

Date : 07.11.2013

THE HINDU

MSP for paddy to be announced soon

BANGALORE

Refusal to provide levy rice is violation of law: Minister

The State government will soon announce a minimum support price (MSP) for paddy, over and above the one announced by the Union government (Rs. 1,310 a quintal), Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies Dinesh Gundu Rao has said.

Mr. Rao told presspersons here recently that the MSP would help stabilise the price of paddy, the harvest of which had just begun in the State. The move would help the government procure rice for the Anna Bhagya scheme, he said.

Responding to the reported unwillingness of rice mill owners to offer levy rice to the government due to the lower price, Mr. Rao said the levy quantity [5 lakh tonnes] was much lesser than the actual quantity [13 lakh tonnes] that the government was empowered to procure. The price (Rs. 21 a kg) fixed by the government was not low, but it fell short by Rs. 1.60 compared to the price at which rice was being procured by the government from Chhattisgarh. The department was open to negotiations if the rice mill owners had any grievance, but no one had approached [the department] so far, he said. The Minister said the government collected only 50,000 quintals of rice last year and before that, levy was not collected for many years.

Rice mill owners key in holding price line: Food Minister

CHENNAI

Food Minister R. Kamaraj on Wednesday said rice mill owners and paddy merchants had a crucial role to play in holding the price line of the essential commodity in the State.

The Minister, who opened a new office for the Federation of Tamilnadu Rice Mill Owners and Paddy-Rice Dealers' Association at Wallajah Road, pointed out that open market price of rice in

the State was kept at stable levels during the drought year of 2012 largely because the Federation worked closely with the Government.

It was praiseworthy that the Federation, which is an apex body of district-level and taluk level associations, had gone to the extent of issuing a price list of varieties of rice as a public notice in the media, the Minister said.

Holding the food and civil supplies sector as a priority area for the Government, Mr. Kamaraj pointed out that Chief Minister Jayalithaa had initiated several interventions, such as an allocation of about Rs. 4,900 crore as food subsidy for providing essentials through the public distribution system. An estimated 3.17 lakh metric tonnes of rice were needed for public distribution, he added.

M.P. Nirmala, Food Secretary, said the Federation should take steps to ensure the availability of quality foodgrains to consumers in the State.

A. C. Mohan, Federation secretary, said the organisation had, since inception in 1971, built up a tradition of working in unison with the Government in supplying quality rice in the State. During the deficit monsoon and rice scarcity experienced last year, the Federation had ventured beyond traditional markets of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to places such as Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra to ensure both continuous availability and price stability of rice in the State, he said.

The Federation has affiliates in 17 districts and 67 taluks and the new office which is a memorial for its founder K. Arumugaswamy had been a long-cherished dream, he said.

Federation president D. Thulasingham and K. S. Jagadeeshan past president also spoke.

“Open market price of rice was stable in 2012 because of merchants' cooperation”

Corporation's poultry waste management gets better

COIMBATORE

Five vehicles with closed boxes will collect wastes from five zones

The Coimbatore civic body's poultry waste management got a step better after a tie-up with a private company for processing the same.

Inaugurated

The new process was inaugurated at the Corporation's main office on Tuesday.

According to sources in the Coimbatore Corporation, the civic body would send the two — three tonne-poultry waste — on weekends it is five — six tonnes — to Vellalore, from where the private company, VKS Farms, would transport the same to its fodder manufacturing unit.

The sources said that the Corporation had distributed plastic bags (bio-bags) to poultry shops in the city to dump the waste. The civic body did not stop with distributing the bags, though. It also collected the waste every morning, right at the doorstep.

There were five vehicles with closed boxes to collect the wastes from the five zones.

Until recently, the Corporation would dump in pits in Vellalore the waste that was collected. This move had faced opposition from the residents of Vellalore, who had complained that it only worsened the situation at the yard. The new arrangement was environment friendly, the sources pointed out.

K. Mounasamy, Assistant General Manager, VKS Farms, said that the company would use the poultry waste to manufacture meat meal and concentrate feed. It got the waste from the Corporation at no cost.

As for the Corporation there would be a savings of Rs. 18 lakh a year with the new arrangement.

Water level

MADURAI

The water level in Periyar dam was 117.80 feet with an inflow of 1,012 cusecs and a discharge of 800 cusecs.

The water level in Vaigai dam was 44.46 feet with an inflow of 861 cusecs and a discharge of 60 cusecs.

The combined storage in Periyar credit was 3,041 mcft.

Rainfall

The rainfall recorded (in mm) in the region is as follows: Periyar dam: 10, Thekkadi: 18.8, Gudalur: 13, Shanmuganadhi: 13, Uthamapalayam: 12, Veerapandi: 8, Vaigai Dam: 2.6, Manjalaru: 6, Sothuparai: 5, Peranai: 8, Madurai: 6, Sathiaru dam: 4, Mettupatti: 8, Kallanthiri: 10, Chittampatti: 2.4, Pulipatti: 18.6, Melur: 1, Idaiyapatti: 10, Kodaikanal: 8.6 and Viraganoor recorded 12.4 mm rainfall, PWD officials said on Wednesday.

Control the spread of foot and mouth disease: forum

TIRUCHI

The Federation of Farmers Association-Cauvery Delta Districts has urged the State government to take urgent steps to control the spread of foot and mouth disease among cattle in Nagapattinam and other delta districts.

In a representation to Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, Arupathy P.Kalyanam, general secretary of the federation, said the endemic caused by a virulent and deadly virus was spreading fast in the delta districts.

A large number of cattle have died in Nagapattinam district already, he said and added that villagers were not aware of the correct drugs to be administered to the affected cattle.

Adequate publicity should be given on the cure for the disease and more mobile teams should be pressed into service to check the spread of the disease. Besides, district and taluk-level monitoring and control rooms should be set up. All cattle deaths should be registered in the village cattle mortality register on a daily basis, he said.

The disease, he said, had spread from the Cauvery basin districts in Karnataka and already the Karnataka government has announced relief for farmers whose cattle have died.

Farmers in the delta districts in Tamil Nadu, who have suffered heavily owing to the crop loss last year on account of drought, are now shocked to find their cattle dying, Mr.Kalyanam said and appealed to the State government to sanction a compensation of Rs.35,000 per head of cattle to the affected farmers.

Mettur level

TIRUCHI

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 79.73 feet on Wednesday . The inflow was 10,208 cusecs and the discharge 2,000 cusecs.

Water level

TIRUNELVELI

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Wednesday stood at 84.90 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 2,062.85 cusecs following 30 mm rainfall and no water was discharged from the dam.

The water level in Manimuthar dam stood at 60.62 feet (118 feet).

The dam had an inflow of 1,271 cusecs after 13 mm rainfall and 10 cusecs of water was discharged.

Training in fish culture

TIRUNELVELI

The Centre for Aquaculture Research and Extension (CARE) of St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, has established a 'Centre for Aquaculture Research and Training (CART)' at Padalaiarkulam near Kalakkad to train stakeholders, self-help groups, housewives and unemployed youth.

An official statement said Centre for Aquaculture Research and Extension would organise a training programme in 'Backyard fish culture for women' between 9.30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on November 12 under a major project titled 'Backyard fish culture for rural population of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Kanyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu', funded by the Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi.

This training programme would cover topics such as seed production, larviculture, growout culture and disease management of edible freshwater fishes, especially murels ('viraal meen' in Tamil), in addition to a field visit to the murrel culture farm at Kings Farm Ville at Padalaiarkulam.

For more information about the course and registration, the aspirants could contact The Director, Centre for Aquaculture Research and Extension (CARE), St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai – 627002, or call 0462-2560670. They could also obtain information by visiting www.caresxc.org or sending an email to sxccare@gmail.com.

Initiative to increase agricultural productivity through new technologies

TUTICORIN

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



Agriculture officials inspecting a field at K. Subramaniapuram in Ottapidaram taluk in Tuticorin 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.

1, 25, 426 farmers enrolled

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.

Farm-based firm launched

UDHAGAMANDALAM

A farm-based firm called Ooty Farmers- Producers Company Limited has come into being, according to D.V. Ravi, Deputy Director, Agricultural Business, The Nilgiris.

Speaking to *The Hindu* here on Wednesday, he said that 300 farmers in various parts of the district have become part of the company which has been floated with the objective of eliminating middlemen, ensuring fair price for the farmers and reducing the burden of the consumers.

It will be registered shortly with a share capital of Rs. 10 lakh.

Stating that 5,000 farmers can become members of the company, he said that the potential on the farm business front in the Nilgiris is estimated to be about Rs. 600 crore. It can generate a cess of Rs. 6 crore.

Stating that efforts are on to put up a vegetable market complex near Charing Cross here, he said that land extending over 18.5 cents has been alienated and a sum of Rs. 85 lakh set aside. It will be run by the Nilgiris District Marketing Committee.

There is also a proposal to establish an outlet for farm inputs and implements.

To a question, Mr. Ravi said that the Uzhavar Sandhai here is doing well. On an average, 41 tonnes of vegetables are being sold daily. Around 245 farmers, including agriculturists from Mettupalayam and Karamadai, are selling their produce daily. Stating that the cost was 15 per cent lower than in the regular market, he said that the vegetables are also fresher than those sold elsewhere.

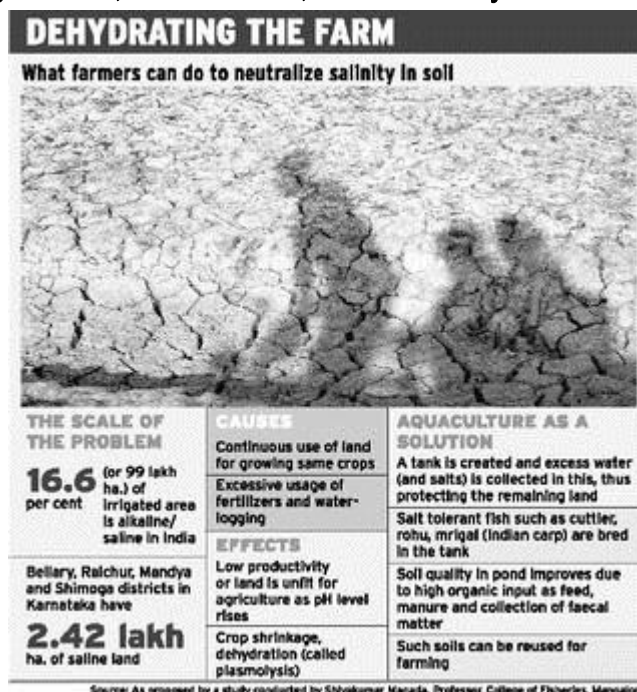
While about 20 farmers are using the Uzhavar Sandhai at Coonoor, about 10 are coming regularly to the facility at Kotagiri.

However, the Uzhavar Sandhai at Gudalur is not serving its purpose. People should come forward to use the subsidy being extended by the National Mission on Food Processing which promotes value-added farm products.

Aquaculture passes acid test

MANGALORE

Scientists say breeding fish can, over the time, reduce salinity



Even as vast tracks of land become infertile or lose productivity globally due to excessive usage of chemicals, scientists here believe a natural solution exists. After nearly a decade of research and development, scientists at College of Fisheries say breeding fish can, over the time, undo the effects of modernisation.

Nearly 17 per cent of irrigated land in the country suffers from salinity, wherein pH levels of the soil increases due to excessive use of fertilisers, pesticides and other chemicals, said Shivakumar Magada, Professor at the college.

He was speaking on Wednesday at the inauguration of a 21-day winter school for researchers, academicians and extension workers who were given insights into the techniques and advantages of the project.

Feeler trials

After nearly a decade of 'feeler trials', Mr. Magada's team undertook a five-year research project that started in 2007 in 258 villages of Mandya and Shimoga districts. Aquaculture – the rearing

of fish – was tested in its capacity to reduce salinity as well as an alternative source of income for farmers whose yields have been affected by salinity.

“The expenditure is around Rs. 60,000 per hectare to create a pond for a farm that is severely affected. The pond absorbs the salts, while the fish in it neutralises the salinity over time,” he said.

Increased yields

The management of alkalinity had resulted in an increase in yield, Mr. Magada said. His study found that paddy yield increased by more than 0.4 tonnes per hectare, sugarcane by 8 tonnes and coconut by 18 nuts per tree. “Apart from this, the farmer also gets fish production up to the tune of Rs. 17.5 per sq. m., compared to just Rs. 2 per sq. m. obtained from paddy,” he said.

However, like most experiments, failures are not uncommon. “The success rate is over 70 per cent. Failures point to wrong procedures followed – feeding of the fish, quantity of gypsum put in the pond, or farmers putting too many fishlings – and not flaws in the science behind it,” he said.

Milk production on the upswing in State

KOCHI

Milk production in Kerala is on the boil.

There is an increase of 1.3 lakh litres per day in the milk procured by the Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited (Milma) across the State. The production is set to go up further, according to Milma.

A top official of Milma said the three regions of Milma have registered a rise of about 3 lakh litres of milk per day within the past three years.

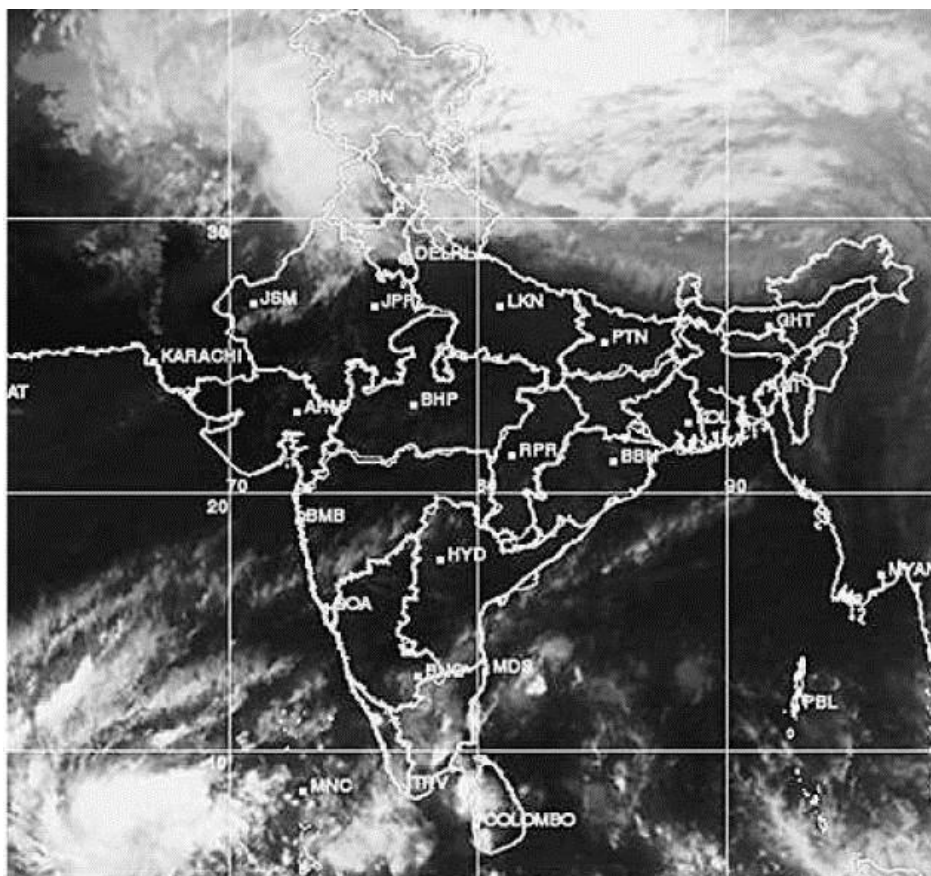
Milma procured 6.8 lakh litres per day on an average in 2010. The procurement went up to 8.03 lakh litres per day in 2011. The average procurement was 8.07 litres per day in 2012. The procurement per day was 9.46 lakh litres in October 2013.

Over 12 lakh litres of milk is being sold by Milma across the State now. This includes milk procured from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. The main reason behind the increased volume is the incentive offered to the milk farmer. The cooperative milk marketing body gave an additional Rs.5 per litre to the farmer in 2011. Another additional amount of Rs.5 was given in 2012.

The extra money provided to the farmer leads to improved cattle management practices, including better feed for the cattle. The increase has been more in Malabar areas, according to the Milma official. Out of the current procurement of 9.46 lakh litres in the State, about 5 lakh litres of milk is procured from Malabar.

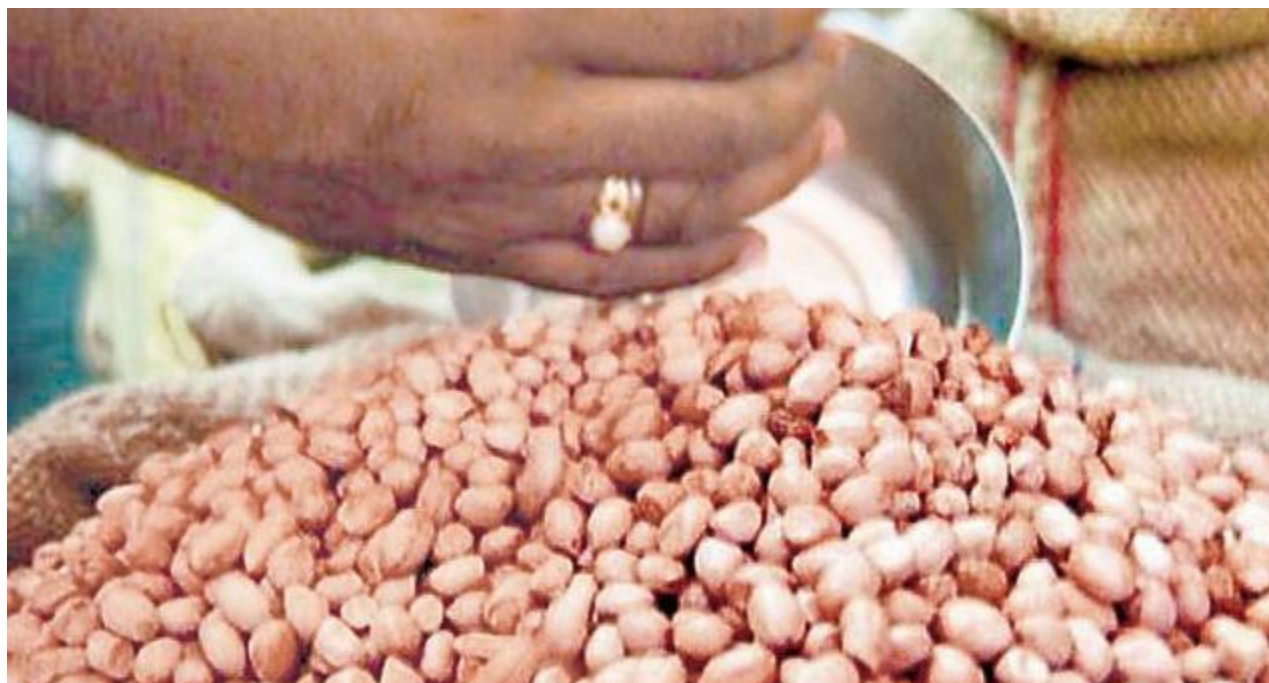
The rise in procured quantity does not mean that there is significant increase in the number of farmers in the Milma procurement network. While Milma pays about Rs.28-29 procurement price per litre, many small farmers who adopt direct marketing channels get Rs.30-35 per litre and hence would not opt for the cooperative network.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on November 06.

Community managed system sows the seeds of success



PRODUCTION: A total of 2,888 acres of seed production was taken up in 183 villages with more than 2,000 farmers.

This model helped many growers get access to good quality seeds

Like many other farmers across the country, preserving and using seeds is a major issue for Andhra Pradesh groundnut cultivators. In Anantapur district, farmers mostly grow groundnut.

The crop diversity in this region earlier included many dryland crops like sorghum, finger millet, pearl millet, foxtail millet and groundnut. Farmers used to grow various crops and groundnut was alternated between red gram, coriander, sesame, sorghum and finger millet. But over time, groundnut became a major crop in the region due to its commercial value.

Perennial debt

“The high input costs on one side and decreasing yields due to prolonged usage of chemical fertilizers forced many growers to borrow money from private money lenders and the moment the crop is harvested, it is sold immediately to pay off the debts. Often the area is prone to droughts and seed availability has been a serious issue for more than 15 years,” says Dr. G. V. Ramanjaneyulu, Executive Director, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, Secunderabad.

Farmers could raise only one good crop every three years. Being already in debt they sold off the harvested nuts for repaying loans and other expenses rather than preserving the seeds for next season.

Also, absence of proper storage facilities posed a serious problem; many felt that the seed from the same land will not grow well if sown for the next season. Subsidised government seeds are available at half the price in the market so farmers preferred to buy those seeds rather than save some for themselves.

But buying the seeds is an arduous task, according to Dr. Ramanjaneyulu. Every year soon after the monsoon season farmers start to queue up for buying subsidised seeds from Government cooperatives.

Each farmer has a passbook which he needs to show in order to get the seeds. Very often, a farmer ends up making at least three to four trips to the town to buy the seeds.

Different varieties

“Sometimes they do not get the seeds (due to no stock) or get them very late in the season. If he does get it on time, there is no guarantee of its quality. Earlier Ananthapur farmers used to grow different groundnut varieties depending on demand, but the subsidy seeds given by the government covers only a few or sometimes only a single variety,” explains Dr. Ramanjaneyulu. In 2006-07, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA), Hyderabad and Rural Environment Development Society (REDS), Kadiri, initiated groundnut seed production through women self help groups as part of the ‘Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture’ programme in different villages.

Different farmers’ groups took responsibility for managing the entire programme.

Subsidy

However, seed subsidy could not be extended as the Department of Agriculture was not ready to support farmers own seeds. In 2011 another initiative, a community managed seed system (CMSS) was started in partnership with WASSAN (Watershed Support Services Network) a Hyderabad based NGO with the objective of meeting the requirements of both seed producers and consumers.

The programme was started in 2011 during rabi season to supply seeds for 2012 kharif. The foundation seed was supplied with 50 per cent subsidy from the department of agriculture

The Government agreed to facilitate the process of exchanging the seeds at farmer level and extended subsidy for them.

“A total of 2,888 acres of seed production was taken up in 183 villages involving more than 2,000 farmers under the programme. The group was able to procure 3,763 quintals of seed and distributed it to nearly 4,000 farmers. Similarly in 2013 they have distributed 11,518 quintals of seeds in 260 villages covering nearly to 10,000 acres,” adds Dr. Ramanjaneyulu.

Control

The seed production, supply and distribution, administration are localized within a cluster of villages where the overall control is by the farmers.

This model helped many growers get access to good quality seeds at affordable prices and also saved enormous expense for the Government.

To know more contact Dr. G. V. Ramanjaneyulu, Executive Director, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, 12-13-445, Street no-1, Tarnaka, Secunderabad-500 017, website: www.krishi.tv, email: ramoo.csa@gmail.com, facebook: [ramoo.agripage](https://www.facebook.com/ramoo.agripage), mobile: 09000699702.

Management of pod borer in pigeonpea

Sow redgram to attract birds

Pigeonpea is one of the most important grain legume crops of tropical and subtropical environments. More than 200 species of insects live and feed on pigeonpea, though relatively few cause heavy annual yield losses. Among the important insect pests, podborer has become serious production constraint in pigeonpea.

The caterpillars destroy buds, flowers and pods. Larva feeds on pods by making holes, and is seen feeding with the head alone inside and rest of the body hanging out. If flowers and pods not available, larvae will feed on foliage also.

Medium sized light brown moths measuring about 40 mm across the wings have a dark speck and dark area on the forewings. Hind wings are light in colour with a dark patch at the outer end.

Management:

- Summer ploughing to expose the hidden stages of the pest to natural predation.
 - Installation of *H. armigera* pheromone traps at 3-4traps /acre.
 - Fixing of bird perches with branched tree twigs to attract predatory birds for insect predation.
- Sow redgram mixed with pundi or local sorghum for attracting birds.
- Hand collection of grownup larvae of the pod borer by manually shaking the plants and dislodging them.
 - First spray can be taken up with Thiodicarb 75 WP 0.6 g or Profenophas 50 EC 2 ml or methomyl 40 SP 0.6 g per litre of water to control eggs
 - Second spray with spraying of 5 per cent neem seed kernel extract

- Third spray with viral pesticide, HaNPV at 100 LE /acre along with 0.5 per cent jaggery and 0.1 per cent boric acid.

Severe infestation

If the infestation is severe, new insecticide molecules like 0.3 ml indoxacarb 14.5 SC or 0.1 ml spinosad 45 SC or 0.75ml Navaluron 10 EC or 2.5ml chlorpyrifos 20 EC can be applied. For one hectare area around 500 litres of spray solution is recommended.

(Dr. D. N. Kambrekar, Scientist, Regional Agricultural Research Station, UAS Campus, Bijapur, Karnataka, email: kambrekardn@gmail.com: Phone: 08352- 230568)

Safety in food security



SAFE AND HEALTHY: An empowered force of trained food safety personnel must be formed to ensure that adulteration or contamination is detected scientifically.

While making grain available to all is important, it is equally essential to ensure that all food supplied for consumption remains unadulterated and uncontaminated.

When India became independent, the Constitution declared it to be a socialist, secular, democratic Republic. The first fundamental right under the Constitution sets down that every

citizen has a right to life. This has been interpreted by the highest court as every citizen's right to a life in dignity, good health and free speech in a fraternity of communal harmony and national integrity. These rights are possible only if you are not starving, in the first place.

India has, according to some sources, some 400 million people living below the poverty line. Unless poverty is eradicated, our socialist credo will remain just a pretence. Medical facilities being made accessible to every little Indian is also an imperative. In a letter to Union Minister for Food, K.V. Thomas, I had underscored the importance of the recently enacted legislation that is meant to ensure food security, bringing crores of Indians within its ambit. Food security is one of the most important measures that should make the Indian socialist Republic a reality in the true sense of the term. Indeed, the enforcement of the Food Safety Bill will constitute a perspective plan for the making of this socialist Republic.

Challenge of contamination

Still, food security, which seeks to end starvation, does not abolish food adulteration. Virtually all items of food in India have chemicals or adulterants added to them, which make them unsafe to various degrees. Therefore, every public institution where food is served must ensure that what is served is chemically safe, nutritionally healthy and makes for the health of the nation.

This means an organised system of inspecting the quality of food offered in public places. We should be under no illusion that even godowns where grain is kept for easy distribution have enough safety features incorporated in them.

The business of making food appear appealing and attractive often spoils the quality of what we eat. To make the nation healthy, every citizen must be able to buy food that is free from contamination. This will involve a comprehensive process involving testing facilities or laboratories even in the villages. We must have a food safety project that makes what we eat wholesome. Food security cannot be guaranteed merely by the provision of a certain quantity of grain to each family but by ensuring that every grain that is distributed is wholesome and nourishing, and not noxious. The ideology of food safety is a composite one, beyond merely making grain available physically.

Needed measures

We must have a state-sponsored food safety foundation that has branches all across each State, with equipment that can test food safety. An empowered force of trained food safety personnel should visit eateries, food stores, even festival venues where food is served, and take action where adulteration or contamination is detected through scientific means. The food safety police must have suitable powers conferred on them under legislative sanction. There should be

an Act that provides statutory instrumentality to thus ensure the health of the people. A safety police force operating under the Health Ministry with powers of seizure is a new concept that will require an amendment to the Food Safety Act. Policing the process is a fundamental obligation of the state.

The destiny of India is as yet uncertain. Jawaharlal Nehru said in a celebrated speech: “The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us but as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over.”

The Food Safety Bill has a serious shortcoming, and this must be corrected by means of suitable amendments and policy reformation. The prices of vegetables and other necessary commodities for food consumption keep rising and it is still not clear what the government is doing to control the trend.

To end starvation, the prices of all food commodities must be regulated. Real food safety is the have-not humanity’s instrument of contentment.

(V.R. Krishna Iyer is a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India.)

Farm meet kicks off amid protests

HYDERABAD



Former New Zealand Prime Minister and chairman of the World Agricultural Forum Advisory Board James Brendan Bolger (left) and WAF chairman Kenneth M. Baker (pointing at centre), and Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy (in white), among others, admire a model of the ICC world cup trophy made with paddy grains, at the Agri-Tech Trade Fair in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Photo: Mohammed Yousuf

A.P. government draws flak for co-sponsoring the World Agricultural Forum Congress

The World Agricultural Forum Congress and Trade Fair 2013 got off to an unexciting start on Tuesday amid concerns expressed by farmers' organisations on the attempts by the multinationals to take over the sector employing scores of small and marginal farmers.

The State government drew flak from political parties like the BJP and the Left for promoting a business promotion event of multinationals while the Congress-supported Kisan Khet Mazdoor Congress faulted the exorbitant fee charged for farmer delegates.

Union Minister of State for Agriculture Tariq Anwar inaugurated the event instead of Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar.

Interestingly, the farmers' conclave does not feature participation of agricultural scientists of repute like M.S. Swaminathan.

Mr. Tariq Anwar spoke at length about the benefits of contract farming claiming that the sector had the potential to change the face of Indian agriculture scenario in the coming years.

Illustrating his point, he compared the food grain production to poultry over comparable periods.

"The food grain production increased by 40 per cent in 2011-12 compared to 1993-94 but the corresponding increase in the production of eggs has been 166 per cent", Mr. Anwar said.

Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy exhorted the delegates to evolve policies to attract youth, particularly the educated lot, back into farming.

"Unfortunately, no educated youth is interested in taking up the profession that meets the nation's hunger, apart from contributing to the GDP", he said.

WAF advisory board chairman James Bolger stressed the need for accepting technology including the GM food for meeting the growing demand.

Coupled with the climate change, the challenge for meeting the demand on food side was enormous, he said.

Even as the deliberations were under way, representatives of farmers' organisations questioned the State government's involvement in the event organised by a body of multinational companies.

BJP State president G. Kishan Reddy slammed the government for co-sponsoring the four-day event which no government had done so far.

The CPI (M) backed All India Agriculture Workers Union has organised parallel symposia and seminars for three days condemning efforts to promote contract and corporate farming.

Though the theme of the event was centred on small and marginal farmers, the effort was primarily to divert them from traditional practices to mechanisation, thereby, opening the prospect of making scores dependent on the trade jobless.

hindustantimes

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 94

Wind: normal

Thursday, Nov 7

Max Min

30° | 25°

Sunrise: 06:03

Sunset: 05:41

Barometer: 1010

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Friday, Nov 8

Max Min

32° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday Nov 9	Sunday Nov 10	Monday Nov 11	Tuesday Nov 12	Wednesday Nov 13
31° 26°	32° 26°	32° 25°	27° 24°	27° 25°
Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Overcast	Overcast

Airport Weather

Chennai

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 06:03

Humidity: 94

Sunset: 05:41

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1010



THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Heavy rains & snow likely in northern regions



Heavy snowfall and rains will hit the northern region due to western disturbances over central Pakistan and west Rajasthan in the next 24 hours.

NEW DELHI: Heavy snowfall and rains will hit the northern region due to western disturbances over central Pakistan and west Rajasthan in the next 24 hours. This will be followed by extreme foggy conditions from November 9 onwards, leading to a drop in day temperatures by 2-4 degree celsius.

Met scientists say it is early to say if fog will disrupt rail and air services in the coming days. According to the India Meteorological Department, a western disturbance and associated induced cyclonic circulation would cover northwest India including Delhi NCR between November 6 and 8, and lead to rains and snowfall over the western Himalayan region and the adjoining northwest plains.

"Isolated rain and snowfall of over 3 cm would occur over Jammu and Kashmir between November 6 and 7," said OP Singh, deputy director general of meteorology, Regional Meteorological Centre, New Delhi. He added that during the next 48 hours, rain and snow would occur at a few places over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Rains across the plains of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh, north Rajasthan and west Madhya Pradesh will aid in wheat and mustard sowing, said agriculture officials. According

to the agromet advisory service unit of the Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, with the possibility of light rain on November 6 and 7, farmers have been advised to prepare their field for sowing wheat and mustard crop and start sowing after two days.

Most parts of the north region have been enveloped in mist and shallow fog conditions in the wee morning hours in the past one-week. The met department forecast fog conditions to prevail for a longer duration over the plains of northwest India for few days from November 9. "Runway visibility has improved on Wednesday from 500 metre (on Tuesday) to 2,500 metre. There were some issues with flying helicopters and small aircraft, but no operation has been hit at Indira Gandhi International airport," said R K Jenamani, director in charge, meteorological watch office, Indira Gandhi International airport. He said it was early to forecast the fog condition post-November 9.

Minimum temperatures are below normal by 2-4 degree celcius, touching 10-15 degree celcius over many parts of northern states and some parts of north Rajasthan, north Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Paddy purchase in Haryana up by 6% so far



The government agencies purchased 34.28 LT of paddy, whereas over 7.55 LT of paddy have been purchased by millers, a Food and Supplies Department spokesman said

CHANDIGARH: Paddy procurement in Haryana has risen by 6 per cent to 41.83 lakh tonnes (LT) in the ongoing procurement season so far.

Last season, 39.40 LT of the crop arrived in the corresponding period.

The government agencies purchased 34.28 LT of paddy, whereas over 7.55 LT of paddy have been purchased by millers, a Food and Supplies Department spokesman said.

He said that Food and Supplies Department has purchased 14.30 LT of paddy, Hafed 9.56 LT, Agro Industries Corporation 5.52 LT, Haryana Warehousing Corporation 3.26 LT, Confed 1.5 LT and Food Corporation of India had purchased 11,380 tonnes..

Potato scarcity: Mamata Banerjee takes charge of agriculture marketing department



Concerned over "artificial scarcity" of potato after the state government pegged the price of the commodity in retail markets across the city at Rs 13 a kg, Banerjee warned of strict action against hoarders including cancelling licenses of "dishonest" traders.

KOLKATA: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee assumed temporary charge of the state agriculture marketing department in the wake of increasing criticism of the West Bengal government's handling of the situation rising out of scarcity of potato in the city's retail markets.

"I have told Arup Roy (agriculture marketing minister) that from now on for some days I would look after the department's work, though he will continue to remain its minister," Banerjee told reporters after a high-level meeting with state finance minister Amit Mitra, chief secretary Sanjay Mitra and senior government and police officers.

Concerned over "artificial scarcity" of potato after the state government pegged the price of the commodity in retail markets across the city at Rs 13 a kg, Banerjee today warned of strict action against hoarders including cancelling licenses of "dishonest" traders.

"We will take action against those fleecing the common man. There is adequate supply. But, hoarders are trying to create artificial scarcity of potato after it was decided at a joint meeting between the state government and the traders recently to sell potato at Rs 13 in the retail markets and Rs 11 in the wholesale markets," Banerjee, who paid a surprise visit to some city markets including the Koley Market at Sealdah during the day, said.

"They are not keeping their words," Banerjee said referring to the traders' representatives who were co-signatories along with government officials on a leaflet released after the recent meeting, confirming the price.

"Nobody should think that our government is weak. Stern action would be taken against hoarders and dishonest traders. We are shortlisting their names. Police, state enforcement branch and other agencies would conduct raids. Some of them are now hiding at Ghatshila and Jalandhar. We are keeping a tab," Banerjee said.

Tomato exports to Pakistan should be banned: Traders



"Government of India should stop export of tomatoes to Pakistan via Attari-Wagah land route for some days in order to curb spiralling prices of this commodity in the wake of lower supplies," Amritsar-based Federation of Dry Fruits and Karyana Association President Anil Mehra said.

CHANDIGARH: Punjab-based traders said tomato exports to Pakistan via Attari-Wagah land route should be banned in order to contain rising prices of the commodity.

"Government of India should stop export of tomatoes to Pakistan via Attari-Wagah land route for some days in order to curb spiralling prices of this commodity in the wake of lower supplies," Amritsar-based Federation of Dry Fruits and Karyana Association President Anil Mehra told PTI today.

Traders said though Indian exporters will lose some business if tomato export is banned, but it will help in bringing down the prices of the commodity at several places in the country.

Notably, tomatoes are ruling at Rs 60-65 per kg at several places, including Punjab and Chandigarh.

About 40-50 trucks laden with tomatoes are crossing over to Pakistan via Attari-Wagah land route every day in the wake of poor crop output in Pakistan.

"It is for the first time that wholesale prices of tomatoes in Pakistan have crossed Rs 100 per kg as the country faced a huge shortfall in tomatoes' production this season," said Mehra, who is also an importer and exporter.

"Only hotels and big restaurants are buying tomatoes at a very high prices in Pakistan," he said.

Traders said they are getting supplies from Nashik in Maharashtra for exporting it to Pakistan.

Traders also pressed for banning export of tomatoes, alleging Pakistan government did not allow its traders to export onions to India when the country was facing massive shortage of bulb.

"When we needed onions, Pakistan traders were not allowed to export onion to India. In the same way, Indian government should also ban export of tomatoes to Pakistan," Mehra said.

"Pakistan is depended upon India for vegetables for about eight months in a year," he noted.

In the wake of spiralling prices of onions, Punjab-based traders imported crop from Afghanistan via Attari-Wagah land route.

Besides tomatoes, India also exports other vegetables, including green chilly and garlic, to Pakistan via Integrated Check Post at Attari in Amritsar.

Business Standard

Wheat export: FCI to float revised tender on Nov 15

To open new tenders on 15 Nov



Food Corporation of India, the government's grain procurement and management agency, is set to float a revised tender on November 15 for its proposed two million-tonne wheat export, with a \$40/tonne cut in floor prices.

The first tender, floated in August by three government agencies —MMTC, STC and PEC — for the FCI wheat had a floor price of \$300 a tonne, almost equivalent to the average realisation in the 4.2 mt of export last year. It got no bids at that price, as the open market global price was much lower, around \$235 a tonne at the benchmark Chicago Board of Trade (CBoT).

Global bidders did offer \$240-260 a tonne. Consequently, the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) which approved the earlier decision had, late last month, decided to cut the floor price for wheat export to \$260 a tonne.

“Even this price level is not attractive. But, we have little choice. The price is decided by the EGoM, which thought to fix the floor price at the highest on the graph,” said a senior FCI official.

Wheat prices have been very volatile so far this financial year. After hitting \$265.17 a tonne (\$7.22 a bushel) on April 30 at the CBoT, wheat for near-month delivery fell to \$230.82 a tonne (\$6.28 a bushel) on August 13. After a resurgence to \$259.29 a tonne (\$7.06 a bushel) on October 18, it was trading on Wednesday at \$242.1 a tonne (\$6.59 a bushel).

The current price translates into Rs 15,085 a tonne or Rs 1,508.5 a quintal in rupee terms. For delivery late this month, it is quoting at Rs 1,626 a qtl on the National Commodities & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).

To make this attempt successful, FCI is focusing on special cleaning of wheat, to improve its quality. "We procure wheat at a machine-cleaned fair average quality. We are cleaning it again, for higher realisation," said the official.



FCI exported 4.2 mt last year at a premium of \$50 a tonne over the CBoT price, fetching an average of \$311.69 a tonne. For the first lot of export, the reserve price was fixed at \$228, enhanced to \$300 a tonne for dispatching three mt in the second lot.

The scenario is different this year. According to the latest report by the Food and Agricultural

Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, global production is forecast to be seven per cent higher this year at 705 mt, to set a record. Also, global wheat inventories are forecast to reach 163.3 mt, about 5.2 per cent (eight mt) above their opening level.

By the time the new tender is put through, plantings of the 2014 winter crop will show a clear picture in America, Europe and India. FAO has forecast the sowing area to remain higher this year in the US and Europe; so, output is expected to remain proportionately higher.

Reuters says the price will remain subdued, at around \$239 a tonne (\$6.50 a bushel), with a downward bias.

"India enjoys a geographical advantage in supplying wheat to the East Asia, the Gulf and East African countries at a lower freight cost. There will be some movement in the revised tender," said Pravin Dongre, Chairman, India Pulses and Grains Association.

South Korea, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Thailand and Indonesia were large buyers of India's wheat last year. Others which had bought were Sharjah, Dubai, Sudan, Oman, Qatar, Vietnam, Malaysia and Philippines.

India poised to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses

The India Pulses and Grains Association estimates production of kharif pulses at seven mt this year



Amid expectations of a record rabi crop due to good monsoon rains, adequate soil moisture and a rise in the groundwater table, India is set to record self-sufficiency in pulses this year.

The first advance estimate of the ministry of agriculture for 2013-14 pegged kharif production at 6.01 million tonnes (mt), a two per cent increase compared with 5.91 mt the previous year. The India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) estimates production of kharif pulses at seven mt this year. "We estimate rabi pulses output to rise five-10 per cent. This year, agro climatic conditions have been very supportive, especially in major producing states such as Rajasthan," said Bimal Kothari, vice-chairman of IPGA.

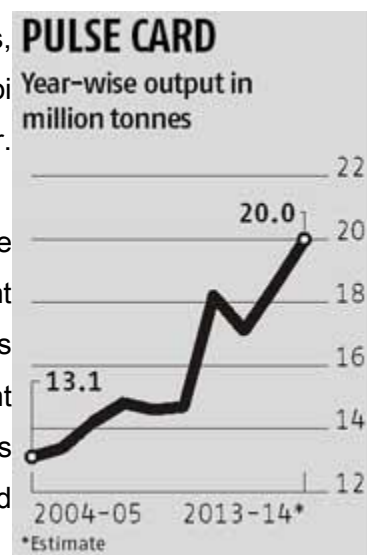
"We are expecting exceptionally good rabi production of both pulses and oilseeds this year due to favourable climatic conditions. A good monsoon, followed by intermittent extended season rainfalls, turned the climate in favour of pulses. India is moving gradually ahead to become self-sufficient in terms of pulses this year. However, the actual output would determine trade," said Ashok Gulati, chairman of the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices, which decides the minimum support price (MSP) for agriculture commodities. The rabi season accounts for about 70 per cent of India's pulses production. Against an estimated overall production of 18.45 mt in

2012-13, India's annual pulses consumption stands at 20 mt; the deficit is bridged through imports.

A substantial rise in the MSP for pulses helped farmers increase acreage for the crop. Two years ago, the government had raised the MSP for tur and urad to Rs 4,300 a quintal from Rs 3,200 and Rs 3,300 a quintal, respectively. This year, the MSP for moong was raised from Rs 3,500 a quintal to Rs 4,500 a quintal.

This year, kharif pulses acreage surged to 10.2 million hectares, compared with 8.8 million hectares last year. It is expected the rabi acreage would stand at a record high this year.

Due to the recent appreciation of the rupee against the dollar, the import of pulses has slowed. With an estimated 10 per cent increase in domestic output, India would comfortably meet its demand of 20 mt. "To maintain a fair trade balance, the government must allow the export of pulses. While imports are allowed, exports are banned. This is an unfair trade practice that should be stopped immediately," Gulati said.



This year, the harvesting of kharif pulses and the sowing of the rabi crop have progressed well so far. Despite the prices of chana, the largest rabi crop, being lower than the MSP through most of this year, it is expected farmers would aggressively increase the acreage for this crop this season, as chana is grown in small and marginal land, which is unfit for other crops.

Sugar up 0.5% on spot demand

Sweetener for delivery in December traded lower by 0.1%



Sugar prices rose by 0.52% to Rs 2,874 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions driven by a pickup in demand in spot markets.

However, higher supplies by millers in the market, restricted the gains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for delivery in November rose by Rs 15, or 0.52%, to Rs 2,874 per quintal with an open interest of 18,110 lots.

However, the sweetener for delivery in December traded lower by Rs 3, or 0.11%, to Rs 2,845 per quintal in 13,480 lots.

Market analysts attributed the rise in sugar prices at futures trade to fresh positions built up by speculators on rising demand in the spot markets.

Potato up 0.2% on rising demand in spot markets

Commodity for delivery in April traded higher by 0.04%



Supported by pick up in demand in the spot market and restricted arrivals from producing belts, potato prices edged up by 0.27% to Rs 889.90 per quintal in futures market today as speculators created fresh position.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, potato for delivery in far-month March rose by Rs 2.40, or 0.27%, to Rs 889.90 per quintal in business turnover of 31 lots.

Likewise, the potato for delivery in April traded higher by 30 paise, or 0.04%, to Rs 855 per quintal in 3 lots.

Analysts attributed the rise in potato futures to rising demand in spot markets (mandies) against restricted arrivals from producing regions.

Chana up 0.4% as demand picks up

Commodity for delivery in December traded higher by 0.41%



Chana prices rose 0.42% to Rs 3,122 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators indulged in creating fresh positions, triggered by rising demand in the spot market.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for delivery in November rose Rs 13, or 0.42%, to Rs 3,122 per quintal with an open interest of 62,470 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 13, or 0.41%, to Rs 3,206 per quintal in 77,170 lots.

Analysts said fresh positions built-up by speculators on pick up in demand in the spot market mainly led to rise in chana prices at futures trade.

Crude palm oil down 0.3% on low demand

Oil for delivery in December traded lower by 0.27%



Crude palm oil extended losses for the second day by losing 0.30% to Rs 562.30 per 10 kg in futures market today due to lower demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for delivery in November fell further by Rs 1.70, or 0.30% to Rs 562.30 per 10 kg in business turnover of 6 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in December traded lower by Rs 1.50, or 0.27% to Rs 563.50 per 10 kg in 12 lots.

Analysts said lower demand in the spot markets against adequate stocks positions mainly weighed on crude palm oil prices for the second day at futures trade.

Refined soya oil up 0.4% on spot demand

Oil for delivery in December traded higher by 0.31%



Refined soya oil prices were up by 0.44% to Rs 749 per 10 kg in futures market today as speculators created fresh positions supported by an improvement in spot market demand.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, refined soya oil for delivery in November rose by Rs 3.25, or 0.44%, to Rs 749 per 10 kg with an open interest of 55,110 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 2.30, or 0.31%, to Rs 741.30 per quintal in 1,34,250 lots.

Analysts said speculative positions built up by participants driven by rising demand in spot market mainly supported the upside in refined soya oil at futures trade.

Cardamom down 0.8% on sluggish demand

Spice for delivery in November shed 0.74%



Cardamom remained weak for the second straight day and prices fell further by 0.80% to Rs 720.20 per kg in futures trading today as speculators trimmed their positions amid a lower trend at spot market.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in December fell further by Rs 5.80, or 0.8%, to Rs 720.20 per kg in business turnover of 243 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in November shed Rs 5.10, or 0.74%, to Rs 680 per kg in 101 lots.

Market analysts said trimming of position by speculators amid a lower trend at spot market due to sluggish demand against adequate supplies mainly kept pressure on cardamom prices at futures trade.

THE HINDU Business Line

Coonoor tea auction turnover rises

Coonoor, Nov. 6:

The cumulative turnover of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions in the first ten months of current calendar has risen by 23.19 per cent over the corresponding period of 2012. In all, 43 auctions were held till October-end when 4.81 crore kg was sold against 4.53 crore kg in 2012. Consequently, between January and October, the cumulative turnover increased to Rs 447.09 crore from Rs 362.94 crore – up by Rs 84.15 crore or 23.19 per cent. The increase in cumulative turnover had risen from Rs 25.28 crore (85.12%) in January to Rs 46.01 crore (82.96%) in February, Rs 57.93 crore (66.64%) in March, Rs 65.20 crore (57.69%) in April, Rs 79.87 crore (53.39%) in May and Rs 88.02 crore (45.67%) in June before registering Rs 85.75 crore (35.16%) in July, Rs 84.98 crore (29.06%) in August, Rs 84.11 crore (25.68%) in September and now, Rs 84.15 crore (23.19%).

Spot rubber declines

Kottayam, Nov, 6:

Domestic rubber prices lost ground on Wednesday. In spot, the prices declined in tune with the moderate losses on NMCE. There were no buyers even at lower levels. “The sustained weakness in the commodity has triggered a panic situation in the local markets,” analysts said. Sheet rubber weakened to Rs 157 (Rs 158) per kg, both at Kottayam and Kochi according to traders and the Rubber Board.

The grade moved down to Rs 154 (Rs 155). November futures declined to Rs 156 (Rs 158.09), December to Rs 157 (Rs 158.97) and January to Rs 158.55 (Rs 160.63) while the February and March futures remained inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) slipped to Rs 153.58 (Rs 154.55) at Bangkok.

November futures closed at ¥ 243.2 (Rs 153.81) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were: RSS-4: 157 (158); RSS-5: 150 (151); Ungraded: 146 (147); ISNR 20: 149 (150); and Latex 60%: 111 (113).

Fertiliser firms to get special bank credit of Rs 5,500 cr

Move will partially ease liquidity crisis, feels industry



New Delhi, Nov. 6:

The Government has approved a Special Banking Arrangement (SBA) for fertiliser companies against the subsidy due for the current financial year.

“The arrangement will help fertiliser companies get Rs 5,500 crore from banks as loan. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10.5 per cent. The Government will bear 8 per cent interest, while remaining has to be paid by the company,” a senior Government official told *Business Line*. This kind of arrangement was also made last year when Rs 5,000 crore bank loans were availed.

Later in the evening, Government sources said that the State Bank of India was not ready to lend at 10.5 per cent. “Instead, it is asking for 10.85 per cent rate of interest,” a source said while added that there will be meeting with bankers on Thursday. This is 60-day credit in lieu of the subsidy due. While the industry estimates an additional subsidy of Rs 30,000 crore in the current fiscal, the Fertiliser Ministry in September had sought Rs 12,000 crore from the Finance Ministry under SBA to clear the subsidy arrears. Now, the final arrangement is even lower than that.

The industry feels that the present arrangement will partially ease the liquidity crisis. It will help in clearing subsidy arrears for domestically produced urea in June and July, sources said. All eyes are now on the second supplementary demand for grants during the winter session of Parliament.

For fiscal 2013-14, the Government had reduced fertiliser subsidy to Rs 65,971.50 crore from the revised estimate of Rs 65,974 crore in 2012-13. Of this, the Government is expected to provide Rs 15,544 crore as subsidy for imported urea, Rs 21,000 crore for domestically produced urea and Rs 29,426 crore for decontrolled fertilisers, including di-ammonium phosphate and muriate of potash and other complexes.

Meanwhile, a senior official said the Finance Ministry was unlikely to agree to significant additional money in the second supplementary demand for grants keeping the fiscal deficit

target in mind. The Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, has repeatedly said that every effort will be made to keep the fiscal deficit within the budgeted target. There is already additional allocation for the petroleum sector with more expected, while revenue collection is still below the target.

However, tracking the approval of banking arrangement, shares of fertiliser companies edged up to close higher on Wednesday. Shares of Chambal Fertiliser closed higher at Rs 38.85 gaining 2.78 per cent, while Coromandel International rose 0.67 per cent to end at Rs 219.45. Shares of National Fertiliser gained 0.62 per cent to close at Rs 24.30.

Met expects 'low' brewing in the Bay to gain in strength

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov. 6:

India Met Department (IMD) has said that a low-pressure area emerging over the Andaman Sea during the weekend may intensify in strength.

The moot point is whether the system would go on to become a tropical cyclone, the second after 'Phailin' in the Bay of Bengal during this Northeast monsoon season.

TROPICAL STORM

The US Naval Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Centre expects the system to briefly attain tropical storm status off the Myanmar coast.

But it will come under the influence of a super typhoon (super cyclone) likely entering the South China Sea (just to the East of the Bay) concurrently.

Super typhoon Haiyan from the west Pacific is expected to hit the Philippines over the next two days, according to tracker Tropical Storm Risk Group of London.

From here, Haiyan will wade into the South China Sea, although weakened from the stumble over the Philippine archipelago.

OPPOSING FLOWS

Back home in the Bay of Bengal, the budding system would need to toy with opposing flows from back-to-back western disturbances entering the country from the Pakistan border.

The US military forecaster sees the Bay system losing strength even as it coasts towards the Tamil Nadu coast.

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts too has given out a similar outlook in which the system ends up in a whimper over the Tamil Nadu coast.

Extended forecasts of the associated wind field put out by the IMD on Wednesday do not predict anything radically different.

RAIN FORECAST

An extended weather outlook said that rain or thundershowers may break out at many places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands from Saturday.

Rain or thundershowers have been forecast at a few places over Tamil Nadu and Kerala during the next four days.

Meanwhile in the northwest, western disturbance (low-pressure wave travelling from East to West) activity is forecast to get a firm foothold from the weekend.

The lower pressure means that the western disturbance will pack moisture, which gets converted as rain/snow in the higher reaches and fog/thundershowers in the plains.

The IMD has forecast rain or snow at isolated places over western Himalayan regions and isolated rain or thundershowers over adjoining plains of Northwest India on Saturday.

Bullish outlook for tur on higher demand



Indore, Nov. 6:

Majority of pulses and pulse seeds ruled flat in Indore mandis which opened today after four days of Diwali holidays. Trading activities in the mandis remained subdued as the day was marked by symbolic *muhurat* trading in agri commodities.

Tur (Maharashtra) ruled firm Rs 4,650 a quintal, while tur (Madhya Pradesh) was quoted at Rs 4,100-4,200 . For the past two weeks, tur had been witnessing an uptrend on strong festive demand in pulses and buying support from the millers. Even as pulse seeds and pulses in local mandis opened flat today, bullish trend in tur will likely to continue as demand will likely to continue in the coming days , said a trader.

Tur dal (full) in Indore mandis remained steady at Rs 6,500-6,800, tur dal (full) at Rs 6,000-6,200, while tur dal marka ruled at Rs 7,100.

Urad declined on slack demand with urad (bold) being quoted at Rs 4,525-50 (Rs 4,400-4,700), while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,800-3,900. Traders hope both urad and moong to rule flat for sometime, in the wake of weak demand in urad and moong mongar at the higher rate.

Urad dal (medium) was quoted at Rs 4,900-5,100, urad dal (bold) ruled at Rs 5,200-5,400, while urad mongar at Rs 5,500-5,900 respectively.

Moong (bold) was quoted at Rs 5,851 , while moong (medium) ruled at Rs 4,800-5,100. Rally in moong this year is mainly been due to lower crop output and extensive damage on account of rains . Moong dal (medium) was at Rs 6,450-6,750, moong dal (bold) at Rs 6,850-7,250, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,050-7,350 a quintal respectively.

Sugar may rule steady as demand eases



Mumbai, Nov. 6:

Sugar prices were steady with minor changes on the Vashi market on Wednesday on routine demand-supply.

On futures, prices dropped in absence of any supportive factor. In spot, on expectation of eased demand, prices fell by Rs 6-14 a quintal while in *naka* trade it dropped by Rs 5-15. Mill tender rates were unchanged on lack of selling by producers. Morale was steady, said traders.

Jagdish Rawal of B. Bhogilal & Co. said, "On Diwali Muhurat trading most of the volumes remained in *naka* delivery at fixed rates decided by Bombay Sugar Merchants Association for three days. About 3,500-4,000 bags were traded in *naka* delivery form at Rs 2,835-2,961 for S-grade and Rs 2,911-3,185. Producers kept away offering sale tenders due to Diwali holidays.

However, mill tenders were expected steady at previous level on Wednesday evening. Market will continue to get support of regular month beginning local demand for next few days and later on it will ease.”

Arrivals declined to 61-62 truck loads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 59-60 truck loads. On Wednesday evening, traders were expecting mills tender offer at a steady level of Rs 2,690-2,820 for S-grade and Rs 2,850-2,980 for M-grade.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 2,880-3,001 (Rs 2,886-3,015) and M-grade Rs 3,021-3,211 (Rs 3,012-3,221). *Naka* delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,835-2,900 (Rs 2,835-2,911) and M-grade Rs 2,911-3,180 (Rs 2,911-3,185).

Higher inflows weigh on edible oils



Mumbai, Nov. 6:

Edible oils market witnessed a mixed trend on spot and futures on Wednesday. In physical market, groundnut oil declined by Rs 10 tracking bearish reports from Saurashtra where new crop arrival is expected to rise sharply soon due to record output.

Soyabean refined oil declined by Rs 5 for 10 kg while it rose by more than Rs 9 in futures markets. Cotton, rapeseed, sunflower and palmolein ruled unchanged. The volume was thin on slack demand. Morale was steady, said sources.

Shailesh Kataria of Riddhi Broker said, “Volume remained thin in physical market as demand for Diwali is over. Arrival of kharif oilseed crops arrivals and crushing activities will increase after *Labh Panchami* which will make more availability of commodity in the market. Progress of

rabi sowing is also encouraging. Despite cautious mood undercurrent of the market remained positive tracking foreign markets.”

Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 607, super palmolein Rs 637 and super deluxe Rs 657, soyabean refined oil Rs 720 and sunflower refined oil Rs 770. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 603 ex JNPT and Rs 605 ex Patalganga, soyabean refined oil Rs 708 and sunflower refined oil Rs 731.

Allana was quoting palmolein at Rs 608, super palmolein Rs 637, super deluxe Rs 657, soyabean refined oil Rs 715 and sunflower refined oil Rs 770.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil was Rs 1,420 (Rs 1,420) for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) Rs 900 (Rs 900). Soyabean arrivals were merely 1.5-2 lakh bags and its prices were Rs 3,600-3,800 ex mandi and Rs 3,850-3,950 plant delivery. Mustard seed arrivals were 80,000 bags and its prices were Rs 3,400-4,000.

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's December settled lower at MYR 2,550 (MYR 2,587), January at MYR 2,547 (MYR 2,580) and February at MYR 2,547 (MYR 2,580).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 880 (890), soya refined oil 710 (715), sunflower exp. ref. 675 (675), sunflower ref. 755 (755), rapeseed ref. oil 775 (775), rapeseed expeller ref. 745 (745) cottonseed ref. oil 690 (690) and palmolein 603 (603).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd quoted Rs 675/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein November delivery.

Feed prices to rule unchanged



Karnal, Nov. 6:

Following too much volatility in prices of key ingredients over the last few days, poultry feed prices remained unchanged on Wednesday.

Aditya Mishra, an expert, told *Business Line* that despite some correction in the prices of soyameal and a few other ingredients, prices of poultry feed products were unchanged as traders are waiting for the input costs to stabilise.

After witnessing a good uptrend in recent past, soyameal has come down on improved availability of stocks, he said. Situation of the market was anticipated and availability of soyameal and other ingredients may improve further in the coming days.

Feed prices may continue to rule around current levels even in the coming days, said Aditya Mishra.

In the physical market, soyameal dropped by Rs 1,730 and was at Rs 33,000 a tonne while bajra improved by Rs 100 and was at Rs 12,600 a quintal. Di-calcium phosphate went down by 10 paise and sold at Rs 34.70 a kg, MBM improved by 50 paise and sold at Rs 30.50 a kg while maize dropped by Rs 10 and went for Rs 1,480 a quintal. Rice bran oil was at Rs 60 a kg, DRB increased by Rs 200 and sold at Rs 9,000, while mustard de-oiled cake improved by Rs 100 and was at Rs 14,900 a tonne.

Feed products

Broiler concentrate quoted at Rs 1,960 for a 50-kg bag while Broiler Starter Mash sold at Rs 1,500. Pre-lay mash sold at Rs 1,025 . Layer concentrate 25 per cent was sold at Rs 1,465 while Layer concentrate 35 per cent was at Rs 1,150.

Poultry Products

Meanwhile, a positive trend was witnessed in the poultry products market on Wednesday. Broiler improved by Rs 7 and quoted at Rs 54-58 a kg, egg went further up by 24 paise and was at Rs 3.75, while chick went for Rs 20, Re 1 up.

Spot pepper rebounds on buying support



Kochi, Nov. 6:

Pepper futures continued its uptrend on Wednesday while the spot remained steady on limited activities. Spot prices bounced back on strong buying support. Inter-State dealers have become active and they were buying from the doorsteps of primary market dealers at terminal market prices. Besides, consumer market buyers were also looking for pepper to buy but without bills, these factors have aided the price rise, market sources told *Business Line*.

They said that the buying spree by inter-State dealers from the doorsteps on cash-and-carry basis and on self purchase bills have narrowed down the supply to the terminal market. Consequently, the arrivals dropped to seven tonnes today. The offtake stood at nine tonnes, they said.

On the IPSTA platform, active futures contracts decreased today by Rs 300 and Rs 700 to Rs 47,000 a quintal each for Nov and Dec, even though there were no activities, the trade alleged. On the NMCE, Nov and Dec contracts increased by Rs 99 and Rs 378 to Rs 47,720 and Rs 47,850. Turn over rose by 12 tonnes to 20 tonnes. Total open interest was up by four tonnes to 20 tonnes.

Spot prices increased by Rs 400 to Rs 46,200 (ungarbled) and Rs 48,200 (garbled) a quintal on strong buying support.

Indian parity in the international market went up to \$8,225 (c&f) Europe and \$8,525 a tonne for US and remained slightly above other origins.

Poor quality arrivals grind turmeric



Erode, Nov. 6:

Due to poor quality, only 35 per cent of the total turmeric arrived found takers.

“Because of the arrival of inferior variety turmeric, traders quoted lower price purchased only 25 per cent of the stock for their local orders. Stockists purchased ten per cent of the stocks. The remaining unsold 65 per cent turmeric would be brought for sale again within two or three days,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

On Wednesday, 2,000 bags arrived for sale and the buyers quoted lesser price, but the farmers refused to sell . So only meagre sale was made.

Traders said that they are getting turmeric for a cheaper price in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, so they are buying the spice from there and selling them to upcountry traders.

Due to quality the price of the hybrid finger variety was decreased by Rs 200 a quintal and the price of other varieties remained unchanged.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,897-5,829 and the root variety Rs 3,611-4,627 a quintal.

Salem Hybrid: The finger variety fetched Rs 4,674-6,306 and the root variety Rs 4,664-5,606.

Of the 555 bags that arrived, only 87 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,419-5,369; the root variety Rs 4,039-4,874.

Of the 331 bags on offer, 155 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,089-5,887 and the root variety Rs 3,799-4,442 .

All the 103 bags were traded.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,004-5,756; the root variety Rs 4,404-4,950.

All the 63 bags found takers.
