

THE HINDU

Farmers plan to descend on Delhi seeking fair price

They want a 50% profit on minimum support price, which should be set by agriculture varsities

Angry at not being heard, thousands of farmers will descend on the capital, under the banner of the Bhartiya Kisan Union and with the slogan *karo ya maro*, to demand a “fair and remunerative” price for their crops that will boost their income and help them cope with inflation.

They demand a 50 per cent profit on the minimum support price, which should be set by agriculture universities. “We want the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices [which sets the support prices] dismantled as it is working against the interests of farmers,” farmer leaders Ajmer Singh Lakhawal, Yudhvir Singh and Rakesh Tikait said at a press conference here on Monday.

Farmers from all over the country will gather at Jantar Mantar on March 18 for a sit-in, Mr. Lakhawal said.

The farmer leaders were particularly upset at the Commission having recommended a “freeze” on the minimum support price for wheat this year, pointing to high food stocks. Later a 10 per cent increase was given.

They demanded that the amended Land Acquisition Bill be passed in the current session of Parliament.

‘Deliberate delay’

“The passage of the bill is being deliberately delayed so that all farmers’ land that has to be acquired can be bought and farmers get a poor deal,” they alleged. There might be political differences over the bill, but the farmers did not want their land acquired for industry and colonisation.

“If at all the land is required for public purpose, the compensation to farmers should be on a par with the market rate, not the circle rate, and farmers or organisations representing them should be allowed to deal directly with the agency that acquires...[the land],” Mr. Yudhvir Singh said.

The leaders demanded that the government establish a pay commission that would set the minimum income for farmers. India’s free trade agreements with other countries should not include agriculture and the government should have a considered import and export policy that did not go against farmers.

Farmers grievances meet

GRIEVANCES MEET

The monthly farmers’ grievance redress meeting would be held on March 15 at the Collector’s office. According to a

press release, farmers with specific grievance can submit petitions to the officials concerned, while common issues pertaining to the community could be raised at the meeting. All officers from the departments concerned would be present.

Ex-servicemen

An exclusive grievance redressal camp for ex-servicemen in Vadipatti taluk would be conducted on March 14 at the Vadipatti Tahsildar office at 10 a.m. The assistant director, ex-servicemen welfare association, would be present at the camp.

Shortage of harvester machines hits farmers



*BJP workers ransack the office of the All Kerala Harvester Owners and Agents Association near Nedumudy, Munnar, on Monday.—
Photo: Special Arrangement*

Farmers in the district have raised a complaint about the shortage of combine harvester machines for the pancha

paddy harvesting even as the district administration on Monday claimed that there are enough machines on the fields. .

District collector, P.Venugopal told *The Hindu* that a total of 118 machines, including 76 of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation (KAIC), were in operation in the Alappuzha district. Arrangements have been made for the immediate arrival of machines from neighbouring districts , he added.

Though the KAIC had promised 158 machines for this harvest season at a meeting here earlier, only 76 machines are available now. . KIAC sources, however, put the number of machines at 72. . The sources said that the corporation had only 157 machines in the State, which were purchased under the Kuttanad package. Of these, 25 of the Japanese Kubato machines were shifted to the Palakkad area for harvesting in Palakkad and Thrissur kole lands following a direction from the Prosperity Council which supervised the implementation of the Kuttanad package. Now, only 124 machines of KAIC are in service in Kuttanad area comprising Alappuzha, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts. "At best, we could cater to harvesting of the 40 per cent of the paddy cultivation area in Kuttanad by the machines we have," sources said.

Allegations refuted

They also refuted allegations of collusion with agents by supplying its machines to them, who in turn sell these machines to farmers at a higher price. . "We are still

following the criteria for supplying machines to those persons authorised by the 'padasekhara samithis' with the certification of the respective agriculture officer. If any agent is using these machines, it must be a collusion between the council members and agents", the sources said.

'Criminal lapse'

They said the KAIC was asked to supply 20 machines in Kottayam (part of Kuttanad), but only 16 machines were used by the farmers there. Deshiya Karshaka Thozhilali Federation (DKTF) Alappuzha district committee has alleged that the Agriculture Department and KAIC were showing 'criminal lapse and inefficiency' in not supplying the machines to the farmers in the district.

DKTF Alappuzha district president B.R.Kaimal Karumadi said in a statement that the department and KAIC which had brought nearly 180 combine harvester machines under the Kuttanad package have in effect helped the lobby linked with owners of machines in other States by handing over a large number of these machines to Palakkad district.

The farmers are facing a hard time as agents have allegedly jacked up prices of private machines at Rs. 2000 per hour. The District Collector had fixed the rate at Rs. 1350, while KAIC had been offering these machines at lower rates.

KAIC has been charging a rent of Rs. 500 per hour, but farmers have to bear the cost of diesel and transportation

costs of these machines from hiring centres of the corporation in the district. However, the total cost for farmers for using these machines from KAIC will be less than Rs.1200.

Meanwhile, some BJP activists barged into the office of the All Kerala Harvester Owners and Agents Association Office near Nedumudy bridge here and tore down the flex board of the office.

Machines help farmers make hay

Labour shortage for baling addressed



Newage farm hands:Mechanised baling of hay in progress at the Vengal paddy fields in Upper Kuttanad, near Thiruvalla, on Monday.— Photo: Leju Kamal

Bundling of hay is being mechanised in the paddy fields of Upper Kuttanad this year.

Three baling machines brought from Thrissur for hay-bundling during paddy harvest have helped make up for the severe shortage of farm workers in this part of the

State, according to Sam Eapen, Upper Kuttanad Nelkarshaka Samiti president.

Unnikrishnan from Eravu in Thrissur who introduced the machine in the paddy fields of Upper Kuttanad told *The Hindu* that the machine fitted to a tractor was highly economical. According to him, the cost of the machine is Rs.4 lakh and that of the tractor is Rs.6.5 lakh. “We charge Rs.40 an acre as baling charge and a machine could turn out a maximum of 450 bales a day,” he said. Mr. Unnikrishnan said he had been in this business for the past two years in Thrissur.

Burn hay

Earlier, farmers in Upper Kuttanad used to burn the hay after the harvest owing to the hefty labour cost for baling, though there was high demand for hay bales among Milma and private dairy farms.

“Farmers get Rs.8.5 a kg of hay supplied to the Milma and each bundle weighs 20 kg,” says Mr. Eapen.

Average hay production

The average hay production in Upper Kuttanad is estimated at 60 bales (20 kg each) from every acre.

Mr. Unnikrishnan said 15 litres of diesel were required for running the baling machine for 10 hours.

Mr. Eapen said the Upper Kuttanad farmers had slowly started enjoying the benefits of mechanisation.

The government should revive the charm of paddy cultivation here, he added.

Farmers deplore power cuts

Power cuts continue in the district hitting the farm sector hard. With the day temperatures increasing by the day, people indoors also are feeling the problem as power supply is cut for hours together.

It is still worse in rural areas where power cut is imposed from almost dawn to dusk.

The farmers from Timmapur village and Nizamabad mandal laid siege to the sub-stations and “detained” the staff at Beerkur and at Power House in Nizamabad demanding that power be supplied at least for five hours at a stretch as the crops had reached the harvest stage. They deplored that the promised seven-hour supply was not adhered to.

Efforts on

When asked, the electricity authorities said that efforts were being made to provide power supply for five hours at least.

Water level

: Water level in the Papanasam dam on Monday stood at 75 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 1,031.071 cusecs and no water is discharged from

the dam. The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 91.35 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 410 cusecs and no water is discharged.

Nagercoil

Water level in the Pechipparai dam stood at 4.80 feet, 31.60 feet in Perunchani, 4.75 feet in Chittar I, 4.85 feet in Chittar II and 5.10 feet in the Poigai dam.

Water level in the Periyar dam on Monday stood at 112.90 feet (136 feet) with an inflow and a discharge of 100 cusecs each. The level in the Vaigai dam was 46.78 feet (71 feet) with an inflow of 5 cusecs and a discharge of 60 cusecs. The combined Periyar credit stood at 2,241 mcft.

Water level in Bhavanisagar reservoir increases

Good rainfall in its catchment is the reason

Water level in the Bhavanisagar reservoir has witnessed a significant increase in the last few days, bringing cheers to the farming community in the district.

The dam, the lifeline of thousands of farmers in the district, has been witnessing copious inflow since March 7 following good rainfall in its catchment.

The water level has gone up by 4.28 ft in the last five days alone.

On March 7, the dam had a water level of 33.93 ft. This has increased to 38.21 ft on Monday due to good inflow. “The dam received over 2,000 cusecs of water for the last few days and it went down to 803 cusecs on Monday. If rain continues for a few more days in the catchment areas, the water level will touch 50 ft,” a senior official in the Public Works Department said.

The storage in the dam stood at 2.179 tmcft and the outflow was maintained at 150 cusecs.

The dam is the primary water resource for more than 2.5 lakh acres in Erode, Karur and Tirupur districts.

Water level in the dam plummeted fast due to poor rainfall. The existing storage in the dam was utilised for old ayacuts of Bhavani River — Kalingarayan, Thadapalli and Arakkankottai.

Farmers in the Lower Bhavani Project ayacut, which has more than 2 lakh acres, were not given water for irrigation this year as the dam had very little water.

Farmers from the LBP ayacut urged the officials not to release

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Tuesday, Mar 12

Max Min

31° | 23°

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 06:18

Humidity: 94

Sunset: 06:19

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1012.0

Tomorrow's Forecast



Sunny

Wednesday, Mar 13

Max Min

33° | 23°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday Mar 14	Friday Mar 15	Saturday Mar 16	Sunday Mar 17	Monday Mar 18
33° 24°	34° 23°	33° 23°	32° 23°	32° 24°
Sunny	Overcast	Overcast	Cloudy	Cloudy

HC issues notice to organic farming society, Haryana

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana high court on Monday issued notice to [Haryana government](#) and Hisar-based [All India Organic Farming Society](#) and its president Rajesh Beniwal. The court was acting on a

public interest litigation (PIL) seeking investigation into the society's role in illegally inviting applications through public notice for 885 posts of various cadres and collecting huge amount from a large number of unemployed youth.

The society had called the applications by giving a misleading impression that this society was an organization which is fully funded by National Bank For Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and that it was implementing the government scheme for promotion of organic farming, in technical collaboration with the "Regional Organ Farming Center, Hisar", which is an organ of the government of India.

Petitioner P P Kapoor of Panipat had argued in the PIL that in this manner, the aforesaid society and its president have cheated the public. The petitioner further stated that Regional Center of Organization Farming has issued a public notice stating that it has no connect with aforesaid society. A similar public notice has been issued by "National Organic Farming Center, Ghaziabad", which is responsible for implementation of this scheme for promotion of organic farming in the country.

The petitioner further stated that he had sent a

complaint to the Director General of Police (DGP) Haryana on February 21, 2013, seeking investigation into the affairs of the society, and for prosecution of its office bearers, and for sealing its accounts. However, he has not received any response from the DGP so far.

Better farming tips and a 'langar' of books

LUDHIANA: Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) is all set for the two-day Kisan Mela which begins on Friday.

A farmer and agriculture oriented fair, here farmers can purchase seeds, obtain knowledge about new techniques and new improved machineries.

Highlight of this year's mela is a unique langar of books organized by Sukrit trust. Here instead of a meal, books would be distributed free of cost. PAU students and volunteers will distribute the books.

A book "Sukhan Di Mani", which has "Sukhmani Sahib" in form of questions and answers, will also be available for all visiting farmers.

Students are also encouraging the farmers to do "Soul Farming" and would be distributing a folder "Ander Di Kheti" authorized by [Jaswant Singh](#) Nekhi, former director of PGI Chandigarh. Dhawan

THE HINDU Business Line

Mixed trend in spot rubber

Kottayam, March 11: Spot rubber was mixed on Monday. The trend was partially bullish as certain counters strengthened on comparatively better demand. Another weak closing in domestic futures kept RSS 4 under pressure during late trading hours.

Meanwhile, the key TOCOM rubber futures hit the highest in two weeks tracking a weaker yen. But the gains were limited by the data showing an uneven economic recovery in the world's top rubber consumer China.

Sheet rubber finished flat at Rs 163 a kg, according to traders. The grade improved to Rs 162.50 (161.50) a kg at Kottayam and Kochi, according to Rubber Board.

March futures weakened to Rs 160.70 (162.35), April to Rs 164.60 (165.99), May to Rs 168.36 (169.81), June to Rs 171.50 (172.21) and July to Rs 172.72 (175.56), while the August series firmed up to Rs 176 (173) a kg on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) closed marginally higher at Rs 166.88 (166.02) a kg at Bangkok. The March futures increased to ¥283.8 (Rs 160.83) from ¥279.9 a kg during the day session but then slid to ¥282.7 (Rs 160.21) a kg in the night session on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rates were (Rs/kg): RSS-4: 163 (163); RSS-5: 160 (159.50); ungraded: 157 (156); ISNR 20: 159 (158) and latex 60 per cent: 105 (105).

Cardamom loses flavour on slack demand



Kochi, March 11: The cardamom market was easier/steady last week on slack demand at auctions held in Kerala and Tamil Nadu as a section of the buyers stayed away hoping the prices would decline further. Meanwhile, about a one-third of the buyers, who were said to have been inactive in the market for some time, were seen active last week.

The average price of individual auctions dropped to below Rs 700 a kg.

However, the exporters were to have bought about 50 tonnes of superior variety cardamom last week.

“They were buying good quality above 7mm capsules bold and of better color at Rs 850-875 a kg”, P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, told *Business Line*.

Reports of imports legally and illegally of cardamom of foreign origin into the country through the borders has done significant damage to the indigenous produce, growers alleged.

The Spices Board has already alerted the Commissioners of Customs at major ports to take action against illegal imports through land-locked and border countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan etc.

Harvesting of cardamom for the current season is over.

The total output is estimated to be around 50 per cent of the previous crop, trade sources claimed.

At the Sunday auction conducted by the KCPMC, total arrivals stood at 64 tonnes against 68 tonnes on the previous Sunday and the entire quantity was sold.

The maximum price was at Rs 1,001 a kg and minimum was at Rs 476 a kg. Auction average price dropped to Rs 646 a kg, Punnoose said.

Total arrivals and sales during the current season from August 1, 2012 to March 10, 2013 were at 9,272 tonnes and 8,792 tonnes respectively.

Total arrivals and sales during the corresponding period last year were about 14,204 tonnes and about 13,788 tonnes respectively.

The weighted average price as on March 10 stood at Rs 761.30 a kg (Rs 578.14).

Prices of graded varieties in Rs/kg: AGEB: 950-960; AGB: 690-700; AGS: 670-680; and AGS-1: 660-670.

Dry spell continues to prevail in the growing areas with rise in temperature.

No summer rains were there during the past fortnight.

African floral firm scouting for Indian partners



Mumbai, March 11: Gauteng-based African Floralush is looking for a partner in India to provide natural alternative to artificial flowers.

The company uses patented technology developed by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to extend the shelf life of fresh flowers.

potential

“Being a virgin market, the product has lot of potential in India and we are in search of a right partner in India. Globally, this product commands a market of \$500 million (about Rs 2,750 crore),” said Viljoen.

He was in the city as part of a trade delegation, led by South African Deputy Minister of Department of Trade and Industry Elizabeth Thabethe.

Output

African Floralush produces two lakh units a month and exports to 30 countries with Europe accounting for 80 per cent.

The roses, retailed under Iluba brand through large retail chains, are priced at \$6 (Rs 330) a piece in the US.

Iluba roses are more preferred in the home decorators, hotels, ocean liners and long-distance train operators as they do not have to be replaced unlike freshly-cut arrangements, says Viljoen.

As part of a chemical process, the flower head is removed from the stem, as each part is preserved separately.

Once preserved, trained staff carefully join the two parts again, using stitching and glue.

The water in the cells and tissues of the flowers and foliage are replaced with natural eco-friendly preservatives.

The technique makes it possible to add natural perfumes to strengthen the fragrance of the roses and the colours can also be adjusted.

Average price for tea tops Rs 100/kg at Coonoor sale

Coonoor, March 10: The average price for tea has crossed the Rs 100-a kg-mark for the first time at the Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions. At Sale No: 10 last week, prices averaged Rs 104.11 a kg – substantially up from Rs 28 a kg 20 years ago, Rs 35 10 years ago, Rs 63.50 five years ago and Rs 82 last year. Prices averaged Rs 99.95 the previous week.

The volume of 9.60 lakh kg offered for sale this week was the lowest so far this year. Of this, 9.21 lakh kg were sold. For want of volume, some auctions scheduled for this month at Guwahati, Siliguri and Kolkata auction centres have been listed for cancellation.

Because of this, traders bought 97 per cent of the volume offered. Consequently, the turnover dropped to Rs 9.59 crore from Rs 9.76 crore last week.

For the fourth consecutive week, Pakistan did not buy. The CIS bought for Rs 81-103 a kg. There was some purchase for European ports at Rs 97-107.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 82-85 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 120-155 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 92-95 for plain dusts and Rs 120-160 for brighter liquoring dusts.

Demand boosts prices at Kochi tea sale

Kochi, March 11: A good demand perked up prices of almost all varieties of tea at the Kochi tea auction.

At Kochi Sale No.10, the demand was strong in the CTC dust grades and the quantity on offer was 8,50,002 kg.

The market opened fully firm to dearer by Rs 3-5. It appreciated further with longer margins of Rs 5-10 as the sale progressed and sometimes more particularly towards the close of the sale.

The increase in the prices of PD grades was less compared to other grades, according to auctioneers Forbes, Ewart and Figgis Pvt Ltd.

The quantity on offer in the orthodox dust was 7,000 kg. The market for primary grades was higher and others were dearer.

In the best CTC dusts, PD varieties quoted Rs 111-118, RD grades Rs 115-156, SRD Rs 118-159, while SFD ruled at Rs 120-165. The leaf sale also witnessed a good demand and the quantity on offer in orthodox was 91,000 kg.

The market for Nilgiri broken and whole leaf was fully firm to dearer following quality.

Medium secondary grades were irregular and tended to ease, while fannings from the same region were fully firm to dearer.

The quantity on offer in the CTC leaf was 92,000 kg and the market for good liquoring teas was higher while medium and plainer teas were dearer

Centre to set up autonomous body to tackle risk to farms from alien pests, weeds

Pawar introduces The Agricultural Bio-security Bill 2013 in Lok Sabha



New Delhi, March 11: To tackle the increased risk to agriculture from ‘exotic’ foreign pests and weeds, the Government proposes to integrate plant and animal quarantine services by creating an autonomous authority. The proposed move would ensure a tighter quarantine regime, an official statement said.

Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar on Monday introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha that seeks to set up an autonomous authority – with adequate powers – for prevention, control, eradication and management of pests and diseases of plants and animals and unwanted organisms for ensuring agri bio-security.

The inflow of pests and diseases of plants and animals into countries through imports is considered one of the biggest threats to diversity, leading to huge economic losses.

For example, weeds such as Parthenium, Phalaris minor and Lanatana camara have already got established in the country.

Besides, the recent emergence and spread of transboundary diseases, such as avian influenza and the Ug-99, wheat stem rust fungus pose a threat not only to animal and plant safety, but human beings, too.

The Agricultural Bio-security Bill 2013 provides for modernising the legal framework to regulate safe movement of plants and animals within the country and international trade.

safe movement

The Bill, when enacted into law, would also help India meet the international obligations for facilitating imports and exports of plants, plant products, animals, animal products, aquatic organisms and regulation of agriculturally important micro organisms.

The proposed authority - on the lines of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, would help administer agri-bio-security. When implemented, India would join the league of Australia, New Zealand and the US, which follow the integrated bio-security model.

The authority's mandate will cover the four sectors of agricultural bio-security, - plant health, animal health, living aquatic resources (fisheries) and agriculturally important micro-organisms.

The proposed authority would also improve safety, efficiency, transparency and compliance of quarantine and pest management regulations and respond swiftly to contain emergent bio-security problems.

Private wheat exporters to wait for UP crop

May not buy from Central stocks to gain price advantage



Getting ready: Wheat crop at a farm of Indian Agricultural Research Institute Pusa , in the Capital. The wheat will be ready for harvest in a month's time. – Kamal Narang

New Delhi, March 11: Private exporters, who had recently been allowed to dip into Central wheat stocks, said they would prefer to wait for the new crop in Uttar Pradesh.

The wheat harvest for the current rabi season has started partially in Gujarat and is about to begin across North India by March-end.

Recently, the Government decided to allow five million tonnes of wheat exports from its stocks by the private trade at Rs 1,480 a quintal, a move aimed at creating storage space for the upcoming crop.

At the current exchange rate, this translates into a price of around \$315 a tonne, higher than similar wheat from the US traded at \$295 a tonne.

Exporters feel the Government pricing was expensive and it was unviable to ship at such price with wheat coming under pressure in the global markets recently on improving weather conditions in the US and better crop in Australia.

“We would wait to source from the open market, as the Government wheat is expensive,” said Atul Chaturvedi, CEO – Agribusiness at Adani Group.

Uttar Pradesh, the country’s largest wheat-producing State has been the favourite sourcing destination with the private trade and exporters for quite some time.

Poor implementation of the support price scheme makes it easier for these buyers to source their requirement and, at times, even below the minimum support price.

Of the 30 million tonnes produced in UP, only about 5 mt is procured through the procurement mechanism. The rest is traded through open market.

“The Government has lost an opportunity by deciding to offload 5 mt just ahead of the new crop, and that too at a higher price. Plenty of wheat would be available across North India over the next few days,” said Anil Monga, Managing Director, Emmsons International Ltd, a grain exporter.

Monga said the Government would have to be very aggressive and practical to encash the export demand that would be there for Indian wheat till June, when wheat from Black Sea origin would enter the market.

In fact, in Gujarat, the harvest has already started and wheat is commanding a price of Rs 1,550 a quintal, Monga said. Wheat from Gujarat commands a premium because of its quality. The Government has announced a minimum support price of Rs 1,350 a quintal for the current year.

“Buyers are interested in sourcing at the lowest price and the UP markets provide a good opportunity. Some exporters have already struck a deal for the new crop at \$295 a tonne,” said Tejinder Narang, a Grains analyst. Last year, wheat ruled at below support price in several UP markets for some time.

India is expected to produce 92.3 mt in the current year and the opening stocks with Food Corporation of India stood at 27.1 mt as on March 1.

Cotton wilts as buyers turn cautious



Rajkot, March 11: After making sharp gains in the last two days, cotton prices declined on sluggish demand. Prices were marginally down as buying was limited at upper level.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton declined by Rs 100-200 to Rs 38,400-38,500 a candy of 356 kg. V 797 cotton A grade was offered at Rs 29,800-30,000. About 33,000-35,000 bales (of 170 kg) arrived in Gujarat and 95,000 bales arrived in India.

Cotton 29 MM (3.8+ micronaire) ruled at Rs 38,300-38,800, 29 MM (3.6 micronaire) cotton Rs 37,500-37,900 in Maharashtra.

Traders said that buyers are cautious and minor correction in prices cannot be ruled out in near term, although overall trend is still bullish due to lower local supplies and good demand.

Fresh imports deals were reported last week from Africa between 93 and 95 cents per pound. According to traders, imports will rise further in coming days on lower availability of local cotton.

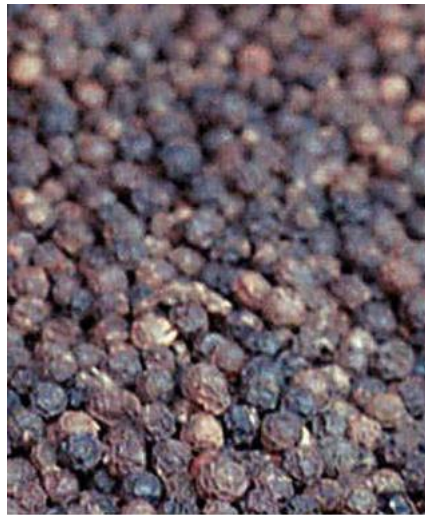
Easing selling pressure boosts pepper

Kochi, March 11: Pepper prices rebounded on Monday from the fall it witnessed continuously for the last few days.

Thinning down of the selling pressure in Kerala also helped the spice and consequently all the active contracts ended much above the previous day closing.

The selling pressure has slowed down and the dealers are not getting replacement at lower levels as the farmers are

hesitant to sell at the current levels, market sources told *Business Line*.



March contract opened at the lowest price and traded with high volatility and then moved up and the last traded price was at Rs 36,340 a quintal. March contract appears to be slowly converging with the spot prices.

March position has 965 tonnes and seven working days left for its cutting, they said. April delivery also witnessed high volatility. Eighty per cent of the turnover was in April.

On the spot, 22 tonnes of fresh pepper arrived and were traded afloat. Karnataka sellers were offering 500 GL pepper at Rs 335 a kg at Kochi.

But, buyers were seen hesitant to buy alleging that the moisture content is above the permissible levels and the litre weight is also below 500 GL at 475 - 485 GL.

The March contract on the NCDEX increased by Rs 725 to Rs 36,455 a quintal. April and May went up by Rs 625 and Rs 610 respectively to Rs 34,855 and Rs 34,800.

Total turnover increased by 576 tonnes to 1,595 tonnes. Total open interest decreased by 44 tonnes to 3,598 tonnes.

March open interest declined by 34 tonnes to 965 tonnes, while that of April moved up by 10 tonnes to 1,689 tonnes. April dropped by 20 tonnes to 944 tonnes.

Spot prices, in tandem with the futures market trend, moved up by Rs 200 to close at Rs 34,700 (ungarbled) and Rs 36,200 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$7,000 a tonne (c&f) for March shipment and April and May were at \$6,850 a tonne (c&f), they said.

Rice gains on low stocks, demand



Karnal, March 11: Inadequate supplies and rising domestic demand pushed up rice prices by Rs 50-300 a quintal, which were at their highest levels of the season on Monday.

Amit Chandna, Proprietor, Hanuman Rice Trading Company, said that the uptrend was anticipated as traders are getting good demand from the domestic market.

Low availability of stocks is also a big reason behind the uptrend, he added.

Active participation by bulk buyers to meet the ongoing demand has pushed the market back into a positive territory, said Amit Chandna.

According to the trade experts, market may witness some good levels in near future.

In the physical market, after witnessing a marginal fall last week, Pusa-1121 (steam) went up by Rs 250 and sold at Rs 7,650-7,700 a quintal while Pusa-1121 (sela) improved by Rs 300 and quoted at Rs 6,700-6,800.

Prices of Sharbati (steam) increased by Rs 50 and quoted at Rs 4,900-5,000, while Sharbati (sela) was at Rs 4,800-4,850 , Rs 150 up.

Pure basmati (raw) remained unchanged and quoted at Rs 8,500 . Duplicate basmati (steam) improved by Rs 100 and traded at Rs 6,500.

PR-11 (sela) went up by Rs 100 and was at Rs 3,200-3,250 while PR-11 (Raw) quoted at Rs 2,850-2,900.

Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,400 while Permal (sela) went for Rs 2,350.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Dubar improved by Rs 50 and quoted at Rs 3,300, Tibar sold at Rs 4,300 while Mongra was up Rs 100 at Rs 2,600.

Paddy Arrivals

Just around 800 bags of Pusa-1121 at the Karnal grain market terminal and sold at Rs 3,530 a quintal.

Soyabean may rule firm on meal demand



Indore, March 11: After trading low for quiet sometime, soyabean prices have been witnessing an uptrend in the past one week amid weak arrival and higher demand for soyameal. Notwithstanding closure of local mandis on Monday on account of 'Shomwati Amawasya', soyabean prices ruled firm in private trading at Rs 3,450-3,550. Arrivals in Madhya Pradesh declined to around 15,000 bags. Soyabean prices are bound to go up in the coming days on global cues and weak arrivals, said Mukesh Purohit, an Indore-based soyabean trader. Soyabean futures also traded higher March and April contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 3,600 (up Rs 31) and Rs 3,555 (up Rs 12). Similarly, plant deliveries have also gone up by around Rs 250 a quitnal in the past one week to Rs 3,625-50. Soya oil, on the other hand,

continued to rule sluggish on slack local demand. Soya refined ruled stable at Rs 650-55 for 10 kg in absence of local demand. Soya solvent also ruled stable at Rs 617-20 amid sluggish demand. In futures also, soya oil traded lower with its March and April contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 681.90 (down Rs 1.20) and Rs 678.50 (down Rs 4.65).

Soyameal has also been witnessing bullish trend on improved local demand. On Monday, soya DOC in the local market ruled at Rs 33,000 a quintal, while on the port, it was quoted at Rs 34,000-34,200. On the port, soya DOC witnessed slight decline in demand at the higher rate today.

Sugar dissolves on ample supply, slack buying



Mumbai, March 11: Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale spot market dropped by Rs 10-14 a quintal as local demand eased. Naka prices ruled steady while slack wholesale demand pulled down mill tender rates by Rs 10-20.

It seems that needy producers were forced to sell their commodity at lower rates to maintain the financial liquidity. With routine volume in physical market sentiments remained calm.

A Vashi-based wholesaler said: “Dealers were expecting demand to improve with rise of temperature and in the beginning of the month but that did not happen. Supply is ample and local demand continues to be need-based. In absence of neighbouring States buying in Maharashtra and parity price level in other main producing centres, mills are forced to sell their stocks in local markets. Continuous supply has led to enough inventory stocks building in the market. ”

On the NCDEX sugar April futures was down to Rs 3,075 (Rs 3,099), May dropped to Rs 3,135 (Rs 3,162) and June was Rs 3,210 (Rs 3,227).

In Vashi market, arrivals were 63-64 truckloads (each of 100 bags) and local dispatches were 60-62 truckloads.

On Saturday evening, about 11-12 mills sold 48,000-50,000 bags sugar to local traders at Rs 3,010-3,060 (Rs 3,020-3,080) for S-grade and Rs 3,100-3,200 (Rs 3,120-3,220) for M-grade.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates: S-grade Rs 3,146-3,252 (Rs 3,160-3,252) and M-grade Rs 3,242-3,421 (Rs 3,252- 3,421). **Naka delivery rates:** S-grade Rs 3,095-3,150 (Rs 3,095-3,150) and M-grade Rs 3,160-3,305 (Rs 3,160-3,305).
