

Global meet for making farming profitable

HYDERABAD, November 8, 2013 - The 9th World Agricultural Forum (WAF) congress and Agri-Tech trade fair concluded here on Thursday with the promise of bringing back a smile in the faces of farmers by making agriculture a sustainable and profitable profession.

Speaking at the valedictory session, chairman of the WAF advisory board James Bolger, who is also the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, said there was need to bridge the rapidly growing gap between farm and non-farm income to change the logic of more and more people seeking to be non-farmers.

Assembly Speaker N. Manohar said farming should be made sustainable keeping in mind the depleting natural resources and increasing scarcity of labour. Minister for Agriculture Kanna Lakshminarayana spoke.

Global meet on profitable farming ends



Police detain an activist protesting the World Agricultural Forum Congress that concluded in Hyderabad on Thursday. — Photo: Mohammed Yousuf

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He stated that mechanisation was a solution to small farm holders to make agriculture sustainable and profitable and felt that subsidies in agriculture must benefit small farmers. Assembly Speaker N. Manohar said farming should be made sustainable keeping in mind the depleting natural resources and increasing scarcity of labour. Minister for Agriculture Kanna Lakshminarayana spoke. Meanwhile, several farmers' organisations criticised the WAF for neglecting the small and marginal farmers completely. By keeping away small farmers the

WAF had created a gap between them and the policy makers and their right to discuss issues of concern to them, leaders of farmers' bodies N. Venkateswara Rao, M. Sridhar Reddy, G. Shourie, D. Narasimha Reddy and K. Saraswathi said.

Some leaders of the farmers' associations were denied entry to the venue in spite of having delegate passes. About 1,600 police personnel drawn from neighbouring districts were deployed for the four-day event, mainly to prevent possible protests by farmers.

Farmers desperate as cows die



ERODE, November 8, 2013 - Having seen six of the seven cows he had been rearing for nearly a decade die one after the other because of foot-and-mouth disease last week, Karuppasamy (50), a farmer of Palapalayam is in desperation. "Within a day of the death of two cows, the remaining cows died. Medicines administered to the ailing cattle had no effect. The disease has not spared even the only surviving cow now in an advanced stage of pregnancy. The scope for its survival is bleak," said

Karuppasamy, who used to earn over Rs. 2,500 a week selling milk.

Muthukrishnamoorthy of N. Thayirpalayam village is also grief-stricken after losing three cows to the disease. Both had not vaccinated their cows in time, but were helpless. They say the information (about outbreak of the disease) did not reach them in time.

Had they administered the vaccine 21 days before the outbreak of the disease, their cattle would have survived.

The death added to Karuppasamy's financial worries. In a penniless situation, Karuppasamy could not engage workers for burying the cows.

He did that himself with the help of his two sons on a patch of leased land he tills.

Farmers are doing all they can to save their cows. Krishnaswamy of Palanikattuputhur said two of his diseased cows were getting back to normal after he started administering liquor in small doses. Nevertheless, several farmers across the district, particularly those in Mettukadai, Modakurichi, Soorampalayam, Nasiyanur, and Thayirpalayam have lost their cattle to the disease.

According to E.R. Kumarsamy, district president of Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam, 50 heads of cattle have died so far due to the disease.

The authorities must arrange for payment of compensation for the affected farmers and undertake comprehensive vaccination measures, he said.

In a representation to the District Collector V.K. Shanmugam on Thursday, the farmers' wing of Bharatiya Janata Party wanted the administration to operate mobile veterinary clinics for prevention of disease.

A compensation of Rs. 20,000 must be paid to farmers for every cow lost to the disease.

For treatment of each of the diseased cows, Rs. 5,000 must be provided, the petitioners said.

Farmers said they have been told by officials that cows dying due to disease do not qualify for insurance coverage, and that the benefit could be claimed only when cattle die at times of natural calamities.

A senior official of Animal Husbandry Department, however, said, the farmers could claim insurance if their cattle had died despite vaccination.

There were instances of cows dying despite vaccination in Modakurichi area, the official said

Farmers' grievances meet at RDO offices

TIRUCHI, November 8, 2013 - Farmers grievances meetings will also be held at the Revenue Divisional Offices in the district every month on second Mondays, said Collector Jayashree Muralidharan. The meetings will be held in addition to the monthly farmers grievances meeting held at the district level. Accordingly, the meetings will be held at the Tiruchi, Srirangam, Musiri and Lalgudi Revenue Divisional Offices at 3 p.m. on November 11 and farmers can submit their petitions on grievances relating to agriculture at the meetings, she said in a press release.

Revamp farm extension system: Siddaramaiah

Chief Minister inaugurates five-day International Krishi Mela, says revamping will benefit farmers



BANGALORE, November 8, 2013 - Chief Minister Siddaramaiah (right) and Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda at the inauguration of the International Krishi Mela in Bangalore on Thursday.— Photo: G.R.N. Somashekar

Expressing dissatisfaction over the “lethargic” manner in which Agriculture Department was functioning with respect to extension services, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said that the agricultural extension system should be revamped to ensure that the benefits of research and improved crop varieties reached farmers.

“The State has produced a sizeable number of agricultural scientists with national and international reputation. Also, there are several innovations, researches and release of good crop varieties. But why is it that these benefits are not reaching farmers?” he wondered, while inaugurating the five-day International Krishi Mela being organised by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.

In a lighter vein, he remarked, “The Agriculture Department officials have stopped going to villages. I think they make some money out of the subsidies being disbursed through them to farmers and sit at home happily instead of going to villages.”

He asked agricultural universities, agriculture research institutions and the Agriculture Department to join hands to evolve an efficient extension system.

“Any research effort cannot be considered successful until it finds a place in the farmers’ fields,” he said while stressing the need for agricultural universities to play an active role in strengthening the extension system.

He expressed concern over the youth moving away from agriculture as well as villages in search of menial jobs to cities. Urging agricultural experts to give a serious thought towards this trend, he said efforts should be made to put an end to this.

Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda reiterated that the Agriculture Department had decided to free the extension officials from the task of distribution of subsidies so that they could focus completely on their work.

He noted that the proposed price-fixation commission would not only recommend prices for crops on a scientific basis but would also have the power to implement its recommendations.

The Chief Minister released seven new varieties of crops brought out by the university and also laid the foundation for the golden jubilee farmers’ building being built at the university to provide accommodation to farmers during their study visits.

Mr. Siddaramaiah stressed the need for organising regional krishi melas in view of the varied farming conditions in the State. University vice-chancellor K. Narayana Gowda said that the international mela was being held for the first time.

It had about 800 stalls showcasing various technologies, machinery and products related to agriculture and allied sectors.

The former vice-chancellor of the university R. Dwarakinath spoke. Awards were presented to the best farmer from each one of the districts and two young farmers from each one of the taluks. As many as 3.60 lakh farmers visited the krishi mela on Thursday, the first day of the five-day event. These figures are accounted for through registrations, Dr. Narayana Gowda told *The Hindu* .

Farmers oppose Whitefield-Kolar rail line

KOLAR, November 8, 2013 - Small farmers from villages in Kolar and Bangalore Rural districts have urged the Centre to stop land acquisition for a new rail line passing through these districts.

Land will be acquired in several villages in Hoskote taluk in Bangalore Rural district and Kolar and Malur taluks in Kolar district for the Whitefield-Kolar rail line.

The farmers whose land will be acquired have formed Hosa Railway Yojane Virodhi Horata Samiti to fight against the project. They staged a sit-in protest outside the Deputy Commissioner's office here on Tuesday in support of their demand. "Kolar is 40 km away from Whitefield. There is already good road connectivity and a train between Kolar and Bangarpet. There is no need for a new line," they said.

Forgotten farm songs a hit



Farmers at the venue of International Krishi Mela knew the songs rendered by folk artistes too well and sang along.— Photo: Bhagya Prakash K.

BANGALORE, November 8, 2013 - Folk songs have always been an integral part of the oral tradition of farming communities across India. Passed down through generations, every region of the country has its own set of songs that usher in various stages of the farming cycle — monsoon, sowing, harvest. And so it was that the thousands who turned up for the opening day of the International Krishi Mela were treated to some full-throated farm music that tugged at their heart strings. If the focus of the mela was on the science of farming, the folk singers that the organisers had brought in reminded

visitors that farming in this country is as much about love, emotions and pride.

Sample this excerpt from a song by the troupe 'Jogi Kala Sangha': *I have a black bull and a white one; when their hooves thunder upon my farm, the world shakes with respect. I am a farmer...*

Of course, the beauty of the verse is lost in translation, but when sung in the native tongue by Gudappa Jogi (70) in his rustic, high-pitched baritone, the song had a mesmeric effect on the crowd. While the uninitiated marvelled at the evocative tempo and pitch of the song, the farmers at the venue knew the song all too well and sang along.

Mr. Jogi's was but one of the many such folk troupes that had been strategically located at the entrance of each tent at the mela. They provided a welcome break from the hectic stall-hopping at the venue. Groups of people sat around in horseshoe formations around the singers as impromptu *mehfils* took shape.

They applauded and joined in the chorus.

"Ours is a dying tradition. Many in among the young farmers know our songs. But today was like the old days," said a misty-eyed Nagaraj Doddamane (68) the leader of the troupe Gana Nayaka Tanda.

Folk singers remind visitors that farming is as much about love, emotions and pride

‘Uncertain farm prices frustrating youth’

Navikram: farm youth will continue to shun agriculture if prices are not assured.— Photo:

Bhagya Prakash K.



BANGALORE, November 8, 2013 - “How can you expect youth to continue with agriculture and not migrate to cities when there is no assured price for the crops they grow?” wondered a young farmer who was honoured with an award for his farm innovations by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, at the International Krishi Mela here on Thursday.

“The uncertainty due to fluctuation in prices of crops is frustrating the farm youth and driving them away from the villages to the cities in search of menial jobs. Unless the government takes steps to come out with an assured price for various crops, it is not possible for farm youth to continue with agriculture,” said

28-year-old C. Navikram of Doddaballapur taluk.

Navikram was one of those who received the taluk-level best youth farmer awards being given to encourage farm youth to continue with agriculture.

His remarks during an interview with *The Hindu* came after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urged agricultural experts to give a serious thought to check the trend of farm youth shunning agriculture to migrate to cities.

Navikram, an educated youth who has a 40-acre farm in Lakshmidhevapura village of Doddaballapur taluk, said that his income from farming is sufficient for him.

“But the fluctuation in prices of crops is unsettling. The results of all the hard work depend on the prices ruling in the market at the time of the harvest. This instability shakes my confidence in farming,” he remarked.

Navikram, who also takes up hi-tech grafting on mango and jackfruit, said that there was a need for the government to regulate the crop cultivation mechanism depending upon the region-specific requirements to prevent the possibility of all farmers opting for the same crop and triggering a glut in production.

An award instituted in the name of the former Agriculture Minister late C. Byre Gowda, was presented to a 60-year-old farmer Mohammed Idrees Ahmed Quadri from Bidar taluk for inspiring and training farmers to take up innovative farming.

The Dr. R. Dwarakinath Best Farmer award was presented to Dasappa from T. Bannikuppe of Kanakapura taluk and the Dr. Dwarakinath Best Extension worker award was presented to Magadi Krishi Vijnana Kendra co-ordinator K.H. Nagaraj.

Corporatisation of farm sector opposed



Farmers staging a dharna outside the Deputy Commissioner's office in Kolar on Thursday.

KOLAR, November 8, 2013- Farmers, led by the Kolar district unit of the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha, launched a dharna outside the Deputy Commissioner's office here on Thursday condemning the move to permit multinational companies to invest in the agriculture sector.

The farmers, who arrived here from different parts of the district, took out a

procession from the Inspection Bungalow to the Deputy Commissioner's office.

Addressing the protesters, KPRS State vice-president G.C. Bayya Reddy narrated how the entry of big companies in the farming sector spelt doom to small and marginal farmers as it was in the case of Foreign Direct Investment in the retail sector. He condemned the government steps to bring modifications in the Land Reforms Act to help big companies leaving the farmers in the lurch.

Mr. Bayya Reddy also criticised the government for initiating action to evict poor small farmers from government land while sanctioning land to the corporate companies.

The protesters demanded that letter of rights should be granted to the poor who had constructed houses on government land.

KPRS stages hunger strike for farmers' rights

MANGALORE, November 8, 2013 - Protesting against the alleged anti-farmer policies of the Union and the State governments, members of the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha (KPRS) staged a day-long hunger strike in the city on Thursday.

The protest was a part of the Statewide rally to demand land rights for farmers, complete implementation of housing schemes, among others.

Addressing the gathered, district unit president of the Sangha K.R. Shriyan said, "Lakhs of farmers, who for decades have been cultivating or living on government land, have

submitted applications to the government for title deeds, but nothing has been done about it.”

He said due to this apathy the farmers and landless labourers had been deprived of ration cards, free electricity and other schemes for those living below poverty line.

Other issues

Mr. Sriyan claimed the government had not provided land or initiated a housing scheme in over 15 years for landless labourers.

The other issues that were raised during the protest were the fixing of support price as per the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee, opening up of grain purchase centres before the harvesting season, ensuring forest rights and land titles to those from the Scheduled Tribe category.

Demands fixing of support price as per the Swaminathan Committee's proposal

Online support for hi-tech farming

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, November 8, 2013 - Farmers can interact with experts on new portal keralahitechagri.in

Farmers in the State adopting hi-tech methods of agriculture for improved yield and better returns can now depend on online support. The government on Thursday unveiled an online farmer advisory system for hi-tech agriculture, created by the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K).

Minister for Industries and Information Technology (IT) P.K. Kunhalikutty launched the online advisory at a function held here in connection with the 10th anniversary of the Kissan Kerala project, an Information Communication Technology (ICT)- enabled agricultural information system managed by the Department of Agriculture.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Kunhalikutty said the portal would provide information inputs for farmers.

He said there was immense potential for IT in agricultural management and marketing.

Fallow-land farming

Agriculture Minister K.P. Mohanan, who inaugurated the function, stressed the need for Kerala to harness technology and switch to modern methods of farming. He said that panchayats across the State should utilise fallow land to promote agriculture.

Presiding over the function, Principal Secretary, IT, P.H. Kurian called for policy initiatives to promote non-conventional methods of farming.

He said Kerala could create a new generation of agri-entrepreneurs if the State decided to encourage leased farming in a big way by utilising fallow land and available technology.

Improved yield

Director of Agriculture R. Ajithkumar said studies had proved that hi-tech farming methods could improve the yield up to 10 times.

He said 500 poly houses were being set up across the State by farmers. Mr. Ajithkumar said soil testing results would soon be made available online through the farmer advisory portal. K.R. Jyothilal, secretary, Agriculture; P. Rajasekharan, Chief (Agriculture), State Planning Board; and M.S. Rajasree, Director, IIITM-K; also spoke.

“As a highly sensitive system of agriculture, hi-tech farming requires precise inputs. The new portal keralahitechagri.in is designed to offer this service to farmers,” R. Ajithkumar, Assistant Professor, IIITM-K, and project coordinator, Kissan Kerala told *The Hindu* . The portal will have the facility for farmers to interact with experts from various universities. It also has a database of the 500-odd farmers who have adopted hi-tech agriculture. A video archive on hi-tech farming and a management package with advisories on market opportunities and planting techniques are the other features.

📌 ***Call for policy initiatives to promote non-conventional methods of farming***

📌 ***500 poly houses being set up across State***

Cotton farmers hard-hit



CCI officials say that the existing norms do not allow them to buy produce with moisture content beyond 12 per cent

Stock-taking: CCI Chairman and Managing Director B.K. Mishra speaking to the staff of Nakrekal cotton market yard in Nalgonda district on Thursday.- Photo: Singam Venkataramana

NALGONDA, November 8, 2013 - The cotton growers' hope of selling their rain-damaged produce to the government agency has dashed as the

officials of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) have said that the existing guidelines do not allow them to purchase cotton with high moisture content.

The CCI Chairman and Managing Director B. K. Mishra, Director (Marketing) M. M. Chokkalingam and CCI General Manager of Guntur S.K. Chaturvedi visited Nakrekal Market Yard after repeated appeals from the district administration to set up cotton procurement centres in the district.

CCI team visits market

The officials checked moisture content of the produce brought by farmers to Nakrekal Market Yard and asked marketing officials to bring some fresh cotton from fields to check its moisture content. After verifying the cotton, the CCI officials expressed their inability to purchase the produce with 18-20 per cent moisture content. Mr. B. K. Chaturvedi told Nalgonda Assistant Director (Marketing) P. Prasada Rao that the CCI purchases cotton with up to 8 per cent of moisture content by offering MSP of Rs. 4,000.

He further said that they also purchase cotton with moisture content up to 12 per cent by cutting Rs. 40 per per cent of moisture beyond the permissible level. He said that the CCI norms do not allow them to purchase cotton as they contain 18 to 20 per cent of moisture.

Farmers' plight

Explaining the plight of the cotton farmers who incurred huge losses owing to incessant rains, Agriculture Joint Director B. Narasing Rao told the CCI team that many farmers committed suicide finding no takers for their produce and urged the officials to relax norms.

According to Mr. Rao, the district farmers cultivated cotton in 3 lakh hectares and expected 45 lakh quintals of produce, but rains and pest attack dashed the hopes of farmers. "Now we are expecting a 20 per cent dip in production," he said.

Responding to the pleas, Mr. B.K. Mishra said that they would take up the issue with the higher officials. "If they (the CCI) permit us, the procurement centres would be set up in 15 days," he said.

Meanwhile the agriculture and marketing officials appealed to the CCI officials to set up 16 centres this year, apart from the 12 set up last procurement season.

Later, the CCI team also visited Choutuppal market.

TDP cadres besiege Collectorate over farmers' compensation



Turning the heat: TDP activists trying to enter the Nalgonda Collectorate during a protest on Thursday. - Photo: Singam Venkataramana

NALGONDA, November 8, 2013 - Telugu Desam Party (TDP) activists laid siege to the District Collectorate demanding immediate release of compensation to the farmers who have suffered losses due to incessant rain.

A delegation of TDP leaders led by Mothkupalli Narasimhulu entered into

the Collectorate to present a representation to collector T. Chiranjeevulu, but he was not in the office at that time. Demanding district collector to immediately convene District Review Committee (DRC) meeting with immediate effect to discuss the ways of compensating farmers to a maximum possible extent, Mr. Narasimhulu has asked district collector to speak with Panchyathraj minister K.Jana Reddy to arrange DRC.

The TDP district wing has demanded Rs 20,000, Rs 10,000 compensation for acre cotton and paddy respectively. Asking government to sanction an ex gratia of Rs. 5 lakh to the kin of those who died in rain related accidents, TDP district president Bilya Nayak demanded Rs.5,000 compensation for each animals died during the rain. Urging the government to immediately repair the tank breaches, he said that the roads must be repaired immediately. The day-long protest ended as the Police took the TDP leaders into custody by the evening and put them in One Town police station. Protesting over the behaviour of the Police, the TDP called for a bandh on Friday.

Farmers object to mining lease

Narasimha Kandriga villagers in Nellore district oppose blasting

NELLORE, November 8, 2013 - A year after the mining lease was given to a mineral company, the farmers of Narasimha Kandriga village in Podalakuru mandal here expressed their stiff opposition saying that blasting operations close to their habitations would be harmful to their livelihoods.

The provocation for the farmers' delayed protest was that the company began its mining operations in the 30 acres leased land just a week ago. As they launched works with a poclain, the villagers obstructed the company's representatives.

When they found out that the company got a mining lease, the villagers met the revenue officials and picked up heated arguments. They demanded that the lease be cancelled as the land was located in 1 km range from their village and this would also deprive them of grazing ground for their sheep.

Site inspected

As the issue was becoming complicated, Podalakur tahsildar Ramakrishna visited the village and also the mining lease site.

He made a formal enquiry with the farmers and villagers and submitted a report to the District Collector N. Srikanth.

Mr. Ramakrishna told *The Hindu* that the leased land was full of hillocks and a prospecting license for minerals was given to the company concerned in 2012. A GO was also issued subsequently permitting the company to carry out its activities but there was no permission for conducting 'blasting operations'.

"It was true that the consent of villagers was also taken before giving lease for the mining activity. Nobody gave approval for blasting. It cannot be allowed as the land is located very close to the village," said Mr. Ramakrishna.

The mineral company would have to mine the land only with the help of poclains and by engaging manual labour, as there was no scope for blasting.

It was also found out that the leased land was classified as 'konda poramboku' consisting of hillocks and uncultivable waste land. Such land could not be given as assigned land to beneficiaries.

This leased land was part of 94.42 acres in survey no 432 under Kanuparthi panchayat limits. About 55 acres of this was found to be containing minerals for which the lease was obtained for mining white quartz.

Exim policy responsible for farmers' woes, says JP

Demands Centre to liberalise trade in agricultural commodities to help ryots



Lok Satta Party founder and national president Jayaprakash Narayan is all attention to distressed Bengal gram growers during Acharya N.G.Ranga's birth anniversary at Ranga Bhavan in Ongole on Thursday.—Photo: Kommuri Srinivas

ONGOLE, November 8, 2013 - Blaming the "faulty" exim policy for the farmers' woes, Lok Satta Party founder and

national president Jayaprakash Narayan on Thursday wanted the Centre to liberalise trade in agricultural commodities to help the distressed farmers get remunerative price for their produce.

"It is not because of natural calamities, but because of fixing of quotas and stop to exports arbitrarily by the Centre that the farmers are in deep trouble," he said while taking part in the 114th birth anniversary of Acharya N.G.Ranga, the veteran Parliamentarian, at Ranga Bhavan here.

Duty on imports

"It will be a win-win situation for all concerned if 10 per cent duty is imposed on edible oil and seeds imports and the revenue generated is given to farmers as incentive to boost oilseeds production," he explained.

Thus the nation could attain self-sufficiency in edible oil and save precious foreign exchange on the one hand and ensure a remunerative price for the growers on the other, he said, adding that the plight of Bengal gram growers was due to imports from Australia and other countries.

Farmers should be allowed to sell their produce anywhere within the country and abroad, he said and referred to the agitation taken up by his party in support of paddy growers to sell BPT variety in neighbouring Karnataka and Maharashtra.

'Hangman's noose'

Stating that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) had turned out to be a "hangman's noose for ryots", he said the scheme should be dovetailed with agriculture to create permanent assets in rural areas.

He suggested that the wage employment scheme should be used to improve the drainage system in the Krishna delta which was responsible for the floods in Western Krishna Delta in Prakasam district recently.

Experts see larger role for IT in agriculture

HYDERABAD, November 8, 2013 - Information Technology has a huge role to play in making agriculture a sustainable activity even for smallholder farmers by providing them with necessary information at every stage of farming at the right time in the days to come, IT experts said at the World Agricultural Forum congress here.

At a round-table organised on “Development of IT for agriculture in general and small farm holder in particular – impact of productivity, costs and prices” on the concluding day of WAF here on Thursday, co-chairman of FICCI, J.A. Chowdary, said tele-agriculture was already happening at some places in the country to provide information to farmers through smart phones.

Stating that the government needed to develop an IT database for agriculture-related terminology, price fluctuations and access markets, he noted that companies such as RML and Point were providing information to farmers using IT (mobile phones). He suggested that even small farmers use IT as traceability of agriculture produce was going to hold the key in exports in the coming days.

Giving another example of use of IT in farming, he stated that one vegetable farmer outside Hyderabad was using webcams to monitor the crops and to take the scientists’ expertise to address problems without taking them to the field.

Senior vice-president of Mahindra Satyam, V. Srinivasa Rao, said IT had the potential to transform agriculture into a better prospect in the wake of climate change and decrease in the cultivable land. Operating agri-pumpsets with the help of mobile phones would help farmers immensely when there is uncertainty over power supply timings, he added.

Vice-Chancellor of RGUKT, R.V. Raja Kumar, said IIIT Hyderabad was working on designing portals for small farmers to cater to their needs of information in production, protection, processing and marketing of crops.

372 ryots for World Agriculture Forum

NIZAMABAD, November 8, 2013 - As many as 372 progressive farmers from the district set out for Hyderabad to take part in the World Agriculture Forum. Minister for Major Irrigation P. Sudarshan Reddy flagged off the vehicles that transported the farmers from here on Thursday. He said that the exposure the farmers would get would be of help in learning modern cultivation methods.

Importance of seed treatment in groundnut crop underlined

PUDUKOTTAI, November 8, 2013 - Groundnut cultivators should ensure proper seed treatment for achieving produce that is uniform size, rich in quality, and delicious for consumption, said scientists at a day-long training programme on ‘seed treatment’ organised at Kurunthadimanai village by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vamban, on Thursday. They said that a little effort through treatment of seeds with bio-control agents will go a long way in protecting the crop. M.Kathiravan, assistant professor, Soil Science and Technology, said that the farmers should exercise caution in the selection of seeds suited for a specific season (pattam). Showing a few samples of immature and wrinkled seeds, he said

that the groundnut crop was more prone for collar rot and root rot diseases. To check these diseases, groundnut farmers should select healthy seeds.

S.Madhiyazhagan, assistant professor, Plant Pathology, said that the seed treatment ensured proper utilisation of soil nutrients, particularly phosphorous. Normally, each nut differed in size due to non-treatment. K.Geetha, assistant professor, explained the procedure to be followed for selecting the right seeds and treating them.

A question hour session was held in which the scientists clarified farmers' doubts.

Forest Department rescues pond herons trapped in paddy fields

The birds were being used as bait to attract other birds towards the nets that were placed in the fields at Nonankuppam; no arrests till now



Hefty fine Since pond herons are Schedule IV species, their capture carries a fine of Rs. 25,000 and a maximum of three years' imprisonment.—Photo G. Krishnaswamy

PUDUCHERRY, November 8, 2013 - A group of Forest Department officials and

staff followed a tip to the paddy fields at Nonankuppam where they found several pond herons caught in nets on Wednesday morning. Some of these birds were tied to the net with a feather stuck into their nose. These birds were being used as bait to attract other birds towards the nets that were placed in the field.

By the time the department officials reached the spot, however, all the people involved had left and no arrests were made.

Six of the pond herons that were found in this condition were brought back to the department to check for injuries, but since they were all fit, they were released. The net that was used to catch them was seized.

Unfortunately, many other birds that are caught in similar conditions are not this lucky. This is one of the most common methods used to catch birds like pond heron and egrets, which come to the paddy fields, Deputy Conservator of Forests Satyamurthy told *The Hindu*.

These birds are tied to the nets and when a feather is inserted into their noses, they close their eyes and remain still. When other birds flying past see the birds sitting in the fields, they assume there is prey here, they then land on the net and are stuck to it. At the end of the day, the person who spreads the net on the fields comes in to collect these birds.

In this case, no arrests were made, but cases were booked under the Wildlife Protection Act. Since pond herons are Schedule IV species, their capture carries a fine of Rs. 25,000 and a maximum of three years' imprisonment.

The department is hopeful of catching the culprits, since the people who hunt in this manner are often repeat offenders. They have enlisted the help of the police to catch the offenders, he said.

Daily patrolling

In order to strictly enforce the ban on fishing at the Oussudu lake , the main areas for migratory birds, the Forest Department has taken up daily patrolling.

People still continued to fish at the Oussudu Lake, which has been declared a sanctuary. In the past one month, the department has recovered 40 fishing nets and they are patrolling the area on a daily basis, he said.

The team is also coordinating with the officials in Tamil Nadu, including the Villupuram Collector and the police, to help enforce the ban on fishing in the lake even on the Tamil Nadu side.

With the continuous patrolling, the hunting of migratory birds has been reduced, but they are still planning several more raids to ensure that there is no more hunting of protected species, he said.

Fix Rs. 3,000 a quintal as MSP for paddy: KRRS

RAICHUR, November 8, 2013 - The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (Kodihalli) concluded its padayatra with a dharna outside the Deputy Commissioner's here on Thursday. Addressing the farmers, Kodihalli Chandrashekhar, president of the sangha, alleged that successive governments had betrayed the farmers by making false promises. Farmers spend about Rs. 25,000 an acre on paddy cultivation. They could survive only if the government were to announce Rs. 3,000 a quintal as MSP for paddy. If the present government also failed to concede the demand, the sangha would organise State-wide agitations, he warned. He criticised the Irrigation Department officials for not ensuring that tail-end farmers of Narayanpur right bank and Tungabhadra left bank canals got sufficient water. "Stopping the water by December end and releasing it again by January is unscientific. tment officials have cited the issue of silt in Tungabhadra reservoir as an alibi to justify their stand," he said.

'Tearless' onion



WASHINGTON, November 8, 2013 - Scientists have developed a new type of 'tearless' onions that produce less of the protein blamed for making eyes burn and tear up.

The 'tearless' onions not only prevent eyes from burns and tears, but also fight against cardiovascular disease and weight gain, scientists say.

Researchers Colin C Eady and colleagues noted that the onion has a unique

chemistry that leads to its tear—inducing effects when cut.

Eady's team has developed a version of onions, which instead makes a sulphur compound similar to one found in cut garlic that may be the key to its cardiovascular benefits.

Many people eat garlic cloves or take it as a nutritional supplement in pill form to reduce the clumping of platelets in the blood, which can lead to blood clots and clogged arteries. Garlic also has been shown to reduce weight gain. They wanted to know whether the new onion might also have similar positive effects on health.

The scientists found that in lab tests, extract from the tearless onion significantly reduced platelet clumping, compared to regular onions or even garlic.

Other results showed that the new onion had about the same anti-inflammatory properties as the original.

Also, preliminary testing in rats showed that the tearless onion could help control weight gain -- more so than regular onions or garlic, according to the study published in The American Chemical Society's Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry.

Egg rate

NAMAKKAL, November 8, 2013 - The National Egg Coordination Committee egg rate was Rs. 3.76 on Thursday.

WATER LEVEL

Madurai

The water level in Periyar dam was 117.80 feet with an inflow of 805 cusecs and a discharge of 800 cusecs.

The water level in Vaigai dam was 45.24 feet with an inflow of 1012 cusecs and a discharge of 60 cusecs.

The combined storage in Periyar credit was 3,096 mcft.

Rainfall

The rainfall recorded (in mm) in the region is as follows: Periyar dam: 1, Gudalur: 1.2, Marudhanadhi: 5, Manjalaru: 1, Sathiaru dam: 1, Melur: 1, Kodaikanal: 4.4 and Viraganoor recorded 32 mm rainfall, PWD officials said on Thursday.

Tirunelveli,

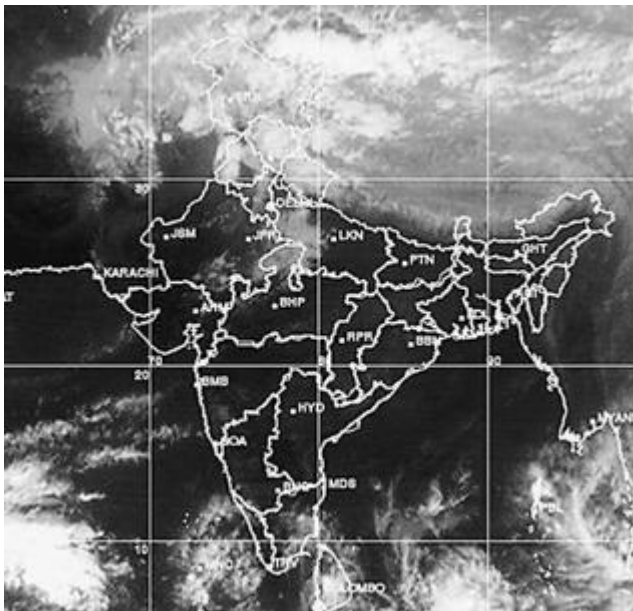
Water level in the Papanasam dam on Thursday stood at 87.30 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 1,586.57 cusecs following 30 mm rainfall and no water was discharged from the dam.

The water level in Manimuthar dam stood at 63.60 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 961 cusecs after 13 mm rainfall and 10 cusecs of water was discharged.

Water to be released from Malampuzha

PALAKKAD, November 8, 2013 - Water from the Malampuzha irrigation dam will be released for taking up the second crop of paddy cultivation in the district from November 9 in two intervals. The Executive Engineer of Malampuzha Irrigation Project, T.G. Sen, said here on Thursday that water will be released from the right bank main canal from November 9 and from the left bank main canal from November 10. He asked grama panchayats to complete the repair of the canals taken up under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to ensure that the released water reached the farms.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on November 07.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	31	20	0	51
Arogyavaram	27	18	0	159
Bapatla	31	21	0	504
Calingapatnam	30	20	0	922
Gannavaram	31	21	0	411
Hanamkonda	31	19	0	284
Hyderabad AP	29	18	0	239
Kakinada	31	22	0	622
Khammam	33	24	0	98
Kavali	30	21	0	405
Kurnool	32	20	0	96
Mahabubnagar	31	18	0	163
Machilipatnam	31	22	0	384
Narasapur	31	23	0	606

Nellore	31	23	1	323
Nizamabad	32	18	0	106
Ongole	32	21	0	489
Ramagundam	31	17	0	201
Tirupathi AP	31	23	0	256
Tuni	32	22	0	470
Vizag AP	32	23	0	555
Vizag	31	22	0	511

KARNATAKA

Agumbe	31	15	0	583
Bengaluru AP	27	18	0	113
Bengaluru	28	19	0	104
Belgaum AP	29	19	0	60
Bijapur	29	17	0	110
Chitradurga	30	19	0	54
Chickmagalur	29	17	0	41
Chintamani	27	17	0	50
Gadag	29	18	0	88
Gulbarga	32	19	0	35
Hassan	30	20	0	83
Honavar	35	22	0	261
Karwar	36	23	0	167
Madikeri	25	16	0	189
Mangalore AP	34	23	0	292
Mysore	28	21	0	125
Mandya	29	19	0	132
Panambur	36	24	0	229
Raichur	31	20	0	102
Shirali	25	23	0	414

KERALA

Alappuzha	32	26	0	160
Kannur	34	25	0	320
Kochi AP	33	24	0	365
Kottayam	34	25	0	420
Kozhikode	34	25	tr	205
Punalur	33	22	0	439
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	31	24	tr	148
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	32	24	0	241
Vellanikkara	32	25	0	375

TAMIL NADU

Adiramapattinam	30	23	1	106
Chennai	31	25	0	197
Chennai AP	31	24	0	256
Coimbatore AP	30	23	tr	104
Coonoor	19	12	1	281

Cuddalore	30	24	15	170
Dharmapuri	28	19	0	159
Kanyakumari	31	23	26	114
Karaikal	30	25	1	161
Kodaikanal	16	11	3	163
Madurai AP	31	23	tr	197
Nagapattinam	31	26	3	151
Palayamkottai	30	23	32	215
Pamban	31	28	1	191
Parangipettai	31	25	3	286
Puducherry	31	24	1	130
Salem	29	21	0	153
Thanjavur	29	24	7	117
Tiruchi AP	29	23	3	161
Tiruttani	31	21	0	205
Tondi	30	24	3	245
Tuticorin	32	25	0	101
Ooty	20	11	1	199
Valparai	26	14	0	240
Vellore	32	24	0	78
LAKSHADWEEP				
Amini Divi	31	25	0	92
Minicoy	31	25	1	107
OTHER STATIONS				
Kolkata (Alipore)	29	20	0	523
Mumbai	34	25	0	66
New Delhi	27	14	tr	73

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace) and total rainfall in mm since October 01, 2013.

DRY WEATHER IN COASTAL A.P.

CHENNAI: Rainfall occurred at a few places over Tamil Nadu. Isolated rainfall occurred over Kerala. Mainly dry weather prevailed over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep and dry weather prevailed over Rayalaseema, Telangana and Karnataka.

The minimum temperature fell at one or two places over Tamil Nadu and coastal Karnataka rose at one or two places over coastal Andhra Pradesh and changed little elsewhere over the region. They were appreciably above normal at one or two places over Tamil Nadu, South Interior Karnataka, above normal at one or two places over rest Tamil Nadu, below normal at a few places over coastal Andhra Pradesh and nearly normal elsewhere over the region. Adilabad recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 15 degree Celsius in the plains of the region.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL SATURDAY MORNING: Isolated rain or thundershowers may occur over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Mainly dry weather will prevail over Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

FARMERS WEATHER BULLETIN FOR TAMIL NADU AND PUDUCHERRY FORECAST VALID UNTIL SATURDAY MORNING: Isolated light to moderate rain may occur over Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: No significant change.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 94

Wind: normal

Friday, Nov 8

Max Min

30° | 25°

Sunrise: 06:03

Sunset: 05:41

Barometer: 1010

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Saturday, Nov 9

Max Min

32° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday
Nov 10



30° | 25°

Sunny

Monday
Nov 11



32° | 26°

Cloudy

Tuesday
Nov 12



32° | 25°

Cloudy

Wednesday
Nov 13



27° | 24°

Cloudy

Thursday
Nov 14



28° | 24°

Sunny

THE TIMES OF INDIA

No let-up in cane farmers' stir

BELGAUM: Sugarcane farmers of the district blocked the Pune-Bangalore National Highway-4 for the consecutive third day on Thursday, demanding state advisory price (SAP) for sugarcane be fixed at Rs 3,500 per ton. Thousands of farmers blocked NH-4 at Hattaragi toll-naka for around five hours.

Addressing farmers, former minister Shashikant Naik demanded that [sugar minister Prakash Hukkeri](#) resign taking moral responsibility for failing to provide a fair price for farmers. He blamed the government and the minister for delaying announcing the SAP and bowing to pressure from managements of sugar factories. He said that Hukkeri had promised to declare the SAP two days after Mysore Dasara.

[Farmer leader](#) Sidagouda Modagi said that the price was fixed during the meeting of Karnataka Sugarcane Purchase and Supply (Control) Board (KSPSB), and the government just needs to declare it. But, as the price fixed by KSPSB is unacceptable to the factory managements, the government is dragging its feet. This, he said was injustice to the farmers.

Meanwhile, farmers announced that they would stage an indefinite dharna in front of minister Hukkeri's residence in Belgaum from November 19. Farmer leaders Shivaputrappa Jakabal, Kalyanrao Muchalambi, T T Murkatnal, Mallikarjun Jakati and Kallappa Pugati addressed the farmers. Police arrested the protesting farmers and their leaders and released them later.

Activists of Karnataka Raita Sangha, Hasiru Sene, Karnataka Sugarcane Producers Association, Bharatiya Krishik Samaj, Karnataka Krishik Samaj, Rashtriya Rait Sangh, Karnataka Navanirman Vedike, Bharatiya Kisan Morcha and North-Karnataka Farmers Organizations [Forum](#) were present.

Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences hosts Workshop on

ALLAHABAD: A workshop on [intellectual property](#) and innovation management was organised at Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences (SHIATS) on Thursday. The workshop was jointly organised by National Research Development Corporation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India and SHIATS.

It began with a prayer by Rev Samuel Richmond, assistant chaplain. The inaugural session then commenced with the welcome address delivered by Prof Arif A Broadway, director (research) and convener of the workshop.

The chief guest, Prof Rajendra B Lal, V-C SHIATS emphasised on the importance of intellectual property rights in the area of research and development. tnn and lauded director (research) and NRDC, New Delhi for organising the workshop.

The keynote speaker, Dr DN Tiwari, IFS, vice-chairman, Planning Commission, Government of [Chhattisgarh](#) spoke on how India can become a superpower by 2020. He said that by 2020, 60% of the population in India will be below 30 years of age which is our greatest asset. The session ended with felicitation of the dignitaries with mementos.

The workshop was conducted in three sessions chaired by eminent speakers from different government offices. BK Sahu, Scientific Officer (IPR), NRDC, New Delhi talked on the overview of IPR, national innovation system in India, and the role of NRDC in technology transfer. PP Singh, assistant controller of patent & design, Patent Office, New Delhi also

shared his views in the workshop. Dr YD Panwar, director, Patent Facilitating Centre, Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi discussed patent information, determining novelty, inventiveness & utility of invention.

Likewise, Rahul Dutta, solicitor & attorney, IP Lab, Lucknow emphasised copyright registration and protection of traditional folklore in India. The third session began with the lecture of Dr Kirti Joshi, scientific officer & incharge Patent Information Centre, [Uttarakhand](#) state council for science and technology, [Dehradun](#) on rationale of protection GI and TK in India. The session was followed by the talk of Dr Sripat Rao Kulkarni, scientist, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow on collaborative R&D and IP issues in technology licensing.

The workshop ended with the valedictory session chaired by Prof SB Lal, pro-vice chancellor (administration), SHIATS who distributed certificates to the participants and appreciated the efforts of director (research) for conducting the workshop. The director (research) was supported by Dr Amit Chattree, Dr Suchit A John, Dr Archana Chandra, Jane C Benjamin, Tulika, Mudita Srivastava, Dr Navodita Maurice and Er Ruchika M Daniel.



Good news for housewives! Scientists develop new 'tearless' onions

The 'tearless' onions also fight against cardiovascular disease and weight gain. (Reuters)



Scientists have developed a new type of 'tearless' onions that produce less of the protein blamed for making eyes burn and tear up. The 'tearless' onions not only prevent eyes from burns and tears, but also fight against cardiovascular disease and weight gain, scientists say. Researchers Colin C Eady and colleagues noted that the

onion has a unique chemistry that leads to its tear-inducing effects when cut. Eady's team has developed a version of onions, which instead makes a sulphur compound similar to one found in cut garlic that may be the key to its cardiovascular benefits.

Many people eat garlic cloves or take it as a nutritional supplement in pill form to reduce the clumping of platelets in the blood, which can lead to blood clots and clogged arteries. Garlic also has been shown to reduce weight gain. They wanted to know whether the new onion might also have similar positive effects on health. The scientists found that in lab tests, extract from the tearless onion significantly reduced platelet clumping, compared to regular onions or even garlic. Other results showed that the new onion had about the same anti-inflammatory properties as the original. Also, preliminary testing in rats showed that the tearless onion could help control weight gain more so than regular onions or garlic, according to the study published in The American Chemical Society's Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry. Recently, onions have been grown with repressed lachrymatory factor synthase (LFS) activity, which causes these onions to produce increased amounts of di-1-propenyl thiosulfinate, an isomer of allicin. Investigation into the key health attributes of LFS-silenced (tearless) onions demonstrates that they have some attributes more similar to garlic and that this is likely due to the production of novel thiosulfinate or metabolites. The key finding was that collagen-induced in vitro platelet aggregation was significantly reduced by tearless onion extract over normal onion extract. A preliminary rat feeding trial indicated that the tearless onions may also play a key role in reducing weight gains, researchers said.

THE  NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

Vegetable prices skyrocket in North Odisha



Vegetable prices have witnessed a sudden rise in the market following the flash flood induced by Phailin which damaged nearly 1.5 lakh houses and properties worth Rs 750 crore. (Express file photo)

Vegetable prices have witnessed a sudden rise in the market following the flash flood induced by Phailin which damaged nearly 1.5 lakh houses and properties worth over Rs 750 crore in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha.

While onion is selling at Rs 60 to Rs 80 per kg, potato is priced at Rs 25 per kg in the suburban markets and it is Rs 30 in remote areas. Remote and rural areas had witnessed even a greater rise for over a fortnight as there was lack of connectivity between the district headquarters town and suburban markets.

While brinjal, bitter gourd and tomato are sold at Rs 60 per kg, bitter gourd and ladyfinger cost Rs 80 per kilo each. Due to unusual price rise of vegetables, flood victims living in make-shift tents on roads and highlands are forced to take only rice.

“We have lost all our belongings in the flood. As the water entered our house suddenly, we were not even able to preserve food. Now we are depending on relief rice. Forget about vegetables, we do not even have money to purchase potato and onion. We are taking rice with tamarind or mango pickle,” said Gopala Singh, a daily wager of Julamanda village.

Not only in rural areas, vegetable prices have increased in Balasore and Baripada towns also. Tomato, brinjal, pointed gourd and bitter gourd are priced at Rs 50 per kg while lady’s finger is selling at Rs 60.

Vegetables	Town price	Rural price
Potato	Rs 25	Rs 30
Onion	Rs 50	Rs 60
Brinjal	Rs 50	Rs 60
Bitter gourd	Rs 60	Rs 80
Ladyfinger	Rs 60	Rs 80
Parbal	Rs 50	Rs 60
Tomato	Rs 50	Rs 60
Beans	Rs 80	Rs 100
Green Chili	Rs 100	Rs 120
Coriander leaves	Rs 120	Rs 200

The north region worst hit in the recent floods is known as vegetable ‘mandi’ of the coastal district of Balasore. The district used to get over 50 per cent of its vegetable requirement from four northern blocks.

“During rainy season, vegetables from our area flood the Balasore market. But now, we are struggling to arrange even 250 gm of vegetables for consumption of our family,” said Sujay Das of Chormara village whose vegetable crops grown over one acre have been washed away.

In fact, vegetable crops in around 10,000 acres in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts has been damaged in the floods. However, traders blame the shortage in supply of vegetables from neighbouring States and diesel price hike for the rise in vegetable price. They also said detention of vegetable and potato laden trucks in West Bengal escalated the price here. "The prices shot up due to detention of vegetable laden trucks in West Bengal. Now we hope the condition may change as the State government has taken up the issue with its WB counterpart," said Rabindra Behera, a wholesaler. Meanwhile people who are reeling under the effects of soaring vegetable prices said it was difficult to meet the demands of their daily requirement. "While earlier we were purchasing one kilo potato and half a kilo vegetable, now it has been cut down to 250 gms," said Baikuntha Mallick, a daily wager. Traders anticipate a further increase during the ensuing marriage season. Sridhar Behera, a trader said the hike in vegetable prices also had a bearing effect on their business as the consumers have slashed down their budget. President of perishable goods association Ajay Kumar Biswal attributed the rising prices to short supply. "The price would remain high and there is no hope that it will come down as the marriage season is on the cards," he said.

Business Standard

Vegetables boil on supply disruptions

Price of onions, tomatoes up fivefold; cabbage triples in past year; experts say storage and processing facilities need investment



Over the past year, several vegetables have seen steep price increases in the country's various wholesale markets.

Onion has been in the news but [tomato](#) and [cabbage](#), for instance, have also seen steep rises. Prices might reduce as the supply increases. Also, farmers tend to sow more where they see higher prices, as vegetables are short-duration crops. However, till cold storage and processing facilities are not improved, prices are likely to stay elevated.

In the past year, tomato and [onion prices](#) went up fivefold; those of cabbage tripled. Several vegetables' prices have doubled. Many of these are sold at over Rs 100 a kg in retail markets, as in this city.

"The prices of vegetable particularly used by big and organised processors such as those in the wafers/ketchup/fries segments are more prone to hikes and for a longer period compared to others. These big players buy in bulk and store for captive use in anticipation

of any lean arrival. This results in scarcity for consumers; onion, potato, tomato are some among these. Also, direct purchases by organised big retail players remove the pressure of arrivals in wholesale markets. Hence, prices remain firm even in cases where arrivals could have been good,” said [Jagdeep Grewal](#), vice-president, commodities and research, Kunvarji Group.

Onions have been on the minds of policy makers for months but the prices remain elevated, despite their interventions. A repetition is likely with potatoes, with West Bengal government suspending their supply outside the state. They did so a year earlier, too, to keep prices under control in the state. It has resulted in potato prices in neighbouring Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha rising by 50-60 per cent in the past week.

Maharashtra was an importer of tomatoes from neighbouring Gujarat but late rains in the latter state has damaged the crop. In late rains in Gujarat recently. “The trade is going into reverse, as Gujarat is now purchasing tomatoes from Maharashtra, due to over a month of delay in crop maturity and harvesting,” said Avinash Patil, deputy director of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) at Vashi, Navi Mumbai.

Against the daily consumption of 75 vehicles of an average of nine tonnes each, tomato arrivals at the Vashi APMC market have been 50 vehicles. Demand has risen sharply due to the ongoing festive season but not supply.

Due to massive spoilage, leafy vegetables have become costlier. The October rainfall has damaged crops across major producing states, resulting in short supply into the mandis.

Hoarding is another issue in times of scarcity. In the case of onions, the Competition Commission of India had initiated inquiries into alleged cartelisation by some traders at the Lasalgaon mandi near Nashik. Big traders in several mandis are known to hoard commodities in such times. “In times of supply constraint, there is higher proximity to hoarding, which adds fuel to the fire,” said D K Joshi, chief economist, CRISIL. He says “the spike in vegetable prices is mostly due to supply shocks, which can be taken care of only by improving cold storage and processing facilities”.

The recent spike in onion prices up to Rs 60-65 a kg, with controlled arrivals and auctions in big mandis such as Lasalgaon and Pimpalgaon also indicate support from politicians. “While there is no clear evidence of funding from politicians, it is true that traders have been

VEGETABLES ON FIRE			
Wholesale prices on Mumbai in ₹/quintal			
Particulars	Nov 12, '12	Nov 7, '13	% change
Onion	900	6,000	567
Tomato	600	3,700	517
Spinach (100 bundle)	900	5,500	511
Cabbage	400	1,800	350
Methi (100 bundle)	220	900	309
Cucumber	550	1,600	191
Brinjal	1,000	2,800	180
Chilly capsicum	1,100	3,000	173
Cauliflower	600	1,500	150
Carrot	1,300	2,800	115
Sweet potato	800	1,700	113
Bitter gourd	900	1,800	100
Peas wet	3,750	7,000	87
Bottle gourd	800	1,400	75
Potato	1,150	1,825	59
Green chilli	1,100	1,700	55
Bhindi (ladies finger)	2,400	3,600	50
Sweet pumpkin	700	800	14

Sources: Agmark and Vashi APMC

empowered to control the market with supply and auctions,” said a senior trade official, who monitors the onion market.

Sugar output in Punjab to touch 4.9 mn quintals



This is an increase of 14% over last year

Sugar output in Punjab is likely to register an increase of 14% in the current crushing season compared to last year. The current crushing season is likely to commence from mid of this month and according to state government estimates, [Sugar output](#) in the state would touch 49 lakh quintals (4.9 million quintals) compared to 43 lakh quintals(4.3 million quintals) last year.

Senior officials in the state government mentioned that the increase in area under sugarcane is the main reason behind increase in output.

Speaking to Business Standard, senior officials in state government department said, “This year, the total estimated area under Sugarcane cultivation in the state was 96,000 hectares while last year it was 83,000 hectares, an increase of 16% over last year. As per provisional estimates the overall production of the cane would be 670 lakh quintals in the current season. Out of the total, 540 lakh quintal would be available for crushing. Considering the data, we expect that the Sugar output would touch 49 lakh quintal in the current crushing season.”

It may be recalled here that last year the total cane availability for crushing in the state was 474 lakh quintals and the total sugar output of the state was 43 lakh quintals. At present, 16 sugar mills were operational in the state, of which 9 were in cooperative and 7 in private sector. The [crushing capacity](#) of 9 cooperative sugar mills was 15,766 TCD(tonnes crushed per day) and 34,000 TCD of 7 private mills, thereby totaling up to 49,766 TCD.

Further, it may be noted that in the past few years, the state has witnessed a substantial increase in the sugar productions from 18.20 lakh quintals in 2009-10 to 43 lakh quintals in 2012-13, the increase in area under sugarcane clearly indicates that the state government is putting a lot of thrust on diversification. Insiders mentioned the government initiative to offer remunerative price for sugarcane, in order to promote diversification and encourage farmers to take sugarcane cultivation has yielded results, which led to increase in area.

Further, in order to encourage farmers and to promote diversification, the state government has fixed the [State Agreed Price](#) (SAP) of advanced, medium and late variety of Sugarcane at Rs 290, Rs 280 and Rs 275 respectively for the crushing season of 2013-14. While last year it was at Rs. 250, Rs 240 and Rs 235 per quintal respectively.

Coriander up by 2.1% on spot demand

Spice for delivery in November traded higher by 1.8%



[Coriander](#) prices moved up by 2.14% to Rs 7,212 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions supported by good spot market demand against tight supplies from producing region.

At the [National Commodity and Derivative Exchange](#), coriander for delivery in December moved up by Rs 151, or 2.14%, to Rs 7,212 per quintal with an open interest of 19,130 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in November traded higher by Rs 128, or 1.87%, to Rs 6,979 per quintal in 10,540 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 123, or 1.75%, to Rs 7,118 per quintal, with an open interest of 14,120 lots.

Analysts attributed the rise in coriander prices at futures trade to fresh positions built-up by speculators on the back of strong demand in spot markets.

Chana down 0.3% amid sluggish spot demand

Commodity for delivery in November shed 0.2%



[Chana](#) prices declined by 0.31% to Rs 3,185 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators trimmed positions amid sluggish spot demand.

Besides, adequate supplies from producing regions also weighed on prices.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for delivery in December declined by Rs 10, or 0.31%, to Rs 3,185 per quintal with an open interest of 78,910 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in November shed Rs 9, or 0.29%, to Rs 3,101 per quintal in 56,840 lots.

Analysts said trimming of positions by speculators driven by sluggish demand in the spot market against adequate supplies from producing region mainly led to decline in chana prices at futures trade.

Cardamom up 1.4% on spot demand



Spice for delivery in December edged up by 0.2%

[Cardamom](#) prices rose 1.44% to Rs 681.50 per kg in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions amid a pick up in spot market demand against restricted arrivals from producing region.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in November gained Rs 9.70, or 1.44%, to Rs 681.50 per kg in business turnover of 133 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in December edged up by Rs 2, or 0.28%, to Rs 725.40 per kg in 301 lots.

Analysts said speculative positions created by participants, supported by pick up in demand in the spot market against restricted arrivals from producing belts mainly helped cardamom prices to gain at futures trade.

Potato up 1.9% on strong demand, tight supply



Commodity for delivery in April climbed by 1.8%

[Potato](#) prices surged 1.94% to Rs 908.20 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions driven by strong demand in the spot market against tight supplies from producing region.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for delivery in far-month March surged by Rs 17.30, or 1.94%, to Rs 908.20 per quintal in business turnover of 167 lots.

The potato for delivery in April climbed by Rs 15.80, or 1.84%, to Rs 873.80 per quintal in 37 lots.

Analysts said speculators enlarged their positions, triggered by strong demand in the spot market against tight supplies from producing regions, mainly led to an upsurge in potato prices at futures trade.

THE HINDU Business Line

German firm Lemken's Indian arm to sell seedbed preparation gear



Mumbai, Nov. 7: Lemken India Agro Equipment, the wholly-owned subsidiary of the world's largest pre-harvest equipment manufacturer Lemken GmbH, will soon introduce Compact Disc Harrow Heliodor, used for seedbed preparation with minimum tillage.

The Heliodor is available in width ranging from three to 12 metres that can suit all sorts of farming operation.

Reversible ploughs

Lemken currently sells reversible ploughs that are attached to tractors. It features modern Uniterm hydraulic turnover mechanism with specialised fittings to provide precise, safe and quick turnover action. The strong turnover axle with special hardened steel can with stand hard shock loads.

The ploughs can go up deep (up to 14 inches) into the soil and invert it, eliminating the occurrence of weed. The conventional equipment can plough only up to 6-7 inches, said Arvind Kumar, Managing Director, Lemken India.

"The demand for modern agriculture equipment is growing steadily in India as availability and cost of labour has become the prick point for farmers," he said.

With a manufacturing centre at Nagpur in Maharashtra, Lemken has sold 500 units of Reversible Plough Opal in last one year and targets to double its sales next year. Lemken products in India are priced between Rs 1.3 lakh and Rs 2.5 lakh.

Founded in 1780, the German-headquartered company is now run by seventh generation of the founding family. The company plans to invest Rs 70 crore in its second phase of expansion in India. With the rupee being volatile, the company is now negotiating with three steel makers to source the key raw material in India.

The company's product will be subsidised to farmers in Uttar Pradesh, which has given its approval for it. The firm is negotiating with Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka for a similar facility, said Kumar.

"We want State governments to enhance the subsidy as banks are not financing agriculture implements as they are not registered with the Regional Transport Office, he said.

Oilmeals export trebles in Oct as Iran, S. Korea buy more

Mumbai, Nov. 7: Oilmeals export trebled in October to 3,86,317 tonnes against 1,22,108 tonnes recorded in the same period a year ago, according to the Solvent Extractors' Association.

Demand for soyameal and rapeseed meal was up substantially compared with September. Export of oilmeals in the first seven months of this fiscal was up 15 per cent at 20.19 lakh tonnes (17.49 lakh tonnes).

The buoyant demand has helped exporters to increase prices. However, the benefit was slightly less as the rupee appreciated against the dollar to 61.61 in October against 63.65 in the preceding month.

South Korea and Iran are the top importers of oilmeals so far this fiscal. South Korea has imported 6,39,640 tonnes (4,92,286 tonnes) consisting of 3,15,168 tonnes of rapeseed meal, 3,24,162 tonnes of castor meal and a small quantity of 310 tonnes of soyameal.

Iran imported 6,04,171 tonnes, including 6,01,509 tonnes of soyameal and 2,662 tonnes of rapeseed meal.

Thailand imported 1,48,632 tonnes, consisting 16,883 tonnes of soyameal and 131,749 tonnes of rapeseed meal. Europe, which imported 2,13,324 tonnes of oilmeal, has turned out to be bigger market for India.

Vietnam cuts

Exports to Vietnam dipped sharply to 85,745 tonnes (2,28,677 tonnes) due to stiff competition from other countries and increased domestic crushing.

Indonesia also reduced its imports from India as it preferred high protein with low fibre that is not supplied by India.

Coffee growers spar over poly wrap method to curb white stem borer

Results are good, says Coffee Board; some planters raise environmental concerns

Better solution: An arabica plant stem wrapped with cellophane tapes to prevent it hosting the white stem borer on a coffee estate in Kodagu.



An ingenious method has been found to control the ruinous white stem borer in coffee estates where the arabica variety is grown. But coffee planters are split over the effect of the solution with some even questioning its impact on the environment.

According to A.K. Bhandari, coffee planter and former President of the United Planters Association of Southern India, wrapping the stem of the arabica plant with cellophane, called poly wrap, helps in containing the borer menace.

The wrap prevents the female beetle

from laying eggs in cracks and crevices of the plant.

“We came across this solution some two-and-a-half years ago when some planters used old plastic to wrap the stems. It prevented the borer from laying eggs and controlled the spread of the pest,” he said.

Coffee white stem borer, *Xylotrechus quadripes*, is a pest found in arabica coffee causing huge yield loss. A blackish brown coloured beetle, it can also be found on rosewood, sandalwood and teak.

Ten to 12 days after the female beetle lays the eggs on the stem, the larvae enter the woody tissue and burrow up to the roots. This leaves the plant impaired and the only known solution is uprooting the plant totally and burning it.

“Poly wrap physically stops the insect from laying eggs on the plant. Growers had, at one point of time, wrapped plants with old fertiliser bags. Now, they have begun to use strip wraps and the results have been good,” said Jawaid Akhtar, Coffee Board Chairman.

History traces the borer menace to 1837 and the first reference was made in 1838 by H. Stokes, Mysore Commissioner. In 1868, the Madras Commissioner had reported the ravages of the borer in Mysore and Coorg.

yield loss

“We have been suffering from the borer menace for over a decade now. It has affected arabica production. In some estates, nearly 50 per cent of plants had to be uprooted,” said Bose Mandanna, a grower in Kodagu and former vice-chairman of Coffee Board.

The borer menace has resulted in arabica production stagnating around one lakh tonnes annually for almost a decade after rising to a record 1.21 lakh tonnes in 2001-02 (October-September) season. Its share in total coffee production (robusta makes up the rest) has decreased from over 50 per cent in the 1980s to around 30 per cent now.

This year, out of the estimated 3.47 lakh tonnes production, arabica output has been pegged at 1.11 lakh tonnes. However, growers expect it to be lower than 90,000 tonnes.

“The poly wrap seems to be working very well. Most of the growers have reported 99 per cent success. About 10 estates can be taken and the experiment tried for 2-3 years,” said Bhandari.

The Coffee Board had sent an advisory on the poly wrap but not much progress seems to have been made.

“Labour shortage is the reason why poly wrap has not picked up. Also, there was short-supply of wraps. That has ended now as supply is ample. Results are encouraging and the wrap does not affect the plant’s growth,” said Akhtar.

But, there are voices of dissent too.

“The poly wrap was tried in small pockets and it has not been successful when tried on a large-scale. It prevents plants from growing. The bark growth is stunted and we feel this is not a scientific solution,” said the Karnataka Planters’ Association Chairman, Nishant Gurjer. Some of the corporates involved in growing coffee have now begun to experiment the method. “We have begun the poly wrap on Coffee Board’s suggestion and are assessing the results,” said an official of Tata Coffee at its Margolly estate in Kodagu.

However, concerns are being raised over its effect on the environment.

“When the poly wrap gets old, it could lead to environment problems since it won’t disintegrate easily,” said Mandanna.

Gurjer agrees. “Plastic will add to the mechanical damage to the plants,” he said.

Other growers say that until a better solution is found, the poly wrap method should continue.

Pepper continues to rule hot

Kochi, Nov. 7: Pepper markets, both futures and spot, continued to rule hot on Thursday on bullish sentiments coupled with tight supply amid good demand.

Karnataka is reportedly not a seller now, while arrivals from the primary markets in Kerala continued to remain thin indicating a tight supply scenario, market sources told *Business Line*.

On the spot, only seven tonnes of farm-grade pepper arrived and the offtake was at five tonnes at Rs 467-470 a kg depending upon the quality, area of production, etc., they said.

Meanwhile, there were buyers on the IPSTA platform at Rs 480 a kg for November and December contracts but there were no sellers. On the NMCE, November and December contracts increased by Rs 323 and Rs 328 respectively to Rs 48,050 and Rs 48,000 .

Spot prices shot up by Rs 500 to Rs 46,700 (ungarbled) and Rs 48,700 (garbled) a quintal on strong demand amid tight availability.

Indian parity in the international market was up at \$8,300 (c&f) Europe and \$8,600 a tonne for US and remained slightly above other origins. Others origins, except for Brazil were reportedly steady, they said.

Karnataka waives VAT on sugar

Bangalore, Nov. 7: Karnataka Government has waived collecting one per cent value-added tax on each quintal of sugar provided by sugar factories in the State. In a release, the Government said by the exemption of tax, it is supporting the cause of sugarcane growers.

Deficit North-East monsoon worries tea plantations

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov. 7: The North-East monsoon has failed to gather momentum in parts of southern peninsula setting up rain deficits in Tamil Nadu, south interior Karnataka and Lakshadweep.

This is despite nearby Bay of Bengal having delivered rain-driving weather systems in the form of very severe cyclone Phailin followed by a potent low-pressure area.

REGION BYPASSED

Beneficiaries in both cases have been Andhra Pradesh, coastal and north interior Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha and other regions in the east of the country.

The season, so far, has left behind a rain deficit of 29 per cent in Tamil Nadu/Puducherry; 32 per cent in south interior Karnataka; and 49 per cent in Lakshadweep.

Kerala (-14 per cent) and north interior Karnataka (-15 per cent) are technically in deficit but counted 'normal' as per India Met Department criteria.

N. Lakshmanan, a tea planter based in Coonoor (Tamil Nadu), voiced his concern over the mounting rain deficit.

WINTER SETS IN

His latest worry is that the temperature has suddenly dropped in the plantation region signalling the advent of winter.

It also indicates that rains may get delayed even further. He wondered whether this could set up a replay of last year when rains had abruptly stopped by mid-November.

The moot question is how rain-fed plantations in Coonoor can survive since the region depended on timely northeast monsoon rain for sustenance.

Lakshmanan said he will watch out for a buzz which is building over the Bay of Bengal from the weekend.

The Met Department has forecast the formation of a low-pressure area in the Andaman Sea from a 'rain pulse' emanating from the South China Sea basin next door.

RAIN EXPECTED

But an outlook by the US National Centres for Environmental Prediction suggests that no meaningful rain may materialise over Tamil Nadu at least for another week.

An extended outlook by India Met Department said that thundershowers would break out over Andaman and Nicobar Islands from Sunday.

During this period, only a few places over extreme south peninsular India (south Tamil Nadu and adjoining Kerala) may benefit from a passing wet spell or two.

FOG IN NORTH

Meanwhile in the North, winter conditions are establishing with snowfall, rain and fog being reported from disparate locations.

Extended outlook from the weekend suggests that fog/shallow fog may envelop some places over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and North Rajasthan.

The causative western disturbance, a passing low-pressure wave, lay parked over North Pakistan and adjoining Jammu and Kashmir.

It has induced the formation of an embedded cyclonic circulation over west Rajasthan, which is the proximate cause for weather in the northwest.

Southwest Arabian Sea has thrown up a well-marked low-pressure area, which is forecast to become a depression.
But will move away to the outer seas to be of any consequence for the Indian coast.

Spot rubber prices rule weak

Kottayam, Nov. 7: Physical rubber prices ruled weak on Thursday. Prices remained under pressure as growers joined sellers on fears that the market might seek further lows ahead. Overall volumes continued to be dull, while the trend was partially mixed as ISNR 20 finished flat in a rather inactive trading session.

Sheet rubber declined to Rs 156 (157) a kg, according to traders. The grade dropped to Rs 156.50 (157) a kg at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board. It was quoted at Rs 153.50 (154) a kg by dealers.

In futures, the November contracts improved to Rs 156.50 (155.55), December to Rs 157 (156.65) and January Rs 158.90 (158.43) per kg, while the February and March contracts were inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) inched up to Rs 153.92 (153.58) a kg at Bangkok. The November futures increased to ₹ 247.1 (Rs 156.67) from ₹ 244.1 a kg during the day session but then remained inactive during the night session on Tokyo Commodity Exchange. **Physical rubber rates Rs/kg were:** RSS-4: 156(157); RSS-5: 149(150); Ungraded: 145(146); ISNR 20: 149(149) and latex 60 per cent: 110(110)

Jeera may crackle on higher arrivals



Rajkot, Nov. 7: Jeera futures traded lower on expectations of arrival increasing in the spot market from next week. Moreover, profit booking emerged in the market towards the end of the day. Traders said that some export demand has emerged but any sharp rise is unlikely as sowing, done during rabi season, is expected to be higher than last year due to good rains and soil moisture. On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, jeera November contracts decreased by Rs 90 to Rs

12,347.50 a quintal with an open interest of 5,667 lots.

December contracts declined by Rs 62.50 to Rs 12,610 with an open interest of 5,853 lots.

Most of the mandis of Gujarat continue to be closed today as Diwali holidays are yet to get over and hardly 500-700 bags arrived in the market.

According to traders, from next week jeera arrivals are likely to be more than 7,000-8,000 bags.

Traders said that strong export demand of jeera this fiscal, accompanied by favourable weather conditions, will encourage higher sowing this year.

According to a Kedia Commodity report, there should be some improvement in export demand this month, though higher-than-expected supplies and prospects of better planting restrict the upside.

The spice is seen trading with strong support near Rs 12,300, while it can bounce to Rs 12,800-13,000 till mid-November.

Lower inventories may boost mustard



Indore, Nov. 7: Mustard and its oil continued to rule higher on buying support and steep rise in soyabean and soya oil prices in local mandis.

On Thursday, mustard oil ruled at Rs 721 in Indore *mandis*, while it was Rs 715 at Neemuch and Rs 725 Morena in Madhya Pradesh.

On the other hand, mustard oil ruled firm in Rajasthan mandis with its prices in Kota and Ganga Nagar being quoted at Rs 730 each.

Plant deliveries of mustard for Jaipur line

also ruled higher at Rs 3,885-90 (Rs 3,825-30) on improved buying support from the crushers.

Rise in soya seeds and comparatively weak arrival have added to the uptrend in mustard seeds with prices in Indore mandis on Thursday ruling at Rs 5,100-5,200 (up Rs 200 from last week), while raida (rapeseed) ruled firm at Rs 3,250 a quintal.

Mustard traded lower in the futures market with November and December contracts on the NCDEX slipping to Rs 3,806 (down Rs 54) and Rs 3,900 (down Rs 43), respectively, on weak buying support.

According to traders here, the bullish trend in mustard and oil will likely continue with decline in domestic inventories and expected rise in demand during the ensuing marriage season.

Arrival of mustard seeds across the mandis in country on Thursday was 1.10 lakh bags (1.30 lakh bags last week).

Sugar eases as freight rates drop



Mumbai, Nov. 7: Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market declined by Rs 5-10 a quintal on Thursday as freight rates dropped by Rs 10-20 for bag of 100 kg. Activities remained hand-to-mouth at the upper level as ample stocks are available in the market. Producers, too, are continuously selling putting pressure on prices. The commodity was sold Rs 10-15 lower in *Naka* trade.

However, mill tender rates were unchanged. An observer said: "India is poised to record higher production this year also, while consumption, except for local market, is likely to be dull. World sugar prices are ruling below \$500, blunting chances of export."

In local market, demand was need-based and sufficient stocks (about 110-115 truck loads) were available in the market.

However, bearish trend continued because of drop in freight rates which touched Rs 115-120 a bag level has eased to Rs 95-100 level. Arrivals in Vashi market were 57-58 truckloads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 55-56 loads.

On Wednesday evening, about 15-16 mills offered tenders and sold 38,000-40,000 bags at Rs 2,690-2,820 (Rs 2,690-2,820) for S-grade and Rs 2,850-2,990 (Rs 2,850-2,980) for M-grade.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 2,890-3,001 (Rs 2,880-3,001) and M-grade Rs 3,016-3,211 (Rs 3,021-3,211). ***Naka* delivery rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,800-2,910 (Rs 2,815-2,900) and M-grade Rs 2,890-3,110 (Rs 2,911-3,120).

Uttar Pradesh rates were: Muzzaffarnagar Rs 3,220 and Hapur Rs 3,180.

Rice traders adopt 'wait-&-watch' policy



Karnal, Nov. 7: The bullish trend in the rice market continued with prices of a few aromatic and non-basmati rice varieties moving up by Rs 250-600 a quintal on Thursday.

Amit Chandna, proprietor, Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told *Business Line* that overseas demand and lower availability of stocks mainly pushed up rice prices.

The market has already seen some unexpected levels this week and major changes are unlikely over the next couple of days, he said.

There is no bulk buying in the market at present as traders have adopted a wait-and-watch policy following uncertainty in the market, said experts.

Apart from low stocks and rice mills holding on to their stocks, high demand for aromatic paddy this season is a reason behind the price rise, said Amit.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) moved further up by Rs 400 to Rs 8,700-8,800, while Pusa-1121 (sela) improved by Rs 300 to Rs 7,800. Pure Basmati (Raw) went up by Rs 500 and quoted at Rs 12,500. Duplicate basmati (steam) sold at Rs 7,000 , Rs 300 up.

In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) went up by Rs 300 and sold at Rs 5,100-5,300 while Sharbati (Sela) quoted at Rs 4,800 , Rs 600 up.

Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,350-2,400 while Permal (sela) was at Rs 2,400 . PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs 3,100, while PR-11 (Raw) quoted at Rs 3,000-3,100 . PR14 (steam) improved by Rs 250 to Rs 3,400 .

Paddy arrivals

About 40,000 bags of PR paddy arrived and quoted at Rs 1,400-1,500 , around 15,000 bags of Pusa-1121 arrived and sold at Rs 3,750-3,930 , 30,000 bags of Sugandha went for Rs 2,550-2,700, while 10,000 bags of Sharbati arrived and sold at Rs 2,400. Around 10,000 bags of Duplicate Basmati arrived and fetched Rs 3,550-3,750 , while 1,000 bags of Pure Basmati sold at Rs 5,400-5,550 .

Quality issues plague turmeric; prices dip



Erode, Nov. 7: Spot turmeric prices in Erode declined on Thursday as medium and poor quality produce arrived in Erode markets.

“Already for want of demand for turmeric from North India, many traders did not buy the commodity. Now for the past two days, most of the arrivals were of inferior quality. Traders quoted a lower price and purchased only 40 per cent of the total 2,000 bags on offer,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode

Turmeric Merchants Association.

On Thursday, only 15 bags of turmeric arrived for sale in the Gobichettipalayam Cooperative Marketing Society and all were procured by a stockist. In the Regulated Market Committee, the price increased by Rs 700 as 75 bags of best quality turmeric arrived.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety fetched Rs 3,799-5,674; the root variety Rs 3,499-4,516 a quintal.

Salem Hybrid Crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 4,674-6,169; the root variety Rs 4,409-5,100. Of the 531 bags that arrived, only 63 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,261-6,019; the root variety Rs 4,311-5,117. Of the 323 bags on offer, 283 were traded.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,249-5,851 and the root variety Rs 4,169-4,890. All the 241 bags found takers.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,501-5,786 and the root variety Rs 3,601-4,889. All the 15 bags were traded.
