

## Veggies at doorsteps, that too at lower rates



The Hindu The vegetables are sold by those with visual impairments and persons with disability in apartment complexes on Sterling Road and in Teynampet and Royapettah — Photo: K. Pichumani

At a time when vegetable prices are hitting the roof, residents of apartment complexes in some areas are able to buy fresh produce at lower rates, that too, at their doorstep. Starting this month, persons with visual impairment and physical disabilities have been visiting large residential complexes with fresh produce. On alternate days, a small group of people also turn a space at a complex in Anna Nagar into a makeshift market.

This novel effort was initiated by Ahimsa charitable trust, a city-based voluntary organisation working towards improving the economic status

various sections of society, especially farmers. At present, the teams also cover apartment complexes in Sterling Road, Teynampet and Royapettah.

K. Sugantha, a resident of Anna Nagar West, is glad that the vegetables are cheaper by at least Rs.5. The cost of vegetables has escalated over the past two months. Ginger is the costliest with one kg being sold at Rs.175-Rs.200. But, the group sells it for Rs.140-150. Brinjals that otherwise cost Rs.38 are sold for Rs.25 per kg.

“I save a minimum of Rs.20 when I buy from the group. The vegetables are also fresh and I save on travel time too,” she said. Residents have suggested that the team bring more fruits and add more vegetables to their stock. The teams are able to sell vegetables at such low rates as they are procured from farmers’ clubs set up by the trust in Tiruvannamalai, Tirunelveli, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur. The trust had set up such clubs in several districts to prevent mass suicides in 1996. Nearly 5.37 lakh farmers are now part of the clubs in over 5,000 villages across the State.

E. Ayyanar, a person with visual impairment and a graduate in Tamil, said: “I have partial vision. I help with weighing vegetables and billing. I was frantically searching for a job after completing my degree when I heard about this work. I visit three or four complexes daily and finish work around 5 p.m.,” he said.

The vendors are paid a salary of Rs. 7,500 a month and their food and lodging is taken care of by the trust.

Teams comprising two persons with visual impairment start their day at 8 a.m. and spend two or three hours in each area selling the produce procured from farmers. Residents, who initially hesitated to buy vegetables, are now suggesting more additions to the list of items, said Ayyanar.

As of now, the teams are selling nearly 40 tonnes daily. The trust's managing director R. Kanagaraj said that both farmers and customers benefit from the project. "We offer farmers at least Rs.2 per kg more than what they get from the wholesale market. We also buy some vegetables that are not produced by farmers in our clubs and sell it at low prices," he said.

Several unemployed persons were roped in for the project. "We are approaching apartment complexes in north Chennai for space to expand the project," he added.

## Madhya Pradesh farmers turn seed producers to enhance income



Little better: Good quality seeds are available at the right time and place.-

Photo: Special Arrangement

Growing crops, harvesting and selling the produce lead to earning of revenue. Another way is growing crops for seeds that can be sold to government authorised seed centres.

“In fact seed production is comparatively more beneficial in terms of revenue for a farmer. From this he can get a better income since the marketing is assured,” says Dr. I.S.Tomar, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh.

### Project

Under the National Agriculture Innovation Project (NAIP) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) a project on seed production among small farmers in the region was introduced to make good quality seeds available for farming operations.

To start with, many of the farmers were not very open to the idea but following discussions with them to create awareness that seed production can ensure a better income they were prepared to try it out.

They got together and formed about four societies named Laxami Beej Utpadak Shakari Sanstha Maryadit, Golabadi, Sharda Beej Utpadak Shakari Sanstha Maryadit, Narsingrunda (Rotla) with each society comprising 22 and 21 growers as members.

Trainings on formation and management of societies, quality seed production, maintaining good standards were regularly arranged for them through the Krishi Vigya Kendra of the ICAR.

“Today the society members are able to produce good seeds, process and store them for marketing to the Government seed departments in the State. The beneficial effects of these societies on farmers’ lifestyles are clearly visible as they are getting better prices for their produce. Good quality seeds are available to others at the right time and place. With increase in profit margins the farmers in the area have become entrepreneurs in seed production and marketing,” says Dr. Tomar.

All the four societies have till date produced around 307.2 tonnes of quality seeds in the last two years in an area of 6,223 hectares from six crops.

The major crops being grown for seeds are soybean, maize, pigeonpea, black gram, wheat and gram.

The quantities of seed produced were 72.2 tonnes from soybean, 61.0 tonnes from maize, 3.0 tonnes from pigeonpea, 3.1 tonnes from black

gram, 115.7 tonnes from wheat and 52.2 tonnes from gram in a short spell of time.

In Jhabua district alone there are 21 seed societies presently functioning, out of which the above mentioned four societies are functioning with the help of experts.

“In the last two years, the four societies registered under the project have been able to generate an income of Rs. 63.87 lakhs,” says Dr. Tomar.

On an average, farmers get a profit of Rs. 33,034 per hectare annually from production and marketing of the seeds.

Better profit was observed in gram that generated an annual profit of nearly Rs.38,000 followed by wheat at Rs. 30,000, soyabean Rs. 30,000 and maize Rs. 14,000, while it was noted that profits from black gram and pigeon pea were minimal and ranged from Rs.12,000 and Rs. 10,000,”explains Dr. Tomar.

All the above mentioned crops are being cultivated only for seed production by the growers to be supplied to authorised government seed agencies.

Apart from the revenue generation another impact the societies have been able to create is improved seed varieties from the above mentioned crops in an area that gets low rainfall.

Today the farmers, apart from supplying the seeds to government seed agencies. are also supplying to to many other parts of the region.

Influenced by the success of these four societies, farmers in neighbouring villages and districts are also doing the same. Presently 21 seed societies in neighbouring Dhar district are also offering similar services to other cultivators.

### **Major problem**

Sourcing good seeds is a major problem and if demand is quite high then one needs to wait till next season to get the seeds. In fact some Agriculture Universities encourage farmers to go in for seed production as it will benefit both the grower and the seed supplying agency.

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### **Farmers continue their protest**

Demanding that the government supply soyabean seeds, farmers continued their protest on Wednesday at Zaheerabad and Kohir in Medak district.

Alleging that they were not being supplied seeds in time though the land was kept ready, the farmers staged a dharna at Zaheerabad for some time. Later, they were pacified by the police and officials. At Kohir, farmers held a dharna before the mandal office with the same demand. They alleged that officials were getting only one or two lorry loads of seeds which were not sufficient. They withdrew their agitation only after officials assured them of supplying soyabean in the next few days.

## **'Supply quality seed, fertilizers on subsidy'**

CPI district secretary G. Easwaraiah on Wednesday demanded that the government initiate steps to supply quality seed and fertilizers on subsidy to farmers as the kharif season commenced.

Though fertilizer prices came down, the dealers were selling them at the old prices and looting farmers, he alleged in a press conference here. Farmers were resorting to crop loans where bankers charged interest despite the government claims of sanctioning interest-free loans, he alleged. The land data of farmers were not updated online in the last two years and the online data was haphazard. Bhoobharathi VAOs were fleecing farmers seeking correction of the data, he alleged.

While the government announced that adangal copies could be taken in MeeSeva centres by paying Rs. 10, they were charging about Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 for each survey number, Mr. Easwaraiah alleged.

## **Tension in Srinivaspur after farmers stage protest**

An agitation by mango growers against the alleged failure of the authorities concerned to implement various directions of the High Court of Karnataka, including adopting e-tendering, created tension at the Agricultural Produce Marketing (APMC) yard in Srinivaspur on Wednesday.

Mango growers who gathered at the APMC yard tried to prevent vehicles carrying mangoes from entering the yard prompting the police to intervene and bring the situation under control.



Some traders tried to break the unity among the growers by transporting mangoes to the market, the agitators alleged.

The Srinivaspur Taluk Mango Growers' Struggle Committee, led by Karnataka Pranta Raitha Sangha, and the Taluk Mango Growers' Union had given a call for the protest to condemn the failure of the APMC authorities to implement the court directives intended to prevent the exploitation of farmers and to bring in transparency in the trade. The e-tendering process was not launched despite an announcement by the body. It was to be launched on June 1. However, the process failed to take off on that day owing to lack of arrival of mangoes due to rain. Even after that there was no e-tendering process.

According to APMC secretary M. Krishnan, the management was finding it difficult to implement the directives.

### **'Contempt of court'**

Even as the farmers were agitating outside, the APMC authorities held a meeting to discuss the issue. Later, APMC president Rame Gowda and Mr. Krishnan announced that the demands of the farmers will be fulfilled.

Shivaprakash, who represented the mango farmers in the High Court in the public interest litigation (PIL) petition, participated in the meeting.

Addressing the agitators, Mr. Shivaprakash said a contempt of court petition could be filed if the APMC failed to implement the court order. Mango Growers' Struggle Committee convener P.R. Sooryanarayan

told *The Hindu* that the agitation will be intensified if the APMC failed to comply with the court directives.

### **Incentive of Rs. 1,000 a quintal for copra**

*With this, the copra farmers would get a total support of Rs. 6,500 a quintal*

Following the drop in prices of copra, the State government has decided to provide an incentive of Rs. 1,000 a quintal, besides commencing market intervention to procure the produce directly from farmers. A decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee on Wednesday. This would be in addition to the minimum support price of Rs. 5,500 being given by the Centre. — Special Correspondent

### **Hand over kaval land to farmers: kisan sabha**

Members of the Akhil Bharat Kisan Sabha and farmers on Tuesday took out a procession and staged a dharna outside the Deputy Commissioner's office here demanding that kaval land provided to various organisations, including the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in Kudapur, Varavu and Ullarthi in Chalakere taluk of the district be taken back.

They said that earlier residents of Kudapur, Varavu and Ullarthi had decided to boycott the May 5 Assembly elections in order to press their demand. However, the district administration intervened by promising that the issue would be taken up immediately after the elections. As nothing had

happened even a month after the elections, the officials should hand over the kaval land to farmers, they said.

A total of 4,290 acres of land had been provided to the DRDO in Varavu and Kudapur, 1,500 acres to the Indian Institute of Science and 573 acres to the ISRO in Kudapur, 1,810 acres to the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board in Ullarthi and 1,250 acres to a solar plant in Kudapur.

“As these organisations have constructed compound walls around the area allotted to them, farmers are finding it difficult to find fodder for their cattle,” they said. Moreover, security guards were not allowing farmers to collect fodder. Therefore, the officials should intervene and take steps to retrieve the land provided to these organisations and hand them over to farmers.

After receiving a memorandum submitted by the members of the sabha, Assistant Commissioner M.N. Nagaraj said that the district administration could not do anything as the issue was pending in court.

### **Sheila meets farmers, assures quick resolution of demands**

A large number of farmers from rural Delhi met Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit at her residence on Wednesday and submitted a memorandum of demands for ameliorating the sufferings of people residing in villages and adjoining areas.

The delegation, which was led by Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary Naresh Kumar, comprised former Delhi Speaker Prem Singh and former MLA Sheesh Pal among others. It demanded repealing of three sections of the Delhi Land Reforms Act-1954 to ensure that the land

of the villagers was not vested in the Gram Sabha unnecessarily. It also sought that land acquired in excess to the needs was returned to them, and opening of the scheme for regularisation of extended *lal dora* (ELD) in more Delhi villages.

The Chief Minister assured the delegation that she would look into the demands and hold a meeting this Tuesday for the same. She assured them on regularising all the ELD areas. She said a Cabinet meeting had been called on Friday to discuss the repealing of Sections 33, 81 and 86A of the Delhi Land Reforms Act.

### **Students unveil sprayer that runs on solar energy**



Final year students of Electrical and Electronics Engineering department at the PDA College of Engineering here have come out with a cost-effective and time saving multi-utility sprayer that operates on solar energy.

Varikuti Vasantha Rao, Sharanakumar Mathpati, Uma Kariyannavar and Veena Rani, under the guidance of Basavaraj Amarapur, assembled a back-mounted sprayer that can be continuously operated for nearly four hours after being charged for six hours. The solar panel mounted on top of

the tank carried by the person on the field would continue to be charged during the operation also.

Varikuti Vasantha Rao, explaining the working of the sprayer, told presspersons here on Wednesday that the sprayer, including the solar panels, can be assembled at less than Rs. 6,000, which is a one-time investment and would benefit farmers, who could avoid expenditure on fuel. The sprayer can be used for spraying pesticides, fungicides and fertilizer.

He said farmers could easily spray pesticide or fertilizer in more than six acres of land in a day.

Mr. Rao said it could be used for painting as well. A fully charged sprayer could spray up to 575 litres at a time. Another added advantage of the sprayer was that it could also be operated on battery during rain and cloudy days.

Mr. Rao said the sprayer was a modified model of the two-stroke petrol engine powered sprayer which was being used by farmers. The students had replaced the two-stroke petrol engine with a single DC motor, which can be operated by electrical energy stored in the battery attached to the unit.

Head of the Electrical and Electronics Department P.K. Kulkarni and principal of the college S.S. Hebbal have congratulated the students.

## Farmers happy with success of cassava bio-pesticide



A tiny black bug had caused much grief to banana farmers in the State but a successful trial has kindled hope that cultivation can be carried out without fear of pests or of the cost or side-effects of hazardous chemical pesticides.

Named 'Nanma' by researchers at the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI), this substance has proved to be effective. Testifying to its worth are the farmers near Pallichal, who agreed to its application.

K. Shibu, a farmer, said the result of the bio-pesticide had come as a welcome relief.

At his plantation, a tract of land had been labelled as a demonstration plot for the management of the banana pseudo-stem weevil using cassava bio-pesticide.

The careful application of the trial was evident with each row treated with different concentrations and as 'controls' to ascertain the qualities of the substance through comparison.

"This was a 100 per cent effective, as there are no casualties and even the yield is higher by a couple of kilos per tree. Because of how damaging the weevil is, we were forced to hunt for pesticides. All that was available were not effective and had harmful side-effects as well," said Shibu. Itchiness of the skin and stinging pain in the eyes were to be expected after a brief application of those chemicals, he added.

Another farmer from the neighbouring plot, Selvarajan supported Shibu's claims and even described the trees as more healthy-looking and even greener. "It is a bio-pesticide intended to preserve the tree from slow death by the pests but they seem to have a clear impact on the yield of fruit and even nature of the leaves," he said.

Principal Scientist (Entomology) CTCRI C.A. Jayaprakas said they would be studying whether the substance had an effect on the chlorophyll production as well.

Moreover, while CTCRI prescribed the substance solely to be used against the pseudostem weevil, farmers experimented on their own and found that it could be used against other pests as well.

Nine farmers, affiliated to a collective based in Pallichal called Sanghamyathi Farmers Producer Company Ltd took part in the project. An

incentive of around Rs.20 per tree was offered to encourage them to take part in the project.

Balachandran Nair, chairman of the collective, said a bit of a coaxing was needed for they were hesitant to sacrifice the little yield they get in case the trial was not successful.

He also said he was very grateful to CTCRI for their intervention in areas that desperately needed amendment.

CTCRI, the farmer's collective, and a non-governmental group called Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA), will be conducting a harvest festival on June 14 to celebrate the unprecedented success of the trial, carried out under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana project.

Rich harvests are expected in the three districts where the trial was held including Kasaragod and Malappuram as well. Thiruvananthapuram is the first to show off the pesticide's success.

### **Wayanad farmers take to precision farming**

A group of farmers in Wayanad are planning a giant leap through high-tech precision farming methods.

Nearly 80 of them have entered into a venture to set up naturally ventilated polyhouse units with financial assistance from the State Horticulture Mission. A polyhouse is a tunnel-like structure, made of ultraviolet-stabilised polyethylene, used in precision farming.



V.S. Roy, Principal Agriculture Officer, launched the project at the district level in Sulthan Bathery on Tuesday.

“We will have 80 polyhouses in the district under schemes such as the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, a vegetable development scheme of the State government, the Wayanad Package and the State Horticulture Mission, of which 35 are ready and work on 45 is under way,” Alex C. Mathew, Deputy Director, Horticulture Mission, Wayanad, said.

Mr. Mathew said the expected cost of construction was Rs. 935 a sq.m. The Horticulture Mission would provide 75 per cent financial assistance for schemes under it and 50 per cent for other projects.

He said precision farming helped grow any crops in any season. High productivity, minimum water requirement, a longer shelf life for produce and low pest attacks were its added advantages.

“We are planning to put up a procurement-cum-auction centre in each block panchayat with the support of Horticornp for marketing the vegetables and fruits to be produced in the polyhouses,” he said.

### **A warm desi touch to poultry industry**

*Beneficiaries are being given 50 per cent subsidy*

As breeding of desi chickens (native chickens or naattu kozhi) brought fortunes to farmers, the Animal Husbandry Department has decided to offer them to the members of Pudhu Vaazvu Project this year apart from popularising broiler chicken farming in the district.

In a first in the southern districts, the department launched Poultry Venture Development, on a pilot basis, in Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram districts last year, by introducing breeding of desi chickens among select beneficiaries with 50 per cent subsidy. It was a big success.

As the beneficiaries grabbed the opportunity as a means of generating income, the department has decided to take the scheme to the members of the Pudhu Vaazhvu Project, an empowerment and poverty reduction initiative of the State Government, S. Balakrishnan, Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, Sivaganga, said.

“This year, 35 Pudhu Vaazhvu Project members will be selected and they will be given 25 per cent open and another 25 per cent back-ended subsidy. Breeding of broiler chickens will be introduced in 240 units, each with 5,000 birds,” he told *The Hindu* during a visit to a poultry farm at Andoorani near Kalayarkoil.

Many beneficiaries saw the scheme attractive as the department arranged a bank loan of Rs.91,500 for breeding desi chickens with an open subsidy of Rs.22,937. They were given another 25 per cent (33 per cent for SC/STs) back-ended subsidy when they closed the bank loan.

Mr.Balakrishnan said the beneficiaries spend about Rs.100 to keep each bird for 12 weeks when they gained 1 to 1.5 kg of weight. Then they sold the birds for Rs.160 to Rs.180 a kg. The beneficiaries were given 250 chicks each in the first and the second batches, he added.

As the department provided free vaccination and health coverage to reduce mortality rate, the beneficiaries could earn a profit of about Rs.10,000 per batch. Marketing was not a problem as the demand for native chickens was always good. People also buy desi chickens for religious festivals, he added.

“I sold all the 250 birds to devotees during the Muthumariamman Temple festival for sacrifice and earned a profit of Rs.12,000,” says V.Mani (52), a farmer, who is breeding the second batch of birds at his farm at Usilamkanmoi, near Kalayarkoil.

He got the first batch of chicks in January and sold them after three months. He got another 500 chicks in April, and is now planning to expand the shed for more chicks. “It’s very profitable as long as the department provided the health cover,” he says.

For K. Vasumathi of Andoorani too, the scheme was an income generating proposition. She has also sold the first batch of 250 birds and made a profit of Rs.10,000. Mani and Vasumathi — both belong to the Scheduled Caste — would get a back-ended subsidy of 33 per cent of the loan amount while closing the NABARD loan.

Mr. Balakrishnan said the department would also promote breeding of broiler chickens by selecting 240 beneficiaries on the same subsidy model this year. The project cost would be Rs.1.4 lakh as each beneficiary would be supplied with 5,000 chicks. The beneficiaries should put up a 5000 sq ft shed, he noted.

Broiler chicks grew fast and would be ready for sale in 8 to 9 weeks. The beneficiaries, integrator, who supply the chicks and the bank would enter into a tripartite agreement to make the scheme a success, he added.

### **Water woes: plea to rejig irrigation planning**

As the south-west monsoon has been repeatedly belying the expectations of the farmers, the prospects of raising kuruvai and samba crops in the tail-end delta region could be safeguarded only by re-jigging the irrigation planning structure, said P. Ravindhiran, president, Federation of Cuddalore District Uzahvar Manrams.

The farmers in the tail-end delta region of Kattumannakoil and Chidambaram blocks were a depressed lot as for the past nine years they could not raise kuruvai crop to the full extent, owing to the failure of or the scanty south west monsoon and the resultant poor storage in the Mettur reservoir.

The paucity of water had brought down the area under kuruvai from about 45,000 acres to 16,000 acres. The spill over effect would be felt in the succeeding samba season too because the farmers would be facing shortage of paddy seeds.

“With the customary water release from the Mettur Dam on June 12 becoming a remote possibility, only those farmers who are having the ground water potential dare to raise kuruvai crop,” he said.

However, uncertain power supply that may not last more than three hours a day was also acting as a deterrent even to the handful of farmers not to venture into kuruvai cultivation.

Mr. Ravindhiran said that earlier the paddy seeds were sourced as follows: 17 per cent from the agriculture department, 30 per cent from traders and the remaining 53 per cent from the farmers.

But ever since the advent of harvest machinery to overcome the manpower shortage, the farmers had ceased to stock seeds. Therefore, the short supply in seeds was gravely affecting samba cultivation. Hence, there was great erosion in the earning capacity of the farming community.

### **Water management**

Such a deleterious impact on the farmers could be either minimized or neutralized by reverting to the time-tested irrigation planning structure, he emphasised. Two decades ago, the water managers ensured that the tail-end farmers got the irrigation water through canal first. After fulfilling their requirements, the supply would be made in stages and in that order the farmers at the head point would be getting their turn last.

Such water management system was in vogue till 1990 and it ensured equitable distribution and prevented wastage. Mr. Ravindhiran also noted that in between the samba and kuruvai season, the farmers should be motivated to raise sesame or pulses to derive some solace and earn a modicum of income.

*Farmers in tail-end delta region had not raised kuruvai for nine years*

## Farmers get a good catch of shrimp

While farmers who have revived traditional paddy-cum-shrimp cultivation in the tidal marshes of the Kattampally river basin here are upbeat about a good catch of shrimps now and planting paddy, the high soil acidity of the fields left fallow for decades is a cause of concern.

The traditional brackish-water paddy cultivation in the tidal marshes — locally known as 'kaipad' fields — on the banks of the Kattampally river here had been revived following a 2009 report of an expert panel appointed by the government. The kaipad paddy farmers had abandoned cultivation after their fields were rendered uncultivable following the blocking of tidal action after the commissioning of the Kattampally irrigation project. The kaipad farmers, who are now busy catching shrimp grown in their fields under the paddy-cum-shrimp scheme, say that they are expecting good paddy harvest in the coming season.

P. Kunhimamu who is cultivating paddy in 50 acres of the marshes at Kadankode here, says that the shrimp catch this season is more than expected. The paddy cultivation revived since 2009, however, is not satisfactory. In the last season, the yield was one tonne of rice per acre, he said, adding that earlier it used to be 1.5 tonne per acre.

The soil acidity in the kaipad area is said to be the reason for the low yield of paddy in some kaipad areas of Kattampally. The pH (soil acidity rate) now is around 4, which is extreme. According to farmers involved in paddy-cum-shrimp cultivation sponsored by the Fisheries Department through the Agency for Aquaculture Development, Kerala (ADAK), the pH should be

around 6 for a good harvest. P. Abdul Razak, a kaipad farmer and president of Haritha Karshaka Samithi which, in association with another farmers' group, is cultivating shrimp and paddy at Noongeri in the Kolachery panchayat, says that lime and dolomite had been used to tide over the problem of acidity. An official of ADAK said soil acidity was caused by the blocking of tidal action in the marshes for decades. The opening of the shutters of the irrigation project barrage throughout the year was the only long-term solution for the problem, he said.

### **New garlic variety for North Indian areas**

The National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) in Nasik, Maharashtra has developed a new garlic variety named Yamuna Safed-5 suitable for growing in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

The bulbs are white and big in size — about 4.5-5.0 cm in diameter. The crop matures in 150-160 days after planting and shelf life is good. Average yield is about 17-18 tonnes from a hectare.

### **Four methods**

Four methods can be used for planting i.e. dibbling, furrow, broad casting and seed drill. The crop can be planted from August to November in

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and from September to November in other parts of North India.

In Gujarat planting is done during October to November. In hilly regions the correct season for planting is during March-April. In West Bengal and Orissa, October-November is the right time for planting.

About 500-700 kg of cloves are required for a hectare and planted at 10 x 7.5 cm spacing. Care should be taken to select big cloves. It has been recommended to apply 50 tonnes of farm yard manure for a hectare during field preparation and to mix well with the soil. About 100 :50:50 NAP is recommended as fertilizer.

Complete dose of phosphorus, potash and half of nitrogen may be applied before planting.

Another half dose of nitrogen may be applied after a month of planting.

### **Irrigation**

The crop needs to be irrigated at an interval of 8-10 days during active growth and 10-15 days before harvest. It is considered ready for harvesting when the top turns yellow or brown in colour and shows signs of drying up.



Bulbs are taken out along with the tops and windrowed for curing about 15-20 days under field condition. After curing, the necks are cut by leaving 2.5-3.0 cm from bulbs and sent to the market after proper sorting and grading for sale. It can be stored in bundles along with foliage in well ventilated godowns.

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### **13 women SHGs sanctioned loan**

The Kurumbalur Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society sanctioned Rs. 38.10 lakh as direct loan assistance to 13 women self-help groups. The cheques were distributed to women SHGs by V. Selvaraj, president of society, at a function held on the society premises at Kurumbalur on Tuesday.

While Rs. 5 lakh each was sanctioned to the TANUVA (Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture) Pannai SHG and TANUVA Roja SHG, both of Palaiyam village, Rs. 3.30 lakh to Sakthi SHG of Melapuliyur and 10 other SHGs.

K. Rajendran, secretary of society, and Sellathambi, its vice-president, were present.

## **Subsidised rice at more centres**

The State government's subsidised rice scheme under which people can buy rice at Rs. 20 per kilogram is now available at seven centres in the district. At the time of its launch on April 17, the scheme was introduced at two centres. The scheme is being implemented at Amaravathy Cooperative Stores at 80 Feet Road, Karur; Amaravathy Store, Puliuir Cement Factory quarters; District Consumers Cooperative Wholesale Store, Vengamedu; Agricultural Producers Cooperative Sales Depot, Jawahar Bazar in Karur taluk; and Kulithalai Agricultural Cooperative Depot at Cauvery Nagar, Taragampatti, and at Aravakurichi.

## **300 tribal families to get an acre each**

*700 tribal people to get forest-watcher jobs*

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy told the Assembly on Wednesday that an acre of land each would be given to around 300 landless tribal families in Attappady.

The Chief Minister was replying to a debate on the demands for grants for Heads of States, Ministers and Headquarters Staff, Administration of Justice and Forests.

Mr. Chandy said that some families in Attappady were not in possession of land as their ancestral properties were not partitioned. The government would take steps to survey the land and provide them with ownership documents.

He did not say anything about the alienated lands of the tribal people which were raised by the members.

The Chief Minister said that initiatives for various infrastructure projects were progressing. There was progress in respect of the proposed railway coach factory in Palakkad also. The project was proposed to be taken up as a joint venture of the railways and the Steel Authority of India.

Mr. Chandy said that an all-party meeting would be convened shortly to arrive at a consensus on acquisition of land for the proposed GAIL pipeline project in the State. Concerted efforts would be made to achieve progress in solid waste management projects and the Idukki and Kuttanad packages.

He said the Education, Agriculture, and Forest Departments would promote social forestry and vegetable cultivation among students from the fifth standard. Those showing results in the students' agriculture and forestry programme would be given grace marks for SSLC examinations.

He said that about 700 tribal people would be appointed as forest watchers. All of them except 91 former watchers of Attappady Hill Area Development Project would be appointed through Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC).

He said the government had put up a Rs.560-crore integrated watershed programme in forests for external funding.

Refuting allegations about corruption in allotment of higher secondary schools, the Chief Minister said that the schools were proposed to be

sanctioned in 148 panchayats without a higher secondary. Higher secondary would be sanctioned to private managements only in panchayats where there were no government high schools for upgradation.

Mr. Chandy said the government was firm that the Halcyon Palace and eight acres of appurtenant land belonged to the government.

He said the police had acted swiftly in a case of swindling, involving members of his personal staff. "None is above law," he said.

After the Chief Minister's reply, the House passed the demands for grants totalling Rs.867 crore for 71 votes against 67.

### **Mango, jackfruit mela**

A mango and jackfruit mela organised by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, University of Agricultural Sciences, Zonal Agricultural Research Station V.C. Farm and the Horticulture Department witnessed lukewarm response here on Wednesday. Just two growers set up stalls. According to sources at the Horticulture Department, it was decided to organise the mela only two days ago. "Though KVK and V.C. Farm officials have direct contact with fruit growers, the organisers requested us to organise the mela only on Tuesday," an officer said. — Staff Correspondent

### **RDC stresses timely distribution of fertilizers to farmers**

With the onset of monsoon, the central Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) Dr. Arvind Padhee, IAS, on Wednesday, stressed proper and

adequate distribution of fertilizers to farmers for the forthcoming kharif season.

While addressing the collectors of all ten districts coming under the central division during a workshop on National e-governance programme (NEGP) here Padhee, himself an agricultural expert, asked the collectors to ensure that the farmers get the requisite fertilizers on time for a bumper crop this season in view of a favourable monsoon this year.

Padhee specifically asked the collectors to personally ensure that all agricultural officers of their respective districts are in touch with various fertilizer distribution agencies and see that they are equipped with sufficient stock for meeting any demand of farmers.

Attending the workshop, the State Director of Agriculture S. Gopalan submitted a status report of fertilizer stock of the entire district vis-à-vis with that of the districts coming under the central division. He assured that whatever shortcomings have been noticed during these periods will be addressed on priority basis.

Padhee, also being the chief administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration, also called upon the Collectors to expedite the process of identifying the land of Lord Jagannath temple in their respective districts and make a database of who were in possession of the lands.

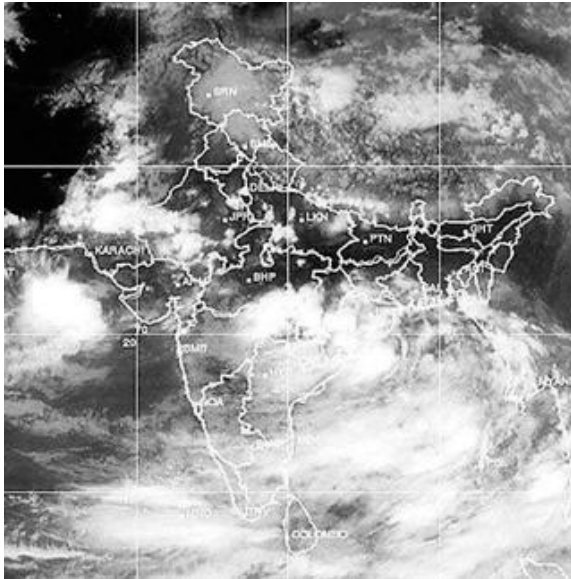
He said according to the unique uniform policy adopted by the State Government in 2003, the Jagannath temple lands in possession of genuine occupants shall be regularised in their names and all the lands in illegal

possession shall be brought back to the records of Lord Jagannath Temple which will be auctioned in due course. Padhee also informed in the meeting that more than 26,000 acres of such illegal lands across the State have now been identified and have been brought back to the records of Lord Jagannath Temple.

### **PG admissions to college of agriculture notified**

The Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute has notified admissions to Post Graduate programmes for the upcoming academic year 2013-14. The Government of Puducherry Institution and affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, is offering Masters programmes in Agricultural Economics, Agronomy, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry and Horticulture (Vegetable Science). The number of seats for each programme is five, and out of those, four seats are reserved for students from the UT of Puducherry and one for students from other states. Applications may be downloaded from [www.pajancoa.ac.in](http://www.pajancoa.ac.in). The last date for receipt of applications is July 7, 2013, 5 p.m. Call 04368-261473, 261372, and 261288 for details.

## weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on June 12th.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	33	28	0	1
New Delhi (Sfd)	33	27	0	15
Chandigarh	33	26	5	15
Hissar	38	30	0	0
Bhantar	31	20	10	41
Shimla	25	17	17	53
Jammu	41	25	5	13
Srinagar	33	20	1	15
Amritsar	43	24	51	51
Patiala	33	25	7	7
Jaipur	32	24	26	52
Udaipur	34	25	0	21

Allahabad	38	28	1	23
Lucknow	33	23	5	56
Varanasi	39	29	0	1
Dehradun	27	23	1	72
Agartala	35	26	0	46
Ahmedabad	35	26	tr	17
Bangalore	28	20	1	122
Bhubaneswar	35	24	7	35
Bhopal	29	24	tr	46
Chennai	39	25	4	123
Guwahati	38	27	0	69
Hyderabad	31	23	12	149
Kolkata	33	27	1	28
Mumbai	33	26	5	319
Nagpur	35	24	26	32
Patna	37	30	0	29
Pune	30	23	1	98
Thiruvananthapuram	30	23	37	138
Imphal	31	19	0	27
Shillong	28	13	0	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

**RAINFALL:** Rain/thundershowers have occurred at most places over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, at many places over east Rajasthan,



at few places over Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and at isolated places over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm are: (3 cm and above) HIMACHAL PRADESH: Jogindernagar 11, Baijnath 8, Arki 7, Kangra 6, Palampur 5, Dehragopipur and Kandaghat 4 each and Kheri, Solan and Una 3 each, EAST RAJASTHAN: Chothkabarwara 9, Arai, Kisangarh and Phagi 8 each, Srinagar 7, Ajmer and Nasribad 6 each, Jawaja, Shahabad and Jaipur tehsil 5 each and Jaipur and Swai Madhopur 3 each, WEST RAJASTHAN: Makrana 8 and Pungal 4, EAST UTTAR PRADESH: Banda 4 and Muhammadi, Bisawan, Shahabad, Karwi, Nawabganj and Hardoi 3 each, WEST UTTAR PRADESH: Jasrana, Baheri, Jalalabad, Shahjahanpur and Sarsawa 3 each and UTTARAKHAND: Chamoli 7 and Haldwani 3.

**MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES:** The maximum temperatures fell largely in Haryana, fell markedly in east Rajasthan, west Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, fell appreciably in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and east Uttar Pradesh and changed little elsewhere. They were appreciably above normal in Jammu and Kashmir, largely below normal in west Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, markedly below normal in Haryana, appreciably below normal in east Rajasthan and east Uttar Pradesh, below normal in Himachal Pradesh and normal in rest of the region. The highest maximum temperature in the region was 43.0°C recorded at Sriganganagar (Rajasthan).

#### **FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 14th June**

**2013:** Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Punjab, Haryana and Uttarakhand during next 24 hours and increase thereafter.

Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

**FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 14th June 2013:** Partly cloudy sky with possibility of light rain/thunder development in some areas.



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Food bill a conspiracy to impoverish farmers: Samajwadi Party

Samajwadi Party slammed the food security bill as a conspiracy to impoverish the farmers, vowing to oppose it in Parliament and breaking ranks with ally Congress that is likely to pass an ordinance in the Cabinet on Thursday to present it as fait accompli.

SP general secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Naresh Aggarwal said, "The bill would enshrine the fact that 67% of India is poor. It means Congress and BJP, who ruled India for 67 years, have made 67% population poor. What bright legacy do they claim then?" The proposed food law seeks to provide subsidized ration to 67% population.

Leaving no doubt about its opposition, party spokesman Rajesh Dixit said, "The bill is anti-farmer, it seems a design to finish off the poor rather than finishing off poverty. It will badly hit agriculture. We will oppose the bill in parliament."

The growing decibel in the Samajwadi camp against food law on the eve of its promulgation by an ordinance lays ground for confrontation in Parliament.

The stance has confounded the ruling party as it goes against the belief that the political parties would be reluctant to oppose the food bill for fear of

inviting the wrath of the poor who would benefit from it. Significantly, SP's hostility comes in the election year while its borough of Uttar Pradesh has a large base of beneficiaries of the food bill.

The party has vowed to oppose the bill even if BJP and Congress join hands in Parliament, saying there was no fear of it resulting in political costs.

"The ration is to be distributed through the leakage-prone PDS and subsidized grains would find their way to black market. With cheap grains available, farmers would not get the support price they receive presently," Aggarwal argued.

However, Congress is unperturbed by the Samajwadi opposition to the food bill, confident that SP would not withdraw support to government on such a populist measure and would stop at underlining its perceived dangers.

Congress feels that opposition's arguments about food law proving catastrophic for farmers were merely a cloak for denying the ruling party a major populist achievement ahead of elections. However, it feels BJP would not be in a position to actually oppose it if it is tabled in Parliament as a fait accompli in the form of an ordinance.

Jasmines aplenty, but growers unhappy

The good rainfall that the district has been witnessing of late has started yielding bumper crop for jasmine growers of Shankarpura. But due to abundant supply of this fragrant jasmine in the market and wedding season coming to an end, the farmers are not exactly laughing their way to the bank yet. Last week the price per atte (a measure) was Rs 110 on Thursday, Rs 130 on Friday and Rs 170 on Saturday. This week the price per atte was Rs 130 on Sunday and Rs 150 on Monday.

During May, the price per atte had touched Rs 420 due to wedding ceremonies and other auspicious functions after the end of 'Moudya' period, considered inauspicious for weddings. Though the crop is abundant due to rain, farmers fear that if the rains continue at the same rate, jasmine plants could well be affected by disease caused by insects.

Market experts believe that the price of jasmine will continue to prevail at the current rate, that is, in the range of Rs 130 to 170 per atte. During last season, jasmine price was good as flower traders from Kerala had purchased jasmine from Udipi market. But this year, there is less demand from Mumbai and Kerala.

There are 12,000 families engaged in jasmine cultivation in the district and of those about 300 families are cultivating jasmine in Shankarpura region. Raghavendra Nayak, a progressive farmer from Shirva who has been growing jasmine for the past 15 years along with vegetables, told TOI that though the price for jasmine fluctuates, it has provided supplementary income for many families, who otherwise had to engage in beedi-rolling job.

Now these families are earning additional income from cultivating jasmine, he said.

Udupi Mallige Belegarara Sangha president Ramakrishna Sharma Bantakallu told TOI that the price of jasmine will shoot up every year during festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi, and Navarathri. "Jasmine price is expected to reach up to Rs 800 per atte and not everything is lost for these farmers as yet," he says.

Rains threaten to destroy fodder lying in the open. Fodder meant for distribution at subsidised rates to farmers during scarcity is lying in the open at Godhra even when monsoon is around the corner after it was unloaded carelessly at the place. The bales have been left in the open even when the forest department that stores the dried fodder has sufficient space for it.

The 85,000kg was brought to Godhra from Vyara at the insistence of Vyara division of forest department. The division does not have sufficient space to keep the fodder and hence requested their Panchmahal counterparts to provide space for the same. But the fodder is now lying in the open at Koliyari godowns of the forest department located opposite the Panchmahal Dairy. The forest department has another facility to store the grass at Signal Falia and there is sufficient space to keep the fodder there.

Officials in the forest department said the fodder was transported to Godhra by a contractor who left it in the open. "According to the contract, the fodder was to be unloaded and stacked by the contractor appointed by Vyara

division. But the contractor did not do so and left the fodder in the open in the night when he brought it here recently," Panchmahal district forest officer N D Patel said.

Patel said the fodder will now be transported to godowns by roping in labours. He added that Vyara division will be asked to pay for the expenses involved in transportation.

Patel said with the recent rains, there was no threat of scarcity and fodder shortage. "We can store the fodder for around seven years and it can be used at any time in the future," he added.

Costly greenback makes even dal and supari dearer

Rupee falling against the US dollar has impacted domestic prices of a whole lot of commodities that otherwise may not appear even remotely linked with foreign exchange dynamics. From pulses like tur dal that make the staple of the average Indian to camphor used in religious rituals are likely to get dearer if fall of the rupee against the greenback is not arrested. Although the rupee recovered by 60 paise from its all time low of Rs 57.79 against the dollar, traders say it needs to rise much more.

The local markets depend on imports for several commodities. Almost 30-35 lakh tonnes of tur dal out of over 2 lakh tonnes consumed in the country is imported from Myanmar. Trade sources say if the rupee does not recover to original levels there are all the chance of tur going up by at least Rs 400 rupees a quintal.

"Thankfully, the impact would not be seen in the coming week or so because the low demand in general has pulled the tur dal prices from Rs 6,800-7,000 to Rs 6,800-6500 per quintal. But the rates may rise if the rupee remains weak," said secretary of The Itwari Grain and Seeds Merchants Association Pratap Motwani. Palm oil rates have gone up by 10% but traders say there are enough stocks to prevent fresh imports soon.

Supari betel-nut, an item popular to addictive levels in the country, too has got dearer by a Rs 2-3 a kg in the wholesale market. Again, a sizable quantity of betel-nuts, which goes into making gutkha, is imported from countries like Indonesia and its neighbours. The hike has not been passed on so far but it would be if the rupee remains weak and new contracts are booked at a higher rate, said Nilesh Suchak, former president of Nag Vidarbha Chamber of Commerce (NVCC) and a betel-nut trader. Even prices camphor, which is imported from China to bridge shortfall in domestic production, have gone by Rs 4 a kg. Its impact is yet to be seen at retail counters.

Gold, which had seen a steep fall and remains bearish in the international market, is recovering at home. Designated against the dollar, it gets dearer in India if the rupee falls. Gold is back to over Rs 27,950 a tola (10 gms) after touching Rs 26,000 in April. Had the rupee not fallen, it would have been in the range of Rs 25,500, said a trader.

**PAYING DEARLY**



Commodity Base Price Likely hike

Pulses Rs 6500-6800 a quintalRs 500

Betel-nutRs 90-110 a kg Rs 2-3

CamphorRs 80 to 90 a kgRs 3-4

TimberRs 600-2000 per cubic foot10%

Crude Palm OilRs 485 per 10 kgs10%

Gold Rs 28,000 per 10 gms(already up by Rs 200)

Nabard plans over Rs 5K crore aid to state

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has plans to extend a financial aid of more than Rs 5,000 crore to Chhattisgarh for various development initiatives in agriculture and rural development during the current financial year.

Nabard chief general manager S K Bansal and other senior officials called on chief minister Raman Singh to apprise him about developmental initiatives for agriculture and rural development especially rural infrastructure, crop loan and support to MARKFED during 2012-13 and the bank's strategy for 2013-14. Bansal emphasised the need of upgrading the infrastructure and suggested further RIDF support for new areas. tnn

### **Surat farmers get platform to bargain for a 'fair' price**

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Chief Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday inaugurated an air-conditioned mall that will sell agriculture produce in Surat. Modi felt this "unique" initiative of Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) was worthy of emulation by other states.

"The Agro Mall in Surat made by APMC directors is unique in the country and I request the farmers of other districts and states to follow it. The Agro Mall is a place where the farmers directly sell their products to the customers without interference of any brokers. The customers will get fresh and good quality of vegetables and fruits at cheaper price and even the

farmers will get good price as per the grade of their products," Modi said during an event held in this regard.

"I have also given certain instructions to the APMC director Raman Patel to go ahead for virtual mall and plan to deliver the goods at customers' doorstep, by taking it online booking as well as through phone. Seeing the population of Surat, we believe that over 35,000 youths will get job and even the customers will get fresh vegetables and fruits at their door steps," he added.

During the event, Modi also reiterated his appeal to the farmers to contribute iron to build the Statue of Unity in memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Hitting out at the Centre for failing to control inflation, Modi said, "The Delhi government does not think about rise of inflation in the country. Two and half years ago, Prime Minister had requested all the states to give suggestions on how to eradicate inflation in the country. We have also submitted report of 64 points and opinions in which action could be taken. But till now, nothing has been done. Now, I think that Delhi government will have to form a committee to search for my report, as it would be lying somewhere in the offices."

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# hindustantimes

weather

Chennai - INDIA

## Today's Weather



Cloudy

Thursday, Jun 13

Max Min

38° | 28°

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 05:41

Humidity: 44

Sunset: 06:34

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1001

## Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Friday, Jun 14

Max Min

37° | 26°

## Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday

Jun 15



37° | 27°

Cloudy

Sunday Monday Tuesday

y

y

ay

Wednesday

Jun

Jun

Jun

Jun 19

16

17

18



34° | 27°

36° | 27°

37° | 27°

35° | 27°

Overcast

Overcast

Overcast

Overcast

## Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Jun 15	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18
			
37°   27°	34°   27°	36°   27°	37°   27°
Cloudy	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast

## Airport Weather

Rain: 0      Sunrise: 05:41

Humidity: 44      Sunset: 06:34

Wind: normal      Barometer: 1001

## Farmers meet CM dikshit

A delegation of farmers, under the leadership of Naresh Kumar, the general secretary of Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, met Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit and handed her a memorandum about their problems. - See more at: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Farmers-meet--CM-dikshit/Article1-1075392.aspx#sthash.Z05AUKme.dpuf>

Buffalo meat may help India remain top beef exporter this year too

**Tempered growth**  
**Rising cattle, calf production and beef exports**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Cattle</b>	3.16	3.20	3.23	3.27
<b>Calf production</b>	0.61	0.63	0.63	0.64
<b>Domestic offtake</b>	1,925	1,976	2,049	2,100
<b>Exports</b>	917	1,268	1,411	1,700

Cattle and calf production in 1,000 head; domestic offtake and exports in 1,000 tonnes  
Source: USDA



Shipments may rise to 1.7 million tonnes

India will continue to be the leading beef exporter this year despite slower growth in cattle, calf production and higher domestic consumption.

In the Indian context, beef export is shipment of buffalo meat which is also known as carabeef in the global market. Shipment of cow meat from the country is banned.

Last year, India overtook Brazil as the top exporter of beef, mainly due to growing acceptance of its buffalo meat by South-East Asia, West Asia and African countries.

Buffalo meat exports this year from India could rise to 1.7 million tonnes (mt) against 1.41 mt last year.

Initially, the USDA has estimated that beef exports this year could top 2.1 mt.

“Our buffalo meat exports are giving a tough competition to other countries due to our competitive pricing and quality,” said Tarun Bajaj, General Manager (Livestock products), Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (Apeda).

Buffalo makes up one-third of the bovine population in the country.

It is preferred to cow due to its adaptability to climatic conditions and high milk fat content as dairy production is fuelling the bovine sector.

Since slaughter of cow is banned, beef production is driven by buffalo slaughter which is allowed.

However, the slaughter is restricted to males and unproductive females.

According to Apeda, exports of meat and its products increased to \$3.29 billion in 2012-13 against \$2.91 billion the previous year.

Since 2008, when India exported 672,000 tonnes, shipments of buffalo meat have almost trebled.

### **Brazil's exports**

Indian exports have made inroads into West Asia, North Africa and South-East Asia, a key market for Brazil, as buffalo meat is cheaper in these price-sensitive markets.

It is produced according to *halal* standards (meat prepared as prescribed by Islamic law).

Brazil has been witnessing a constant decline in beef exports due to shrinking land availability, but this year its shipments are expected to rise to 1.6 mt from 1.52 mt last year.

Currently, there is renewed interest in livestock farming as the Brazil Government is providing support for pasture management and genetic improvement of cattle.

“The other reason for our exports rising is our quality. Some of our exporters have excellent processing units. This is really helping,” said Bajaj.



## **Domestic market**

On the other hand, domestic consumption is also likely to increase this year. It could increase to 2.1 mt from 2.04 mt last year. Since 2008, domestic consumption has not gained as much as exports.

This is because people are shifting to lamb and other meats in view of increasing income in the country. Poultry meat, in particular, has increased sharply in the last few years.

According to the USDA, cattle heads could increase by four million tonnes to 327 mt, while nearly 64.3 mt calf could be produced this year against 63.4 mt last year.

The USDA also projected a lower export of 8.6 mt this year.

## **Nearly 22% Coonoor tea unsold**

About 22 per cent of the three-week high offer of 13.90 lakh kg remained unsold at Sale No: 23 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions due to inadequate demand.

Crosshill Estate topped the CTC market. "Our Red Dust topped at Rs 174 a kg. In all, our four marks have got Rs 155 and more," Crosshill Operations Head Dinesh Raju told *Business Line*.

Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped the CTC leaf market at Rs 167 a kg.

Vigneshwar Estate got Rs 165, Hittakkal Estate Rs 162 and Kannavarai Estate Rs 159. In all, 44 CTC marks got Rs 125 and more.

Among orthodox teas, Chamraj got Rs 240, Highfield Estate Rs 181, Havukal, Kairbetta and Kodanad Rs 177 each. In all, 38 marks got Rs 125 and more.

“Whole-leaf orthodox was irregular while others lost Rs 1-3 a kg. Better medium CTC leaf lost Rs 1-2, while some plainers could not be sold even after shedding Rs 2-4. Primary orthodox dusts eased Rs 2-4 while others up to Rs 3. Better liquoring CTC dusts gained Rs 2-3 while mediums and plainers lost up to Rs 3,” an auctioneer said.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 73-80 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 110-150 for brighter liquoring sorts.

They ranged Rs 78-84 for plain dusts and Rs 120-160 for brighter liquoring dusts.

### **Spot rubber gains on supply woes**

Physical rubber prices made all round gains on Wednesday.

The market seemed to be riding on short supplies as a result of the slowdown in tapping due to intensified South-West monsoon rains.

According to sources, there were only very limited stocks with the dealers.

Growers are holding their produce expecting a rebound in prices during the ongoing low production season.

Sheet rubber improved to Rs 175 (Rs 174) a kg both at Kottayam and Kochi, according to traders and the Rubber Board.

June futures dropped to Rs 175.50 (Rs 175.53), July to Rs 172.70 (Rs 172.78), September to Rs 167.30 (Rs 167.34) and October to Rs 164.23 (Rs 164.98) while the August futures firmed up to Rs 169.75 (Rs 169.70) and November to Rs 165 (Rs 162.53) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) increased to Rs 167.39 (Rs 166.01) at Bangkok. June futures weakened to ¥ 236.8 (Rs 141.61) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

**Spot rubber rates Rs/kg :** RSS-4: 175 (174); RSS-5: 170 (169); Ungraded: 160 (159); ISNR 20: 161 (160) and Latex 60 per cent: 111 (110.50).

### **Coffee Board setting up entrepreneurship centre to boost café culture**

To help sustain coffee cafe culture in the country, the Coffee Board is setting up 'Coffee Entrepreneurship Centre' in Bangalore.

“As coffee cafes and parlours are mushrooming in the country rapidly especially in non-traditional (non-coffee growing States) areas there is acute shortage of manpower,” Jawaid Akhtar, Chairman, Coffee Board, told *Business Line*.

## **objectives**

“Through the ‘Coffee Entrepreneurship Centre’, we plan to create a manpower base by scientifically training the people by providing knowledge on speciality coffees as well,” he added.

The main objective of the Board taking up this issue is to build manpower in all levels of coffee business – coffee retailing, setting of roast and ground (R&G) outlets and also to assist entrepreneurs in setting up and operating cafes with a formal training.

## **educational support**

Coffee Board has roped in Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM) to provide educational support.

The entrepreneurship centre is being housed in IIPM campus in Bangalore.

According to Akhtar, “Entrepreneurs are to get lab-scale experience in roasting, grinding coffees and making coffee – espresso and traditional brewing.”

For running the courses, the Board is utilising the faculty available at IIPM. Currently there are around 2,200 cafes operated by big companies such as Café Coffee Day, Costa, Barista and few regional players.

## **courses offered**

“The centre is expected to be functional from this academic calendar and will include one-month courses on ‘How to make different coffees’ and ‘How to start coffee businesses,” said Dr V.G. Dhanakumar, Director, IIPM.

Coffee Board has given a grant of Rs 30 lakh for setting up the centre.

Since there is lot of demand for short-term courses, the intake at the centre is being restricted to around 20 students a batch.

## **Monsoon may start relenting a bit after June 20**

The strong phase of monsoon might start to relent a bit after June 20, according to latest outlook from international weather models.

This would happen with the expected movement away of the weather-making Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) wave from the Indian Ocean region towards east to the near Pacific.

## **STRONG IN NORTH**

This wave passes periodically high in the atmosphere from east Africa across Indian Ocean, but influences weather over ground thanks to its cloud-building potential and storm initiation.

Judging from the movement of the wave, monsoon is expected to continue to be strong over central India and adjoining North-West India for another five days to a week.

Rains over the peninsula would stay largely muted during this period except the West Coast and Konkan-Mumbai and south Gujarat.

Subsequently, rains may start to gradually lift also from North-West India even while being strong over central India and Gujarat.

## **EXCEPTIONAL RAIN**

But monsoon has already delivered exceptionally well over the landmass - excess of 17 per cent for the country as a whole as on Tuesday.

East and North-East remained the only rain deficient region with a cumulative deficit of 40 per cent, mostly blamed to the delayed onset.

Not much relief is seen in the immediate future, what with a low-pressure area just formed in North-West Bay of Bengal forecast to travel mostly west across central India and into east Rajasthan.

The monsoon has been strong over the peninsula (excess of 55 per cent) and central India (82 per cent).

Of these, central India is forecast to witness more rains while those in the North and South relent.

## **WEATHER WARNING**

The India Meteorological Department said in an outlook that rain or thundershowers could break out at many places over the Western Himalayan region during the next three days.

This would also spark off an increase in rainfall activity over North-West India. A few places over Central, East and North-East India also may witness thundershowers.

A weather warning said that heavy to very heavy rainfall would lash one or two places over Konkan, Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep during the next two days.

### **Castor likely to fall on slow demand**

On the back of slow demand in spot and profit booking on future trading castor prices declined. Increasing arrivals also pressurised the prices.

On the Rajkot Commodity Exchange, castor spot moved down by Rs 50 to Rs 3,507.50 a quintal.

RCX June contract declined by Rs 49 to Rs 3,595 and September castor contract decreased by Rs 53 to Rs 3,842.

Arrivals have increased from 60,000-65,000 bags to 75,000-80,000 in the past three days and was quoted Rs 695-715 for 20 kg. About 3,400-3,500 bags arrived in Saurashtra and stood at Rs 660-695. Castor oil also dropped by Rs 13 to Rs 725 for 10 kg. At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), castor July contract declined by Rs 53 to Rs 3,628 a quintal, with an open interest of 1,82,760 lots.

A Rajkot-based castor broker said that, castor prices declined today as market participants booked profits on higher export demand.

Overall sentiments are weak and the prices may decline in the coming days.

### **Edible oils up despite lacklustre demand**

On Wednesday, palmolein dropped by Rs 7 for 10 kg on a sharp pull back in value of the rupee against the US dollar and resale selling pressure, erasing most of the previous day's gain of Rs 11. Groundnut oil rose by Rs 10 despite a steady trend at Rajkot. Rapeseed, sunflower and cotton oils inched up by Rs 5, Rs 5 and Rs 2 each. Slack local demand kept overall sentiment cautious amid thin volatility in Malaysian palm oil futures, said sources. Soyabean arrivals were nearly one lakh lakh bags at Rs 3,800 ex-mandi and mustard seed arrivals were 1.85 lakh-1.90 lakh bags at Rs 3,140-3,625. Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 555; super palmolein Rs 588 and super deluxe Rs 608. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 555; soyabean refined oil Rs 675 and sunflower refined oil Rs 790. In Rajkot, groundnut oil was steady at Rs 1,630 (Rs 1,630) for *telia tin* and Rs 1,050 (Rs 1,050) for loose 10 kg.

**On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange**, soyabean refined oil July futures were traded at Rs 694.60 (Rs 694.80); August was higher at Rs 690.50 (Rs 690.05) and September ended at Rs 683.90 (Rs 682.95).

**Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's** July contracts settled at MYR 2,449 (MYR 2,450); Aug MYR 2,451 (MYR 2,456) and Sept at MYR 2,451 (MYR 2,456) a tonne. **The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were:** Groundnut oil 1,060 (1,050); soya ref oil 670 (670); sunflower exp.



ref. 685 (685); sunflower ref. 785 (780); rapeseed ref. oil 705 (700); rapeseed exp ref. 675 (670); cottonseed ref. oil 660 (658) and palmolein 528 (535). **Vikram Global Commodities, Chennai**, quoted Rs 580 for Malaysian super palmolein ex-Chennai for delivery 15 days.

### **Poultry feed products may turn dearer**



Following an uptrend in prices of its key ingredients over the last few days, poultry feed products may turn dearer in the coming weeks.

Poultry feed prices stayed unchanged this week, despite an uptrend in prices of a few of its key ingredients, said trade expert Aditya Mishra.

If soyameal and mustard de-oiled cake moves further up, prices of concentrate feed prices will increase, he added.

Demand for feed products is steady at present while demand for the poultry products has decreased over the last few days, said Aditya Mishra.

In the physical market, soyameal went further up by Rs 1,200 and sold at Rs 36,600 a tonne.

Bajra eased by Rs 20 to Rs 1,480 a quintal, DCP was at Rs 35 a kg, MBM quoted at Rs 36 while maize went down by Rs 10 and quoted at Rs 1,490 a quintal. Mustard de-oiled cake went further up by Rs 500 and sold at Rs 15,800 a tonne, while DRB remained unchanged and quoted at Rs 9,200 a tonne while rice bran oil ruled at 49 a kg.

Pre-lay mash sold at Rs 1,020 for a 50-kg bag, while layer grower mash quoted at Rs 960. "Layer concentrate 25 per cent" sold at Rs 1,445 while layer concentrate 35 per cent went for Rs 1,130. Broiler concentrate quoted at Rs 1,980 while broiler starter mash was at Rs 1,500.

### **Poultry Products**

Poultry feed products went down on reduced off-take, on Wednesday. Egg eased by nine paisa and sold at Rs 3.11. Broiler eased by Rs 6 and quoted at Rs 70-72 a kg, while chick went for Rs 10-11, Rs 2 down from the previous levels.

### **Bullish trend in masoor may continue**



Bullish trend in masoor will likely to continue in the coming days if depreciation of the rupee against the dollar does not come to an end, according to trade experts.

Barring masoor, majority of pulse seeds and pulses ruled firm in Indore mandis on subdued demand and buying support. Rise in dollar value has lifted masoor prices in Indore in the past one week by Rs 150-200 a quintal.

On Wednesday, masoor (bold) ruled at Rs 4,500, while masoor (medium) at Rs 4,000-4,200. With steep decline in domestic stocks, almost 70-75 per cent of the domestic consumption is depending upon imported masoor.

Masoor dal (average) was quoted at Rs 4,900-4,925, masoor dal (medium) Rs 5,000-5,024, while masoor dal (bold) ruled at Rs 5,100-5,150.

With arrival of tur dal getting affected due to rains in Maharashtra, tur (Maharashtra) rose marginally to Rs 4,550 a quintal, while tur (Madhya Pradesh) ruled at Rs 4,000-4,100. Notwithstanding lower crop output, tur prices ruled sluggish on poor demand and buying support in pulses.

However, in the coming days, tur may see bullish trend, given expected rise in imported tur in the coming days due to rise in the dollar value.

Tur dal (sawa no.) was quoted at Rs 5,900-6,000 while tur marka ruled at Rs 7,100-Rs 7,200.

On the other hand, slack demand dragged moong and its dal. Moong (best) declined by Rs 100 to Rs 4,800-5,000, while moong (medium) ruled at Rs 4,400-4,600.

Moong dal (medium) ruled at Rs 5,900-6,000, moong dal (best) at Rs 6,500-6,600, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,100-7,200.

### **Sugar firm on bright demand outlook**



Sugar prices ruled firm at upper level on Wednesday. Higher demand from stockists pushed up mill tender rates by Rs 10 while ease in retail demand due to rains in physical market kept naka and spot rates unchanged.

Futures prices were up by Rs 5-10 on a positive outlook for demand in the coming months. Under current was firm, said sources. A wholesaler said “chances of hike in import duty on sugar, possible 10 per cent drop in sugar production next season and any time buying by State Governments for public distribution systems weigh on overall sentiments.

Production of sugar in 2012-2013 is almost over and now market has to depend on whatever inventory held with producers and stockists.

In the Vashi wholesale market, sugar arrivals continued to be at 65-66 truck loads (each of 100 bags) but local dispatches were restricted to about 60-62 truck loads due to rain.

On Tuesday, about 15-16 mills sold 85,000-90,000 bags to local traders at Rs 2,940-3,010 (Rs 2,940-3,000) for S-grade and Rs 3,000-3,110 (Rs 3,000-3,100) for M-grade.

**On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange**, sugar July futures were up by Rs 4 to Rs 3,138 (Rs 3,134); August was higher by Rs 8 to Rs 3,186 (Rs 3,178) and September was Rs 3,227 (Rs 3,216).

**The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were:** S-grade Rs 3,062-3,141 (Rs 3,052-3,140) and M-grade Rs 3,172-3,331 (Rs 3,194-3,331). *Naka* delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 3,020-3,080 (Rs 3,020-3,080) and M-grade Rs 3,130-3,200 (Rs 3,130-3,200).

**Turmeric arrivals in Erode hit a low of 1,500 bags**



Very poor arrival of turmeric does not help the improvement in prices on Wednesday.

“Erode turmeric markets have experienced very poor arrival of 1,500 bags on Wednesday, which is stated to be the lowest arrival in the recent past.

“Such lowest arrival has not helped the improvement in price, instead it has decreased”, said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said such low arrivals have occurred in the Erode markets already, as the farmers are busy in marriages or agricultural operations or poor price and demand.

On Wednesday, of 1,498 bags arrived, only 55 per cent was sold.

Traders did not place any tender as they have not yet received demand from North India.

The price of the finger variety decreased by Rs 300 a quintal in the Erode private market and the hybrid finger variety by Rs 600.

Similarly Rs 200 decreased in the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,039-6,209, the root variety Rs 3,866-5,785.

**Salem hybrid crop:** The finger variety was sold at Rs 5,686-7,099, the root variety Rs 5,411-6,185. Of 364 bags, only 121 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,209-6,614, the root variety Rs 5,009-5,735.

Of 175 bags arrived, 145 were sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,270-6,461, the root variety Rs 5,001-5,329.

Of the arrival of 251 bags, 214 were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,217-6,517, the root variety Rs 4,877-5,329.

All the 152 bags were sold.

### **Pepper futures rule steady**



Pepper futures on Wednesday ruled steady as there were no activities on the IPSTA platform except for some buying for June/July/Aug while the spot continued to move up on tight supply amid good buying support. All active contracts remained more or less unchanged.

Exporters were buying high range pepper at Rs 350-352 a kg. June, July and August contracts remained unchanged at Rs 35,905, Rs 35,801 and Rs 36,225 a quintal respectively.

On the NMCE, July contract was down by Rs 537 at Rs 36,250 while August decreased by Rs 159 to close at Rs 36,700. Where as, September increased by Rs 585 to close at Rs 36,790. Total open interest on the NMCE moved up by 11 tonnes to 27 tonnes.

Total turnover increased by 18 tonnes to 58 tonnes.

Spot prices went up by Rs 100 at Rs 34,200 (ungarbled) and Rs 35,700 (MG 1) on good demand amid tight supply.

Indian parity in the international market remained unchanged at \$6,250 a tonne (f.o.b.) for June shipments for Europe and about \$6,400 (f.o.b.) for the US.



# Business Standard

## Production glut hits shrimp farmers

Vanamei shrimp farmers in the state are getting Rs 240 per kg of 40 count at a time when exporters in the neighbouring Tamil Nadu are paying Rs 340 for the same

Andhra Pradesh is witnessing a fall in prices of seafood exports, particularly the vanamei shrimp which it exports to the US and European markets due to a glut in production and on allegations of cartelisation practices among the local exporters to avoid competition from other producers in the country.

Presently, vanamei shrimp farmers in the state get Rs 240 per kg of 40 count at a time when exporters in the neighbouring Tamil Nadu pay Rs 340 for the same. Prices a month ago have been at Rs 320 per kg in the state, said I P R Mohan Raju, president, Prawn Farmers Federation of India.

Last year, Andhra Pradesh farmers produced 160,000 tonnes of vanamei shrimp whereas this year, the production is high at 200,000 tonnes.

States like Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Gujarat, West Bengal, Kerala and Maharashtra are offering prices according to international prices, with the exception of Andhra Pradesh where the seafood exporters are paying very low rates and enjoying huge margins on shrimp exports, he added.

“Notwithstanding the irregularities by state exporters, we have made an

oral complaint on the cartel prevailing among the Andhra seafood exporters to the monopoly trade practice restriction body and the Marine Products Exports Development Agency (Mpeda),” Raju said.

In Andhra Pradesh, a majority of shrimp processing and cold storage units are wrested in the hands of a few big exporters who are playing havoc by capitalising on the farmers’ dependency on harvesting and processing plants of these exporters, he added.

However, to overcome the exploitation, the Prawn Farmers Federation of India has recently proposed to set up 1.5 tonne per hour capacity mobile shrimp processing units in coastal areas. “The National Fisheries Development Board has appreciated our efforts and agreed to give 40 per cent subsidy on the project cost.”

Shrugging off the allegations levelled against the Andhra exporters by the Prawn Farmers Federation of India, D B Ravi Reddy, national president, Seafood Exports Association of India, said: “Due to over production, the farmers in Andhra Pradesh are coming forward to sell their produce at lower prices. Normally, exporters offer rates according to the prevailing international prices.”

Tamil Nadu exports its shrimp to Japan where the prices are usually high in comparison to the US and Europe. Traditionally, exporters in Andhra Pradesh largely send their produce to the US and Europe.