

Date : 06.11.2013

THE HINDU

After onions, tomato prices soar

NEW DELHI

Even as the retail price of onions remains at around Rs. 60 per kg in most cosmopolitan markets and the selling price is as high as Rs. 100 per kg in parts of the north-east region, the open market price of tomato has shot up to between Rs. 64 and Rs. 80 per kg in the national capital.

While the average wholesale price of onion is quoted at Rs. 37 per kg, the price of tomato is Rs. 30 per kg.

Only six months ago, onions were selling at Rs. 8.50 per kg and tomato at Rs. 9.50 paise in wholesale mandis.

On Tuesday, as per government data, onions were being sold at Rs. 100 per kg in Aizwal, Rs. 81 in Ernakulam, Rs. 80 in Hissar, Shillong and Dimapur, and at Rs. 64 in Delhi.

Tomatoes were priced at Rs. 80 per kg in Port Blair, Rs. 70 in Aizwal and Rs. 60 in Jammu, on account of low supply from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

However, in Bhopal tomatoes were priced at Rs. 15 per kg and in Bengaluru, onions were selling at Rs. 32 per kg.

Onion prices are likely to remain above normal for another 10 days when fresh harvest will start arriving from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka, official sources said.

'Delhi government did not buy onions'

On Monday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan revealed that the Delhi government did not purchase any onions from Nashik to tide over the situation as Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh had done.

"Delhi teams came and saw but did not buy any onions," he told journalists here.

Rising onion price is a big issue in poll-bound Delhi and in such a situation, Mr. Chavan's remarks assume significance. At the height of the crisis, Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit had met Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar and announced that she would purchase onions from Nashik markets 'directly'. But that did not happen, said Mr. Chavan.

Last week, the central government said that onion production in Maharashtra, the biggest onion-producing State, was lower by about 1.5 million tonnes than projected by the State, but Mr. Chavan denied reports of 'over reporting' by his government.

Instead, he expressed fear that after around 10 days, there might be a 'reverse crisis' – a steep fall in the price of onions, which would impact farmers.

Secure dues from sugar mill: farmers

ERODE

Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam has urged the district administration to prevail upon a private sugar mill to settle dues to sugarcane farmers within 15 days with 15 per cent interest.

Alternatively, it must arrange for loans to the farmers through the lead bank to the extent of the amount that the sugar mill had not settled, speakers demanded at a meeting organised here recently by the Sangam's district unit.

Representatives of the organisation said they had been told by the district administration that the Revenue Department had initiated move to recover dues from the mill under Revenue Recovery Act.

Issues pertaining to LBP canal, status of Kanirowthar tank, and pricing of milk were also discussed at the meeting chaired by unit's president..

Water level

SALEM

Water level at Stanley Reservoir in Mettur dam stood at 79.08 feet as against its full capacity of 120 feet here on Tuesday morning.

The storage was 41.04 tmc ft as against its full capacity of 93.47 feet.

The inflow was 5,848 cusecs while the outflow was 8,093 cusecs.

Mettur level

TIRUCHI

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 79.23 feet on Tuesday as against its full reservoir level of 120 feet. The inflow was 7,246 cusecs and the discharge 2,000 cusecs.

Water level

TIRUNELVELI

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Wednesday stood at 82 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 3,359.12 cusecs following 82 mm rainfall and no water was discharged from the dam.

The water level in Manimuthar dam stood at 59.80 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 1,780 cusecs after 10.80 mm rainfall and 10 cusecs of water was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 22 feet, 59.25 feet in Perunchani, 8.72 feet in Chittar 1, 8.82 feet in Chittar 11 and 37.48 feet in Mampazathuraiyru dam.

Initiative to increase agricultural productivity

TUTICORIN

1, 92, 306 farmers have been identified for this programme



*Agriculture officials inspecting a field at K. Subramaniapuram in Ottapidaram taluk in Tuticorin district on Tuesday.—
Photo: N. Rajesh*

With the launch of the Farm Crop Management System in Tuticorin, as many as 1, 92, 306 progressive farmers have been identified across the district to benefit from this new initiative, according to Joint Director of Agriculture, N.K. Dhakshinamoorthy.

The programme was aimed at increasing agricultural productivity through new technologies to the reach of farmers.

Citing various activities scheduled in the programme, he said initially, soil test would be carried out on farm lands so as to apply the appropriate fertilizer for better crop yield.

The farmers would also be apprised of adopting the best management practice after analysing major and micro nutrients in the soil. Ultimately, crop plan would be devised and farmers would be guided accordingly.

Mr. Dhakshinamoorthy during his field visit to K. Subramaniapuram village in Ottapidaram taluk, interacted with the maize farmers.

As part of the second Green Revolution, the State government has launched this initiative to double the productivity and triple the farmers' income. So far, 1, 25, 426 farmers have enrolled in the scheme and of these, 59, 600 farmers have got the integrated handbook, Mr. Dhakshinamoorthy told *The Hindu* here on Tuesday.

The handbook has all necessary details and it will help the farmers avail all benefits being extended by government through various schemes.

R. Gurumoorthy, Deputy Director of Agriculture, who is heading the Farmers Training Centre, said that training has been imparted to 500 farmers on oil seeds production programme, 300 farmers on redgram transplantation technology coupled with drip irrigation and hundred more farmers on maize production technology. S. Mathiazhagan, Assistant Director of Agriculture (Quality Control), said there was adequate stock of fertilizers.

"A stock of 1, 200 metric tonnes of DAP – Diammonium Phosphate, 925 mt of Mop – Muriate of Potash, 4, 300 mt of complex fertilizers and 2, 100 mt of urea is available currently for this month", Mr. Mathiazhagan added.

[Japanese robotics farm technology to be on display](#)

BANGALORE

Robotics technology has now entered the farm sector with the development of several latest equipment and machinery that can help farmers to plough their land and harvest their produce by sitting in the comforts of their homes.

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Vice-Chancellor K. Narayana Gowa told *The Hindu* that the unmanned machinery could be operated by remote control. They not only take care of labour shortage, but also will help reduce drudgery, he said. These farm robotics technologies, which are being used mainly in Japan, will be on display at the International Krishi Mela. The university is planning to standardise these robotics technologies to develop equipment to suit Indian requirements such as harvesting coconuts and tamarind produce which consume a lot of time, he said.

More schemes for coir workers: Minister

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Various schemes for the betterment of coir workers will be planned and executed soon, Minister for Revenue and Coir Adoor Prakash has said.

The income support project for coir and allied sectors would be extended to those who worked in coconut husk units too, he said.

Mr. Prakash was speaking after inaugurating the 'Coir Day' celebrations at the National Coir Research and Management Institute.

The coir sector was facing a worker crisis due to low wages. The welfare measures available to coir workers should be effectively conveyed to them.

Mechanisation

There should be more mechanisation in the sector, the Minister said.

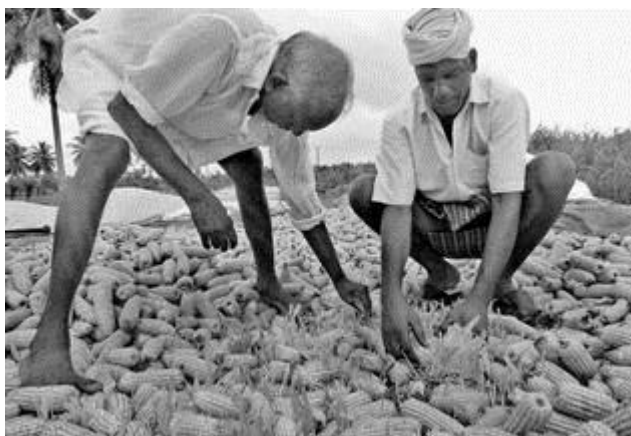
Steps for the welfare of workers of registered cooperative societies were being taken.

Talks would be held with the Coconut Development Board to ensure the procurement of husk at reasonable rates, Mr. Prakash said. K. Muraleedharan, MLA, was present at the function.

Rains shatter hopes of maize farmers

ELURU

Area under maize accounts for 1.25 lakh acres in the district



Deadly blow: Farm workers drying up the maize which germinated after soaked in rain waters at Kommugudem under Pedavegi mandal in West Godavari district. —Photo: A.V.G. Prasad

The recent heavy rains have shattered the hopes of Dasari Janakirami Reddy, a maize farmer from Darbhagudem under Jeelugumilli mandal in West Godavari district. The calamity struck the tenant farmer two weeks after he planted the crop in three and half acres of land.

“The seedlings were washed away in the floods, forcing me to go for transplantation afresh after investing Rs 12,000 per acre,” says the gloomy Janakirami Reddy. He is bound to pay Rs 13,000 as lease to the landlord. “I am totally ruined. I do not know how to fulfil my lease commitment,” he bemoaned.

Damage in 2 stages

Floods struck the crop when it was in two stages—one during the post-harvest period and the other after plantation. When the corn was drying, the fields were inundated in Kamavarapukota, Chintalapudi and Pedavegi mandals. Consequently, the grains, soaked in rainwater for several days, germinated losing their market value. Official estimates revealed that the crop in 340 ha was damaged in the district during the cyclone, according to V.D. Krupadas, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture.

Maize is under cultivation in the semi-delta and upland regions for commercial and hybrid seed purposes. Great potential

The crop is also said to have great potential commercially in view of its export value and its demand as a nutritious feed for poultry. Therefore, maize is fast emerging as an alternative crop for paddy in most parts of the district, says Mr. Krupadas. “It is a preferred crop under water-stress conditions in rabi. Its gross income is on the higher side by Rs 15,000 per acre, compared to paddy and is free of price fluctuations,” the Joint Director said. The area under maize accounts for 1.25 lakh acres in the district.

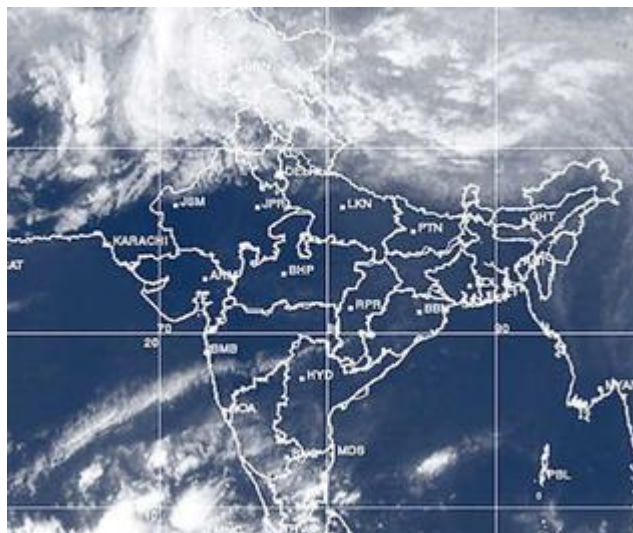
B. Balaram, secretary of the district committee of the Andhra Pradesh Rytu Sangham, said that the calamity had delivered a deadly blow to maize growers when they were happy with the yield ranging to 35 quintals per acre. He urged the district administration to take up enumeration work immediately and provide timely succour to the rain-hit maize farmers.

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- *‘Seedlings were washed away in the floods, forcing me to go for transplantation afresh’*
 - *District administration urged to take up enumeration work immediately*

Official estimates revealed that the crop in 340 ha was damaged in the district during the cyclone

weather

NEW DELHI



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on November 05th.

| | Max | Min | R | TR |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---|-----|
| New Delhi (Plm) | 29 | 14 | 0 | 52 |
| New Delhi (Sfd) | 28 | 12 | 0 | 73 |
| Chandigarh | 28 | 12 | 0 | 43 |
| Hissar | 29 | 12 | 0 | 4 |
| Bhuntar | 25 | 8 | 0 | 9 |
| Shimla | 18 | 9 | 0 | 72 |
| Jammu | 26 | 13 | 0 | 124 |
| Srinagar | 15 | 2 | 0 | 20 |
| Amritsar | 28 | 11 | 0 | 77 |
| Patiala | 29 | 12 | 0 | 11 |
| Jaipur | 31 | 17 | 0 | 2 |
| Udaipur | 30 | 15 | 0 | 55 |
| Allahabad | 30 | 13 | 0 | 301 |
| Lucknow | 29 | 10 | 0 | 42 |
| Varanasi | 29 | 15 | 0 | 141 |
| Dehradun | 26 | 13 | 0 | 35 |
| Agartala | 30 | 19 | 0 | 190 |
| Ahmedabad | 33 | 20 | 0 | 63 |
| Bangalore | 29 | 19 | 0 | 104 |
| Bhubaneshwar | 32 | 19 | 0 | 674 |
| Bhopal | 31 | 16 | 0 | 26 |
| Chennai | 31 | 25 | 0 | 209 |
| Guwahati | 28 | 16 | 0 | 215 |
| Hyderabad | 30 | 20 | 0 | 239 |
| Kolkata | 32 | 22 | 0 | 530 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|---|-----|
| Mumbai | 36 | 27 | 0 | 66 |
| Nagpur | 32 | 19 | 0 | 168 |
| Patna | 28 | 17 | 0 | 194 |
| Pune | 31 | 17 | 0 | 25 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 31 | 24 | 1 | 241 |
| Imphal | 27 | 11 | 0 | 69 |
| Shillong | 19 | 11 | 0 | 77 |

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (tr-trace)

MAINLY DRY WEATHER

Rainfall: Weather was dry over the region.

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE : The minimum temperatures changed little over the region . They were appreciably below normal in east Uttar Pradesh, below normal in Punjab and west Uttar Pradesh and normal in rest of the region. The lowest minimum temperature in the plains was 08.8°C recorded at Kanpur City (Uttar Pradesh).

FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 7th NOVEMBER 2013: Rain/snow would occur at a few places over Jammu and Kashmir during next 24 hours and increase thereafter. Rain/snow would occur at one or two places over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan from 06th onwards. Weather would be mainly dry over rest of the region.

HEAVY RAIN/SNOWFALL WARNING: Heavy rain/snow would occur at one or two places over Jammu and Kashmir on 06th and 07th.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Wednesday, Nov 6

Max Min

30° | 25°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 94

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:03

Sunset: 05:41

Barometer: 1010

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Nov 7

Max Min

32° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

**Friday
Nov 8**



31° | 26°

Partly Cloudy

**Saturday
Nov 9**



32° | 26°

Cloudy

**Sunday
Nov 10**



30° | 26°

Cloudy

**Monday
Nov 11**



26° | 25°

Cloudy

**Tuesday
Nov 12**



27° | 24°

Cloudy

Airport Weather

Chennai

Rain: 0

Humidity: 94

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:03

Sunset: 05:41

Barometer: 1010



THE ECONOMIC TIMES

After vegetables, rice to get pricier with floods, drought



Floods and incessant rains in major rice producing states such as WB, Odisha, Bihar and AP during the harvesting period have affected the paddy crop.

A decline in paddy production in eastern states and Andhra Pradesh has triggered speculation of a lower rice output this year, stoking a 10-30% spike in prices at a time when high vegetable prices have pushed inflation to a seven-month high.

Floods and incessant rains in major rice producing states such as West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh during the harvesting period have affected the paddy crop.

Talking to ET, Trilochan Mohapatra, director, Central Rice Research Institute (CRRRI), said, "Floods in Odisha, Bihar and continuous rains in West Bengal during the harvesting time have affected the paddy crop.

Though the final figures are yet to be arrived at, an initial estimate suggests that the damage could be in the region of 15-20%. A drought-like situation in Jharkhand during the sowing period too will have an impact on rice production this kharif."

Eastern states contribute 55 million tonne of rice to the country's total production of 104.32 million tonne and the bulk of it is produced during the kharif season. Production in the eastern

region has increased by 30% in the last three years after the UPA government launched the "Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India" programme in West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Jharkhand, eastern Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Traders say rice prices have already gone up and they do not see a drop even after the new crop comes to the market. Alok Khemka, owner of Manglam Agrotech, an Odisha-based rice wholesale trading firm, said, "Prices have gone up because there is a fear in the market that this year's crop will be less.

South Indian buyers are purchasing heavy quantities from eastern states which have pushed up prices as well. The rising labour and fertilizer costs have further fuelled this trend. Prices of the common parboiled Swarna variety of rice have gone up by 30% to ₹24 per kg in the wholesale market while the retail price is ₹31 per kg. "Khemka, who also cultivates paddy in some 55 acres of Bhadrak district in Odisha, said prices will continue to remain firm in the coming months. "Floods and rains have not only affected production but also the quality of rice.

Therefore, going ahead there will be a dearth of quality nonbasmati rice which will make the cereal costlier."

Far away in Delhi's Nayabazar wholesale market, prices of non-basmati rice have firmed up by 10-20%. Shiv Shankar, owner of Krishna Rice Trade, said, "Prices are firm and reports emerging from eastern India show that prices will continue to be on the higher side in the coming months."

Prices in West Bengal, which produces 15.4 million tonne of rice, have already gone up by 15-25% depending upon the variety.

"The Minikit variety is selling at ₹3,200 per quintal in the wholesale market, which is higher by at least 20%. This is being sold at the retail level at ₹36-38 per kg," said Barin Mondol, owner of Hooghly-based Anjali Traders.

However, Mohapatra does not find any concrete reason for a sudden spike in prices.

Unchecked climate change to lower food production



Unchecked climate change, scientists warn, will slow down economic growth, impact poverty reduction, lower food production and drive up food prices.

NEW DELHI: Unchecked climate change, scientists warn, will slow down economic growth, impact poverty reduction, lower food production and drive up food prices.

A leaked copy of the draft report of the Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), reviewed by ET, sounds the most urgent warning till date on the adverse impacts of unchecked climate change.

While poor African countries stand out as the likely worst victims, inaction on climate change would create serious problems for developing countries like India and China, which are trying to pull out millions of their people from poverty.

The draft report, which could be revised before it is finalised in March 2014, states that throughout the 21st century, climate change will slow down economic growth and further erode food security, and trigger new poverty traps, particularly in urban areas. Scientists say with "medium confidence" that the negative impacts of climate change on crops and terrestrial food production are more common than positive impacts.

In the recent past there have been rapid increase in food and cereal prices, which scientists say points to the fact that key production regions are sensitive to climate extremes. The draft report stresses that without corrective measures, temperature increases of 1 degree or more would

"negatively impact" yield for crops like rice, wheat and maize. Projections suggest that unchecked climate change will reduce yields by as much as 2% every decade.

Simultaneously, demand for food grains is expected to rise by 14% every decade till 2050, resulting in a situation of spiralling food prices. Tropical countries would be the worst affected, especially because they are home to the world's poorest people. While a 2 degrees rise in temperature can be countered through effective measures to adapt to climate change, scientists warn such efforts will have no impact if local temperature increases by 4 degrees or more. It could make the gap between crop production and rising demand "increasingly large" in many regions, and pose significant threats to food security.

For India, such a situation will endanger the government's food security programme that seeks to provide food grains at a low cost to 67% of the population.

Tomato prices touches Rs 80 per kg



According to traders at Delhi's wholesale mandi at Azadpur, tomato prices have gone up sharply as arrivals from Himachal Pradesh have almost stopped with onset of winter, while supplies from Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are also low.

NEW DELHI: After onion, retail prices of tomatoes have soared up to Rs 80 per kg in the national capital on lower supplies from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Mother Dairy, which has about 400 retail outlets in the national capital region, is selling tomatoes at Rs 64 per kg, while local vendors are charging Rs 70-80 per kg.

Last week, tomato prices were ruling at Rs 40 per kg. According to traders at Delhi's wholesale mandi at Azadpur, tomato prices have gone up sharply as arrivals from Himachal Pradesh have almost stopped with onset of winter, while supplies from Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are also low.

Arrival of tomatoes have declined in Delhi to 15-20 trucks against 35-40 trucks before Diwali, they added.

Onion prices have moderated to 60 per kg, down from peak of Rs 100 kg last month.

Potato, onion and tomatoes are the three most common vegetables used in every household.

As per the government data, tomato was being sold at Rs 80 per kg in Port Blair and Rs 70 in Aizwal. It was cheapest Rs 15 per kg in Bhopal. The average for 57 cities was Rs 40 per kg.

Tomato was ruling at Rs 60 per kg in Jammu, Cuttack and Rourkela and Rs 45 in Thiruvananthapuram. The data put price ruling in Delhi at Rs 48 per kg even though retail rates were as high as Rs 80 per kg.

Besides the household demand, the commodity was being sought in greater numbers by manufacturers of tomato ketchup and purees, putting pressure on the prices.

Tea production rise by 53 million kg in first 9 months: ITA



Tea production in the country rose by over 53 million kg in the first nine months of calendar year 2013, says an ITA report released today.

KOLKATA: Tea production in the country rose by over 53 million kg in the first nine months of calendar year 2013, says an Indian Tea Association (ITA) report released today.

In the January-September 2013 period, tea production touched 861.57 million kg as compared to 807.96 million kg in the same period of 2012.

North India tea production during the period was 690.88 million kg, while for South India, the figure was 170.69 million kg.

During the first six months from January to June of 2013, imports of tea into the country was 1.67 million kg higher at 9.65 million kg, the ITA report said.

Imports of tea take place for re-exports, ITA said. "But whether re-exports actually happen, that cannot be confirmed due to lack of exports data," an ITA official told PTI.

During the first nine months in 2013, average auction prices increased by Rs 10.90 per kg and stood at Rs 129.96.

Cotton prices tumble on China concerns



China is hoarding a record amount of cotton to aid farmers as global production exceeds demand for a fourth consecutive year.

LONDON: China is hoarding a record amount of cotton to aid farmers as global production exceeds demand for a fourth consecutive year, increasing the risk of a supply surge that would tip prices into a bear market.

The biggest producer and user will have 12.7 million tonne in inventory by July 31, 62% of the global total and enough to make about 71 billion t-shirts, the US Department of Agriculture estimates. The government may end its stockpiling program the following season, Macquarie says. Prices will drop 8.4% to 69.5 cents a pound in a year, according to the median of 12 analyst estimates compiled by Bloomberg.

While growers in the US and Brazil pared output as prices tumbled from a record \$2.197 in 2011, Chinese farmers boosted production as the state absorbed excess crops.

The government bought supply equal to about 85% of domestic output last year and the nation will import 2 million tonne less this season, accounting for all the contraction in global shipments seen by the USDA.

Cheaper cotton boosted margins for Levi Strauss, Hanesbrands and other clothing companies.

Rubber exports plunge by 59% to 480 tonnes in October



Total exports of rubber during April-October period in current year has fallen by 54 per cent to 3,975 tonnes against 8,611 tonnes in the same period a year ago.

NEW DELHI: Natural rubber exports fell by 59 per cent to 480 tonnes in October this year due to fall in domestic production.

Exports of rubber in October last year stood at 1,145 tonnes, according to Rubber Board data.

Total exports of rubber during April-October period in current year has fallen by 54 per cent to 3,975 tonnes against 8,611 tonnes in the same period a year ago.

Production of natural rubber dropped by 7.3 per cent to 83,000 tonnes during October in the current year against 89,500 tonnes in the same period last year.

Similarly, consumption of natural rubber has also come down by 3.57 per cent to 80,500 tonnes in October this year from 83,485 tonnes last year.

Sugar hits over 16-month low due to sluggish demand from consumers



The new sugar marketing year started with carry-forward stocks of 8.8 million tonnes. It is expected to produce 25 million tonnes this year.

MUMBAI: Sugar futures eased on Tuesday, and hit their lowest level in more than 16 months on sluggish demand from bulk consumers and higher supplies.

The new sugar marketing year started with carry-forward stocks of 8.8 million tonnes. It is expected to produce 25 million tonnes this year against a demand of 23 million tonnes.

The key December contract was down 0.49 percent at 2,838 rupees per 100 kg on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange. It fell to 2,837 rupees earlier in the session, its lowest since June 12, 2012.

"The trend is down in sugar as crushing season will start in 10-15 days," said Chwoda Reddy, a senior analyst with Inditrade Derivatives and Commodities.

Selling is advised at 2,855, targeting 2,830 rupees, with a stop loss at 2,870 rupees, said Reddy.

A dispute over sugarcane prices between farmers and mills may curb sugar exports from the world's second-biggest producer, delay crushing in the new season and even trigger bankruptcies.

Robusta coffee going the arabica way, prices fall below cost of production on good crop in Vietnam



LIFFE robusta coffee futures for January delivery settled \$6 lower at \$1,483 a tonne on Monday. Robusta prices have fallen 16% since September.

KOCHI: The coffee industry is facing tough times with robusta going the arabica way, the prices of which have fallen below the cost of production. Almost 70% of Indian coffee production is the robusta variety and the plunge in the prices has hit the grower.

Expectation of higher crop in Vietnam, the largest producer of robusta coffee, is pushing prices down in the global market. Various reports say that coffee output in Vietnam, where the harvest is about to begin, will be around 27 million bags (of 60 kg each). Last season, it was in the range of 23-24 million bags.

LIFFE robusta coffee futures for January delivery settled \$6 lower at \$1,483 a tonne on Monday. Robusta prices have fallen 16% since September. In India, the robusta cherry prices have gone down 15-20% to Rs 54 per kg compared with last year.

"The current situation is not economically viable for the farmers. The average annual earnings of a grower having a 5-acre farm have plummeted to Rs 50,000 from Rs 1.5 lakh earlier. We will

have to wait and watch how it pans out," said Prashant Rajesh, secretary of Wayanad Coffee Growers Association.

Arabica prices have already hit rock bottom. The New York ICE arabica futures for December delivery reached \$ 1.03 per pound, showing a 13% fall in three months. A good 'off year' crop in Brazil, the largest coffee producer, this year to the tune of over 50 million bags is said to be the major reason for this decline. Market reports suggest Brazil will have a good crop in 2014 as well, indicating a bearish price trend in the market in the coming months.

The exports are sluggish. "The growers are not interested in selling and the buyers are not aggressive though the prices have fallen drastically," said M P Devaiah, general manager of Allanasons, a major coffee exporter. Indian coffee export is only marginally down till the end of October. The exporters feel there may not be an increase during the year and it is likely to end up close to 3,10,612 tonne achieved in 2012-13.

Since there is an oversupply, the Indian coffee stock is likely to be sold at a discount before the harvest for the next crop begins next month.

According to market sources, the instant coffee makers could take advantage of the prices as they use robusta beans.

Meanwhile, India's next coffee crop is expected to fall below 3.47 lakh tonne projected by the Coffee Board because of heavy rains during the year.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Farmers team up for global mela

BANGALORE: The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) will host International Krishimela 2013 from Thursday, with 30 farmers and technicians from across the globe and thousands from India participating.

The objective of the five-day event is to showcase the latest farming technologies and state-of-the-art equipment, and help farmers find solutions to crop-related problems.

"We started in Karnataka initially and went national in 2011. This year, the event is going international with representation from France, Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Ethiopia and Nigeria, among others. Farmers and technicians from there will help us understand innovative technologies like farm mechanics and robotic techniques that they use for farming," said K Narayana Gowda, vice-chancellor, UAS.

"The mela is expected to attract 6,000 farmers and technicians from different parts of the country. We are expecting over 20 lakh people from Karnataka alone," said MA Shankar, director of research, UAS.

"Farmers will be educated on getting higher yields on fertilizers and pesticides and also on conservation of natural resources. This mela will focus on water crisis and innovative ways to minimize use of water in agriculture," Gowda explained.

Irrigation boost in Red zone

KORAPUT: The state government plans to spend around Rs 10 crore on a minor irrigation project in Maoist-hit Narayanpatna block in the district.

"The block lacks proper irrigation facilities and the tribals solely depend on monsoon and stream water to cultivate land. A diversion weir project would provide them water round-the-year," said superintending engineer of minor irrigation department (Jeypore) Akshaya Kumar Banerjee.

Sources said the minor irrigation project will be constructed between Chintabeda and Kunduguda villages to check the flow of water from Jhanjabati River. It will help irrigate 1,000 hectare of agriculture land in the block.

"The survey work for the project, which comprises the main dam and a canal of at least 10 km, is nearing completion and tender process will soon start," Banerjee said. A proposal on large-scale land development would soon be sent to the government and the district administration, he added.

The Maoist-backed Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangh had dug up a water channel of about 5 km to divert water from the river to agriculture land last year, protesting against the government inaction in facilitating irrigation project in the block, sources added.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research ups trials to deal with cashew borers

PANAJI: The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Old Goa, (ICAR) is carrying out field trials with a new product, sealer-cum-healer developed by the Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR), Bengaluru, for the management of a vexing pest, cashew stem and root borer (CSRB).

The pest is considered a serious one, severely affecting cashew plantations in the state. The pest quietly grows inside the tree trunk and strikes when the cashew tree starts yielding fruit. The tree withers and dies, ICAR sources said.

A field demonstration was held by IIHR and ICAR officials at Bharsa, Gaondongorim, for the benefit of cashew growers recently.

ICAR Old Goa director N P Singh and Maruthadurai, entomology scientist explained how the pest can be managed by using sealer-cum-healer.

"This area in Canacona has rampant incidence of the pest," an ICAR source said.

The new product is primarily used for management of pests in coffee and mango crops. "But we are holding trials to see if it works in managing cashew stem and root borer," the source added.

The ICAR scientists will monitor the trials periodically to check if there is recurrence of the pest.

The new product has been demonstrated effectively at the directorate of cashew research, Puttur, Karnataka and regional centre of TNAU at Virudhachalam, Tamil Nadu. The product contains essential micronutrients and herbal drugs which initiate the regrowth of the damaged tissue

Business Standard

Day after MEP rise, onion prices show mixed trend

Officials said actual impact will be felt once traders return from Diwali holidays



A day after the government raised the export floor price of onions, the third increase since August, prices of the commodity in wholesale markets across the country showed a mixed trend. While prices in major southern markets, where the price rise was the steepest in the last few days, remained high, prices in eastern India fell.

Prices in the wholesale markets of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack dropped Rs 200 and Rs 500 a quintal, respectively, compared to Monday. In the Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam wholesale markets in Kerala, prices rose by Rs 400 and Rs 200 a quintal, respectively. In wholesale markets in Delhi, onions were sold at Rs 3,700 a quintal, about Rs 600 a quintal more than the price quoted last week.

On Monday, the government had increased the export floor price (also called minimum export price) of onions by \$250 a tonne to \$1,150 a tonne to boost domestic supplies. Officials said the actual impact of the move in wholesale markets across the country would be felt in the next few days, as traders returned from Diwali holidays.

"In Maharashtra, which has the largest onion wholesale markets, most traders are absent, as business is closed due to Diwali holidays," said a senior agriculture ministry official. He added though exports had declined substantially because of previous increases in the minimum export price, the government felt traders might be hoarding the crop to sell at a later date to exporters.

Official data showed in August 2013, India exported 29,247 tonnes of onions; in September, this fell to 19,218 tonnes. "We feel 8,000-10,000 tonnes of onions were exported in October, which is why the minimum export price had to be raised," the official said.

Meanwhile, onion prices in wholesale markets of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack markets, dropped by Rs 200 and Rs 500 per quintal as compared to Monday, while in the wholesale markets of Thiruvanthapuram and Ernakulam in Kerala, prices rose by Rs 400 and Rs 200 per quintal respectively.

In Delhi, onion was selling in wholesale markets at Rs 3,700 per quintal, which was almost Rs 600 per quintal more than the price quoted last week.

Meanwhile, Competition Commission of India (CCI) had in a report on cartelisation in onion markets released sometime back had criticized the policy of raising MEP to curb exports.

It said that some big traders manage to export onions below the MEP by producing fake documents, which negates the very purpose of increasing the export floor price.

WHOLESALE PRICES

(in ₹/quintal)

| Centre | Nov 4 | Nov 5 | Difference |
|--------------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Bhubaneswar | 4,500 | 4,300 | -200▼ |
| Cuttack | 4,000 | 3,500 | -500▼ |
| Sambalpur | 5,000 | 4,500 | -500▼ |
| Vijayawada | 3,800 | 3,600 | -200▼ |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 6,900 | 7,300 | +400▲ |
| Ernakulam | 7,300 | 7,500 | +200▲ |
| Delhi | — | 3,700 | — |
| Amritsar | — | 6,000 | — |
| Mumbai | — | — | — |
| Ludhiana | — | 5,000 | — |

Note: Prices in some wholesale markets not available for certain days as they were closed on account of Diwali

Source: Department of Consumer Affairs

Rice exports seen at 11 mt, says USDA

USDA has also revised upwards the rice export estimates for MY 2013-14 to 10 million tonnes from 9.3 million tonnes



India's rice exports are estimated at a record 11 million tonnes in the 2012-13 marketing year ended September on bumper production and overseas demand, said the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Rice exports of India, the world's second largest rice producer, stood at 10.38 million tonnes in 2011-12 marketing year (MY) that runs from October to September. "MY 2012/13 export estimate is raised to a record 11 million tonnes based on preliminary official statistics for October 2012 to August 2013, and shipping data compiled by a private source for September 2013," USDA said in a report.

USDA has also revised upwards the rice export estimates for MY 2013-14 to 10 million tonnes from 9.3 million tonnes. However, exports are still expected to be lower than the record 11 million tonnes in previous year.

"Based on the relatively strong export demand for Indian rice, both basmati and non-basmati, and sufficient domestic supplies, the MY 2013-14 rice export estimate is raised to 10 million tonnes. While exports of basmati rice are likely to grow further, total exports are likely to be lower than last year's record sales due to relatively tight domestic supplies of non-Basmati rice and food price inflation concerns in an election year."

Quoting market sources, the department said exports of non-basmati rice have slowed down from in October 2013 due to the strengthening of the Indian rupee compared to the US dollar

(current 61.5 from 65 in August/September). India had lifted the four-year ban on non-basmati exports in September 2011. It had emerged as the world's largest rice exporter in 2012 ahead of its Asian counterpart Thailand.

On production, USDA has projected an output of 105 million tonnes in 2013-14 as against 104.4 million tonnes in the previous year. The department "continues to estimate MY 2013/14 rice production at 105 million tons from 43.5 million hectare." The harvest of kharif rice is in full swing in northern states and initial harvest reports suggest good yields.

"Crop damage was reported due to Cyclone Phailin in coastal Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, and ongoing floods due to heavy rains in some parts of Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. With rice at the grain filling stage, crop damage is likely to be heavy in the flood-affected areas," the report said.

The department said it continues to estimate MY 2013/14 production at 105 million tonnes till an assessment of crop loss is made. "Market sources report that the crop loss due to cyclone and floods in the eastern coast could be in the range of 1-2 percent of forecast production," the report said.

Tea production rises by 53 million kg in first 9 months: ITA

In the Jan-Sept 2013 period, tea production touched 861.57 mn kg as compared to 807.96 mn kg in the same period of 2012



Tea production in the country rose by over 53 million kg in the first nine months of calendar year 2013, says an Indian Tea Association (ITA) report released today.

In the January-September 2013 period, tea production touched 861.57 million kg as compared to 807.96 million kg in the same period of 2012.

North India tea production during the period was 690.88 million kg, while for South India, the figure was 170.69 million kg.

During the first six months from January to June of 2013, imports of tea into the country was 1.67 million kg higher at 9.65 million kg, the ITA report said. Imports of tea take place for re-exports, ITA said.

"But whether re-exports actually happen, that cannot be confirmed due to lack of exports data," an ITA official told PTI.

During the first nine months in 2013, average auction prices increased by Rs 10.90 per kg and stood at Rs 129.96.

[Shrimp prices zoom 200% on short supply](#)

Cyclone Phailin hit sea food producers, exporters in Odisha



Short supply of shrimps due to floods in Odisha induced by the very severe cyclonic storm Phailin has hit the sea food exporters. Shrimpprices have shot up by about 200% compared to last year.

Odisha produces Black tiger shrimp, a major export value item that has a significant demand in countries like Japan, UK and US.

“The price of shrimps which was ruling at Rs 200 per kg during this time last year is now hovering at around Rs 630 per kg. Prices have escalated on shortfall in production due to floods triggered by Phailin”, said Gorachand Mohanty, president, Seafood Exporters Association of India-Odisha region.

The shrimp farmers have estimated the total loss at Rs 350 crore due to devastation wreaked by Phailin in Gopalpur, Puri and Jagatsinghpur districts and flooding in Balasore district. More than 2000 hectares (ha) of shrimp culture ponds are lost with a production capacity of almost 3,000 tonne of shrimps (valued at more than Rs 300 crore).

The regional association has urged the state government for compensation and rehabilitation to more than 2000 farmers affected in the districts of Balasore, Puri, Jagatsinghpur and Ganjam.

The undivided Balasore district along the coast of north Odisha, consisting of Bhadrak and Balasore, accounts for about 80% of the total shrimp farming.

“We are keeping our fingers crossed over the impact on the exports which are likely to drop in quantitative terms this fiscal”, he said.

Though the farmers had started stocking of seeds, they have been devastated by the floods that followed the severe cyclonic storm, he added.

Under realization of prices due to presence of ethoxyquin (an antioxidant) in shrimps and stricter guidelines for obtaining Pre-Harvest Test Certificate (PHTC) from Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) had compelled the farmers to take a cautious stand and go for low stocking.

It may be noted that Japan had imposed compulsory testing for Ethoxyquin in the shrimp consignments received from India on the basis of default standard of 0.01 parts per million (ppm).

The processing units in the state are also operating at lower capacities because of the non availability of raw materials. Falling export prices have added to the woes.

“The exporters are caught between the devil and the deep sea. If they purchase, they will lose and if they abstain from buying, they have to bear the overhead expenses of the factories”, Mohanty said.

Due to the cyclonic storm that hit the state's southern coast on October 12, the fishermen are also not venturing into the sea leading to drop in sea catch, he added.

Jeera moves down on weak demand

The December delivery traded lower by Rs 32.50, or 0.25%, to Rs 12,735 per quintal



Jeera prices moved down by 0.48% to Rs 12,500 per quintal in futures market today on weak demand in the spot market against adequate supplies.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, November delivery declined by Rs 60, or 0.48%, to Rs 12,500 per quintal with an open interest of 7,506 lots.

The December delivery traded lower by Rs 32.50, or 0.25%, to Rs 12,735 per quintal in 4,551 lots.

Analysts attributed the weakness in jeera futures to weak demand in the spot market against adequate supplies from producing regions.

Potato slips 0.42% on increased supply, low demand

However, April potato held steady at Rs 852.90 per quintal in 5 lots



Potato futures slipped by 0.42% to Rs 883.10 per quintal in futures trading today as participants trimmed positions as demand declined in the spot market against increased supplies from producing belts.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, March delivery slipped by Rs 3.70, or 0.42%, to Rs 883.10 per quintal in business turnover of 54 lots.

However, April potato held steady at Rs 852.90 per quintal in 5 lots.

Analysts said besides fall in demand in the spot markets, increased supplies from producing regions mainly weighed on potato futures prices.

Crude palm oil falls 0.72% on sluggish demand

Likewise, December oil shed Rs 4, or 0.70%, to Rs 567.50 per 10 kg in 59 lots

Crude palm oil fell by 0.72% to Rs 567.70 per 10 kg in futures trading today largely in tandem with a weak trend in the spot markets on sluggish demand against adequate stocks.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for November delivery fell by Rs 4.10, or 0.72%, to Rs 567.70 per 10 kg in business turnover of 68 lots.

Likewise, December oil shed Rs 4, or 0.70%, to Rs 567.50 per 10 kg in 59 lots.

Analysts said low demand in the spot markets against comfortable stocks positions mainly kept pressure on crude palm oil prices at futures trade.

Chana down by 0.9% on fall in demand

Increased supplies from producing regions in the physical market also put pressure on chana prices



Chana prices moved down by 0.93% to Rs 3,105 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators trimmed positions after fall in demand at prevailing higher levels in the spot market.

Increased supplies from producing regions in the physical market also put pressure on chana prices.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for delivery in November moved down by Rs 29 or 0.93%, to Rs 3,105 per quintal with an open interest of 64,950 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in December lost Rs 25, or 0.78%, to Rs 3,190 per quintal in 78,240 lots.

Analysts said trimming of positions by speculators amid fall in demand in the spot market at prevailing higher levels mainly pulled down chana prices at futures trade.

THE HINDU Business Line

'Introduce contract farming to raise foodgrain output'

Biotechnology seen as a key tool to increase yield



Hyderabad, Nov. 5:

The Union Agriculture Ministry is batting for contract farming and wants those involved in farming to repeat the success witnessed by the poultry sector in agriculture too.

During 1993 and 2012, foodgrain production increased by 40 per cent, whereas production of eggs saw a 166 per cent growth.

Contract farming played a major role in improving productivity as well as total production in the poultry sector. "I feel that the same shall hold true for agriculture too," Union Minister of State for Agriculture Tariq Anwar said.

Biennial meet

About 500 delegates from 33 countries attended the four-day biennial conference of World Agricultural Forum (WAF).

Addressing the inaugural conference here on Tuesday, he said biotechnology would play a major role in improving productivity. The contentious issue required a health scientific debate, he said.

"We need a robust regulatory system with a scientifically established mechanism for evaluation of genetically modified crops. The scientific community and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research must contribute to the public discourse and provide clarity on this sensitive issue," he said.

Climate change could cause a loss of yield of up to nine per cent in the medium-term (from 2010-2039) if the impact was not mitigated.

Delivering the keynote on the challenge of feeding 10 billion people, Bayer Crop Sciences Chief Executive Liam Condon said that there was a need to turn farmers into 'agripreneurs', running profitable and sustainable businesses.

"Smallholders, who account for 50 per cent of the world's food production, take a key role in the challenge of feeding around 10 billion people by 2050. But the yields of small farms today remain well below potential due to the lack of appropriate seeds, inputs, machinery, know-how, financing, infrastructure and trading networks," he said.

S. India tea output up

Coonoor, Nov. 5:

For the first time in several months, tea production in South India has risen over last year, reveals an analysis of the data available with Tea Board and traders' bodies.

This has happened because of higher production in Kerala. In the nine months of current calendar, South India has posted an increase of 0.14 million kg (mkg) over the same period of last year to reach 170.69 mkg. Although the increase was only marginal, this was the first time in several months that South India's cumulative production has been more than the corresponding period of 2012.

Kerala posted 0.28 mkg increase to reach 43.55 mkg. Tamil Nadu lost 0.07 mkg to dip to 1233.24 mkg while Karnataka also lost 0.07 mkg to produce 3.90 mkg.

North India's production has risen by 53.47 mkg to reach 690.88 mkg. Assam topped at 447.13 mkg (up 14.18 mkg) followed by West Bengal at 226.23 mkg (up 34.46 mkg).

"According to our compilation, between January and September, India's production rose by 53.61 mkg to reach 861.57 mkg", Rajesh Gupta, publisher of annual Global Tea Digest, told *Business Line*.

Demand for cashew may continue as other edible nuts turn dearer



Kochi, Nov. 5:

The domestic cashew market has been quiet over the past fortnight. Sales for festival season were reasonable.

“We should see some activity by middle of November for inventory replenishment and the beginning of the marriage season,” said Pankaj Sampath, a Mumbai-based dealer.

The range of cashew prices last week was W240 from \$3.70-3.85, W320 \$3.20-3.30, W450 and SW320 \$2.95-3.05, splits \$2.20-2.30 and pieces \$1.45-1.55 for an lb (f.o.b).

The cashew market has been ruling steady since last month with W320 trading in the \$3.15-3.30 f.o.b range. By middle of October, most of the lower offers for W240 and W320 were taken out. During September and October, good volume was traded at the lower and middle of the range for shipments up to December, Sampath told *Business Line*. Some business was done at

higher end of the range for shipments up to March-April 2014 and scattered business for later positions as well.

High levels

RCN market started moving up slowly from middle of September and seems to have moved to unrealistically high levels in the last two weeks. About 12,000 tonnes have been sold in the first two Tanzania auctions at prices which are about 10 per cent higher than present kernel market. Since there is not much kernel demand at higher levels, it is difficult to understand such high RCN prices.

During the last 12 months, kernel market has been moving in \$3.20-3.40 range (except for the recent short lived drop to 3.05-3.20 range). Whenever the market has come close to the bottom of the range, selling interest has been limited to few processors for limited quantities for nearbys. The general feeling is that the current price range is comfortable, especially because prices of almost all other nuts are higher. This should mean more interest and steady demand for cashews. If the trend of regular buying for small tranches for short spreads continues, there may not be any big move in prices. But if buyers need to buy larger volumes for longer spreads, processors will not be able to take on commitments unless they get a reasonable premium because prices are already close to low end of the range of last four years.

If the current trend continues and if the kernel market does not move beyond the \$3.40 level, processors will find it difficult to buy raw cashew from Tanzania at the current levels which are about 10 per cent higher than present kernel prices. They will probably limit their buying to whatever they need to keep factories running till the large Northern crops start in April. But if they are able to sell kernels in the next few weeks at higher level, it is quite possible that raw cashew buying will continue and 2014 season may begin with high prices.

Bangalore farm varsity develops new rice, chilli varieties

Bangalore, Nov. 5:

Scientists at the University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore, have developed new variety of rice (paddy) — KRH-4.

“The new variety has shorter duration of 130-135 days and has higher yield of 7-8 tonnes per hectares compared with traditional variety which has 150 days and 4-5 tonnes per hectare yield,” M.A. Shankar, Director Research, UAS-B, told *Business Line*.

“The new variety of paddy has also advantage of higher straw of 8-9 tonnes per hectare and is suitable for irrigated situations,” he said. The university also has developed new improved crop varieties in hybrid chilli (KBCH-1). This new variety offer higher yield of 35 tonnes per hectares (green chillies) compared with 25-30 tonnes per hectares and is tolerant to anthracnose, bacterial wilt and powdery mildew diseases.

New variety of ragi (KMR-204), according to Shankar has 104 days duration and has yield of 35-40 quintal per hectares in irrigated condition and 30-35 quintals per hectare in rainfed conditions.

K. Narayana Gowda Vice-Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, said the university is holding five-day international krishi mela at GKVK campus from November 7-11. About 10 countries and 30 agricultural universities will be taking part.

Similarly, the UAS-B is also releasing pigeon pea (BRG-10-2) which has yield of 14 quintals per hectare and is suitable for late planting and delayed monsoon conditions. Sesame (GT-1) shorter duration of 86 days has yield of 6.2 quintal per hectares and oil content of 54 per cent.

Vegetable Cowpea (AV-5) has 16 per cent higher yield than PKB-6 with 9.6 tonnes per hectares and is suitable for August-September and January-February sowing. It is resistant to bacterial leaf blight and rust.

Fodder oats (OS-6) has yield of 285 quintal per hectare and contains 4.48 quintal of crude protein and leaf to stem ratio: 0.43.

‘Focus of global farm meet is corporates, not small farmers’

Farmers’ unions and non-governmental organisations have alleged that the World Agricultural Forum (WAF) is serving only the interests of multi-national agri research and seed companies and not that of small farmers.

“Corporate sponsors have set the agenda for the conference. Bayer CropScience is the main sponsor of the event and its Chief Executive Officer Liam Condon delivered the keynote on the challenge of feeding 10 billion people and why we need a new revolution in agriculture,” Kiran Kumar Vissa of Rythu Swarajya Vedika, said. While the forum claimed that it is focussing on small farm holders, the entry fee for the four-day event is Rs 11,400. “It clearly shows that farmers are not welcome,” he told newsmen at the venue. “The forum is started by agri businesses to influence governments and policy-makers across the world. Its aim is to reshape

agriculture to suit the interests of the big corporations,” Ravi Kanneganti of Centre for Sustainable Agriculture said.

They released a statement signed by Andhra Pradesh Kisan Congress, the two AP Rythu Sanghams (affiliated to the CPI and the CPI (M)), Bharatiya Kisan Morcha and Telugu Rythu.

For Agri Business Page (brief)

Kochi, Nov. 5:

SPICES BOARD TO CURB ARTIFICIAL COLOURING OF CARDAMOM

Following wide-spread complaints, the Spices Board has taken steps to curb artificial colouring of cardamom. K.C. Babu, Director Marketing, Spices Board, in a statement issued here said that action will be initiated against those who indulge in such practices in accordance with the law including cancellation of licence. Special squads have been constituted for the purpose, he added. Instances of using artificial colour while processing cardamom with the objective of securing higher price have come to the notice of the Board, he said. Such practices are against the interests of the trade and detrimental to the health of the consumers, he added.

South tops in extending farm credit: Assocham study



New Delhi, Nov. 5:

Credit flow to agriculture remained high in South India, while it was the least in North-Eastern States due to lack of awareness on existing schemes, says an Assocham study.

The study 'Agriculture credit in India' shows that poor awareness about existing crop loans deprived small and marginal farmers, including tenant farmers and share-croppers, from

obtaining agricultural credit not only in the North-Eastern region, but also eastern and western parts of the country.

“Credit flow to farmers from banks in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala is higher than other States. There is increased awareness about farm credit because of the initiative taken by the Government and banks,” the industry chamber said in a statement.

disbursement

In South India, farm credit disbursement stood at Rs 1.84 lakh crore in 2010-11 against Rs 1.12 lakh crore. Similarly, in the North, credit flow to farmers increased to Rs 1.15 lakh crore from Rs 84,342 crore in the same period.

In the North-East, credit flow remained at Rs 4,620 crore in 2010-11, the lowest when compared with other parts of the country.

In western and eastern India, it stood at Rs 62,804 crore and Rs 38,261 crore, respectively, in 2010-11.

Credit flow to farmers in South and North India is expected to be higher even in the current fiscal taking into account the past trend, Assocham said. According to the report, credit flow to small and marginal farmers has been increasing in the last few years, but assistance to tenant farmers (including share-croppers, oral lessees) by the formal financial sector need to be scaled up to achieve higher growth in agriculture.

Credit flow to tenant farmers has been negligible even though banks are allowed to give credit up to Rs 1 lakh by taking a declaration from Gram Sabha, the report said.

Spot rubber rules flat

Kottayam, Nov.5:

Spot rubber ruled flat on Tuesday. There were no enquiries from any leading industrial sectors and the market lost its direction, following lack of genuine buyers and sellers in the local trading houses. “The commodity is still bearish and we expect prices to move down further, in tune with the overall sentiments,” an observer said.

Sheet rubber closed unchanged at Rs 158 a kg, according to traders. The grade slipped to Rs 158 (Rs 158.50) and Rs 155 (Rs 155.50) respectively, as quoted by the Rubber Board and dealers.

November futures dropped further to Rs 158.10 (Rs 159.22), December to Rs 159.05 (Rs 160.23) and January to Rs 160.79 (Rs 162.08) while the February and March futures remained inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) declined to Rs 154.55 (Rs 155.51) at Bangkok. November futures closed at ¥ 243.6 (Rs 152.86) from ¥ 246.9 on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were: RSS-4: 158 (158); RSS-5: 151 (151); Ungraded: 147 (147); ISNR 20: 150 (150) and Latex 60%: 113 (114).

Outlook turns bearish for chana as imports continue



Indore, Nov. 5:

Even as local mandis remained closed for the third consecutive day today on account of '*Bhai Dooj*', in private trading, chana ruled at Rs 3,050-75, while chana (desi) is being quoted at Rs 2,800-2,900 a quintal.

Chana prices, for the past one week, have been witnessing a downtrend on weak demand and buying support, even as its arrival continued to be on the higher side.

Given adequate carryover stock, arrival of new crops in the global market and continuous flow of imported chana in the domestic market, the outlook appears to be bearish. An expected rise in acreage this year will also add to the bearish sentiment, traders feel.

According to Prakash Vora, a trader, with the rupee continuously gaining strength against dollar, chana imports have also turned cheaper and it will also support bearish sentiment in chana, he added.

On the other hand, dollar chana is also ruling steady at Rs 3,200-4,200 on slack demand and buying support. In container also dollar chana is witnessing a sluggish trend on slack export

demand. Last week, dollar chana (42/44 count) in the container was being quoted at Rs 5,000-25 , while 44/46 count ruled at Rs 4,700-25 and 58/60 count ruled at Rs 3,675-3,700 a quintal.

Cogencis adds: Spot chana prices in Delhi were lower today .

Chana was trading at Rs 3,100, down Rs 25 from the previous close, said Pawan Agarwal, a local trader.

Chana arrivals in Delhi were estimated to be steady at 30-35 trucks (of 20 tonnes each) so far today, local traders said.

“Chana demand is likely to remain subdued due to ease up of festive buying. Farmers are also expected to release older stocks ahead of new sowing season. Also, arrival of imported chana during Oct-Nov can bring some correction at higher levels,” said a report by Emkay Comtrade Ltd.

Pepper futures gain; spot rules steady



Kochi, Nov. 5:

Pepper futures moved up on Tuesday, while spot prices ruled steady on limited activities. All active contracts on the National Multi Commodity Exchange ended higher. Activity was limited as all the “consuming mandis” in the upcountry were closed, market sources said.

On the IPSTA platform, futures were steady. Some of the inter-State dealers bought, while some others were covering back their sales, they said.

On the spot, 17 tonnes of pepper arrived from Kerala plains and the offtake was 21 tonnes at Rs Rs 458-460 a kg. Availability continued to be tight, trade sources said.

“The entire world is currently covering from Brazil. Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports claimed, Vietnam bought MG 1-575 GL from India. West Asian dealers were looking for 550 GL, 525 and 500 GL pepper from expert processors,” market sources told *Business Line*. On the NMCE, November and December contracts increased by Rs 300 and Rs 400 to Rs 47,800 and Rs 47,700. Turnover was up by six tonnes to close at eight tonnes. Total open interest moved up by two tonnes to 16 tonnes.

Spot prices remained unchanged at Rs 45,800 (ungarbled) and Rs 47,800 (garbled) a quintal. Indian parity in the international market was at \$8,100 (c&f) Europe and \$8,400 a tonne for the US, they said.

Turmeric may rule flat until year-end



Erode, Nov. 5:

Turmeric prices failed to rise despite poor arrivals to Erode markets.

“After the Diwali holidays, all the four turmeric markets resumed on Tuesday. Only 980 bags arrived for sale. Traders purchased only 480 bags (only about 50 per cent). Further, the sale was low due to lack of demand and traders did not purchase huge stocks. They purchased only quality turmeric quoting a lower price,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said that the Diwali order from North India was poor and till December-end they are unlikely to receive huge orders. The possibility for increase in price is bleak. Prices of both varieties of turmeric decreased by Rs 100-150 a quintal. Even the price of hybrid variety dropped by Rs 600 due to arrival of medium quality turmeric.

At the Regulated Market Committee, only 54 bags arrived for sale. There were no heavy bidders and one trader purchased 13 bags.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,814-5,855 and the root variety Rs 3,606-4,611 a quintal.

Salem Hybrid: The finger variety was sold at Rs 4,819-6,546; the root variety Rs 4,499-5,516. Of the 155 bags that arrived, only 42 found takers. At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,419-5,369 and the root variety Rs 4,219-4,436. Of the 54 bags on offer, just 13 bags were sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,209-5,860 and the root variety Rs 3,989-4,779. Of the 254 bags put up for sale, 220 bags were traded. At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,310-5,810 and the root variety Rs 3,072-4,942. All the 102 bags were traded.

Wheat likely to continue ruling firm



Karnal, Nov. 5:

Wheat and flour prices continued to rule firm at their previous levels on Tuesday.

The current situation in the market was anticipated as it is getting support from strong consumer demand, said Radhey Sham, a wheat trader.

Prices have been ruling firm since October 25 and may continue to rule around current levels for the next few days too, he added.

In the physical market, dara wheat sold at Rs 1,585-90 a quintal. Around 900 bags of wheat arrived and stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,585, while delivery at the chakki was at Rs 1,590.

A negative trend was witnessed on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange on Tuesday. Wheat for November delivery dropped by Re 1 and traded at Rs 1,627 with an open interest of 4,170 lots. December contracts went down by Rs 3 and traded at Rs 1,644.

According to the market experts, futures may continue to rule in a tight range. In the spot market, wheat was traded at Rs 1,520.

Flour Prices

Following good domestic demand, flour continued to rule unchanged and quoted at Rs 1,850 . Similarly, chokar ruled flat at Rs 1,270-90 a quintal.

Coconut oil surges on copra shortage



Kochi, Nov. 5:

Kerala and Tamil Nadu markets are facing acute shortage of copra due to low arrivals from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Prakash B. Rao, President, Cochin Oil Merchants Association (COMA), said that this has resulted in coconut oil prices firming up, touching a high of Rs 98 in Kerala (Rs 95) and Rs 92 in Tamil Nadu against Rs 89.75 last week. Some corporate buying and enquiries resulted in the market firming up further.

Lower arrivals also boosted copra prices to Rs 7,000 a quintal in Kerala (Rs 6,800) and Rs 6,800 (Rs 6,600) in Tamil Nadu.

Over and above, Rao said that traders have started stocking large quantities of unhusked raw coconuts for the impending Sabarimala pilgrimage season which starts from November 17, when the demand will peak.

This, he said, might lead to further increase in coconut oil prices as well as raw coconuts in the short-term as the pilgrimage season will last until the second week of January.

Palm oil prices also slightly moved up to Rs 60 (Rs 59/kg) due to rupee fluctuation, while palm kernel oil prices remained at the same level of Rs 72 quoted last week.

However, expressing concern on the unusual surge in coconut oil price, Bharat N. Khona, former Board Member, COMA, said that it would in no way help the traditional industry and trade in Kerala.

Of late, coconut oil prices are rising artificially, following the resultant impact of market forces.

According to him, the price stability is an important factor. However, it should be realistic and remunerative for the sustained growth of coconut oil industry and trade.

Thalath Mahmood, Director, COMA, said that the market is witnessing a buying trend because of copra shortage as well as off season both in Tamil Nadu and Kerala markets. He hoped that the pilgrimage will revive the market for raw coconuts.
