

THE HINDU

Banana farmers demand a compensation of Rs. 1 lakh



hopes dashed:Members of Tamilaga Eri Matrum Aatrupasana Vivasayigal Sangam with damaged banana plants at the collectrate in Tiruchi on Monday.— PHOTO: R.M. RAJARATHINAM

Tamilaga Eri Matrum Aatrupasana Vivasayigal Sangam has urged the State government to sanction a compensation of at least Rs. 1 lakh an acre of banana that was ravaged by gusty winds recently.

In a memorandum to Jayashree Muralidharan, Collector, P. Viswanathan, president of the association, said at least 20 lakh banana trees raised in 24,000 acres in 50 villages of Tiruchi district suffered very badly because of the high velocity winds that struck the region on May 16 and 25.

“These farmers are driven to suicide”.

Real assessment

He urged the government to initiate steps to make a “real assessment” of the damage caused to the banana orchards in Manachanallur , Lalgudi, Thottiyam, Musiri, Srirangam, and Tiruverumbur taluks.

Kuttanad agriculture to get heritage status

: The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) formally declared the Kuttanad below sea-level farming system as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) at the International Forum on GIAHS held at Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan from May 29 to June 1.

Sources said agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan attended the conference, though an earlier decision was to send a delegation to the Forum. The government is expected to declare the heritage status soon.

The Government of Kerala and the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) had jointly filed an application to the FAO. N. Anil Kumar, head of the Biodiversity Programme of the MSSRF in Wayanad, had presented the case before the GIAHS World Forum in Kanazawa in Japan in December 2011.

The GIAHS official website says “Farmers of Kuttanad have developed and mastered the spectacular technique of below sea-level cultivation over 150 year ago. They made this system unique as it contributes remarkably well to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including several livelihood services for local communities”.

The global focus on the Kuttanad unique system of farming will be reinforced by the setting up of proposed international-level institute for below sea-level farming in Kuttanad. Already a Ramsar site, the biodiversity of Kuttanad will have to be protected by the State government and its people.

The heritage status will boost efforts to retain paddy fields in Kuttanad. The below sea-level farming practised in Kuttanad is of great interests to countries such as Malaysia, Bangladesh and the Maldives.

Good rainfall sets pace for agricultural activity



*Gearing up:Farmer tilling the land at Manchippa village in Nizamabad.–
Photo: K.V. Ramana*

Agriculture activity in the district has been going on at a brisk pace as it received more than normal rainfall before the season starts normally in every kharif. The district received double the rainfall (40 mm) than the normal average of 20 mm by June 10 taking the agriculture department by surprise.

As against the normal practice of starting the kharif in the second fortnight of the month in the district the sowing activity began in the first week with the early onset of monsoon. Almost every farmer has been busy sowing rainfed crops such soyabean, maize and jowar across the district. The agriculture department has also geared up to meet the demand for seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and other inputs and implements. The district has been far ahead of other districts in placing indents and receiving soya seed and so far distributed 32,000 quintals as against the total demand of 82,000 quintals. Another 20,000 quintals is in godowns ready for distribution through 63 outlets. As regards fertilizer supply it is very comfortable and there is absolutely no problem to meet the demand. "In view of the experiences in the previous years and because of perfect preparations before the onset of monsoon we are able to tide over problems", said Mohammad Wajid, Joint Director (Agriculture), in-charge. Total area expected to be sown different crops is 3.92 lakh hectares in the kharif, but as per the normal practice in the last five years the activity is taken up on an average in 3.04 lakh hectares. Paddy is expected to be transplanted in 1.30 lakh hectares followed by soyabean in 1.20 lakh hectares; maize in 70,000 hectares; cotton in 22,000 hectares; jowar in 1000 hectares; greengram in 12,000 hectares; Bengal gram in 7,000; redgram in 6,000 hectares; turmeric in 12,000 hectares, sugarcane in 7,000; and miscellaneous crops in 1000 hectares. With farmers being ready with full preparation of land, monsoon is hopeful and absence of lapses on the supply side the agriculture department officials are expecting bountiful of crops in the kharif.

One crore saplings to be given to farmers this year

Programme aims to increase green cover in State



Additional Chief Conservator of Forest (Development) B. Shivana Gowda speaking after inaugurating a workshop on Agro Forestry Development Plan in Gulbarga on Monday. —photo: arun kulkarni

: The State government has fixed a conservative target of supplying one crore saplings of different varieties of fruit bearing and economically viable trees under the Agro Forestry Development Plan to farmers to increase the green cover and help farmers earn additional revenue from their agricultural lands.

Additional Chief Conservator of the Forests (Development) B. Shivana Gowda who is in charge of the Agro Forestry Development Plan in the State said in Gulbarga on Monday that last year the government had supplied 75 lakh saplings to farmers under the plan and this year the target has been increased to one crore saplings. During 2011, when the plan was first introduced in the State, 47 lakh saplings were distributed.

Speaking after inaugurating a workshop for the representatives of NGOs and Village Forest Committees to create awareness among farmers on the benefits of adopting the plan in their agriculture fields, Mr. Shivanagowda said as against the desired level of 33 per cent forest cover, the forest cover in Karnataka had remained static at 20 per cent for the past several years and with this initiative the State government hopes to increase the green cover substantially.

The State government provided incentives for farmers to take up agro-forestry development and each of the surviving sapling would be eligible to get an incentive of Rs. 10 in the first year, Rs. 15 in the second and Rs. 20 in the third year. There is no limit for farmers to take up cultivation of trees and avail the incentives. However, farmers were eligible to avail incentives for 400 saplings in a year planted in a hectare, he said.

Presiding over the function, Chief Conservator of Forests A. Radhadevi said the forest cover in Gulbarga district was 4 per cent and with the implementation of the plan the forest department hopes to increase it at least to the State average of 20 per cent.

Retired Chief Conservator of Forest Sadashivayya, who is involved in the programme actively, said the Village Forest Committees and NGOs working in rural areas should play a proactive role in ensuring the programme's success.

“Without the support and participation of the local population no government programme can succeed.”

They worked on farms, now they sell brooms

Kenchakuppe residents forced to change their vocation



In dire straits: Dasappa makes about 150 brooms a day and sells it in the wholesale market in Bangalore.

Dasappa travels to Bangalore every alternate day, carrying a pile of brooms that has just been readied for use. He sells it in the wholesale market and returns to his village by the evening.

Dasappa is one among the many residents of Kenchankuppe, a village about 35 km from here and about two km from Bidadi on the Bangalore-Mysore Highway, who have been forced to venture into this business after the land on which they worked as labourers became unfit for farming. Moreover, making brooms has become a family vocation and a source of livelihood for them for the past 10 years.

While the unabated quarrying in the adjacent hillock, locally referred to as Narasimhaswamy Gudda, resulting in stone dust settling on agriculture fields has been the main reason for declining agriculture activity, many farmers stopped hiring landless labourers since cultivation of ragi became unviable.

“We get dried leaves from coconut palm from villages near Maddur and Chennapatna, clean it and prepare brooms before selling them to wholesalers in Bangalore,” Dasappa told *The Hindu*. “We prepare about 150 brooms a day, especially when we can source the dried palm easily,” he added.

While Dasappa and many others sell brooms for about Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 a piece in the wholesale market, they procure palm leaves in bundles from villages. According to them, they incur a cost of about Rs. 7 to Rs. 8 a

broom on raw material. “Adding to this is our labour and transportation cost to Bangalore. We hardly get anything if our volumes are less,” said Balu, another village resident.

A grocer in Basavanagudi, who sells brooms, said the retail price could range between Rs. 15 and Rs. 20.

K.H. Chandrashekaraiyah, a resident of Kenchankuppe, who has been fighting quarrying for over seven years now, said the village residents were forced to change their vocation. “Nobody is employed now. It works like a cottage industry with minimum investment and the involvement of the entire family.”

Implement loan waiver scheme immediately: farmers



Farmers staging a dharna in Mysore on Monday.— PHOTO: M.A.SRIRAM

Farmers under the aegis of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene staged a demonstration here on Monday, urging the State government to implement the loan waiver schemes with immediate effect.

Modification

Farmers also sought a modification of the agricultural loan policy and wanted the eligibility amount to be computed based on the land value and property owned by them, rather than crop prices. They also wanted “more transparency in loan distribution system of cooperative societies”.

Other demands made by the farmers include immediate implementation of the interest-free loan up to Rs. 3 lakh and the 3 per cent interest rate

for loans between Rs. 3 lakh and Rs. 5 lakh, both of which were announced by the State government recently.

Urged

The KRRS and the sene urged authorities to ensure that seeds and fertilizer were distributed through registered cooperative societies.

‘Transparency needed in loan disbursal systems’

Farm officials caught napping

Timely arrival of monsoon leads to rush for soyabean seed coupons



Farmers waiting at the Mandal Agriculture Office for soyabean seed coupons in Adilabad on Monday.-PHOTO: BY ARRANGEMENT

The arrival of monsoon on time has caught the Agriculture Department on wrong foot as large number of farmers are turning up at their offices seeking the subsidised soyabean seed coupons.

Though officials say there is sufficient stock of the seed, the long queues seem to be unavoidable at many places including the district head quarter town.

“The good rainfall of last few days has sent farmers scurrying to us for the coupons. Farmers do not want to waste any time in sowing,” says Asuri Ravinder, Adilabad Assistant Agriculture Officer.

Of the nearly 27,000 quintals of seed positioned so far, about 10,000 quintals have been sold.

The total allotment of subsidised soyabean seed to the district is about 55,000 quintals.

“We have sought an additional allotment of 20,000 quintals of the seed. There are indications that the area under soyabean will go up this year,” Mr. Ravinder adds.

Meanwhile, as many as 12 of the 52 mandals received excess rainfall since June 1 while 15 others have received it in normal quantities. 17 mandals have recorded deficient rainfall while the remaining 8 have recorded scanty rains.

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- ***Agriculture officials say there is sufficient stock of the seed***
 - ***Long queues seem to be the order of the day at many places in the dist.***
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AIKS demands waiver of farm loans

'Farmers caught in a debt trap due to floods and drought'

Concerned over unabated suicide by farmers under hostile farming conditions, the All India Kisan Sabha Andhra Pradesh unit has demanded waiver of all loans advanced to small and marginal farmers as also tenant farmers.

A resolution to this effect was adopted on Monday, the second day of the three-day state conference of the AIKS.,

Briefing newsmen on resolutions adopted at the 20th AIKS state conference, its state Vice-President Haribandi Prasada Rao and C.Ramakrishna said last time when the loan waiver was announced by the Centre several conditions, a majority of the ryots had not benefited.

In the wake of droughts and floods in different parts in the last two years, farmers were caught in a debt trap. Loans advanced by commercial banks, cooperative banks and by private parties should be written off and fresh loans advanced to carry on farm operations in the coming kharif and rabi seasons, it said.

Concerned over delay in the passage of the new Seed Bill by Parliament, the AIKS lamented that the bill introduced in Rajya Sabha as early as

2004, had not seen the light of the day allegedly due to pressure from seed manufacturers.

"While the farmers are in deep trouble due to supply of spurious seeds, those responsible for the plight went unpunished," the conference observed. It pressed for a piece of legislation to award stringent punishment to unscrupulous seed manufacturers and traders and provide for liberal compensation to ryots. The conference resolved to organise ryots into cooperative bodies at the village, mandal and district level and oppose the public private partnership in agriculture which, they feared, would pave the way for corporatisation of agriculture in the long run.

The AIKS wanted creation of market yards exclusively for fruits in all the districts for the benefit of orchard owners.

Aavin's masala buttermilk now comes in tetrapack

You can now carry Aavin's masala buttermilk to school, college or even while on tour. The Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation, popularly known as Aavin, on Monday, launched masala buttermilk in 200 ml tetrapacks priced at Rs. 10 each with a shelf life of 120 days.

The masala buttermilk — spiced with ginger, coriander leaves, curry leaves and mint leaves and having just the right amount of salt — was until now, available only in polythene sachets and had to be consumed in a day.

A total of 5,000 litres of special and regular 200 ml buttermilk sachets are being sold in the city on a daily basis.

"Many customers consume buttermilk at lunch and so, most of the sachets are sold before noon," said an employee of an Aavin parlour. The regular and special buttermilk is being processed at Aavin's Ambattur Product Dairy.

The masala buttermilk along, with salted table butter and badam milkshake, which were also launched on Monday, are being processed at the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation's Salem facility.

Salted table butter was earlier launched in 500 gram packs and is now available in 100 gram packs priced at Rs. 30.

Aavin sells 2.5 tonnes of cooking butter and 3 tonnes of ghee everyday in the city.

Minister for Dairy Development V. Moorthy, who launched these three products on Monday in the presence of Aavin Managing Director T. K .Ramachandran, said that over the last two years, milk production had increased in the State. In the city, a total of 11.25 lakh litres of milk are sold on a daily basis.

"In February, milk shakes in seven flavours and milk in four flavours were launched. A total of 4.5 lakh packs of 200 ml each are sold every month in the city, he said. "

"Aavin is working towards increasing the sale of milk and milk products," he added.

The buttermilk has a shelf life of 120 days and costs just Rs. 10

‘Ongole bull’ milk to hit market soon

Ending its seven-year ties with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB), the Ongole dairy formed itself into a company to market its milk products on its own from Monday.

Hitherto marketed under the NDDDB's Mother Dairy brand, the debt-free Prakasam district Milk Producers Company Limited will market its products with Ongole bull logo from now, said its jubilant Chairman Challa Srinivasa Rao after unveiling a range of milk products here on Monday.

The NDDDB had taken over the Prakasam cooperative dairy and its milk powder plant at Ongole as the latter failed to repay Rs. 63 crore due to the board then. '

"The debt has been fully serviced and the now the dairy is fully equipped to increase its production", he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Vijaya Bank regional manager A. Muralikrishna said the bank which had advanced Rs. 20 crore for purchase of 2000 milch cattle by ryots last year, was keen to advance loans to more farmers this year.

Andhra Bank Zonal Manager D.Surendra Rao said the bank was ready to provide loans to farmers not only to purchase milch animals but also personal loans to dairy employees. He stressed the need for prompt repayment to sustain the credit flow.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on June 10th.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	43	32	0	1
New Delhi (Sfd)	40	30	0	15
Chandigarh	38	30	0	10
Hissar	45	31	0	0
Bhuntar	35	21	17	19
Shimla	26	20	3	35
Jammu	41	32	0	8
Srinagar	34	19	0	13
Amritsar	44	28	0	0
Patiala	40	29	0	1
Jaipur	41	26	8	26
Udaipur	36	27	9	21
Allahabad	42	28	5	22
Lucknow	37	27	0	50
Varanasi	42	30	0	1
Dehradun	33	27	0	13
Agartala	32	26	0	46

Ahmedabad	39	27	0	12
Bangalore	28	20	0	121
Bhubaneshwar	38	25	10	28
Bhopal	36	25	0	39
Chennai	37	28	1	119
Guwahati	35	26	0	69
Hyderabad	33	24	0	121
Kolkata	37	26	3	3
Mumbai	28	22	90	213
Nagpur	39	28	1	3
Patna	35	28	0	29
Pune	28	22	5	95
Thiruvananthapuram	31	24	5	101
Imphal	31	23	0	19
Shillong	20	18	2	117

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

HEAT WAVE

Heat wave conditions are prevailing in some parts of west Rajasthan.

RAINFALL: Rain/thundershowers have occurred at a few places over Himachal Pradesh and at isolated places over Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Weather was mainly dry over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm are: HIMACHAL PRADESH: Jogindernagar 10, Palampur and Baijnath 5 each, Dhramsala 3 and Bhunter and Banjar 2 each, EAST RAJASTHAN: Bakani 7, Khanpur 4, Aklera, Shahabad, Todaraising and Aligarh 3 each, Indergarh, Phagi and Jhalawar 2 each and Vanasthali, Jaipur, Udaipur and Malkhera 1 each, WEST RAJASTHAN: Dungargarh, Sujargarh and Pokharn 1 each, EAST UTTAR PRADESH: Churk and Dudhi 3 each and Robertsganj and Allahabad Sadar 1 each, WEST UTTAR PRADESH: Nazibabad 1 and UTTARAKHAND: Rudraprayag 4 and Munsiyari and Uttarkashi 1 each.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES: The maximum temperatures rose in Punjab, fell in east Rajasthan and changed little elsewhere.

They were appreciably above normal in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and west Rajasthan, appreciably below normal in Uttar Pradesh, below normal in Uttarakhand and normal in rest of the region.

The highest maximum temperature in the region was 46.4°C recorded at Churu and Sriganganagar (Rajasthan).

FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 12th June 2013: Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan during next 48 hours and increase thereafter. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir on 11th and increase thereafter.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 12th June 2013: Partly cloudy sky becoming generally cloudy sky. Possibility of rain/thundershowers in some areas.



Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 44

Wind: normal

Tuesday, Jun 11

Max Min
38° | 28°

Sunrise: 05:41

Sunset: 06:34

Barometer: 1001

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Wednesday, Jun 12

Max Min
37° | 26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday
Jun 13



37° | 27°

Cloudy

Friday
Jun 14



34° | 27°

Overcast

Saturday
Jun 15



36° | 27°

Overcast

Sunday
Jun 16



37° | 27°

Overcast

Monday
Jun 17



35° | 27°

Overcast

US Senate passes farm bill; food stamp fight looms in House

WASHINGTON: The Democratic-run [US Senate](#) passed a \$500 billion, five-year [farm bill](#) on Monday that expands a taxpayer-subsidized crop insurance program and rejects sweeping cuts in food stamps for the poor being pursued in the House of Representatives.

The bill passed easily, 66 to 27, and now goes to the Republican-controlled House.

It was the second time in a year that the Senate has sent a five-year farm bill to the Republican-led House, which let the bill die at the end of 2012.

Analysts say food stamp cuts remain the legislation's make-or-break issue, given otherwise broad similarities between the two versions.

While the Senate would trim food stamps by \$4 billion over a decade, the bill awaiting debate in the House calls for a \$20 billion cut, the largest in a generation. Some 2 million people, or 4 per cent of enrollment, would lose benefits.

"I'm confident we can come together," Senate agriculture committee chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, Democrat of Michigan, said when asked about the huge difference in view.

Agricultural lobbyists and analysts said the Senate vote made a new farm law more likely but not certain this year.

Farm bills are panoramic legislation covering food aid, rural economic development, biofuels development and agricultural research along with crop subsidies, food stamps and conservation.

A bruising fight was possible in the House over food stamps. Some 134 of the 201 Democrats in the House signed a resolution against any cuts. And some Republicans want steeper cuts in farm programs as well as in food stamps, which could jeopardize passage of a bill.

House debate on the farm bill is expected to start this month. Speaker John Boehner on Monday promised "a vigorous and open debate" on the

legislation.

The Senate and House bills both streamline soil conservation programs, eliminate the \$5 billion a year "direct payment" subsidy to farmland owners, whether they farm or not, and create programs to protect farmers from year-to-year fluctuations in revenue from a crop.

Both would expand the federally subsidized crop insurance program by the creation of so-called revenue insurance policies for cotton and peanuts and a "supplemental coverage" policy allowing grain and soybean farmers to insure up to 90 per cent of crop revenue.

During debate in late May the Senate rejected amendments by Pat Roberts, Kansas Republican, for \$31 billion in food stamp cuts and by James Inhofe, Oklahoma Republican, to convert food stamps to a grant program and cut funding by \$300 billion.

The Roberts and Inhofe amendments are similar to approaches popular among House Republicans to reduce food stamp costs.

Rice and peanut support prices would be fixed close to projected average prices under both bills.

Carl Zulauf, an agricultural economist at Ohio State University, said high commodity prices would mitigate the impact of support prices on crop plantings.

Federal spending on crop insurance would climb by 5 percent under the Senate bill and by 10 percent under the House bill. The government pays 62 cents of each \$1 in crop insurance premium.

Seventeen insurance companies sell crop insurance. They range from independent companies to subsidiaries of companies such as Archer Daniels Midland, Deere and Co., Wells Fargo, Ace Group and Allianz.

With good rains, farmers take back their cattle from camps

AURANGABAD: With the on time arrival on monsoon, [farmers](#) from the worst drought-hit districts in the [Marathwada region](#) have begun taking back their cattle from the camps set up by the state government. As many as 84 cattle camps have been closed down as farmers begin preparations for the kharif season.

[Monsoon](#) reached Marathwada on Saturday evening and farmers began taking back their cattle to their farms. Officials said that in coming days more camps are expected to be vacated.

As per the latest figures with the Aurangabad divisional commissionerate, 33 camps in Aurangabad district, eight in Jalna district and 43 in Beed district have been closed down.

Now, 168 camps are still operational, of which 54 are in Aurangabad district, 45 in Jalna district, 40 in Beed district, 28 in Osmanabad district and one in Parbhani district.

The government spent Rs 118 crores on the 252 cattle camps that were set up in five of the eight districts of the Marathwada region. Officials said that 1.10 lakh cattle were being provided shelter and fodder at these camps in the drought-hit areas of the region.

Agriculture experts said that with a good start to the monsoon season, farmers are expecting a good crop this year. They have returned to the fields along with their cattle, especially bullocks, and are using them for ploughing and sowing purposes.

Experts said that during this year's [drought](#), in which there was acute water scarcity, farmers kept their cattle at camps to ensure adequate supply of water. With a good beginning to the monsoon, farmers are confident of finding water in their villages and are taking back their cattle.

Official sources said that the government will not announce closure of the camps as farmers will take back the cattle during the kharif season.

India's coffee exports down 2.85% so far in 2013

Prices have come under pressure as farmers in Brazil are harvesting crop even as they have not sold last year's supplies



India's [coffee exports](#) have declined by 2.85 per cent to 172,480 tonnes so far in the 2013 calendar year due to weak global prices, according to the Coffee Board. The country had exported 177,555 tonnes in the same period of January-June last year.

"Coffee exports have come down slightly as global prices were less attractive," a senior Coffee Board official said. While international prices have been falling for much of the year, global supplies have exceeded demand. Since last month, prices have further come under pressure as farmers in [Brazil](#) are harvesting new coffee crop even as they have not finished selling last year's supplies, the official explained.

The export realisation was down at Rs 1,47,555 per tonne between January and June first week of this calendar year, as against Rs 1,46,991 per tonne in the same period last year.

In terms of value, total coffee exports were down at Rs 2,545 crore as against Rs 2,609 crore in the review period.

As per the Coffee Board data, the shipment of robusta coffee bean fell marginally to 93,213 tonnes till first week of June 2013, as against 98,863 tonnes in the year-ago period.

Similarly, the export of [arabica coffee](#) declined to 35,560 tonnes from 36,843 tonnes in the review period. However, the country re-exported

32,701 tonnes of coffee in the said period, higher than 26,558 tonnes a year ago.

India largely exports its coffee produce to Italy, Germany and Russia. Besides coffee bean, the country also exports instant coffee.

The board has pegged coffee production at 315,500 tonne in the 2012-13 crop year (October-September), a marginal increase of 1,500 tonne over the final estimate of 314,000 tonne in 2011-12.

West Bengal expects a normal paddy crop in kharif season

the state produces about 14.5 mn tonne of rice every year in three seasons



With the southwest [monsoon](#) arriving on time, [West Bengal](#) expects a normal [paddy](#) crop during this kharif season. The state produces about 14.5 million tonnes (mt) of rice every year. The kharif paddy output accounts for about 70 per cent of paddy [production](#) in the state.

This year, paddy seeds are expected to be sown over 4.2-4.5 million hectares, according to Pranab Chatterjee, professor at Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV). In the 2013-14 kharif season, the state has set a target 1.1 mt of rice over 4.2 million hectares. "We expect a good paddy crop this year, as the climatic conditions are favourable," he said. However, a delay in the arrival of seeds from states like Andhra Pradesh could push the start of the sowing season by a week, said Debojyoti Guha of Seedsman Association of Bengal.

During the boro season, which ends just before the monsoon, the paddy sowing area had almost halved to 6-7 lakh hectares. However, due to higher productivity, the rice output has been close to 4.5-5 mt, said

Chatterjee.

Last year, in spite of a delayed monsoon, the price of paddy crashed due to excess, but low quality production. The crash was on account of higher production in the boro season, which discouraged the farmers to sow paddy seeds during kharif season. West Bengal contributes 14-16 per cent of India's rice production.

In 2012, more than 30 farmers in the state had committed suicide due to the price crash in the boro season and the ensuing high unsold stocks in the kharif season. Poor storage facilities and higher rainfall in the later part of the kharif season had further added to the woes of the farmers.

In 2011-12, the state had produced 15 million tonnes of rice, almost 15 per cent more than the previous year. According to the revised estimates for 2012-13, West Bengal produced 10.9 mt of paddy in the kharif season, and 4.4 mt in the boro season.

Early monsoon may expedite soybean sowing in MP

Met dept says monsoon's advent in MP has been early even as good amount of rains are expected in the state in the coming days

With early arrival of [monsoon](#) in central India, [Madhya Pradesh](#) (MP) may witness early [soybean sowing](#) this year, feel industry experts.

Soybean sowing generally starts after mid-June with the arrival of monsoon in central India. According to India [Meteorology Department](#) (IMD) Bhopal, monsoon's advent in MP has been early even as good amount of rains are expected in the state in the coming days.

Monsoon rains generally enter MP by June 12 and the soybean growing regions by June 13-15, said farmers and experts, adding that Malwa and Nimar are the major soybean growing regions in MP, the largest soybean producing state in the country.

"One more spell of good rains in the state will start sowing and we hope soybean sowing to start by June 15," said Rajesh Agrawal, spokesman and coordinator, Soybean Producers Association of India. Madhya

Pradesh witnessed good amount of pre-monsoon showers in the previous days which contributed to soil moisture, thereby giving way for suitable situation suitable for sowing.

According to experts, 3-4 inches of soil moisture is required for soybean sowing and some areas have already witnessed 4-inches rainfall in Madhya Pradesh.

Traders also stated that sowing may have started in some districts in small pockets. Farmers said many areas in Madhya Pradesh have enough soil moisture to start sowing but they are still waiting for another spell of rains to be sure. "Last year, many had to sow again as we witnessed insufficient rains after the first spell," said Shekhar Thakur a soybean farmer in Dewas near Indore.

In Kharif 2011-2012, soybean sowing was not timely due to delayed and insufficient rains and many areas in Madhya Pradesh had to sow again, added Thakur.

Industry experts were also upbeat about acreage and production figures this year.

"We expect 5-7 per cent more area under soybean sowing throughout the country and up to at least 200,000 hectare increase in Madhya Pradesh," said Rajesh Agrawal of Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA).

THE HINDU Business Line

Short supplies lift spot rubber



Kottayam, June 10: Physical rubber prices improved on Monday. The market is reported to be suffering from short supplies following the widespread rain all over the plantation areas.

The overall sentiments were visibly bullish and the prices firmed up on fresh buying and short covering tracking the comparatively higher levels on the NMCE.

Sheet rubber improved to Rs 173.50 (Rs 173) a kg, according to traders.

The grade increased to Rs 173 (Rs 172) both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to the Rubber Board.

futures

June futures inched up to Rs 174.99 (Rs 174.48), July to Rs 170.85 (Rs 170.79), August to Rs 167.51 (Rs 167.42), and September to Rs 164.82 (Rs 164.46). The October contracts dropped to Rs 162.37 (Rs 162.62) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) weakened to Rs 162.30 (Rs 162.98) at Bangkok.

June futures dropped to ¥ 245.5 (Rs 144.04) a kg on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 173.50 (173); RSS-5: 168 (167); Ungraded: 159.50 (159); ISNR 20: 160 (158) and Latex 60 per cent: 109.50 (109).

Cardamom loses flavour in sluggish trade



Kochi, June 10: Cardamom continued to remain sluggish with a nearly steady trend at last week auctions. Though the arrivals have shown a declining trend, it continued to remain much above normal levels at this time of the season, market sources told *Business Line*.

Exporters were not very active. However, an estimated 25 tonnes of the material were bought by them.

Upcountry buyers were buying but not aggressively.

The trade is of the opinion that the arrivals may come down in the coming days. All the buyers including the exporters appear to be waiting

for the next crop which is expected to hit the market by June-end, they said.

new crop

The new crop is said to be comparatively better than that of the previous season as the plants seem to be healthy, they said.

Given the condition of the plants there is likely to proportionately higher percentage of 8mm bold capsules next season, tr

ade sources claimed. This variety is no longer a fancy material.

It was sold at Rs 804 a kg on Sunday.

The average auction price continued to rule below Rs 600 and vacillated between Rs 520 and Rs 585 .

arrivals, sales

Total arrivals at the Sunday auction held by KCPMC increased to 69 tonnes from 61 tonnes on the previous Sunday and the entire quantity was sold out, P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, told *Business Line*.

The maximum price was at Rs 804 and the minimum at Rs 403.

The auction average price moved up marginally to Rs 564.73 from Rs 560 at the previous Sunday's auction, he said.

Total arrivals and sales during the current season from Aug 1, 2012 to June 9 were at 14,111 tonnes and 13,493 tonnes respectively.

Total arrivals and sales during the corresponding period last year were at 18,775 tonnes and 18,050 tonnes respectively.

The weighted average price as on June 9 stood at Rs 708.29 against Rs 633.76 on the same date last year.

Prices of graded varieties (in Rs/kg) : AGEB 790-800; AGB 550-560; AGS 540-550 and AGS -1: 520-530.

Bulk was being sold in the range of Rs 400-650.

Cottonseed pricing: Hike royalty fee but deposit it in escrow account, orders Court

Hyderabad, June 10: The Andhra Pradesh High Court has asked seed companies and the State Government to create an escrow account to temporarily put an end to the row over the cottonseed technology trait fee.

In an interim order on Friday, the court has allowed the seed companies to collect Rs 60-100 additionally to make up for the difference between the trait value fixed by the State and Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech Limited.

The court found contradictions in the Government arguments and observed that trait value is a small component in the overall seed price.

The contentious trait value is the fee collected by Mahyco-Monsanto, the joint venture between Indian seed major Mahyco and multinational agri-biotech company Monsanto, in lieu of providing the technology that gives cotton hybrids internal strength to kill bollworms. Bollworm is the single largest reason for yield losses in cotton.

The company enters into agreements with cottonseed companies every year for transfer technology on payment of Rs 110 (for BG-I or Bollgard-I) and Rs 163 for Bollgard-II on each packet of 450 grams.

But the State Government, while fixing the maximum retail price of the seed, had capped the trait fee at Rs 50, triggering the row.

Caught between “the devil and the deep sea”, Seedsmen Association of Andhra Pradesh, Ganga Kaveri Seeds, Kaveri Seeds and Prabhat Agri Biotech moved the court, challenging the State Government’s order capping the fee.

They also made the technology provider as a respondent along with the Commissioner of Agriculture (AP).

Escrow account

The differential amount would be deposited in the escrow account.

The court directed the Seedsmen Association to join hands with the respondents in working out the modalities of the escrow account within a week.

The petitioner will get the deposited amount if it wins the case. If it fails, the amount would go to the State Government.

“There is no explanation as to how the magic figure of Rs 50 was put in the Government Order, fixing the trait value. The petitioners have not made any grievance with respect to the production cost and cost of overheads. The dispute only relates to the royalty. The value of trait fee alone is not the determinative factor in the seed price fixed by the State where the total cost of production for an acre is put at Rs 20,000,” the court observed in the order.

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The court allows the seed companies to collect Rs 60-100 additionally to make up for the difference between the trait value fixed by the State and Mahyco-Monsanto.

Coonoor tea auction turnover hits 5-week low

Coonoor, June 10: This week’s turnover at Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions dropped to the lowest level in five weeks, reveals an analysis of the market reports. This happened because of the decline in both the volume sold and the price earned.

In all, 10 lakh kg was sold against 10.75 lakh kg in the previous week. This was the lowest volume sold in five weeks. Even this volume could be sold only by dropping prices marginally to Rs 92.10 a kg from Rs 92.25 last week. Export demand was weak with only selective purchase for Pakistan at Rs 77-94 a kg and the CIS at Rs 76-92. There was some purchase for Egypt and European ports at Rs 80-93. With less competition from exporters, domestic buyers also exerted lower pressure.

Cotton Association sees output at 352 lakh bales

Mumbai, June 10: The Cotton Association of India (CAI) has projected cotton output of 352 lakh bales (lb) and total supply of 425 lb in its May estimate. However, output in key growing areas of the north and central zone is expected to fall sharply.

The total cotton output in the northern zone including Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan is expected to drop leading to lower production at 54 lb against 64 lb registered last year. Similarly, in the central zone, which includes Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, the cotton production is estimated lower at 174 lb (204 lb). Production in Gujarat is estimated to fall to 85 lb (114 lb) as farmers switched over to other crops for better price realisation.

However, output in the southern region is slated to increase to 92 lb (76 lb), largely due to higher output expectation in Andhra Pradesh at 74 lb (58 lb).

CAI has estimated mill consumption 240 lb (217 lb) and small scale unit demand of 22 lb (21 lb) while that of non-mill is estimated unchanged at 16 lb. The total demand is expected to touch 278 lb, excluding exports.

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Spices exports cross Rs 10,000-cr mark



Kochi, June 10: Despite the continuance of global recession and economic slump in the overseas markets, India's spices exports have crossed the Rs 10,000-crore mark.

A total of 6,99,170 tonnes of spices and spice products valued at Rs 11,171.16 crore (\$2,040.18 million) has been exported in FY13 against 5,75,270 tonnes valued Rs 97,83.42 crore (\$2,037.76 million) in FY12.

It is for the first time that the growth in volume of exports registered an all time high of 22 per cent and 14 per cent in value. The total exports have exceeded the target in terms of both quantity and value.

Compared to the target of 5,66,000 tonnes valued at Rs 8,203.50 crore (\$1,650 million) for FY13, the achievement is 124 per cent in terms of quantity and 136 per cent in rupee and 124 per cent in dollar terms of value.

As the exports of cumin, mint and chillies show sharp improvements during 2012-13, the pattern of trade is showing perceptible changes. New spices are gaining prominence in the export basket, A. Jayathilak, Chairman of Spices Board said.

Mint products, cardamom (large), chilli, coriander, cumin, fennel, fenugreek, celery, other seeds such as mustard, aniseed, ajwain seed, nutmeg and mace, garlic, asafoetida, tamarind, curry powders/pastes, oils and oleoresins, etc are the star performers recording rise in exports both in terms of volume and value.

Traditional spices such as pepper, cardamom (small) and ginger had shown decrease both in terms of volume and value as compared to last year.

The export of seed spices witnessed a phenomenal growth both in terms of quantity and value. A total of 1,86,075 tonnes of seed spices valued at Rs 1,672.99 crore was exported in FY 13.

Break up

In the case of cumin, a total quantity of 79,900 tonnes valued Rs 1,093.17 crore was exported against 45,500 tonnes valued at Rs 644.42 crore.

Fennel showed an increase of 80 per cent in terms of quantity and 58 per cent in terms of value whereas fenugreek marked a rise of 43 per cent in quantity and 49 per cent in value terms. In terms of coriander, 37,100 tonnes valued at Rs 210.77 crore have been exported.

With high demand for its value-added products, mint continued to mark an increase of 49 per cent in value and 35 per cent in volume. A total of

19,980 tonnes of mint products were exported at a value of Rs 3,321.79 crore.

Garlic showed a whopping increase both in terms of quantity and value when 24,000 tonnes (2,200 tonne in FY 12) were exported at a value of Rs 74.49 crore (Rs 14.15 crore).

Chilli continued to remain upbeat when a total quantity of 2,81,000 tonnes of chilli valued at Rs 2,261.44 crore have been exported against 2,41,000 tonnes valued at Rs 2,144.08 crore.

While the export of small cardamom declined both in terms of volume and value, large cardamom showed a rising trend in the export market with an increase of 18 per cent in quantity and 8 per cent in value.

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UP sugarcane acreage seen higher as farmers plant more

Rising acreage	(in lakh hectares)				
	2013-14*	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10
Uttar Pradesh	20.50	24.25	22.52	21.25	19.77
Maharashtra	5.11	9.45	9.92	9.64	7.56
Karnataka	3.27	3.84	4.16	4.21	3.37
All India	42.09	52.88	50.93	49.44	41.75

* As on June 5



New Delhi, June 10: Sugarcane acreage in Uttar Pradesh for the 2013-14 season starting October may exceed last year's levels marginally, as farmers continue to plant more despite pending payments from millers.

Latest Government data reveal that UP farmers have planted sugarcane in about 20.50 lakh hectares (lh), about 35,000 hectares or 1.65 per cent more than corresponding last year.

"There will be a 3-4 per cent rise in cane acreage over last year," said S.L. Gupta, Secretary, UP Sugar Mills Association (UPSMA).

new varieties

The cane arrears of over Rs 5,000 crore are unlikely to have an impact as farmers are assured of getting their payments, he added.

Further, Gupta said the area under newer and high yielding varieties such as Co 238 and Co 239 would see an increase of around five to six per cent, thereby aiding the sugar recovery next season.

At present, the area under new cane varieties does not exceed three lakh hectares, he added.

"Though there was a delay in planting due to the delayed wheat harvest, we expect the cane acreage to be broadly same at that of last year," said Ajit Shriram, Deputy Managing Director, DCM Shriram Consolidated Ltd, which runs four factories in the State.

weather woes

Shriram expects the cane yields to be better this year on prediction of a normal monsoon.

Last year, the extreme heat, a delayed monsoon and an extreme winter did impact the cane yields.

Though UP has seen an increase, the total cane area across the country has registered a 10 per cent decline at 42.09 lh against last year's 46.78 lh, mainly due to a lower acreage in drought-affected areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

monsoon factor

However, the timely arrivals of monsoon this year has raised the prospects for sugarcane planting and may boost the acreage in these States, sources said. Till last week, the cane acreage in Maharashtra was down 45 per cent at 5.11 lh (9.37 lh). Similarly, in Karnataka, the acreage is marginally lower at 3.27 lh (3.65 lh).

The country's sugar production of 24.6 million tonnes in 2012-13, may decline to 23.2 mt in 2013-14, on lower cane output, according to US Department of Agriculture's latest report.

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Cotton blooms on demand boost



Rajkot, June 10: Cotton price gained slowly and strongly on the back of short supply and good demand from domestic mills. According to market sources internationally, mainly in China, limited stock position may boost the export from India and it may support the price rise. Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton was traded higher by Rs 200 to Rs 39,300-39,800 a candy of 356 kg. In some places the fibre was quoted at Rs 40,000. V 797 cotton A grade was offered at Rs 27,500-28,500.

Kapas or raw cotton increased by Rs 5 to Rs 1,000-1,025 for 20 kg in Gujarat.

About 8,000 bales of 170 kg each of cotton arrived in Gujarat and 27,000-28,000 bales arrived in India.

A cotton broker said that demand from domestic mills is very strong and it may further gain this month.

Spinners were expecting that ginnerers would increase selling in coming days due to arrival of monsoon in key growing areas.

China's massive cotton stockpiles have been interpreted as bearish for prices by the US Department of Agriculture, but analysts suggest a tight supply outside the country and the unwillingness of local textile mills to buy at auction, which will push prices higher into next season.

Weak rupee heats up edible oils



Mumbai, June 10: A weak rupee pushed up prices of imported palmolein by Rs 5 on Monday. Local refineries have raised their rates for palmolein, soyabean and sunflower oils by Rs 7-10 for 10 kg each. The bullish domestic market contrasted with the bearish trend in Malaysian palm oil futures, ahead of official inventory data.

In Mumbai, tracking higher costs of imported oils, indigenous cotton and rapeseed refined oil inched up by Rs 3. Groundnut oil increased by Rs 5, but there were no active buyers. Heavy rains throughout the day kept the volumes thin. Good rain in most parts of producing States will help sowing, but the effect of cultivation will be seen only after a month or two. Currently, the edible oils market is driven by currency fluctuations, a leading broker from Mumbai said.

In Mumbai, about 150–200 tonnes of palmolein was resale traded at Rs 524-525.

Gokul is said to have sold about 250-300 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 527-528 for delivery up to June and then quoted Rs 530. Soyabean arrivals were 85,000-88,000 bags including 40,000 bags in Madhya Pradesh and its prices were Rs 3,620- 37,00 ex-mandi and Rs 3,820-3,890 for plant delivery. Mustard seed arrivals were 1.80-1.85 lakh bags and the prices were Rs 3,100-3,610.

Towards the day's close, , Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 535-538, super palmolein at Rs 567 and super deluxe at Rs 587. Ruchi was quoting palmolein at Rs 537, soyabean refined oil at Rs 668 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 768. In Rajkot, groundnut oil ruled steady at Rs 1,590 for *telia* tin and Rs 1,025 for loose (10 kg).

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's July contracts settled at MYR 2,446 (MYR 2,452), August at MYR 2,453 (MYR 2,457) and September at MYR 2,451 (MYR 2,457) a tonne.

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg): Groundnut oil 1,050 (1,045), soya refined oil 661 (661), sunflower exp. ref. 675 (675), sunflower ref. 765 (765), rapeseed ref. oil 698 (695), rapeseed expeller ref. 668 (665) cottonseed ref. oil 647 (644) and palmolein 524(519).

Vikram Global Commodities, Chennai quoted Rs 580 for Malaysian super palmolein ex-Chennai for 15 days delivery.

Pepper slips on limited activity



Kochi, June 10: The pepper market on Monday slipped on limited activities following a fall in arrivals due to rains. As a result, all running contracts on the IPSTA (India Pepper and Spice Trade Association) platform ended below Friday's closing. Ten tonnes of Rajkumari (Idukki)

pepper arrived on Monday. It was bought by leading exporters at Rs 350 a kg. Domestic buyers were covering from Karnataka at Rs 327-331 a kg delivered anywhere in India while Wayanad pepper was being sold at Rs 341-342 a kg and high range pepper at Rs 347-350 a kg. Arrivals dropped significantly due to monsoon rains in rural areas. Those dealers who do not have modern processing facilities were also not buying because of the rains, market sources told *Business Line*.

June contract fell by Rs 64 to close at Rs 35,905 a quintal. July contract fell by Rs 149 a quintal to close at Rs 35,801 and August dropped by Rs 77 a quintal to close at Rs 36,225. Total open interest moved up by 1 tonne to close at 29 tonnes. Total turnover increased by 4 tonnes to 40 tonnes. Spot prices went up by Rs 200 a quintal to close at Rs 34,000 (ungarbled) and Rs 35,500 (MG 1) a quintal on strong demand amid tight supply.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$6,300 a tonne (fob) for June shipments for Europe and about \$6,500 a tonne (fob) for the US.

Rice to rule around current levels



Karnal, June 10: The rice market may witness only need-based buying in coming days while the grain will continue to rule with marginal fluctuation, market sources said.

Sluggish demand coupled with the easy availability of stocks pulled aromatic and non-basmati rice down by between Rs 20 and Rs 100 a quintal on Monday. Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company, said that the lack of buying at all levels pulled rice down. This situation had been anticipated as bulk buyers and traders are not

showing much interest at present, he added. Market may continue to rule around current levels with marginal fluctuation in the coming days, he said.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) went further down by Rs 70 and sold at Rs 7,730 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted at Rs 7,150 , down by Rs 50. Pure basmati (raw) dropped by Rs 100 and quoted at Rs 8,800 . Duplicate basmati (steam) traded Rs 50 down and was at Rs 6,780 . In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) dropped by Rs 30 and sold at Rs 4,850-4,870 while Sharbati (Sela) went down by Rs 20 and quoted at Rs 4,480 . PR varieties went down by Rs 20-50 . Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,250 a quintal while Permal (sela) went for Rs 2,350 . PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs 3,100-3,150 while PR-11 (Raw) quoted at Rs 2,780 . PR14 (steam) sold at Rs 3,350 a quintal.

Sluggish trend may continue in soya oil



Indore, June 10: Despite a subdued buying support in the physical market and weak global cues, the rupee's steep depreciation against the dollar lifted soya oil prices on Monday to Rs 670-75 for 10 kg (Rs 665-670), while soya solvent rose to Rs 640-45 for 10 kg (Rs 631-34). If traders are to be believed, the sluggish trend in soya oil will likely to continue in coming days.

The rise in the dollar lifted soya oil futures regardless of weak global cues and CBOT projections with soya oil's June and July contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 708.90 (up Rs 6.35) and Rs 695.95 (up Rs 4.80).

Soyabean prices, on the other hand, ruled firm at Rs 3,675-Rs 3,825 a quintal, even as arrivals of soyabean in mandis across Madhya Pradesh on Monday rose to 40,000 bags. Plant deliveries in soyabean also ruled firm at Rs 3,850-Rs 3,900 a quintal (up Rs 50 from last week). In futures, however, soyabean traded hi

gher on strong buying support. On the NCDEX, soyabean's June and July contracts on Monday closed at Rs 3,790 a quintal (up Rs 25.50) and Rs 3,790 a quintal (up Rs 18.50) Soyameal continued to rule sluggish at Rs 33,000-33,200 ex-factory (Rs 32,900-33,000) on improved buying support, while on the port, it ruled at Rs 33,400 a quintal.

Positive outlook for sugar



Mumbai, June 10: Improved local demand pushed sugar prices up by Rs 10-15 for the bold-fine variety while it dropped by Rs 10 a quintal for fair quality at the Vashi wholesale market on Monday. Heavy morning showers affected trading as retail brokers and traders chose to stay away. Prices in futures market dropped by Rs 18-19 a quintal on profit booking, sources said. Currently wholesale sugar prices are ruling in thin volatility across the country.

Producers are not willing to sell at lower rates as most State Governments are yet to buy sugar from the open market for the public distribution system.

On the NCDEX, sugar July futures declined by Rs 19 to Rs 3,108, August was down by Rs 18 to Rs 3,161 and September dropped by Rs 23 to Rs 3,200.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates: S-grade Rs 3,076-3,121 (Rs 3,075-3,141) and M-grade Rs 3,192-3,331 (Rs 3,172-3,321). **Naka delivery rates were:** S-grade Rs 3,020-3,080 (Rs 3,030-3,070) and M-grade Rs 3,130-3,200 (Rs 3,100-3,200).

Stockists begin building turmeric inventory



Erode, June 10: The fall in turmeric futures was reflected in local trading at the start of the trading week on Monday. “The price of turmeric futures decreased by two per cent on Monday, which was reflected at all trading centres. In Erode, because of the decrease in turmeric futures, the price of turmeric also fell by Rs 300 to Rs 550 a quintal. Similarly, the prices decreased for other-State turmeric as well

in centres such as Nizamabad and Sangli, where it went for Rs 6,000 a quintal. The buyers in Erode procured only some quality turmeric, because of falling prices,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said that 3,000 bags of turmeric arrived for sale, but only 1,450 bags were sold. Traders purchased 650 bags of medium and fine variety turmeric, while the remaining was purchased by stockists. He said that since no trader had received fresh orders, they had purchased very little quality stock. Stockists are, however, buying in considerable quantities as they expect prices to rise in July and August.

In the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety fell by Rs 550 a quintal. Due to the arrival of medium variety hybrid turmeric, prices decreased by Rs 500 . The finger variety was sold at Rs 5,309-6,699; the root variety at Rs 5,094-5,480. Of the arrival of 370 bags , 272 were sold.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,199-6,475; the root variety Rs 4,019-5,477 .

Salem Hybrid Crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 5,411-7,069 and the root variety at Rs 5,391-6,391. Of the arrival of 762 bags, only 30 per cent of stocks was sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety quoted Rs 5,399-6,809 and the root variety Rs 5,019-5,811. Of the arrival of 479 bags, 444 found takers.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety ruled at Rs 5,810-7,112, the root variety Rs 5,319-6,238. Of the 202 bags arrived, 192 were traded.
