

## Demand for agricultural varsity for Rayalaseema grows louder

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TIRUPATI, November 12, 2013 - The voice is growing louder for establishment of a separate agricultural university for the Greater Rayalaseema region comprising Chittoor, Nellore, Anantapur, Kadapa, Kurnool and Prakasam districts, in view of its peculiar climatic, irrigation and soil conditions. The demand got an official stamp with the teaching and non-teaching staff, administrators and students of Sri Venkateswara Agricultural College pitching for a separate institute called 'Sri Venkateswara Agricultural University'.

Of the nine agro-climatic zones the State is divided into, two zones viz., southern zone and scarce rainfall zone are in Rayalaseema, which are quite different from the other seven in terms of soil, irrigation sources, climatic conditions and cropping patterns. Prakasam was hitherto tagged to the southern zone and scarce rainfall zones, in view of its agro climatic condition, which was later appended to the Krishna-Godavari zone. The demand is meant to strengthen the farmers' hands, intensify manpower training in agriculture and horticulture fields, enhance research on crops of regional importance and ensure effective transfer of technologies.

At a media conference here on Monday, ANGRAU board member Sarada Jayalakshmi, SVAC Associate Director N.V. Naidu and Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS) Associate Director of Research T. Giridhara Krishna explained that the demand was justified in view of the growing focus on agriculture as well as the changing political scenario in the State. "Five States, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra, have five agricultural universities to suit their needs," they added.

***Of the nine agro-climatic zones the State is divided into, two zones viz., southern zone and scarce rainfall zone are in Rayalaseema, which are quite different from the other seven in terms of soil, irrigation sources and climatic conditions***

## Farmers seek desilting of irrigation canal

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*To irrigate crop usually cultivated on 7,000 acres*

TIRUNELVELI, November 12, 2013 - A group of farmers and heads of 17 villages around Gangaikondan submitted a petition to Collector M. Karunakaran on Monday seeking immediate desilting of the canal carrying water from the Kodagan Channel, one of the major irrigation channels in the district, to irrigate the crop usually cultivated on over 7,000 acres.

The petitioners said Sirukulam at Gangaikondan, having an extent of 321 hectares, was the lifeline for over 20,000 farmers living in the 17 villages as it was getting water from the Kodagan Channel. Since the canal had been silted heavily for the past few years, the quantum of water reaching Sirukulam had diminished.

At the same time, the canal had been encroached upon at Pettai and Ramaiyanpatti, where cultivable lands had been converted into housing plots on which permanent constructions had come up to block the flow of water.

Hence, the State government should take steps to desilt the canal from Ariyanayagipuram to Gangaikondan, for which Rs.10 crore would be required. If the canal was desilted soon, the farmers could cultivate paddy at least once a year, they said.

“Otherwise, the 7,000 acres around Gangaikondan will become barren soon,” said S. Arulmani, president, Gangaikondan village panchayat.

### **Bus services demanded**

Meanwhile, a group of villagers from Subramaniaperi near Radhapuram submitted a petition to the Collector seeking adequate bus services via their village to connect nearby areas such as Radhapuram, Koodankulam and Valliyoor so as to enable the students to reach their schools and colleges in time.

They said the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation bus plying between Valliyoor and Radhapuram via Subramaniaperi had been suspended for the past one month without announcement.

Moreover, two mini-buses, which had to be operated via Subramaniaperi, plied through an alternative route and hence they were impounded. This added to the inconvenience faced by the people.

The district administration should take steps to operate the TNSTC bus and allow the impounded mini-buses to run via Subramaniaperi, the petitioners demanded.

Another group of villagers from Vilaagam submitted a petition to Mr.Karunakaran seeking construction of a permanent building for the ration shop at South Vilaagam.

### **The biggest ever farming event**

BANGALORE, November 12, 2013 - The Krishi Mela that ended on Monday turned out to be the biggest farmers event of the country with a participation of 24.5 lakh people, through the five days.

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Vice-Chancellor K. Narayana Gowda told *The Hindu* that as per the available records, this was the biggest ever farmers event in the country.

According to Extension Director of the university N. Nagaraj, the mela also witnessed sales of agricultural inputs and implements worth, in all, Rs. 3.5 crore.

# Farmers demand plugging of breaches to Kommuri canal

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CHINNAGANJAM(PRAKASAM DIST), November 12, 2013 - Rain-hit farmers thronged the MPDO office here to pour out their woes as the State government began on Monday the third phase of Rachchabanda programme to confer benefits to over 2.10 lakh people in Prakasam district.

Taking part in the meet, former Minister and senior Congress MLA D. Venkateswara Rao assured the agriculturists to ensure that the enumeration of crop loss was done in a transparent manner, even as farmers sought early plugging of breaches to Kommuri canal forming part of the Krishna Western Delta.

He said the government was very particular that compensation was provided only to the tiller.

He wanted the officials to put the list of beneficiaries in the Gram Panchayat notice board. Inaugurating the fortnight-long programme, Collector G.S.R.K.R.Vijaykumar said all eligible persons would be provided with ration card on a saturation basis. Benefits were distributed to 600 persons at the Rachchabanda attended by among others, Joint Collector K.Y.Naik, Revenue Division Officer M.S. Murali and District Rural Development Agency Project Director A.Padmaja.

As many as 51,942 persons were sanctioned ration cards, 33,683 persons pensions and 41,845 persons houses under Rachchabanda.

As many as 66,262 SC households and 4,579 ST households would get free power.

# Kisan Morcha demands MSP for cotton farmers

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KARIMNAGAR, November 12, 2013 - Expressing concern over the non-payment of minimum support price (MSP) to the cotton growers, the BJP Kisan Morcha district unit leaders on Monday visited the agricultural market yard here on Monday and grilled the officials over their failure to ensure the MSP to the farmers.

The Morcha leaders led by its national general secretary P. Sugunakar Rao, district president Mallesham Yadav, other leaders Venugopal Reddy, Indra Reddy, U Srinivas visited the market yard and interacted with the farmers. The ryots said that the buyers were paying them only Rs.3,500 per quintal against the MSP of Rs. 4,000 per quintal, citing that the produce contained more moisture content than the permissible limit. They also said that the Cotton Corporation of India had not opened procurement centres.

The Kisan Morcha leaders demanded that the traders provide better price for the produce, if at all not the MSP. After persistent pleas, the traders finally agreed to increase the price by Rs. 100 per quintal. Mr. P. Sugunakar Rao alleged that the government had failed in issuing clear directive on procurement of damaged cotton.

***BJP Kisan Morcha leaders visit Karimnagar market yard and interact with farmers***

# Plan to give mini-vans to farmers on subsidy

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*Horticulture Minister R. Venkata Reddy interacting with farmers at Rythu Bazaar at Khammam on Monday. —PHOTO: G. N. RAO*

KHAMMAM, November 12, 2013 - A plan is on the anvil to sanction four vending vans (mini-vans) to the eligible groups of farmers in the district under the Quality Management Programme (QMP), an

initiative of the Centre sponsored Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

The project is aimed at boosting the vegetable production by way of providing training, supplying hybrid vegetable seeds and infrastructure support to the vegetable growers who form themselves into groups. The Horticulture Department has already sanctioned one vending van to a group of farmers belonging to Amarsingh Tanda of Yellendu mandal. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of an awareness programme for vegetable and fruit growers held at Rythu Bazar here on Monday, Minister for Horticulture R Venkat Reddy said the mini-vans were being sanctioned to the groups of farmers on 50 per cent subsidy under the QMP-RKVY scheme in the State.

The vehicles will help farmers sell their produce at remunerative price at the place of their choice and also benefit the consumers, thereby eliminating the menace of middlemen. Three Rythu Bazars are functioning one each in Khammam, Kothagudem and Sattupalli towns in the district.

Two more Rythu Bazars will become operational one more in Khammam town and another in Madhira town soon. He exhorted the farmers to make optimum use of the QMP to increase the output of vegetables and fruits for reaping rich dividends. The week-long awareness programme will feature training on best management practices, post-harvest methods and grading. Joint Director of Agriculture Bhaskar Rao, Assistant Director of Horticulture Mariyanna, and others were present.

## ‘Support price policy weaning away farmers from fields’

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*VIJAYAWADA, November 12, 2013 - Unscientific approach adopted by the Government is the reason: YSRC leader*

Despite India being ranked second worldwide in farm and agricultural output, the contribution of agriculture to the national GDP has dropped from 55 per cent during 1950 to about 15 per cent now. The workforce engaged in agriculture has declined from 80 per cent

to 50 per cent during the same period, said YSR Congress Party State Convenor of Farmers' Wing and member of Indian Council of Agriculture Research M.V.S. Nagireddy.

In a chat with *The Hindu*, he pointed out that the main reason for the current scenario was the unscientific approach adopted by the government in fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various crops.

The countrywide cumulative average system of fixing the price without considering various factors such as local agro-climatic zones, escalation of input costs, land lease rent variation and family labour, was arbitrary and biased, he said.

He pointed out that the MSP for paddy in A.P. was determined at Rs.1,310 per quintal against the production cost of Rs.1,675 and the MSP for cotton was fixed at Rs.4,000 against the input cost of Rs.5,950.

Highlighting with statistical details he said, "In 1950, the population of the country was 35 crore and the agricultural production was 35 million tonnes. Today, we are 120 crore and the production has crossed 250 million tonnes. We have a buffer stock of about 40 per cent giving us food security.

Similarly, milk production has gone up from 12 million litres a day to 121 million litres and fish production from seven lakh metric tonnes to 83 lakh metric tonnes. "But, despite the achievement, we have farmers committing suicide or moving away to urban areas as daily wagers. According to official sources 2,70,940 farmers have committed suicide from 1955 to 2011," he observed.

Mr. Nagireddy feels that there is a need for a second Green Revolution, which will pave the way for remunerative agriculture through technological innovations and customised farm mechanisation. He said the Government should redefine its attitude towards small, marginal and tenant farmers by revising its policy on MSP, input subsidies and import and export. "Government needs to focus on credit system, as it is directly linked to crop failures and soil conditions. This apart educating farmers on technology and marketing infrastructure is essential," said Mr. Nagireddy.

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📌 ***Need for a second Green Revolution, paving the way for remunerative agriculture stressed***

📌 ***Government asked to redefine its attitude towards small, marginal and tenant farmers***

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## Training for coordinators of farmers clubs conducted

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VIJAYAWADA, November 12, 2013 - Nestham, a voluntary organisation, conducted a day-long training programme on the leadership development among the Farmers' Club coordinators and members here on Monday. The programme was organised in collaboration with the NABARD.

The main objective of the programme was to promote and develop leadership qualities among the farmers club coordinators to take initiative and lead other farmers towards transformation of the technology in agriculture and allied agriculture. It also envisages gaining and improving sustainable livelihood for better living standards.

Nestham Director Suresh explained the leadership development with different examples and motivated them to inculcate cooperative spirit for the development of small and marginal and tenant farmers with holistic approach. KDCC vice-chairman V. Rambabu, veterinary surgeon Narasimha Rao, mandal agriculture officer G. Srinivasa Rao, mandal micro irrigation officer Annapurna and others spoke.

## 10 farm fresh outlets for Coimbatore city soon

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CHENNAI, November 12, 2013 - Ten farm fresh consumer outlets will be set up in Coimbatore city shortly to provide vegetables at reasonable prices.

This move forms part of the government's initiative to extend the scheme to other districts. The outlets would make available vegetables at prices less than what is prevailing in the open market.

In Chennai, through 39 outlets, vegetables of 21.78 kg had been sold at Rs. 6.26 crore, according to a release issued on Monday after a meeting of the State-level Price Monitoring Committee.

Headed by Food Minister R. Kamaraj, the committee includes Chief Secretary Sheela Balakrishnan, Principal Secretary (Food) K. Shanmugam and Food Secretary M.P. Nirmala. The panel advised the Food Corporation of India to store rice for taking care of the requirements for six months. It noted that though the Union government stopped giving subsidy for commodities provided under the special public distribution system, Chief Minister Jayalalithaa ordered the extension of the system till March 31, 2014.

In another meeting called by the Food Minister, participants were informed that about 8.26 lakh new family cards were issued between June 1, 2011 and October 31, 2013.

Till now, 2.29 lakh bogus cards had been spotted and eliminated. Of them, 1.06 lakh cards were weeded out during the 10 months of the current year, a release added.

### **Our Special Correspondent from Ooty adds :**

Meanwhile, the scheme has created a win-win situation as far as the Nilgiris is concerned, according to Joint Registrar of Cooperative societies R. Vanitha.

She said that the farm products of the Blue Mountains are being increasingly sought-after in Chennai and agriculturists here are working overtime to meet the demand.

Since the scheme came into being about four months ago, farmers identified by the department have supplied 400 tonnes of vegetables and fruits worth Rs. 1.17 crore. While potatoes, carrots and beetroots are the main vegetables supplied to the 36 shops in Chennai, other items include broccoli, zucchini, parsley, strawberry, lettuce, durian, passion fruit, custard apple, butter fruit and capsicum. The farmers are paid on the spot as per the prevailing market rate.

Often consumers in Chennai queue up to purchase Nilgiris products.

### **Strong rooms**

Adverting to the measures being implemented to strengthen the 75 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS) in various parts of the district, she said that strong rooms are being strengthened at a cost of Rs. 30 crore.

They are also being equipped with burglar alarms and closed circuit television units, she said.

## 'Avail subsidy on supply of vegetable seed'

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MACHILIPATNAM, November 12, 2013 - Agriculture Department officials on Monday assured the farmers supply of vegetable seed with 50 per cent subsidy on the actual price. Officials from the departments of horticulture, marketing and revenue explained about their services to the farmers who were becoming as small entrepreneurs.

At the inaugural session of the Rythu Bazaar Vaarotsav on the premises of Machilipatnam Rythu Bazaar, horticulture officer Ch. Subrahmanyam appealed to the farmers to avail the subsidy facility given on the supply of vegetable seed and can be contacted over phone number: 8374450012.

The Vaarotsav was aimed at helping farmers understand the existing advanced methods in yield management, training in grading of the produce, and mobile Rythu Bazaar.

Machilipatnam Tahisildar Siva Kumar participated in the programme.

## TNAU forecast for Karthigaipattam crops

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COIMBATORE, November 12, 2013 - The Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC) of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has forecast the price of some crops that will be sown in the Karthigaipattam (second fortnight of November).

According to a release, this is to enable farmers take sowing decisions for getting better prices.

### **Bajra (cumbu)**

The present price of cumbu in the Kovilpatti market is around Rs. 15 a kg.

Based on the last 17 years price of cumbu in the Kovilpatti Regulated Market, it has been forecast that it would be around Rs. 1,300 a quintal in February-March 2014.

Cumbu is sown as a Rabi crop in Tamil Nadu and sowing starts in November. Trade sources revealed that there was a shift towards maize crop during 2012 because of its good market price.

### **Bengal gram**

Price of Bengal gram is expected to be around Rs. 4,000 a quintal during February-March 2014.

Last year the price during harvest was around Rs. 3,600 per quintal.

In Tamil Nadu, it is sown only in the Karthigaipattam. Udumalpet market is one of the main markets for Bengal gram and hence the price data for the last 10 years were analysed here. Present price at the market is Rs. 4,450 a quintal.



## **Coriander**

The price of coriander at Virudhunagar market during February-March 2013 was Rs. 5,500 a quintal. The prevailing price was Rs. 10,000 a quintal.

It is forecast that the price of coriander in February-March 2014 will be Rs. 8,500 a quintal.

### **Important**

Harvesting stage of coriander is most important and harvesting when the seed turn golden brown will fetch a better price.

For details, contact 0422-2431405 / 2450498 / 6611284.

*The forecast is to enable farmer stake sowing decisions for getting better prices*

# Guntur turning into hub of spurious seed companies?

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GUNTUR, November 12, 2013 - *Farmers worried over poor flowering of paddy and cotton crops*

Even as farmers are being hit by successive natural calamities and the poor Minimum Support Price (MSP) being paid by private traders and brokers, spurious seed companies are heaping misery on farmers causing them much distress.

Several farmers who sowed paddy and cotton in the district are worried over the poor flowering of the crop after it came to light that substandard seeds were sown. Farmers could have lost nearly Rs.18,000 to Rs.20,000 per acre due to supply of spurious seed by some companies.

### **Lorry intercepted**

Vigilance and Enforcement officials have begun cracking the whip on spurious seed suppliers in the district. A lorry carrying 42 quintals of fake cotton seed was intercepted at the Autonagar in Guntur in the early hours on Sunday. Vigilance sleuths took the trader and the lorry driver into custody.

The Vigilance Department also seized fake cotton and chilli seeds at Durgi and Rentachintala respectively, recently.

The Department of Agriculture Seed and Testing Lab has certified that the seized seed was of substandard quality and asked Joint Director of Agriculture to take steps to curb the sale of fake seeds.

### **Cases registered**

During investigation, it was revealed that the fake seeds were being transported to the neighbouring districts on some brand from Guntur.

"We suspect that some fake seed manufacturing companies are operating from Guntur. Criminal cases have been registered against the trader and the vehicle driver. Vigilance officials are trying to find out the details of the fake companies and the persons involved in the racket," said Regional Vigilance and Enforcement Officer R.N. Ammi Reddy.

### **Crop damaged**

Joint Director of Agriculture A. Sridhar said that some traders had been found selling delinted seed from ginning mills in the guise of seeds. In some instances, some 'rogue' paddy seeds were also found to be sold to farmers. Meanwhile, BJP Kisan Morcha Guntur



district president Kommineni Satyanarayana, Information Technology Cell district convener Y.V. Subba Rao and others visited the paddy crop at Siripuram village in Medikonduru mandal in the district on Monday and observed that the crop was damaged due to supply of spurious seed. Mr. Subba Rao said that the paddy crop was found to have grown fully but the shafts were devoid of flowers and grains. He demanded the Agriculture Department and A.P. State Seeds Development Corporation officials to intervene in the matter and book cases against spurious seed suppliers.

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📌 ***Vigilance officials probing fake seed manufacturers***

📌 ***BJP leaders seek action against spurious seed suppliers***

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## Food security

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DHARWAD, November 12, 2013 - The Directorate of Field Publicity has organised an awareness programme on the National Food Security Act at Amminabhavi village near here on Monday. Associate editor of *Jeevana Shikshana* Gurumurthi Yaragambalimath spoke about the importance of the Act.

## Meeting to discuss lift irrigation project

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DAVANGERE, November 12, 2013 - Shamanur Shivashankarappa, Horticulture Minister, has expressed concern over the delay in the completion of the lift irrigation scheme to fill 22 tanks in different villages with the water from the Thunga Bhadra.

He said that officials had made it a habit to give lame excuses for the delay in carrying out projects. The Minister said a meeting of officials had been convened on Wednesday to discuss the issue. Mr. Shivashankarappa was here on Monday to lay foundation stone for the new building of a primary health centre at Anaji village in Davangere taluk.

He said the project should have been completed long ago.

Mr. Shivashankarappa said water purification plants would soon be installed in villages such as Anaji. The Minister said the State government had reserved Rs. 200 crore to purchase ragi and maize from farmers.

## 'Avoid bringing cattle from other districts'

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PERAMBALUR, November 12, 2013 - Farmers should desist from purchasing livestock from outside the district as a precaution against the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, said Collector Darez Ahamed. In a release here on Monday, the Collector said the district

administration had taken up a special vaccination drive to protect the livestock. The fifth phase of the programme was held between September 19 and October 10, covering 1.15 lakh heads of cattle throughout the district. Mr. Ahamed appealed to farmers not to purchase the livestock from outside the district. Eight special teams comprising 24 personnel belonging to the Veterinary Department to meet any emergency.

## Minister promises adequate medicines to tackle cattle disease

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ERODE, November 12, 2013 - *Farmers advised to desist from buying cattle from elsewhere*

*TAKING STOCK: Minister for Animal Husbandry T.K.M. Chinnayya (second right) takes a look at a cow that recovered from foot and mouth disease at Nochivalasu near Nasiyanur in Erode on Monday. District Collector V.K. Shanmugam (right) is in the picture. — PHOTO: M. GOVARTHAN*

Animal Husbandry Minister T.K.M. Chinnayya on Monday assessed the situation caused by outbreak of foot and mouth disease among cattle in rural parts of the district.

He also conducted a review meeting.

Accompanied by the District Collector, V.K. Shanmugam, and the Director of Animal Husbandry Department R. Palanichamy, the Minister visited Thayirpalayam, Moolakarai, and C. Mettupalayam, Alichampalayam and Suttukaradu, and interacted with farmers to determine the impact of the special camps being conducted by veterinary teams.

### **Effective steps**

He ensured adequacy of stock of medicines for sustaining the vaccination.

Immunisation of the cattle must be carried out by the department on a war footing, he said.

Effective steps by the department had helped contain the disease in the district, the Minister said at the meeting.

To develop resistance power of the affected, farmers must feed them with ragi porridge and herbs.

Representatives of local bodies must extend their cooperation to the veterinary teams for success of the vaccination initiative. He advised farmers in the district to desist from buying cattle from elsewhere until the disease was brought under control.

### **Teams**

Veterinary teams would also be stationed on the State border for checking the condition of cows brought into Tamil Nadu and vaccinating infected ones.

Farmers presented a petition to the Minister seeking adequate compensation for the cows that had died so far due to the disease.

K.C. Rathinasamy, State president of Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam, called for broad-basing vaccination through effective coordination between the veterinary teams and the District Milk Producers' Union.

Conduct of the weekly cattle shandies must be shelved until the disease was completely eradicated in the district, he said.

#### **Tirupur**

The Animal Disease Intelligence Unit has confirmed that the death of two cows at Pallapalayam here on Sunday was due to the foot and mouth disease. Both the cows were reared in a single farm.

An interaction the Animal Husbandry officials had with the two farmers revealed that three more cows died a few days prior to it with all of them holding similar symptoms. A team of officials led by Commissioner of Animal Husbandry R. Palanisamy, Joint Director of Animal Husbandry L. Nagarajan and Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry K. Ramachandran visited the area.

#### **Vaccination**

In the wake of the deaths, the Department of Animal Husbandry officials had decided to carry out vaccination for all animals within a radius of eight km from Pallapalayam.

## Rs.66-crore cattle feed unit to come up at Areekuzhy

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KATTAPPANA, November 12, 2013 - CATTLE FEED UNIT TO COME UP AT AREEKUZHYY  
Kerala Feeds Ltd will set up a factory at Areekuzhy in Manakkad panchayat near Thodupuzha to increase the production of cattle feed. "The factory will come up on a 10-acre land of the District Agriculture Farm, which will be taken on lease," Kerala Feeds Chairman P.C. Joseph told reporters at Idukki Press Club, Thodupuzha, on Monday. "The installation of the factory will be completed in one-and-a-half years," he said. An amount of Rs.66 crore is needed for setting up the factory. Out of this, Rs.23.75 crore will be provided by Central government and Rs.5.5 crore through the Idukki package. The remaining amount will be funded by the State government.

***The State's requirement of cattle feed is 4,000 tonnes, but it now produces only 2,700 tonnes.***

## 'Apply pesticide in Bt cotton'

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PERAMBALUR, November 12, 2013 - Darez Ahamed, Collector, appealed to farmers to apply pesticide in Bt cotton as part of crop protection strategy. In a press release here on Monday, the Collector explained the diseases cotton was prone to during drought, and discolouration in leaves.

# Water Level

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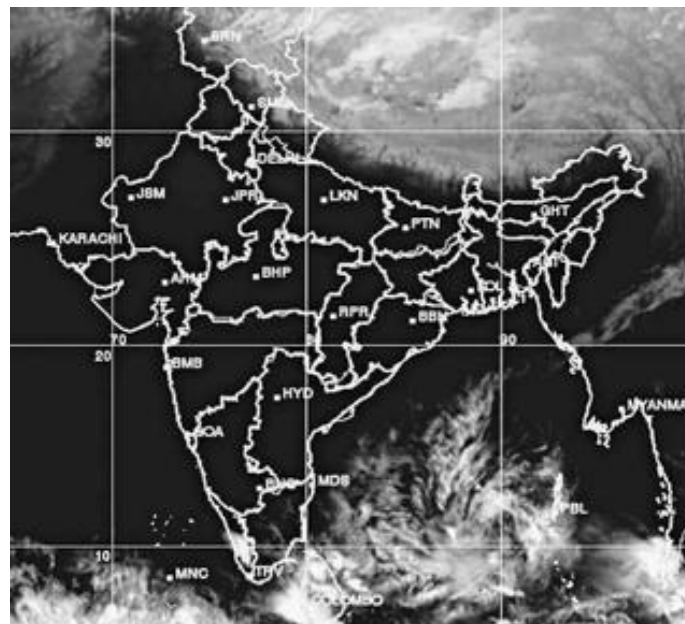
**MADURAI** - The water level in Periyar dam stood at 117.30 feet with an inflow of 321 cusecs and a discharge of 600 cusecs. The water level in Vaigai dam was 47.28 feet with an inflow of 562 cusecs and a discharge of 60 cusecs. The combined storage in Periyar credit was 3,163 mcft. There was no rainfall recorded in the region during the 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Monday.

**TIRUNELVELI** - Water level in the Papanasam dam on Monday stood at 90.45 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 686.34 cusecs and 704.75 cusecs of water is discharged from the dam.

The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 66.05 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 158 cusecs and 35 cusecs of water is discharged.

# Weather

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

## ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	31	19	0	51
Arogyavaram	29	18	0	159
Bapatla	31	20	0	504
Calingapatnam	30	19	0	922
Gannavaram	31	19	0	411
Hanamkonda	31	18	0	284
Hyderabad AP	29	17	0	239
Kakinada	31	22	0	622

Khammam	32	23	0	98
Kavali	30	21	tr	406
Kurnool	31	19	0	96
Mahabubnagar	30	16	0	163
Machilipatnam	31	22	0	384
Nandyal	—	—	—	—
Narasapur	31	22	0	606
Nellore	31	24	0	323
Nizamabad	31	16	0	106
Ongole	31	21	0	489
Ramagundam	30	16	0	201
Tirupathi AP	32	23	0	256
Tuni	31	21	0	470
Vizag AP	31	22	0	555
Vizag	31	21	0	511

#### **KARNATAKA**

Agumbe	34	13	0	583
Bengaluru AP	28	18	0	113
Bengaluru	29	18	0	104
Bagalkote	—	—	—	—
Belgaum AP	28	14	0	60
Bellary	31	17	0	63
Bijapur	28	14	0	113
Chitradurga	29	15	0	54
Chickmagalur	29	16	0	41
Chintamani	28	15	0	50
Gadag	28	16	0	88
Gulbarga	31	18	0	35
Hassan	31	19	0	83
Honavar	34	23	0	261
Karwar	36	24	0	167
Madikeri	25	16	0	189
Mangalore AP	33	21	0	292
Mysore	28	20	0	125
Mandya	30	18	0	132
Panambur	35	22	0	235
Raichur	29	16	0	102
Shirali	33	22	0	414

#### **KERALA**

Alappuzha	32	25	0	160
Kannur	34	24	0	320
Kochi AP	32	24	0	365
Kottayam	34	24	0	423
Kozhikode	34	25	0	205
Punalur	34	22	0	439
Thiruvanantha -puram AP	32	25	0	148

<b>Thiruvanantha</b>				
-puram City	34	24	0	241
Vellanikkara	33	23	0	375
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>				
Adiramapattinam	33	23	0	110
Chennai	32	25	0	197
Chennai AP	31	24	0	256
Coimbatore AP	32	23	0	104
Coonoor	21	13	0	283
Cuddalore	32	23	0	170
Dharmapuri	29	17	0	159
Kanyakumari	33	25	0	119
Karaikal	30	24	0	162
Kodaikanal	18	11	0	163
Madurai AP	33	24	0	197
Nagapattinam	30	24	0	154
Palayamkottai	33	25	0	216
Pamban	30	28	0	194
Parangipettai	32	24	0	286
Puducherry	32	23	0	130
Salem	31	21	0	153
Thanjavur	30	25	0	117
Tiruchi AP	32	24	0	161
Tiruchi	—	—	—	—
Tirupattur	30	16	0	133
Tiruttani	31	21	0	205
Tondi	31	24	0	259
Tuticorin	32	25	0	109
Ooty	20	10	0	199
Valparai	25	15	0	240
Vedaranyam	—	—	—	—
Vellore	31	22	0	78
<b>LAKSHADWEEP</b>				
Amini Divi	33	25	0	92
Minicoy	32	25	0	109
Kavarathi	—	—	—	—
<b>OTHER STATIONS</b>				
Kolkata (Alipore)	30	19	0	523
Mumbai	32	24	0	66
New Delhi	26	12	0	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 OVER COASTAL A.P.

**CHENNAI:** Isolated rainfall occurred over Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Mainly dry weather prevailed over Coastal Andhra Pradesh. Dry weather prevailed over Lakshadweep, Rayalaseema, Telangana and Karnataka.

The chief amounts of rainfall recorded in centimetres are:

**TAMIL NADU:** Thamarapakkam (Tiruvallur Dist) 1.

**KERALA:** Thodupuzha and Munnar (both in Idukki district) 3 each and Kanjirappally (Kottayam district) 1.

**ANDHRA PRADESH:** Nil.

**KARNATAKA:** Nil.

The minimum temperature fell at one or two places over Telangana, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, rose appreciably at one or two places over Coastal Karnataka, rose at one or two places over Rayalaseema and changed little elsewhere over the region.

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



## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

**Tuesday, Nov 12**

Max    Min

31°    |    24°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 59

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:05

Sunset: 05:39

Barometer: 1006

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

**Wednesday, Nov 13**

Max    Min

30°    |    24°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday

**Nov 14**



31° | 23°

Partly Cloudy

Friday

**Nov 15**



31° | 22°

Partly Cloudy

Saturday

**Nov 16**



28° | 24°

Overcast

Sunday

**Nov 17**



26° | 25°

Overcast

Monday

**Nov 18**



27° | 25°

Overcast



## Interest-free loan scheme to boost organic farming

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KANNUR: In a bid to provide pesticide-free food products to consumers and utilize more fallow land, the [Kudumbashree Mission](#) is embarking on a major project to provide interest-free loan to farmers, especially those interested in organic farming.

The project, to be implemented with the support of the central government's Mahila Kisan Saktheekaran Pariyojana, [Nabard](#) and the [department of agriculture](#) aims to provide loans to joint liability groups (JLG) involved in agriculture. This could write a new chapter in our efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in agriculture and help bring pesticide-free products to the market, said the mission's district coordinator M V Premarajan.

"Though we can't claim that we promote 100% organic farming, as in some cases they are allowed to use chemical fertilizers, we can assure that the products, including rice, vegetables and tubers are 100% pesticide-free because Kudumbashree ensures that only organic pesticides and fungicides are used in farming," he said.

Under this scheme, [Canara Bank](#) provides loan at the rate of 7%, of which Kudumbashree pays 5% interest, while the remaining 2% is given by Nabard. Land for the purpose will have to be identified by the JLGs themselves and taken on lease.

The official said a JLG group would get a loan of Rs 1-3 lakh and a total of Rs 10 crore will be distributed in the district this year. They will also get area and production incentives, apart from Rs 20,000 to market the product.

Since Kudumbashree officials from the Community Development Societies ( [CDS](#)) to the district mission are involved in the process, administrative bottlenecks in providing the loan will be reduced to a great extent, said officials. There are 1,000 JLGs in the district and each group has five members, which means 5,000 women will directly benefit from the scheme.

Apart from women empowerment, the project will help utilize barren lands for agriculture, thus improving the agriculture productivity of the state, said officials, who added that experts from Agriculture University and the department of agriculture will train people under the scheme.

## Forest department to hold workshop on turtle conservation

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*In a major step as part of its 'Green Partners' programme, the Forest Department is coming up with an initiative to save turtles.*



In a major step as part of its 'Green Partners' programme, the Forest Department is coming up with an initiative to save turtles.

A one-day workshop in this regard will be organised by the department in association with the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, the Kerala Forest Research Institute and the World Wildlife Fund.

The workshop, to be organised at Mathootam Forest Complex in Kozhikode on Monday at 10 am, will bring together foresters, researchers, non-governmental and citizen groups actively involved in sea turtle conservation efforts.

The workshop is intended to develop a comprehensive coordinated, scientific and a widely participative approach to save turtles.

The 'Green Partners' programme is part of the Haritha Keralam initiative launched on June 5 this year by Chief Minister Oommen Chandy.

"The Social Forestry Wing of the Forest Department will place this initiative on a scientific footing, create awareness, sensitise and build capacity of citizen groups. It will distill the practical wisdom of the various groups involved in turtle conservation, identify and prioritise the challenges, build capacity and develop protocols for effective and efficient conservation of turtles," said Brandon Corrie, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry).

The primary objective of the workshop will be development of a strategic action plan that includes measures to gain popular support and draw more citizens towards conservation. Standardisation of site-specific plans, scientific protocols for conduct of inventory, handling, documentation, conservation, protection and monitoring of efforts are part of the intended outcome, he said.

Apart from Corrie, APCCF (Social Forestry) Winston Suting, CCF (Social Forestry) Pradeep Kumar, researchers from Indian Institute of Science, KFRI scientist Jaison and Ranjan of WWF India, Kerala, will address the workshop.

## Odisha government sitting on potato crisis

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While the public is under the impression that the Government is making arrangements to procure potatoes from some northern States through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED), sources in the Government said nothing has been done as yet.

With no solution to potato crisis in sight, the State Government has left it to the private traders to deal with the situation by procuring the tuber from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

While the public is under the impression that the Government is making arrangements to procure potatoes from some northern States through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED), sources in the Government said nothing has been done as yet.

The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department is not taking any initiative to find a solution to the problem in the absence of any instruction from the office of the Chief Minister.

Market intervention by the department is not possible without clear-cut instruction from the Government, official sources said, adding that no one wants to take the risk.

As West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has convened a meeting to review the situation arising out of the restriction imposed on inter-State movement of the tuber, the Government here is anxiously waiting for the outcome of the meeting.

“We are expecting a solution to the crisis after the meeting of the West Bengal Government on Monday. If nothing positive comes out, the State Government will have to take a call,” said a senior officer, requesting anonymity. While a few truck-loads of potatoes were coming from the other side of the border till Saturday, the supply chain was completely cut off on Sunday.

Whatever potato is coming to the State is covertly through vegetable trucks. A few such trucks were seized by the public at Jagatsinghpur and National Highway-5 near Balasore. According to sources, potatoes in small quantities are coming from Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, but these consignments are sold in the black market.

The BJP activists reportedly blocked NH-5 in Balasore, preventing movement of heavy vehicles to neighbouring West Bengal. The party decided to take to the streets after the West Bengal Government paid no heed to the plight of Odisha.

Long queues outside selective outlets selling potatoes in the local markets here have become a common sight over the past few days.

# Business Standard

## Govt tells states to lower levy rice quota for PDS

### Increases broken rice content to 12% from 4%

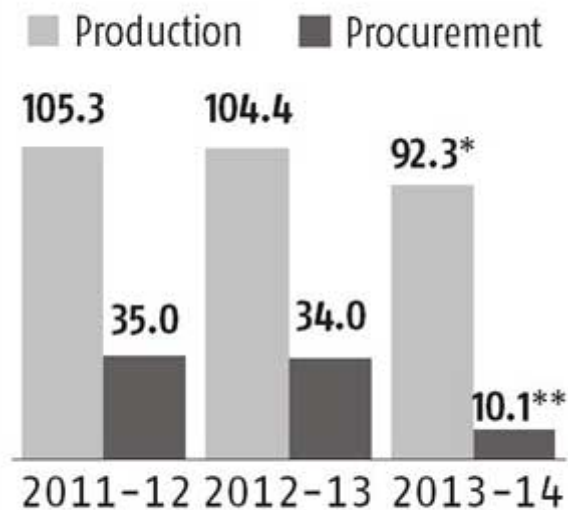


In a move that could increase the supply of rice in the retail markets, the Centre has directed states to reduce quota for [levy rice](#), sold for public distribution system ([PDS](#)), from the existing 30-75 per cent to 25 per cent of the total produce of millers in the current procurement season, which began in October.

However, only Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have reacted favourably to the proposal, officials said. Other states, including the biggest contributor of rice to the central pool, Andhra Pradesh, are not game.

The Centre has decided to accept rice with 12 per cent broken content from millers under custom milled rice (CMR), against the norm of four per cent. This could enable millers to liquidate their rice stocks and undertake fresh processing.

### GRAIN OF CONTENTION



All figures in mt; \*Only kharif season; \*\*Till November 11; Note: In 2012-13, of the 34 million tonnes (mt) procured by FCI, 8 mt was levy rice

However, for consumers, this could mean they would get inferior quality through PDS.

The government gets the rice for the central pool to be distributed through PDS by two ways: Custom-milled and levy rice.

In CMR, the government purchases husked rice from farmers and then allocates it to mills for processing for a fixed charge and rebuys again from them.

In the levy rice policy, millers are allowed to sell a certain percentage (25-70 per cent in major rice producing states) of rice procured by them in the open market, while the remaining (called levy rice) is collected by government agencies at a minimum support price ([MSP](#)).

In 2012-13, rice procurement season that ended in September, out of the total procurement of 34 million tonnes, around eight million tonnes or 23.5 per cent was levy rice, while the rest was procured through custom milling.

However, in 2013-14 procurement season, not a single grain of levy rice has been received so far.

Last year, of the eight million tonnes of levy rice received in the central pool, around 5.5 million tonnes was from Andhra Pradesh alone, while Uttar Pradesh contributed 1.09 million tonnes. Karnataka contributed 58,732 tonnes, while Haryana contributed 27,223 tonnes.

“This directive may ensure that in the open market supplies of rice could rise, while there would be more freedom for millers to sell their produce on market rates,” said a senior food ministry official.

The official said assuming the quantum of levy rice remains at the last year’s level, easily two-three million tonnes of additional stock can come in the open market. The government data showed that retail price of rice has risen by almost 30 per cent since 2011.

Officials said for farmers too, it would mean a good option as they would be free to sell their produce to anyone who pays higher price. But, in states like Bihar and UP, where the open market procurement price of rice is much below the Centre-fixed MSP, the proposal could impact the interest of growers.

## THE HINDU Business Line

### Cotton blooms on mills’ buying

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**Rajkot, Nov. 11:** Cotton prices increased on Monday on emergence of domestic demand .

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton traded higher by Rs 200 at Rs 40,500 a candy of 356 kg.

Similarly, *kapas* or raw cotton gained Rs 5-10 at Rs 970-1,010 a *maund* of 20 kg. About 35,000-40,000 bales of 170 kg each of cotton arrived in Gujarat and 1,00,000-1,10,000 bales in across the country.

Traders said that domestic mills buying was strong. With this, export enquiries also emerged in the market supporting the market. Prices may move further up this week.

Traders said that farmers are not willing to sell their produce at a lower price. They want a minimum Rs 1,000 for a *maund* for *kapas*.

Labour shortage in Saurashtra is delaying harvest of cotton, leading to a dip in arrivals. The shortage is despite wages being hiked by 50 per cent.



## Mixed trend in rubber

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**Kottayam, Nov.11:** Physical rubber prices were mixed on Monday. The most active counters RSS 4 and RSS 5 improved marginally, on covering purchases, at lower levels. There were no fresh enquiries from the industrial sector, but most traders seemed to be expecting, a short-term recovery in the market. Meanwhile, latex continued to decline on low demand. The overall volume was low.

Sheet rubber was quoted firm at Rs 156.50 (Rs 156) a kg by traders. The grade, increased to Rs 157 and Rs 154 from Rs 156.50 and Rs 153.50, respectively, according to the Rubber Board and dealers.

November futures inched up to Rs 156.81 (Rs 156.36), December to Rs 158.79 (Rs 157.87) and January to Rs 160.90 (Rs 159.99) for RSS 4 while the February and March futures remained totally inactive, on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) improved to Rs 158.56 (Rs 156.60) at Bangkok. November futures closed at ¥ 246.7 (Rs 157.62) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

**Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were:** RSS-4: 156.50 (156); RSS-5: 148.50 (148); Ungraded: 144 (144); ISNR 20: 149 (149); and Latex 60%: 107 (108).

## West Asia demand may drive basmati exports to record 4 mt

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Higher price for Pusa-1121 paddy may spoil shippers' party

Surging shipments		
	Quantity	value
2013-14 (April-Sept)	2,007	13,578
2012-13	346	18,985
2011-12	3,145	15,335
2010-11	2,027	9,781

(Qty in million tonnes, Value in Rs crore)

**New Delhi, Nov. 11:** The quantity of basmati rice that was exported in the 2010-11 fiscal has almost been shipped out in the first six months of the current financial year.

As strong demand continues from the key traditional markets in West Asia, basmati shipments are likely to double to close to four million tonnes in past three years.

In the current fiscal, basmati exports have increased by 16 per cent in volumes to exceed two million tonnes against 1.7 mt during the same time a year ago. "Demand continues to be good from the traditional buyers. At this pace, we may end up exporting over 3.8 mt for the current fiscal," said R. Sundaresan, Executive Director of the All-India Rice Exporters Association.



Iran continues to remain the top buyer of Indian basmati with its purchases in the first six months exceeding 8.49 lakh tonnes valued at Rs 6,115 crore. Saudi Arabia is the second largest buyer, purchasing 3.83 lakh tonnes valued at over Rs 2,758 crore. Iraq has emerged as the third largest, importing 1.46 lakh tonnes valued at over Rs 1,000 crore.

“Exports will touch a record high this year. In terms of value, we will exceed the last year’s high of Rs 18,985 crore,” said Vijay Setia, Director at Chaman Lal Setia Exports.

However, the only factor that could hurt exports is rising prices of the raw material – 1121 paddy variety. “Prices of raw material have almost doubled in the past one year. As a result, there are reservations in certain quarters that there could be some resistance from buyers for high prices,” Setia said.

Prices of basmati paddy are ruling at Rs 45-46 a kg against Rs 25-27 in the same period a year ago. For farmers, high prices of 1121 variety may have fetched handsome returns, but it may divert a section of buyers to Pakistan.

“Pakistan’s prices are lower by about \$200 a tonne compared with India’s price of \$1,550 a tonne. It is estimated that Pakistan has exportable surplus of about 8 lakh tonnes and could give Indian exporters a run for their money,” Setia said.

## Soyameal exports turn pricier as domestic bean rates rise

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**New Delhi, Nov. 11:** As soyabean prices firm up in the domestic market on excess rains shrinking the crop size, soyameal exports from the country are turning pricey. However, the industry believes this may not affect shipments in the year ahead as bean prices are likely to stabilise soon on subdued offtake of meal from domestic buyers – mainly poultry feed makers — on the softening trend in chicken prices.

“We are already expensive by about 5 per cent or \$20-25 a tonne in the international market,” said Rajesh Agrawal, spokesperson for the Indore-based Soyabean Processors Association of India (SOPA). Agrawal expects soyameal shipments in the current financial year to remain at around four million tonnes, almost same as last year. In the April-October period this fiscal, soyameal exports increased 20 per cent to 10.7 lakh tonnes, over 8.88 lakh tonnes in the same period a year ago.

Iran continues to remain the top destination for Indian soyameal, though demand from Japan has picked up recently.

“We expect Japan to buy 8-9 lakh tonnes, while the demand from Iran is likely to stay around 8-9 lakh tonnes,” Agrawal said.

Excess rains in central India, the key soyabean growing areas in Madhya Pradesh, parts of Maharashtra and Rajasthan have shrunk the oilseed crop.

SOPA, in its latest estimate, has pegged the crop size at 12.2 mt, down from the earlier forecast of 12.9 mt on higher than estimated crop losses, mainly in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Farmers are holding back their produce anticipating prices to go up further resulting in an increase in prices.

Soyabean prices in Indore have increased over Rs 39,000 a tonne, up 11 per cent over Rs 35,000 in early October. On NCDEX, the December contract, ended marginally lower at Rs 3,959 a quintal on Monday.

#### **Subdued demand**

The demand for soyameal in the domestic market has been rather subdued as poultry feed makers are buying less. "Even, if the domestic demand for soyameal stays same at last year's level, we should be able to export about 4-4.5 mt," Agarwal said.

## Cardamom gains on buying support

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**Kochi, Nov. 11:** Cardamom prices increased marginally last week on some buying support after Diwali at the auctions.

Upcountry dealers were active and the trade attributed it to good consumption during Diwali. After ruling below Rs 600 a kg, the individual auction average price has improved slightly. It vacillated between Rs 600 and Rs 612 a kg last week, Ranganathan, a dealer in Bodinayakannur said. He said that no one (either growers or primary market dealers) seems to be holding any stock. The third round of picking is over and from now onwards, arrivals are likely to peter out, he said.

Arrival of 8mm bold, which has been at higher levels during the current season so far, is expected to drop from the fourth round of picking. At present, 8mm is being sold at Rs 825 a kg, depending upon quality.

According to a major dealer in Kumily, well-to-do buyers are covering actively probably on the anticipation of a price rise in the coming weeks. Exporters were not active. Yet, they bought an estimated 40-50 tonnes of exportable variety capsules, he said.

Total arrivals at the Sunday KCPMC auction dropped to 97 tonnes from 105 tonnes the previous Sunday and the entire quantity was sold out, P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, told *Business Line*.

He said the maximum price increased to Rs 886 a kg from Rs 790 a kg and the minimum declined to Rs 376 a kg from Rs 412 a kg.

#### **Auction average**

The auction average rose to Rs 612 a kg from Rs 570 a kg the previous Sunday. However, anything below Rs 750 a kg is not remunerative, growers said.

The current season has begun officially from August 1, 2013 and hence total arrivals during the season up to November 10, stood at 7,075 tonnes against 3,243 tonnes as on November 10 during the last season. Sales were at 6,914 tonnes and 3,042 tonnes respectively.

The weighted average price as on November 10 stood at around Rs 605.97 a kg against Rs 737.30 a kg during the same period a year ago.

Prices of all the graded varieties moved up last week on buying support and their prices in Rs a kg at last weekend were: AGEB 740-750; AGB 615-625; AGS 575-585; and AGS-1: 555-565. Prices in the open market in Bodi on Monday were for 8 mm Rs 825 a kg, 7-8 mm Rs 675; 6-7 mm Rs 550 and below 6 mm Rs 500-510, trade sources there said.

# Low pressure in Bay intensifying into depression

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**Thiruvananthapuram, Nov. 11:** The low-pressure area over south-east Bay of Bengal has intensified one round into a well-marked 'low' on Monday.

This happened after typhoon Haiyan ended its destructive run over the Philippines, Vietnam and parts of south-west China on Monday.

## **TROPICAL STORM**

India Met Department expects the 'low' in the Bay to intensify further into a depression, the equivalent of a minimal tropical storm, by Tuesday.

Sea-surface temperatures over south-east and adjoining south-central Bay of Bengal are close to 30 degrees Celsius, which provides it the perfect environment for intensification. But the warmth tapers off over the south-west Bay which the depression will spin its way into in due course, and which abuts the Tamil Nadu coast where it will make a landfall by the weekend.

The moot question is whether the depression will strengthen into a deep depression (next to being called a tropical cyclone) before it enters Tamil Nadu.

## **CLOSE WATCH**

On Monday, no weather model seemed to be indicating such an eventuality though most saw moderate to heavy rain lashing the north Tamil Nadu-south Andhra Pradesh coast.

India Met Department expected the rainfall activity to increase over Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh coasts from the weekend.

US forecasters saw another likely week of moderate rainfall for most of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and parts of Karnataka next week.

## **COLDER NORTH**

Meanwhile in the North, the colder minimum temperatures below 10 degree Celsius extended to more parts of western Himalayas and pockets of Punjab, Haryana and north Rajasthan.

Minimum temperatures are below normal by 2-3 degree Celsius over many parts of northwest and northeast India, Saurashtra, Kutch, Odisha, east Madhya Pradesh, north Andhra Pradesh and north Karnataka.

Najibabad in Uttar Pradesh retained the status of being the coldest place (7.6 degree Celsius) in the plains for a second day on Monday.

# Slack demand crushes soyabean futures

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**Indore, Nov. 11:** Soyabean in Indore mandis ruled firm on Monday at Rs 3,825-4,025 a quintal on subdued demand even as arrivals rose to 3-3.25 lakh bags.

Soyabean prices have been ruling high for the past one week in local mandis with prices exceeding Rs 4,000 a quintal.

Besides strong festival demand, weak arrivals on account of Diwali, fall in crop output estimate due to crop damage, have contributed to steep rise in the prices during the peak harvesting season, said a trader .



In futures, however, soyabean traded lower on weak buying support with November and December contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 3,953 (down Rs 9.50) and Rs 3,959 a quintal (down Rs 10) respectively. Plant deliveries declined to Rs 3,940-70 (Rs 3,950-4,025) on sluggish demand.

Soyameal ruled firm at Rs 34,000-34,200 a quintal on export demand .

Soya oil declined on sluggish demand and profit taking at the higher rate.

On Monday, soya refined declined to Rs 685-90 (down Rs 10), while soya solvent ruled at Rs 648-50 (Rs 655-60).

In futures, however, soya oil traded higher despite weak futures with its November and December contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 728.90 (up Rs 3.35) and Rs 729 (up Rs 7.10) respectively.

## Pepper tops Rs 500/kg in spot, futures markets

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**Kochi, Nov. 11:** Pepper prices topped Rs 500 a kg on Monday on both futures and spot markets.

On the National Multi Commodity Exchange, November contracts did not trade, as they are nearing maturity on November 15, while the December series shot up to Rs 50,100 a quintal.



Apprehensions about potential damage to pepper gardens in Vietnam by Typhoon Haiyan that ashed that country are said to have aided the price rise, market sources told *Business Line*.

In that case, the market fears further squeeze in availability, they said.

Add to this, the International Pepper Community session is under way in Kuching, Malaysia.

India is understood to be projecting a lower production figure which is attributed to the price rise.

At the same time, the availability here

continues to remain tight. Even though the ungarbled pepper price was placed at Rs 487 at the terminal market, in the upcountry markets it was traded at Rs 500.



Arrivals on the spot today stood at five tonnes and they were traded at Rs 500 a kg. On the NMCE, December and January contracts increased by Rs 1,092 and Rs 16 respectively to Rs 50,100 and Rs 50,300 a quintal. On the IPSTA, there were said to be buyers at ceiling levels i.e., at Rs 1,000 above.

Therefore, November and December contracts were closed at Rs 49,000 a quintal each. On the NMCE the turnover was at seven tonnes up by one tonne. Open interest was also up by one tonne to 15 tonnes.

Spot prices shot up by Rs 800 on strong demand amid tight supply to close at historic high of Rs 48,700 for ungarbled and Rs 50,700 for garbled a quintal.

In the international market, Indian parity shot up despite weakening of the rupee against the dollar to \$8,550 (c&f) for Europe and \$8,850 a tonne (c&f) for the US.

Thus, Malabar remained above all other origins even though they all were reportedly firm.

## Inferior quality arrivals grind turmeric

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**Erode, Nov. 11:** About 45 per cent of the turmeric that arrived found takers in Erode turmeric markets on Monday as the stocks were of medium quality. "Only 2,490 bags arrived for sale and local traders and one or two exporters procured for their local and committed orders from North India. But they quoted a lower price. Still traders and exporters are awaiting upcountry orders. Prices in

the futures market remained at Rs 4,600 a quintal. Local and north Indian traders are buying turmeric from Andhra Pradesh as it is cheaper," said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

On Monday, no stockists purchased the spice as they are having huge inventories with them.

Due to inferior quality, the hybrid finger variety dropped by Rs 550, while the local finger variety declined by Rs 200 a quintal. In the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, sales were encouraging.

Traders procured more than 700 bags. Similarly at the Gobichettipalayam Cooperative marketing Society, too, sales were encouraging. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,599-5,699 a quintal; the root variety at Rs 3,396-4,711.

**Salem Hybrid:** The finger variety sold at Rs 4,809-6,011 and the root variety at Rs 4,499-5,419. Of the 584 bags that arrived, only 78 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,714-5,944; the root variety Rs 4,009-4,837. Of the 304 bags on offer, 237 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety quoted Rs 4,266-5,717; the root variety Rs 3,933-4,979. Of the 749 bags that arrived, 729 were traded.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,629-5,930; the root variety Rs 3,939-4,842. Of the arrival of 183 bags, 178 were sold.

## Imported edible oils rise despite sluggish offtake

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**Mumbai, Nov. 11:** Weak domestic currency, firm futures lifted imported palmolein and soya oil by Rs 5 for 10 kg each in Mumbai on Monday despite slack demand. Domestic soya oil futures rose by Rs 7-9.



Groundnut oil rose by Rs 10 tracking rise in Saurashtra market. Rapeseed oil declined by Rs 7. Stockists stayed away from taking new risk.

A Mumbai-based broker said: "Weak futures markets and slack physical demand kept the volume need-based in resale. Resellers offloaded palmolein at Rs 603-607 for ready delivery.

Towards the day's close, Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 614, super palmolein at Rs 644 and super deluxe at Rs 664, soyabean refined oil at Rs 724 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 790.

Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 611 ex-JNPT and Rs 613 ex-Patalganga, soyabean refined oil at Rs 721 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 740.

Allana quoted palmolein at Rs 615, super palmolein at Rs 640, super deluxe at Rs 660, soyabean refined oil at Rs 720 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 785.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil rose by Rs 30 to Rs 1,320 for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) by Rs 25 to Rs 850.

**Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's December settled higher at MYR 2,530 (MYR 2,507), January at MYR 2,528 (MYR 2,508) and February at MYR 2,531 (MYR 2,510).**

**The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 860 (850), soya refined oil 715 (710), sunflower exp. ref. 670 (670), sunflower ref. 750 (750), rapeseed ref. oil 765 (772), rapeseed expeller ref. 735 (742) cottonseed ref. oil 680 (680) and palmolein 605 (600).**

**Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd quoted Rs 650/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein November delivery.**

## Pusa rice may soon zoom to Rs 10,000 a quintal

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**Karnal, Nov. 11:** An unexpected rally in the market pushed up aromatic and Sharbati rice prices by Rs 200-500 a quintal on Monday, while PR varieties ruled firm on moderate buying. Amit Chandna, Proprietor, Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told *Business*

*Line that frantic buying by bulk buyers in order to build inventories pushed aromatic and sharbati prices further up.*

*Rice millers don't have much carry-forward stocks this year and the new stocks are not ready yet. The market is getting good demand from overseas markets too, he said.*

*According to the market experts, if the current situation persists, Pusa-1121 (steam) may even touch the Rs 10,000 a quintal mark in the coming days.*

*In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) moved further up by Rs 500 and sold at Rs 9,200-9,300, while Pusa-1121 (sela) improved by Rs 300 to Rs 8,100 .*

*Pure Basmati (Raw) went up by Rs 200 to Rs 12,700 . Duplicate basmati (steam) sold at Rs 7,300 , Rs 300 up.*

*In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) was up by Rs 400 at Rs 5,500-5,700, while Sharbati (Sela) quoted at Rs 5,200 , Rs 300 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) sold at Rs 3,400 .*

### **Paddy arrivals**

*About 40,000 bags of PR paddy arrived and quoted at Rs 1,350-1,500 , around 40,000 bags of Pusa-1121 arrived and sold at Rs 3,750-4,400 , while 10,000 bags of Sharbati arrived and sold at Rs 2,400-2,550 . Around 10,000 bags of Duplicate Basmati arrived and went for Rs 4,000-4,200 , while 1,000 bags of Pure Basmati sold at Rs 5,600-5,900 a quintal.*

## Stockists keep away from sugar market

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**Mumbai, Nov. 11:** Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market increased by Rs 20 for S-grade at the lower-end and declined by Rs 4 for M-grade on Monday on routine activities amid need-based buying. As sufficient stock is available in the market, stockists kept away from fresh bulk buying.



A Vashi-based wholesaler said that local retail demand eased after Diwali. *Naka* and mill tender rates were almost steady with minor changes on routine volumes. Futures were also bearish with thin volatility. Freight rates were steady at Rs 90-95 a bag.

The Vashi market currently carries 115-120 truckloads of stocks and in absence of any positive cues activities remain need-based. On the other hand, producers are continuously selling and hence, the sugar market is carrying a surplus condition.

Arrivals in Vashi market were 60-61 truckloads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 59- 60 loads. On Saturday evening, about 17-18 mills offered tenders and sold 62,000-64,000 bags at Rs 2,710-2,830 (Rs 2,710-2,830) for S-grade and Rs 2,860-3,000 (Rs 2,860-3,000) for M-grade.

**The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,880-2,996 (Rs 2,860-2,996) and M-grade Rs 3,012-3,232 (Rs 3,016-3,232). ***Naka* delivery rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,825-2,900 (Rs 2,825-2,860) and M-grade Rs 2,890-3,110 (Rs 2,950-3,110).

**Uttar Pradesh rates were:** Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,220.

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