THE HINDU

'Follow traditional farming methods'

Patel Shivarm, MLC, has called upon farmers to follow traditional agricultural methods, instead of using chemical fertilizers. He was speaking after inaugurating Maize Kshetrotsava, organised by the Agriculture Department here on Thursday. H.S. Prakash, Hassan MLA, suggested that farmers be cautious while purchasing seeds and fertilizers. "There are spurious seeds and fertilizers available in the market. Farmers should follow guidance of the officers before purchasing them," he said.

9,300 hectares of land brought under samba

Drive launched to promote system of rice intensification

Ariyalur Collector E. Saravanvel Raj interacting with officials on drip irrigation technique near Ariyalur on Thursday.

About 9,300 hectares of land had been brought under samba cultivation so far in the district and the Agriculture Department had made arrangements for the supply of fertilizer and other farm inputs. Efforts had been taken to motivate farmers to adopt System of Rice Intensification (SRI) technique, said E. Saravanavel Raj, District Collector.

Of the 9,300 hectares of land, 4,625 hectares had been brought under the SRI technique. In a release issued here on Thursday, he said there had been overwhelming response from farmers to switch over to the technique from their conventional pattern.

He said that the department supplied weeder which had come in handy for clearing the weeds and using it as a bio-manure for paddy.

The Collector said that the drip irrigation system was being popularised among farmers, particularly for raising horticulture, floriculture, and plantation crops. The district had bagged special additional funds for setting up drip irrigation implements. As many as 732 hectares had been brought under drip irrigation in the district and subsidy totalling Rs. 4 crore had been released among 929 farmers.

The Collector distributed agricultural implements estimated at Rs. 1.95 lakh to 130 farmers in and around Tirumanur at a function held at Sathamangalam, the release added.

Nabard to adopt 1,540 villages

National Agriculture Bank for Rural Development has decided to extend its ambitious ‘Village Adoption Programme’ to 1,540 villages in 26 States.

NABARD Chief General Manager L. Munda said at a workshop at the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) here on Wednesday that at present 877 villages in 18 States were adopted under the programme aimed at improving the quality of life in the villages and better infrastructure facilities and agriculture practices by involving local people.

New product to manage cashew pests

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) scientists on Tuesday gave a field demonstration on the use of a new product called Sealer cum Healer to farmers at Gaondongari, Canacona.They explained that pests such as the stem and root borer can be managed using the product.The Sealer cum Healer was developed by Indian Institute of Horticulture (IIH), Bengaluru in collaboration with ICAR Research Complex, Goa.

Demonstration

It has already been demonstrated effectively at Directorate of Cashew Research at Puttur, Karnataka and Regional Centre of TNAU at Virudhachalam, Tamil Nadu.Scientists from ICAR gave the demonstration on the management of cashew stem and root borer.It is the most damaging pest on cashew and causes death of trees. The product contains essential micronutrients and herbal drugs which initiate re-growth of the damaged tissue. The preparation, application of product and precaution to be taken was also shown to local farmers in Canacona. Nearly 30 farmers attended the presentation.The farmers evinced interest in adopting the technology provided the product shows concrete results.

Mettur level

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 82.98 feet on Thursday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 4,326 cusecs and the discharge, 15,000 cusecs.

Water level

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Thursday stood at 76.30 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 124.74 cusecs and 862.25 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam. The water level in the Manimuthar dam stood at 50.61 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 7 cusecs and 25 cusecs of water was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in the Pechipparai dam stood at 19.05 feet, 58.50 feet in Perunchani, 8.30 feet in Chittar 1, 8.40 feet in Chittar 11 and 36.42 feet in the Mambazathuraiyaru dam.

‘Procure kuruvai paddy without looking at moisture’

Samba cultivation taken up on 1,27,582 hectares of land in Tiruvarur district.

Farmers of Tiruvarur District on Thursday appealed to District Collector S. Natarajan to recommend to the Government to procure kuruvai paddy at the Direct Purchase Centres of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) irrespective of any amount of moisture content in it.

They made this appeal at the monthly farmers grievances' day meeting held in Tiruvarur. At present, TNCSC is procuring paddy with 18 per cent moisture content. The Collector assured farmers that he would bring it to the notice of the government.

He said that samba cultivation had been taken up on 1,27,852 hectares of land so far. The target was 1,28,410 hectares. Of the cultivated area now, direct sowing had been taken up on 73,902 hectares of land and transplantation had been completed on 53,950 hectares of land. Kuruvai was raised on 18,394 hectares of land and harvest had been completed on 18,033 hectares. He said the district received very less rainfall than the normal rainfall in October. Normal rainfall for the month was 205.65 mm but the district received only 66.06 mm till October 30. This was 139.59 mms less.

V. Selvaraj said as there was rainfall now, moisture content in the harvested Kuruvai paddy was more. Hence paddy, irrespective of moisture content, should be purchased without fixing percentage. Co-operative institutions should start disbursal of second phase of crop loans.

Pandiyan of Kottur said that Korayar should be dredged for free flow of water. Jayaraman asked for distribution of bio-fertilizers with subsidy.

Ramachandran said that more procurement centres should be opened to meet demand during samba harvest.

Ensure crop loss is enumerated, Kiran tells farmers

Kiran sanctions two acres to a tenant farmer, who lost standing crop in floods

Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy and Union Minister M.M. Pallam Raju interacting with a flood victim in Gollaprolu near Kakinada on Thursday.– PHOTO: S. RAMBABU

Advising the farmers who lost their standing crop in the recent incessant rains to be extra careful during the enumeration of crop loss, Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy on Thursday said that input subsidy would be credited into the bank accounts of the farmers at the earliest.

"The input subsidy has been increased from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 10,000 per hectare. Enumeration of crop loss is very crucial and the farmers must take personal interest in get their farm fields enumerated," Mr. Reddy said during his interaction with the farmers from the EBC Colony here.

The Chief Minister sanctioned two acres of land to a tenant farmer Kolla Suryanarayana, after knowing that the farmer lost all the standing crop due to the overflowing of Suddagedda drain in the aftermath of the heavy rains. Mr. Reddy asked Collector Neetu Prasad to identify cultivable land and distribute it to the tenant farmer. A few women brought to the notice of the Chief Minister that though the government was releasing huge funds for their welfare, "some forces" were stopping them to avail the benefits. Reacting swiftly, Mr. Reddy advised the women to lodge a complaint with the Collector in writing, so that action would be initiated against the guilty.

In response to the slogans demanding ‘Samaikyandhra,’ Mr. Reddy said that he was in favour of a unified State and was fighting for the cause. After visiting Anjaneya Colony in Kakinada rural mandal that was under water due to the rains, the Chief Minister convened a review meeting with the officials and elected representatives in the Collectorate. Accusing the government of failing to provide a permanent solution to the overflowing of drains, the TDP MLAs Pendurthi Venkatesh and Parvatha Chitti Babu said that the Chief Minister’s visit was of no use to the victims, as he had not announced any relief. The TDP representatives staged a walk out from the meeting, expressing their resentment .

Poultry farmers, sheep rearers a distressed lot

A poultry farmer loses 3,600 chicks, but govt. pays compensation only for loss of adult birds

Seeking support:A poultry farmer at his empty farm after losing 3,600 chicks due to heavy rains at Mushampally village in Nalgonda district. —Photo: Singam Venkataramana

As many as 3,600 poultry birds of one-week age that belonged to a farmer, Karengi Yadaiah from Mushampalli village in Nalgonda mandal, were swept away due to heavy rains that lashed the district recently. But as per the Centre’s norms, he is not eligible for compensation as it is given only for loss of adult birds.

Mr. Yadaiah said that he had invested Rs. 23 on each bird and Rs. 50,000 per week in rearing the birds at his poultry farm. “None of my birds survived as the farm was completely submerged in floodwater,” he said adding that it had caused him Rs. 2 lakh loss.

Animal Husbandry Department officials told *The Hindu* that each farmer was eligible for compensation of a maximum of Rs. 400, Rs. 37 on each adult bird in the case of poultry and other birds. Sheep farmers were eligible for a compensation of Rs. 1,600 for each and only for four heads.

But some of the farmers have lost more than 50 sheep/goats due to heavy rains. As many as 60 sheep of Gattigala Janaiah of Kattangur village died due to rains and Bollena Dhanunjaiaha of Nidamanoor mandal has also lost his 70 sheep, but these two sheep farmers are eligible for compensation only for four sheep/goats, according to the guidelines. In case of buffaloes, bullocks and cows, the farmers are eligible for compensation for only two heads at Rs. 16,500 each. But, some of the farmers lost more than two animals.

These farmers have demanded the Central government to revise the existing norms in issuing compensation to support livestock farmers who have lost heavily due to rains. Otherwise, it would be difficult for them to face the financial burden on their own.

CPI (M) district secretary Nandyala Narasimha Reddy demanded that the government relax the guidelines to pay compensation to all the farmers who incurred heavy losses. According to Joint Director M.A. Kadheer and Assistant Director V. Srinivasa Rao, 26 buffaloes, 964 sheep/goats, 10 bullocks, 11 calves and 6,530 poultry birds have died due to rains.

The enumeration was still on, they said.

Business Standard

Extended Diwali holiday may push up onion prices again

Though onion prices in a few retail markets are showing signs of stabilising, the relief could be short-lived, as traders in major wholesale markets in Maharashtra are planning to go on an extended Diwali holiday till November 11. This could result in disruption in supplies across the country after Diwali.

A worried Union government has immediately swung into action. It has urged Maharashtra to direct onion traders to return to work around November 5.

Disruption in supplies, a few experts believe, could have an impact on the United Progressive Alliance's prospects in four coming state Assembly elections, primarily in Delhi. Officials from the Department of Consumer Affairs have held talks with their counterparts from the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure the extended holiday doesn't disrupt supplies across major retail markets.

TEARS APLENTY

Retail price of onions (₹/kg)

Centre	Oct 1	Oct 25	Oct 31	Chg*
Delhi	62	80	70	-10
Mumbai	59	67	67	–
Chennai	40	51	57	6
Kolkata	55	60	64	4
Nagpur	65	52	52	–
Gwalior	75	70	60	-10

Note: Price may vary from markets to markets
* Change from Oct 25; Source: Department of Consumer Affairs

A few trade associations, too, have objected to the extended closure of wholesale markets in Maharashtra. About 70 per cent of India's demand for onions is met through supplies from Maharashtra. Fears of a second spike in retail onion prices after Diwali have been exacerbated by the poor response to an attempt to import the commodity to boost supplies in the Delhi market. The open tender floated by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (Nafed) to import an undisclosed amount of onions, primarily from Pakistan, Egypt, China and Iran, failed, as five of the six bids received were invalid, while the sole eligible supplier quoted a high price. The valid bid quoted Rs 50 a kg at ex-Delhi price for Chinese onion; the price was considered unfavorable.

“Nafed is closely monitoring the arrivals and a fresh review would be done for subsequent steps to be taken, if required,” said a Nafed statement. The tender was opened on October 29. Officials said onions from China weren’t considered favourable as these didn’t cater to local taste.

Meanwhile, according to data provided by the Department of Consumer Affairs, onion prices in a few retail markets are showing signs of moderation. In Delhi, prices have dropped Rs 10 a kg in select retail markets; in smaller towns such as Gwalior, too, these have dropped by a similar amount. “The situation is slowly coming under control, but it could go out of hand if remedial measures are not taken immediately taken,” said a senior

Cardamom up 1.3% on spot demand

Cardamom prices rose by Rs 9.50 to Rs 724.40 per kg in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions amid a rise in spot market demand against restricted arrivals.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in November rose by Rs 9.50, or 1.32%, to Rs 724.40 per kg in business turnover of 321 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 2.40, or 0.32%, to Rs 751 per kg with a trade volume of 58 lots.

Marketmen said fresh positions created by speculators, driven by a rise in demand in the spot market against limited arrivals from producing belts mainly led to rise in cardamom prices at futures trade.

Potato up 0.8% on spot demand

Potato prices rose by 0.84% to Rs 851.30 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions on pick-up in spot market demand amid low stocks.

Marketmen said sentiment improved as traders enlarged holdings on account of a surge in demand in market, which also supported the uptrend.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, potato for delivery in April rose by Rs 7.10, or 0.84%, to Rs 851.30 per quintal, with trading volume of 4 lots.

Potato for delivery in March also moved up by Rs 6.40, or 0.73%, to Rs 883 per quintal with a trade volume of 38 lots.

Amid soaring prices, dehydrated variety provides hope

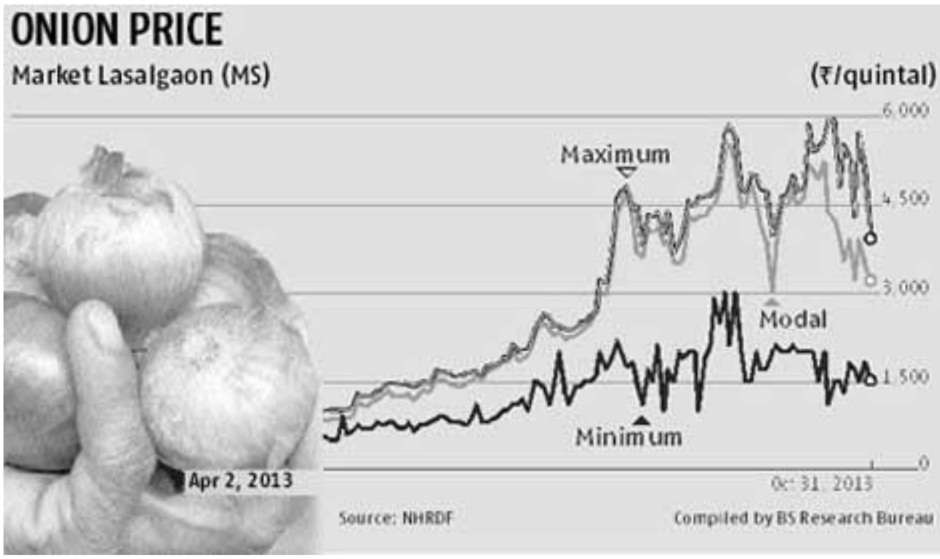
Even as persistently high onion prices have led to concern among the government as well as consumers, the dehydrated variety of the commodity seems a promising option. Experts, however, say Indians prefer fresh onions and the use of dehydrated onions is confined to packaged food companies and hotels.

Sources said dehydrated onions were about 10 times cheaper than the fresh variety sold in the market. And, a kg of dehydrated onions accounts for 10 kg of fresh ones, after water is added to it. The dehydrated variety could cost about Rs 150 a kg in the retail market, provided fresh onions are purchased at about Rs 10-12 a kg in wholesale markets for dehydration. The cost to dehydrate 10 kg of fresh onion is Rs 30.

Last week, Ashok Gulati, chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices, had recommended the use of dehydrated onions during scarcity. Typically, August and September and, sometimes, October see a shortage of the commodity, as the market awaits new arrivals. “At such times, dehydrated onions could be of much use and a sudden spike in prices could be averted,” Gulati had said.

Hyder Meghani, managing director of Natural Dehydrated Vegetables, said, “Indians prefer to eat fresh onions in routine meals. Ready-to-eat food makers, hotels and the catering industry are some of the buyers of dehydrated onion in India.”

As a kg of the variety would yield about 10 kg of normal onions (on addition of water), effective prices would fall significantly. “Onion dehydration has a very nominal presence in India. If we take care of a few things, anyone can store it at home for future consumption. The shelf life of dehydrated onions is two year," said Asgar Chattariya, secretary, All India Dehydration Association. His company, Chhatariya Dehydrates Exports, is one of India's largest dehydrated onion production and export companies.



Though dehydrated onions can be stored in air-tight boxes for two years, once water is added, its shelf life is reduced to just two hours.

This variety is exported in large volumes. Recently, following the steep rise in onion prices, the new season for the onion dehydration industry is likely to be delay by a month or two.

"The domestic price of onions is a major factor for us. Currently, prices are too high; we are waiting for the new crop to come in December; if price don't fall below Rs 10 a kg, we will not open our unit. According to trends in prices in the export market, if the price of fresh onions is more than Rs 10 a kg, dehydration is not viable," said Vitthalbhai Koradiya, managing director, Maharaja Dehydration, Mahuva (Gujarat). According to industry estimates, dehydrated onion stocks in India stand at 200-250 tonnes.

There are 90 onion dehydration units in India, with a combined capacity of 90,000 tonnes a year. Of these, 75 units are located in Gujarat—-at Bhavnagar, Mahuva, Vadodara and Gondal. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan account for the remaining units. Most of the dehydrated onions are exported to countries such as the US, the UK, the Gulf countries and Australia. Setting up an onion dehydration unit is an expensive affair, especially when the domestic market isn't seeing good demand. "To set up a dehydration unit, one needs at least Rs 3 crore of investment. Most of the plant machinery is available in India," said Hitesh Parekh, managing director of Pardes Dehydration Company, Gondal.

"Typically, white onion is used in dehydration and the quality of this commodity in Gujarat is better than other places in India. With the easy availability and cheap labor, this industry has grown here," said Koradiya.

As per Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), onion production during 2012-13 was about 16.30 million tonnes in India, previous year it was 17.51 million tonnes. Maharashtra is the largest onion producing state with share of 28.57 percent, followed by Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh with 14.69 and 13.19 percent respectively. Gujarat is having nearly 4.32 percent share in onion production in the country.

Coriander down 1.5% on profit-booking

Spice of December delivery declined by 1.4%

Coriander futures prices fell by 1.56% to Rs 6,741 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators booked profits at existing higher levels, influenced by a decline in demand in spot market.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, coriander for delivery in November fell by Rs 107, or 1.56%, to Rs 6,741 per quintal with open interest of 16,860 lots.

The spice of December delivery declined by Rs 103, or 1.46%, to Rs 6,939 per quintal with an open interest of 11,680 lots.

Market analysts said besides profit-booking by speculators at existing higher levels, sluggish demand in the spot market led to the fall in coriander futures prices.

Crude palm oil rises 0.3% on spot demand, overseas cues

Crude palm oil prices rose by 0.35% to Rs 561.50 per 10 kg in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions on expectations of pick up in spot market demand amid firming overseas cues.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for delivery in December rose Rs 2, or 0.35%, to Rs 561.50 per 10 kg, with a business turnover of 56 lots.

The oil for November delivery rose by Rs 1.90, or 0.33%, to Rs 561.40 per 10 kg, with trading volume of 243 lots.

Analysts said fresh buying by speculators on hopes of pick-up in spot market demand amid a firming global trend mainly led to a rise in crude palm oil prices at futures market.

Globally, palm oil advanced 1% to $816 a tonne on the Malaysian Derivatives Exchange.

THE HINDU Business Line

Hyderabad to host global farm meet from Nov 4

Hyderabad,:

Scientists, academicians, industrialists and government representatives engaged in the field of agriculture from across the world will meet for a four-day session here from November 4 to discuss ways to improve farm productivity, inject information technology into production and ensure farmers got a better price.

focus areas

The World Agricultural Forum Congress 2013 and Agri-Tech Trade fair, being hosted by the city for the second time, will focus on debates, discussion and demonstration as to how to achieve the new objectives for global agriculture.

Ways to include small farmers in the global supply needs will get a special focus during the summit.

Kanna Lakshminarayana, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Agriculture, said that the State Government was hosting an agri-tech trade fair as a parallel event.

trade fair

“The trade fair will showcase latest advances in farm mechanisation, fertiliser and seed usage, solar power in agri sector and banking products for farmers,” he told media persons here today.

He said about 5,000 farmers from the State were expected to participate in the fair.

The session will see about 100 foreign delegates and 150 exhibiting companies.

Value-addition

Value-addition will be another area that the session will focus on.

Despite a considerable increase in agri-outputs, declining farmers' profitability continues to be a concern to policy makers in India.

One of the reasons identified by experts is poor value addition by the food procession industry, despite a rapid increase in demand for processed food.

The breakout sessions include role of cooperatives in sustained agriculture, reducing post harvest losses, cold chain infrastructure, dairy production, developing entrepreneurship, risk management, water availability and climate change.

Export hopes boost jeera futures

Rajkot:
Jeera futures gained on bargain hunting, supported by expectations of a pick-up in overseas demand. Spot markets will be closed for 10 days from Thursday for Diwali.

On the NCDEX, jeera November contracts increased by Rs 35 to Rs 12,550 a quintal. NCDEX jeera December contracts moved up by Rs 32.50 to Rs 12,765 .

On the spot, jeera was traded at Rs 2,000-2,850 for 20 kg in Unjha mandi of Gujarat. At Rajkot, jeera price stood at Rs 2,100-2,350. No arrival was reported in the Saurashtra region as markets were closed.

Traders said that prospects for a good crop are poor in Iran, Turkey and Syria and in such a situation, fresh export demand is likely to emerge after Diwali.

Physical traders said that export demand for jeera this current year, along with favourable weather conditions will encourage sowing of jeera crop.

Spot rubber stays unchanged

Kottayam:
Spot rubber continued to rule almost unchanged on Thursday. There were no enquiries in the market; but most counters managed to sustain at the prevailing levels on short supplies.

The trend was partially mixed, as ungraded rubber and ISNR 20 improved marginally, amidst scattered transactions though the overall sentiments were not impressive.

Sheet rubber finished flat at Rs 158.50 a kg, according to trading circles.

The grade improved to Rs 159.50 (Rs 159) and Rs 156.50 (Rs 156) respectively, according to the Rubber Board and dealers. November futures declined to Rs 159.98 (Rs 161.29), December to Rs 160.90 (Rs 162.91) and January to Rs 162.61 (Rs 164.84) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) dropped to Rs 155.04 (Rs 155.48) at Bangkok. November futures closed at ¥ 247.5 (Rs 154.94) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were: RSS-4: 158.50 (158.50); RSS-5: 151 (151); Ungraded: 147 (146); ISNR 20: 151 (150) and latex 60 per cent: 116.50 (116.50).

Bt brinjal gets Bangladesh nod for commercial cultivation

New Delhi:

Bangladesh has approved the commercial cultivation of transgenic Bt brinjal, becoming the first country in South Asia to cultivate the genetically modified food crop.

This has triggered concerns among environmentalists in India, who have urged the Government to take all steps to safeguard food and seed supply, apart from bio-diversity.

“Four Bt brinjal varieties (Bt begun-1, 2, 3 and 4) have been approved by the Government for limited scale cultivation with some conditions,” said Md Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Director General of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), in an e-mailed response to *Business Line*.

“The strategy for commercialisation and locations are not yet finalised. We will finalise them as per the instruction of the National Committee on Biosafety,” he said.

BARI had developed these Bt brinjal varieties incorporating Indian firm Mahyco’s proprietary gene construct technology.

Mahyco had transferred its Bt brinjal technology to BARI way back in 2005-06 through a USAID-funded and Cornell University-managed ‘Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project’. Bt brinjal contains a foreign ‘Cry1Ac’ gene derived from a soil bacterium, Bacillus thuringiensis or Bt.

This gene synthesises a protein toxic to the fruit and shoot borer (FSB), a destructive pest.

The gene gives the crop a “built-in” resistance to FSB, reducing reliance on spraying pesticides.

border security

Meanwhile, the Coalition for GM Free India has written to Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan urging her to take all measures to stop any illegal or unintentional transfer of Bt brinjal or seeds through the border with Bangladesh.

Further, India should ensure that it officially shares all its analysis on Bt brinjal, the basis for its moratorium decision and urge Bangladesh not to release this GM food crop, they said.

India should explore all options under the Cartagena Protocol to ensure that Bangladesh puts in place all measures and mechanisms that would ensure that our diversity here is protected from any trans-boundary movement of this GM food crop, said the letter.

"Since the India-Bangladesh border is porous, we demand ban import/transfer of crops, fruits, seeds/food of Brinjal and related species/genus/family, which have remotest possibility of contamination directly or indirectly through Bt Brinjal," the coalition said.

Germany farm gear maker to turn India an export hub

New Delhi:
German farm equipment maker Lemken GmbH, which specialises in pre-harvesting implements such as reversible ploughs, plans to make India its export hub to cater to markets in Asia and Africa.

Lemken, which set up a manufacturing unit in Nagpur with an investment of Rs 60 crore last year, expects to start exports to south China and African countries from next year, said Anthony Van Der Ley, CEO, Lemken GmbH.

The 232-year-old German firm also plans to set up a small design team of about eight engineers in India taking advantage of the engineering skills here to customise its products for the local market.

“We are looking at India from a long-term perspective and the market here holds a major potential,” Ley said.

In its first year of operations, Lemken India sold over 350 hydraulic reversible ploughs, which cost around Rs 1.8 lakh each, almost three times higher than mechanical ploughs. Lemken’s equipment is used along with tractors.

The company is targeting to sell 1,000 ploughs next year and also plans to introduce other equipment such as disc harrow, which is used to cut, mix and mulch soil and seed drills among others.

“We use a highly specialised alloy boron steel that enhances the life of our equipment to a great extent, making it more expensive than conventional ones,” said Arvind Kumar, MD and CEO of Lemken India Agro Equipment Pvt Ltd. Currently, Lemken’s products are sold in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab, while the company is looking at other States such as Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

Kumar said the Government should look at extending subsidy, being offered to farm equipments, to technology-intensive farm implements, such as hydraulic reversible ploughs to give a push farm mechanisation.

Winter likely to set in North this weekend

Thiruvananthapuram:
Meteorological conditions over North-West India are gradually settling into winter with snow, rains and fog punctuating ruling weather.

The Met Department said that the seasonal anticyclone is readying to sit over North-West India; associated winds will drive away the faintest of erstwhile South-West monsoon flows over land.

DRY COLD

Anticyclone is associated with dry cold (as against humid and wet of cyclonic flows of monsoon) and is responsible for bringing in winter climes.

The cold spell is broken only by cyclonic flows associated with periodic western disturbances. These winds originate from West Asia and carry with them the Arctic cold when passing over northwest India.

These disturbances are also laden with moisture, and are responsible for snow and rain during the winter, crucial enablers of the Rabi crop.

According to the Met Department, winter conditions will start to settle over North-West India from the weekend and into the rest of November.

Alongside, a rain and snow-driving western disturbance will troop in from across the international border into North-West India from Tuesday.

TEMPERATURE REGIME

It will also bring about associated changes in the temperature regime – arrival of western disturbances causes temperatures to rise. Arctic cold fills their trail and lowers temperatures.

The Met Department says that fog/shallow fog will likely set in over initially as the cooler air interacts with moisture being left behind by a predecessor western disturbance.

Rain or snow has already occurred at many places over Jammu and Kashmir during 24 hours ending Thursday morning.

RAINS BREAK OUT

Thundershowers broke out at isolated places over Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh during this period.

Parts of north Bihar and adjoining isolated pockets of east Uttar Pradesh witnessed fog in the morning hours on Thursday.

Meanwhile, rain or thundershowers has been forecast at many places over Tamil Nadu and Kerala and few places in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, south Konkan, Goa and south Madhya Maharashtra.

Palmolein tops Rs 600/10kg

Mumbai:

The sentiment in the edible oils market remained firm on Thursday, tracking bullish futures. Despite routine demand in the physical market, local refineries raised their rates for palmolein to Rs 600.

Malaysian palm oil extended gain for the fourth consecutive day on firm buying interest amid concerns that forecast of wet weather in the major oil-palm growing States could disrupt harvesting and transportation of the commodity.

On the Bombay commodity exchange, imported palmolein and cotton refined oil rose by Rs 3 and Rs 2 for 10 kg each. All other edible oils ruled steady.

Towards the day's close, Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 600, super palmolein Rs 635 and super deluxe Rs 655, soyabean refined oil Rs 715 and sunflower refined oil Rs 810.

Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 599 ex JNPT and Rs 600 ex Patalganga, super palmolein Rs 630, soyabean refined oil Rs 711 and sunflower refined oil Rs 755. Allana was quoting palmolein Rs 600-604, super palmolein Rs 630, super deluxe Rs 650, soyabean refined oil Rs 715 and sunflower refined oil Rs 820.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil ruled steady at Rs 1,285 for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) Rs 825 .

Soyabean arrivals were 4.75-5 lakh bags and prices were Rs 3,400-3,700 ex mandi and Rs 3,800-3,900 plant delivery.

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's November futures close higher at MYR 2,620 (MYR 2,585), December at MYR 2,605 (MYR 2,557) and January at MYR 2,598 (MYR 2,547).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 850 (850), soya refined oil 710 (710), sunflower exp. ref. 700 (705), sunflower ref. 780 (780), rapeseed ref. oil 752 (752), rapeseed expeller ref. 722 (722) cottonseed ref. oil 700 (698) and palmolein 593 (590).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd quoted Rs 665/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein November delivery.

Turmeric pales despite lower arrivals

Turmeric prices dropped on Thursday in Erode markets despite arrivals dropping to less than 2,000 bangs. However, prices of fine variety hybrid turmeric increased by over Rs 1,000 a quintal on quality.

“Only 1,980 bags arrived for sale on Wednesday and 978 were sold. Prices of finger and root varieties decreased in all four markets. But the hybrid finger variety was sold at Rs 7,208 a quintal against Rs 6,027 on Tuesday. Hybrid root variety prices increased by Rs 100 a quintal. All 95 bags of the hybrid finger variety that arrived were sold,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association President.

The turmeric market will be closed till November 4 from Friday for Diwali. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,827-5,829 a quintal, the root variety at Rs 3,691-4,825.

Salem Hybrid: The finger variety fetched Rs 5,724-7,208, the root variety Rs 4,517-5,120. Of 501 bags that arrived, only 162 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety ruled at Rs 4,399-5,709, the root variety at Rs 4,069-4,989. Of the 681 put for sale, 452 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing society, the finger variety went for Rs 4,462 -5,900, the root variety for Rs 3,900-4,874. All the 327 bags on offer were traded.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety sold at Rs 4,211-5,822, the root variety at Rs 4,011-5,005 a quintal. All the 110 bags on sale were picked up.

Selling pressure, slack demand pound pepper

Kochi:

Pepper prices – both spot and futures – fell on slack demand and some selling pressure.

As prices were ruling moderately higher and not moving up for the past few days, those who were holding the material started selling. Added to this is the upcountry buyers' shift to dry fruit business for Diwali, market sources told *Business Line.*

On the spot, 35 tonnes of farm grade pepper was traded at Rs 365-371 a kg and the material was picked up by domestic dealers. However, there was no aggressive selling and availability continued to be tight. Exporters were not active as internationally "we are slightly above other origins," sources said.

On the NMCE, November and December contracts decreased by Rs 248 and Rs 40 respectively to Rs 47,390 and Rs 47,310 a quintal.

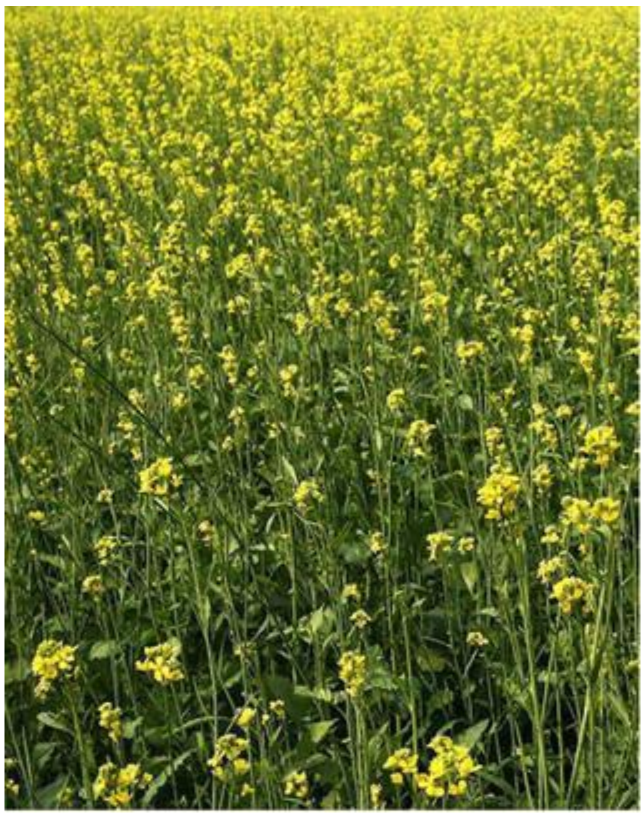
The turnover was up by four tonnes at 12 tonnes. Net open position remained unchanged at 14 tonnes.

Spot prices fell by Rs 500 to Rs 45,800 (ungarbled) and Rs 47,800 (garbled) a quintal. However, the trade expressed the view that the current decline is temporary and the prices would move up after a week to ten days. “No drastic fall is expected,” said a trader.

Indian parity in the international market dropped to $8,200 (c&f) Europe and $8,500 a tonne (c&f) for the US.

Prices quoted by other origins today were Vietnam Asta – $8,150 (c&f) US; Brazil Asta $7,500 (fob); B1 $7,450 (fob) and Lampong Asta $7,800 a tonne (f.o.b).

Mustard turns bullish on costlier soya



Indore:

The bullish trend continued in mustard and its oil for the second consecutive week.

Besides improved festival demand, rise in soya oil and soya seeds prices aided the uptrend, said Vinod Choudhary, an Indore-based broker.

Notwithstanding subdued demand, mustard oil in Indore mandis on Thursday rose to Rs 706 for 10 kg (Rs 696).

Plant deliveries of mustard for Jaipur line ruled higher at Rs 3,825-30 a quintal (Rs 3,722-30) on improved buying support from the crushers.

Mustard was being quoted at Rs 3,700 a quintal (up Rs 200 from last week), while raida ruled at Rs 3,250.

Mustard seeds traded low in futures with its November and December contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 3,794 (down Rs 9) and Rs 3,875 (down Rs 6) respectively.

Arrival of mustard across the mandis in country on Thursday was 1.30 lakh bags .

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated November 1, 2013)

Export buying likely in rice market in short term

Karnal:

Despite restricted trading, the rice market witnessed a steady trend with prices of aromatic and non-basmati rice ruling without much alteration on Thursday from previous levels.

The market has seen some good buying over the last couple of weeks and prices of full grain aromatic and non-basmati rice are likely to rule around current levels over the next few days, said Tara Chand Sharma, proprietor of Tara Chand and Sons.

Traders expect the market to witness some need-based buying over the next few days, he added.

According to market sources, rice millers have signed some overseas contracts but they do not have enough stocks to execute their contracts currently.

In the physical market, New Pusa-1121 (steam) sold at Rs 8,100-8,200 , while new Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted at Rs 7,550 a quintal. Pusa-1509 (sela) quoted at Rs 6,050-6,250 . Pure Basmati (Raw) quoted at Rs 11,500 . Duplicate basmati (steam) sold at Rs 6,700 .

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Dubar quoted at Rs 3,900, Tibar sold at Rs 4,500 while Mongra was at Rs 3,500 .

In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) sold at Rs 4,650-4,700 while Sharbati (Sela) quoted at Rs 4,600 .

Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,350-2,400 while Permal (sela) was at Rs 2,400 . PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs 2,900 while PR-11 (Raw) quoted at Rs 3,000-3,100 . PR14 (steam) sold at Rs 3,100 .

Paddy arrivals

About 50,000 bags of PR paddy arrived and quoted at Rs 1,400-30, around 25,000 bags of Pusa-1121 arrived and sold at Rs 3,800, 10,000 bags of Sugandha at Rs 2,700, while 5,000 bags of Sharbati arrived and sold at Rs 2,300. Around 12,000 bags of Duplicate Basmati arrived and went for Rs 3,700 , while 500 bags of Pure Basmati sold at Rs 4,720 a quintal.

Sugar mills look to ease inventory burden

Mumbai:

Sugar prices at the mill level dropped by Rs 5-20 a quintal for S-grade and by Rs 10-30 for M-grade late on Wednesday evening as producers sold old stocks to ease inventory burden. The also need cash before the start of crushing activities.

Crushing in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh has been slightly delayed due to agitation by farmers for higher cane price and payments.

A Vashi-based wholesaler said that in the Vashi wholesale market, prices ruled steady. The supply of fine-bold variety was tight. *Naka* rates were unchanged for the 10th consecutive day on limited activities.

In the physical market, arrivals and local dispatches were equally matched.

There was shortage of vehicles in some producing areas due to Diwali holidays. However, freight rates were steady at higher level, he said.

Arrivals in Vashi market continued to be at 62-63 truckloads (100 bags each) while local dispatches were 61-62 loads.

On Wednesday, 15-16 mills sold about 45,000-48,000 bags at Rs 2,695-2,820 (Rs 2,700-2,840) for S-grade and Rs 2,850-2,980 (Rs 2,880-3,000) for M-grade.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 2,890-3,025 (Rs 2,886-3,025) and M-grade Rs 3,012-3,221 (Rs 3,012-3,231). ***Naka* delivery rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,840-2,880 (Rs 2,840-2,880) and M-grade Rs 2,950-3,120 (Rs 2,950-3,120).