing cotton harvesting machine.

Coonoor tea sale volumes at 5-week low

After ruling above the 20-lakh-kg mark for three consecutive weeks for the first time this calendar, the offer at Sale No: 30 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions to be held on Thursday and Friday has fallen to 18.57 lakh kg, according to our analysis of the brokers' listings.

This is the lowest offer in five weeks.

It is about 1.96 lakh kg less than last week's offer but 1.57 lakh kg more than the offer this time last year. Of the 18.57 lakh kg, 13.53 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 5.04 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 14.75 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only one lakh kg, orthodox variety. The proportion of orthodox teas continues to be low in both the leaf and dust grades. In the leaf counter, only 0.49 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 13.04 lakh kg to CTC.

Among the dusts, only 0.33 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 4.71 lakh kg, CTC. Fresh tea accounts for 11.39 lakh kg. As much as 7.18 lakh kg comprise teas which had remained unsold in the previous auctions.

In the past few weeks, 25-35 per cent of the offer had remained unsold. In the leaf auction last week, Hindustan Unilever Ltd operated on better medium varieties. Duncans Tea Ltd was selective and Tata Global Beverages Ltd did not operate.

Amul's 4th dairy in Delhi NCR to come up at Faridabad



R.S. Sodhi

Banaskantha District Co-operative Milk Producers Union, a member of Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) which owns the Amul brand, will set up a dairy at Faridabad with a processing capacity of 10 lakh litres a day.

Fourth unit

This will be the fourth dairy of Amul in the Delhi NCR region, considered the fastest growing milk market in the country.

“Banas Dairy has acquired about 10 acres in Faridabad and will be investing around Rs 150 crore in the proposed plant,” said R.S. Sodhi, Managing Director of GCMMF.

The proposed plant is likely to be operational by end of next year.

The Banas Dairy will enhance the Amul’s milk processing capacity in the Delhi NCR region to about 60 lakh litres a day by 2015-16, Sodhi said.

Currently, the Mehsana Union has been operating a 10-lakh-litre-a-day unit at Manesar.

It has also recently set up a 15-lakh-litre unit at Dharuhera in Haryana, which would eventually be scaled up to 30 lakh litre a day by August 2015.

The Sabarkantha District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Ltd or Sabar Dairy, another member of GCMMF, is currently in the process of setting up a 10 lakh litre a day at Rohtak in Haryana, which is expected to be operationalised by December.

All these three unions sell about 24 lakh litres of pouched milk a day in Delhi NCR under the Amul brand with Mehsana accounting for half of it. Banas and Sabar dairies sell about six lakh litres each in the Delhi market. Amul entered the Delhi market in 2003 with sales of one lakh litres a day and has seen a rapid growth since then.

Amul commands a 46 per cent share in the pouched milk sales in the NCR region estimated at 50 lakh litres a day followed by Mother Dairy with sales of around 18 litres a day.

Amul is targeting sales of about 65 lakh litres a day in the NCR region by 2020 when the packaged milk market is expected to expand to one crore litres a day from the present 50 lakh litres.

Spot rubber rule steady

Spot rubber finished almost steady on Thursday.

The market lost its direction as there were no active participants on either the buyers or sellers side to set a definite trend. Traders seemed to be waiting for a clear trend to emerge as the market fell into a corrective phase after hitting a high of Rs 198 a kg for RSS 4 on Tuesday. Meanwhile, latex continued to explore further highs on fresh demand amidst low supplies. The trend was partially mixed.

Sheet rubber was unchanged at Rs 195 according to traders. The grade dropped to Rs 194.50 (Rs 195.00) both at Kottayam and Kochi according to the Rubber Board.

August futures closed at Rs 191.60 (Rs 191.11), September at Rs 180.50 (Rs 180.95), October at Rs 170.50 (Rs 170.34) and November at Rs 165.75 (Rs 164.57) while the December futures remained inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) dropped to Rs 152.92 (Rs 153.11) at Bangkok.

July futures expired at ¥ 250.0 (Rs.148.25) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were :

RSS-4: 195 (195); RSS-5: 189 (189); Ungraded: 179 (179); ISNR 20: 180 (180) and Latex 60%: 165 (162).

Soya meal prices may fall on higher acreage, lower export demand

Soya meal prices are likely to come down this fiscal due to higher acreage under cultivation and lower export demand.

As on July 18, soya bean acreage stood at 110 lakh hectares (ha) across the country as against 86.2 lakh ha last year, according to data available with the Solvent Extractors Association of India.

“The soya meal price has been on the decline since May 2013 as export demand dropped, thereby increasing domestic supply. With monsoons being above normal in key soya bean growing areas and acreage being higher compared to the last two years, prices are likely to remain subdued, said Raju Choksi, Vice-President (Agro Commodities), Anil Nutrients Ltd. The price could drop below Rs 28,000 a tonne on ex-Indore basis, Choksi said in a statement here on Thursday.

Soya meal exports during the April-June period fell almost 36 per cent at 4.1 lakh tonnes as against 6.37 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period of last year. The data showed that exports to Iran, the biggest importer of soya meal from India, fell by around 13 per cent during the period. According to the fourth advanced estimates released by the Government on Monday, the soya bean crop size was 146.8 lakh tonnes in 2012-13 against 122.14 lakh tonnes in 2011-12. “With higher acreage this year, we believe the crop size could well be close to 160 lakh tonne or around 10 per cent higher than last year. This would put pressure on prices in 2013-14, if exports do not pick up as they did in the last quarter of 2012-13, said Choksi.

Soya meal for the new season is being traded at \$455/mt FAS Kandla basis, for delivery during November/December. This is against \$545/mt FAS Kandla for ready delivery.

Cotton falls by Rs 500/quintal in Erode



Cotton prices decreased by Rs 500 a quintal on Wednesday evening auctions.

“For the past three weeks, the demand was very high in Bhoodapady Regulated Market Committee (RMC) due to arrival of fine variety cotton and also the arrival and sales were encouraging.

But suddenly on Wednesday, the arrival decreased by 300 quintals and only 1,361 quintals (3,590 bags) of cotton arrived for sale”, said the RMC officials. This week, the arrival to the nearby Mallasamudram (Salem district) cotton market has increased and some important bulk buying cotton merchants did not attend the Bhoodapady RMC auction. So the prices decreased by Rs 500 for Surabi and Rs 110 for Bt. cotton.

The buyers expected the price to increase in the next week.

At Bhoodapady RMC, the Surabi variety was sold at Rs 5,900-6,100; Bt. cotton Rs 5,110-5,610. All the 1,361 quintals were sold.

At the Anthiyur RMC, the Surabi variety fetched Rs 5,750-6,500; Bt. cotton Rs 4,500-5,400; all the 2,180 quintals (5,500 bags) were sold. At the Sathyamangalam Cooperative Marketing Society, the Bt cotton was sold at Rs 4,700-5,400; 920 quintals were sold.

Bearish trend in edible oils



Sharp drop in futures markets on expectation of higher supply of vegetable oils in the coming months and absence of physical demand, bearish trend continued in edible market on the fifth consecutive day on Thursday.

Imported palmolein and soyabean oil fell by Rs 4 each; rapeseed oil by Rs 5; cotton refined oil by Rs 11. Goundnut and sunflower oils ruled steady. Sentiment was bearish in spot. Resellers offered palmolein at Rs 518-520. Liberty quoted palmolein Rs 530 ex-JNPT for August and Rs 532 ex-Shahpur; super palmolein Rs 567 for July-August and super deluxe Rs 587.

Ruchi quoted palmolein Rs 531 for July-Sept; soyabean refined oil Rs 631 for July-Sept; sunflower refined oil Rs 800 for July-Aug. Allana quoted palmolein Rs 529-532; super palmolein Rs 570. Gokul's rates were Rs 520 for July and Rs 525 for August.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil dropped by Rs 75 to Rs 1,475 (Rs 1,550) for *telia* tin and by Rs 25 to Rs 950 (Rs 975) for loose 10 kg. Soyabean arrivals were about 1.25 lakh bags-1.27 lakh bags at Rs 3,150-3,250 ex mandi and Rs 3,250-3,300 for plant delivery.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, soyabean refined oil's futures dropped by three per cent. Aug futures declined by Rs 18.75 to Rs 632.30 (Rs 651.05); Sept by Rs 19 to Rs 614.55 (Rs 633.55) and Oct by Rs 17.90 to Rs 595.70 (Rs 613.60).

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's August futures settled lower at MYR 2,275 (MYR 2,310); September at MYR 2,214 (MYR 2,254) and October at MYR 2,170 (MYR 2,222).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: Groundnut oil 975 (975); soya refined oil 631 (635); sunflower exp. ref. 740 (740); sunflower ref. 800 (800); rapeseed ref. oil 675 (680); rapeseed exp ref. 645 (650); cottonseed ref. oil 623 (634) and palmolein 521 (525).

Jeera flat on lower offtake



Jeera prices settled flat recovering from the day's lows on low level buying and on short covering after prices seen pressure tracking bearish local markets amid higher domestic supplies and on a good monsoon.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), jeera for August was traded up by Rs 7.5 to Rs 13,262.50 a quintal, with an open interest of 13,347 lots. NCDEX September jeera contract declined by Rs 10 to 13,510 for 100 kg, with an open interest of 7,503 lots.

Spot jeera price remained marginally firm as traders anticipate a pickup in exports in the coming days. In Unjha mandi, 8,000 bags arrived and demand remained at 7,000 bags. Prices gained Rs 5 to Rs 2,500-2,700 for

20 kg for best quality. Lower and medium quality jeera stood at Rs 2,025-2,450. Meanwhile, the outlook remains weak in jeera because of subdued local demand and higher supplies.

Weak global cues, sluggish demand pound mustard



Weak global cues, sluggish demand and steep decline in mustard futures on the NCEDX have pounded mustard oil in mandis across Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

In Indore, mustard oil on Thursday declined to Rs 612 for 10 kg (down Rs 5).

In Neemuch and Moorena, it slipped by Rs 5 to Rs 605 and Rs 610 respectively.

In Rajasthan also, mustard oil fell on sluggish demand with its prices in Kota and Ganga Nagar being quoted at Rs 615 for 10 kg each (down Rs 5), while it was Rs 630 in Jaipur (down Rs 5).

In Gujarat also, it ruled Rs 5 lower at Rs 610 (down Rs 20 from last week). Trading sentiments have been affected with rains in mustard growing States. Even as arrival of mustard seeds remained stable at 70,000 bags, it

declined in Indore at Rs 4,100 a quintal (down Rs 100) on weak futures and buying support in the physical market. Similarly raida too declined to Rs 3,000 (down Rs 50). Mustard seeds futures also crashed on weak global cues and buying support.

August futures and September contracts on the NCEDX closed at Rs 3,099 (down Rs 129 with 4 per cent of lower circuit) and Rs 3,130 (down Rs 130). Plant deliveries of mustard seeds have also declined by about Rs 155 in the past one week on lower demands from the crushers.

Plant deliveries of mustard seeds for Jaipur line were quoted at Rs 3,350-3,355.

Volatility in rice likely to continue



There has been too much volatility in the rice market and may continue to rule around current levels for the next few days, said market sources.

After witnessing a good rally earlier this week, the rice market has witnessed some correction with prices of aromatic and non-basmati rice going down by Rs 200-400 a quintal on Thursday.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) dropped by Rs 300 at Rs 8,000-8,100, while Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted Rs 200 down at Rs 7,600-7,800.

Pure basmati (raw) quoted at Rs 8,800. Duplicate basmati (steam) dropped by Rs 400 at Rs 6,600.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Dubar quoted at Rs 3,600; Tibar sold at Rs 4,250 while Mongra was at Rs 2,900 a quintal. In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) went down by Rs 300 to Rs 4,500-4,600 while Sharbati (Sela) quoted at Rs 4,300.

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

Prices of PR14 (steam) decreased by Rs 300 at Rs 3,100.

Around 4,000 bags of different paddy varieties arrived at the Karnal Grain Market Terminal on Thursday from the Uttar Pradesh.

About 1,000 bags of Pusa-1121 arrived and quoted at Rs 3,100-3,200.

Around 3,000 bags of PR arrived and quoted at Rs 1,050-1,150.

Sugar drops on subdued demand



Sugar prices in the Vashi wholesale terminal market dropped by Rs 10 on Thursday.

Producers selling at Rs 10-20 lower, pulled down prices in physical market. Naka rates were steady.

Jagdish Rawal of B. Bhogilal and co, said “Less than expected local demand end of the month and continuous supply from mills led to a need based volume as there is sufficient inventory stocks available in the market and stockiest don’t want to take any risk.

“Despite Ramadan, festival demand has not been improved as expected. Now traders are eyeing new month’s demand which may provide some cues for the market.

Sugar production is expected 250 lakh tonnes in 2012-13 (October-September) and for 2013-2014 season, 237 lakh tonnes which is more than the domestic demand of 225-230 lakh tones”.

Sugar futures prices are still caught in a range of Rs 50 as visible during the last couple of weeks in absence of any major demand trigger said analyst. Demand from bulk users eases during the monsoon rain season. In Vashi, market arrivals were 63-64 truck loads (each of 100 bags) and local dispatches were 60-61 truck loads.

On Wednesday about 18-20 mills offered tenders and sold about 33,000-35,000 bags at lower rates Rs 2,920-2,990 (Rs 2,930-3,000) for S-grade and Rs 3,010-3,200 (Rs 3,030-3,220) for M-grade.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, sugar August futures were down by Rs 4 to Rs 3,018 (Rs 3,022), September Rs 6 to Rs 3,035 (Rs 3,041) and September decreased by Rs 8 to Rs 3,067 (Rs 3,075).

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 3,052-3,145 (Rs 3,056-3,142) and M-grade Rs 3,162-3,321 (Rs 3,162-3,321).

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 3,020-3,080 (Rs 3,020-3,080) and M-grade Rs 3,130-3,220 (Rs 3,130-3,220).

Sudden drop in prices limits turmeric buying



The sudden decrease in the turmeric futures will reflect locally within two days.

“The three per cent decrease on Wednesday and again three per cent on Thursday will affect the price within two days. So the buyers carefully inspected the samples, purchased limited stocks”, said R.K.V.

Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association. The prices showed a decrease of Rs 100-200 a quintal in other stations such as Warangal and Nizamabad, the buyers at Erode have placed some orders for such other station turmeric.

The farmers are also reluctant to sell the stocks at the prevailing low prices; they brought only 2,800 bags on Thursday and 55 per cent were sold. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,199-6,709, the root variety Rs 3,862-6,109.

Salem hybrid crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 5,834-7,289, the root variety Rs 5,534-6,499. Of 484 bags, 198 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,483-6,799, the root variety Rs 5,109-6,069. Of the 744 bags, 489 were sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,149-6,789, the root variety Rs 5,089-6,084. Of 673 bags, 647 were sold. At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative marketing society, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,811-6,680, the root variety Rs 5,201-5,977. Of 153 bags, 126 were sold.