

Weather forecasts soon at doorstep of ryots: ICAR chief



Steps to increase Ongole bull population promised

ICAR Director General S. Ayyappan at the dairy farm of U. Prasada Rao in Ghantasalavaripalem in Krishna district.— PHOTO: T. APPALA NAIDU

Indian Council of Agricultural Research Director General S. Ayyappan hoped that National Dairy Plan-I (2011-17) will attract more number of farmers in India to the dairy sector, without any impact on agriculture production.

“Increasing the population of cattle breeds, including Ongole bull, is one of the prime areas that have been targeted to achieve, in addition to helping the small and marginal farmers go for mechanised farming,” said Mr. Ayyappan. Secretary to Department of Agriculture and Research, Mr. Ayyappan, inspected one of the district’s biggest dairy unit owned by U. Prasada Rao of Ghantasalapalem village where he enquired about growth and population of the Ongole bull. Speaking to dairy farmers during his inspection of several varieties of buffaloes and cows, he advised them to expand their units by rearing goats and sheep. Expressing concern over intensification of research on developing cereal varieties in Andhra Pradesh, he visited paddy fields in Ghantasala mandal headquarters and later inaugurated Krishi Vignana Kendram here.

“India’s 12th Five Year Plan largely assures weather forecast services and handing over better yield processing technologies to the farmer. Small farmers need to switch to mechanisation to help boost productivity,” he added. On the indiscriminate usage of Oxytocin on cattle, Mr. Ayyappan told *The Hindu* that dairy farmers had to be more cautious in usage of large quantities of the drug as it would pose health hazards.

Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University Vice Chancellor A. Padma Raju and other officials accompanied him.

☐ ***Urges small farmers to opt for mechanisation to boost productivity***

☐ ***Appeals to Krishna farmers to avoid indiscriminate use of Oxytocin***

Hard work helps farmer turn barren land into a virtual gold mine



OWNER'S PRIDE: Basavaraj Jeevanagi in his lush-green papaya orchard at Pattan village in Gulbarga taluk.

GULBARGA, November 16, 2013 - The firm belief of Basavaraj Jeevanagi in agriculture and his never-say-die approach have turned his once-barren land into a virtual gold mine. His success story has become the envy of fellow

farmers in Pattan village near Gulbarga city.

Mr. Jeevanagi's 20 acres of land, which once remained unfit for agriculture, now houses a bountiful papaya orchard, a lush green sugarcane field and a red gram-filled agriculture plot. The infertile land did not turn into a fertile patch overnight, as Mr. Jeevanagi tried to tap groundwater by drilling 27 borewells in different locations without any success. However, he finally struck success when he drilled a borewell in a far-off piece of land that he purchased couple of years ago, changing the course of his life.

The 20-acre land was situated on a slope of a hillock and the fertile top soil in the land washed off regularly in rain and the farmer was at a loss to prevent this. Then came help from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) attached to the Agriculture Research Station of the University of Agriculture Sciences, Gulbarga.

Coordinator of the kendra and Agriculture Scientist Raju Teggalli suggested terrace farming coupled with land levelling using the latest laser technology and construction of a pond to store water pumped from a high yielding borewell.

"I invested Rs. 50 lakh for building the pond, and converting the infertile land into fertile land through terrace farming with four layers," Mr. Jeevanagi said.

Mr. Jeevanagi has taken up cultivation of the Taiwan red lady variety of papaya in the first and second layers in 10 acres of land. In the third layer, he has constructed the pond and in another part of the land, he is cultivating onion and red gram. In the last layer, he is cultivating sugarcane.

The farmer said that all four layers of the land have been scientifically levelled using laser technology. Now, he can save every drop of rainwater and prevent the loss of top soil.

Dr. Teggalli said that the hard work of the farmer, combined with the latest technology extended by the kendra, has helped Mr. Jeevanagi achieve success.

Basavaraj Jeevanagi's efforts, combined with the latest technology by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, have helped him achieve success

Land tax: hill farmers threaten stir

KOZHIKODE, November 16, 2013 Farmers in hill ranges of the district have appealed to Chief Minister Oommen Chandy to direct the district administration to grant permission to the nearly 200 farmer-families in Koorachundu, and Kanthalad villages to pay land tax . O.D. Thomas, chairman of the hill range farmers action committee, which had been organising agitations on this issue warned at a press conference on Friday that the agitation would resume as the District Collector had failed to accept the decision taken at a meeting attended by ministers to allow the farmers to pay land tax. This decision was taken after the Chief Minister intervened in the issue and held a meeting of all concerned in Thiruvananthapuram on January 16 this year, Mr. Thomas said. The action committee had been claiming that all farmers who had land in their possession before January 1, 1977 were eligible to pay tax on the land. The committee warned there would be strong agitations if the district authorities did not change its 'anti-farmer policy.'

Emu farmers seek waiver of loan

The Andhra Pradesh State Emu Bird Farmers' Association appealed to the Nabard to waive their loans and save them from losses incurred in the recent years. The association also requested the Director-General of Indian Council for Agricultural Research Ayyappan to make a recommendation to that effect, at a meeting here on Friday.

Phailin effect: leafy vegetables become costlier

BERHAMPUR, November 16, 2013 - *Markets in Ganjam district do not have supply of vegetables from local farmers*

Phailin cyclone and the floods that followed have made leafy vegetables or 'saag', which were the cheapest things in vegetable market, costly than most vegetables and a rarity. Earlier different 'saag' was being sold in bunches priced from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 for each bunch. But Phailin has changed its pricing. Now in most vegetable markets of the city, these leafy vegetables are being sold as per weight. Price is also quite high. On Friday 'Kosala saag' was being sold at Rs. 120 per kg, making it out of reach for most families.

"Earlier doctors used to prescribe leafy vegetables or 'saag' to be included in the diet as cheapest source of iron and other nutrients, which could be taken even by the poorest. But now the same item has become too costly prompting us to avoid it during shopping for vegetables," said Kumari Panda, a housewife of the city. As per vegetable traders like Padia Pradhan, steep decline in supply of these leafy vegetables has led to this exorbitant rise in their price. He accepted that now people buy 'saag' out of compulsion as its price has become almost equivalent to price of fish which sells at Rs. 120 to 140 per kg.

Vegetable cultivation has been completely devastated by the cyclone and floods. At present, vegetable markets in Berhampur and other parts of Ganjam district do not have any major supply of vegetables from local farmers. During past years fresh vegetables produced locally used to reach markets of Ganjam district during winter months. But as per a vegetable farmer of Bikrampur village, K.G. Reddy, most vegetable farmers had expected good return this year as they had good rain and conducive climate. But their hopes were devastated by the cyclone and the continuous rains after that. Most vegetable fields got water logged and the plants got decomposed.

Devastation by cyclone and floods have occurred in Hinjli, Sgergarh, Purushottampur, Chatrapur and Rangeilunda blocks which were major centres for vegetable cultivation and used to supply fresh vegetables to Berhampur market. As per the vegetable growers even if they start cultivation now, they would be able to get the produce after three months. Till then the vegetable market of Ganjam district would have to depend on the vegetables brought from other parts of the State or other States. So, their price would remain high. At present average price of price of most vegetables is around Rs. 60 per kg in the city. But families would not get 'saag' in good supply and low price as it cannot be brought from outside as it degrade fast.

Vegetable markets in Berhampur and other parts of Ganjam district do not have any major supply of vegetables from local farmers

Now, power from vegetable waste

COIMBATORE, November 16, 2013 - *Corporation to build the first plant at Kavundampalayam*

In an effort aimed at processing degradable waste and also generating power, the Coimbatore Corporation has mooted a proposal to generate power from waste obtained from vegetable markets in the city.

A resolution adopted at the Corporation's Urgent Council meeting on Thursday said that through the biomethanation process the Corporation would built waste-to-energy plants of various capacities — depending on the quantity of waste generated, which could vary from three to 10 tonnes.

The Corporation would build the plants with its fund or go in for public private partnerships to construct the plants. On a pilot basis, the Corporation would build the first plant at the proposed vegetable market in Kavundampalayam.

After estimating the quantity of garbage generated at five tonnes, the Corporation had proposed to construct a bio-methanation-cum-power generation plant. It had floated an e-tender on July 18, 2013. As there was only one bidder, the Corporation was forced to cancel the tender and float a second on September 18. The second attempt saw bids from two players. Of those, the Corporation's tender scrutiny committee had decided to award the tender to a Pune-based engineering company which that quoted Rs. 89 lakh for the construction of the plant and Rs. 72 lakh for a seven-year maintenance period.

The Council approved of the resolution. Similarly, it also decided to seek expression of interest from companies for process plastic waste. A resolution adopted in this regard said that to explore the possibilities of processing the plastic waste to manufacture other products, the Corporation would like to invite companies with the necessary technologies. It

was imperative to do so because the segregated collection of waste in Ward 23 had yielded plastic waste that could be processed. Plus, as the Corporation was about to extend the segregated collection system under the Shunya zero waste management scheme, there was every possibility that the quantity of plastics so collected would go up.

Along with the two waste management proposals, the Corporation also decided to seek the State Government's administrative sanction for the 24X7 water supply scheme, handover roads to the State Highways Department for construction of road-over bridges and accept the bids for constructing a foot-over bridge near the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital junction.

☐ ***Through biomethanation process, the civic body will build waste-to-energy plants***

☐ ***Tender awarded to a Pune-based engineering company***

Daily milk procurement crosses 1 lakh litre-mark

ARIYALUR, November 16, 2013 - The daily milk procurement has crossed one lakh litre mark in Ariyalur district following a comprehensive dairy development programme launched to benefit primary milk producers' societies. The measures included maximum utilisation of programmes such as National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP), drought relief fund scheme, and strengthening of infrastructure for quality and clean milk production, according to Collector E. Saravanelraj.

Explaining the subsidy-based schemes implemented to give an impetus to milk production, he said fodder crop cultivation was encouraged under these schemes. Setting up of group chilling plants at Vilangudi Kaikatti and Keezhapazhur has augmented the production. The work on setting up a chilling plant in Jayamkondam is expected to be completed by the end of this month. These group milk chilling plants have come up at an expenditure of Rs. 82.7 lakh. A total of 90 new cooperative societies were formed in the district under the NADP during 2012-13, of which 65 societies have been supplying milk.

Treatment to livestock at an expenditure of Rs. 7.56 lakh has been in progress. A couple of veterinary consultants have been appointed under the scheme for ascertaining the quality of the milk while primary cooperative societies have been sanctioned a dozen milk analysers with stirrer and printer at an expenditure of Rs. 4.38 lakh.

Subsidy has been released to the tune of Rs. 51.83 lakh to the cooperative societies under the drought relief fund scheme for the purchase of livestock feed. This apart, about 17 tonnes of mineral salt has been distributed at a subsidy of Rs. 4.25 lakh.

Egg rate scales to new high

Price increased to help farmers get a better price: NECC

NAMAKKAL: The wholesale price of egg in Tamil Nadu (excluding Chennai) was fixed at a new record high price of Rs. 3.90 on Thursday. It is 6 paise more than the previous highest prices of Rs. 3.90 that was fixed by the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC), Namakkal Zone on Tuesday.

Price of commodity

With the increase in egg rate on Thursday, price of the commodity has increased by 35 paise in the wholesale market in the last two weeks – from November 1.

Earlier, the highest price of egg was Rs. 3.85 from February 25 to 27, 2013. After ups and downs over the last nine months the price reached Rs. 3.85 for the second time on Monday, November 11.

Farmers are unable to reap the same profit that they got in February, when they got Rs. 3.60 in hand against the then wholesale price of Rs. 3.85. Small and medium scale farmers lamented that people are of the assumption that the price fixed by the NECC is reaching the farmers.

“This is not true”, farmers said and added that traders and middlemen are dominating the egg industry.

“Farmers are unable to maintain the price deducted for transportation that was fixed by the NECC at 25 paise per egg lesser than the board rate. The deduction is now in the range of 40 to 55 paise, due to which we are not able to get a good price for our produce though the price of egg is on the rise across the country due to demand”, K. Manimaran (64) a poultry farmer said. On the other hand traders claim that the deduction is high due to the increasing price hike of diesel. “We are sending more eggs to North India, due to drop in consumption in the domestic market. This costs us more for transporting eggs and to compete with the local market in those states”, they added.

NECC sources said that they are increasing the price to help farmers get a better price.

“Traders were giving farmers Rs. 3 an egg to farmers when the NECC fixed the board rate at Rs. 3.40. Now farmers are able to realise a better price in the range of Rs. 3.41 to Rs. 3.56 an egg”, P. Tamilarasan Vice President of the NECC Namakkal Zone said.

Allegations

He ruled out allegations that price fixed by the NECC was artificial.

Dr. Tamilarasan added that the price here was also fixed based on the price prevailing in other NECC zones across the country.

The price is seeing an upward trend in other zones too and there is chance for the price in Namakkal to increase further”, he added.

Committees to keep tabs on rice movement: Gundu Rao

'Criminal cases will be filed against the guilty'

Terming the existence of a large number of bogus ration cards and diversion of foodgrains from the public distribution system (PDS) to open market the biggest challenges, Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies Dinesh Gundu Rao has said that vigilance committees will be constituted at grassroots level to keep tabs on transportation of rice.

Mr. Rao was speaking to presspersons here on Friday.

"I accept that irregularities like issuance of bogus ration cards and illegal diversion of PDS foodgrains are prevailing. However, such instances have not cropped up suddenly. They are there for decades. We have decided to form vigilance committees, with citizens as its members, to curb such malpractices. People can also call on 1967 and register their complaints and grievances," he said.

Warning that criminal cases would be filed against those involved in irregularities in PDS, he said that without the assistance of officials, such instances could not happen. There were over 96 lakh below the poverty line and Antyodaya cardholders in the State. In addition, 30 lakh applications had been submitted online for new ones. "Once the verification and issuance of new cards get over, about 80 per cent of the State's population would be covered under the Anna Bhagya scheme," he said. Asked whether the ever increasing percentage of Anna Bhagya beneficiaries would raise a question on the declining standard of living, the Minister said that the scheme was not for the poor, but for a majority of people. Referring to lack of fair price depots in many villages and even urban areas, Mr. Rao said that ways to address the issue were being explored. "We have decided to approach gram panchayats and city municipal councils to set up fair price depots in places where such depots have been closed down due to cancellation of licences," he said.

"We will procure millets and jowar, along with paddy, directly from farmers at the minimum support price fixed by the government through procurement centres during January, February and March. We may be able to include other foodgrains in the Anna Bhagya scheme by March-end," he said.

📌 ***'There are over 96 lakh BPL, Antyodaya card-holders in State'***

📌 ***'Distribution of millets, jowar under Anna Bhagya scheme likely from March 2014'***

'Withdraw levy rice system'

RAICHUR, November 16, 2013 - *RCCI terms the target unattainable, unscientific*

The Raichur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has urged the government to withdraw the levy imposed on rice mill owners. Speaking to *The Hindu*, president of the RCCI, Trivikram Joshi, said the crisis being faced by rice mills across Raichur district would deepen if the government persisted with the levy system. The owners would be left with no

other option but to shut down their rice mills, he said. "It will be impossible to meet the target of 13.5 lakh tonnes of levy rice this year, considering the fact that the target of a mere 1.5 lakh tonnes levy rice set last year could not be met," he said. Mr. Joshi pointed out that the government, for its ambitious Anna Bhagya programme, was purchasing ordinary rice from outside the State at Rs. 29 a kg while within the State, it was paying only Rs. 21.5 a kg for high quality Sona Masuri rice. — Staff Correspondent

☐ ***'If the government persists with present system, rice mills will shut down'***

☐ ***'Minister not considering impact on entire industry'***

Levy rice target cannot be reduced: Minister

RAICHUR, November 16, 2013 - *'Government keen on providing adequate food to the poor'* Rejecting the plea of rice mill owners categorically, Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies, has said that he could not reduce the quantity of levy rice proposed to be collected from rice mill owners for the State government's Anna Bhagya scheme. Mr. Rao was speaking at a meeting of rice mill owners at the Deputy Commissioner's office here on Friday.

When president of the Raichur Rice Millers' Association A. Papareddy explained that that it would be impossible to meet the targeted 13.5 lakh tonnes of levy rice for the current year, considering the fact that the 1.5 lakh tonnes target could not be met last year, the Minister responded with a firm 'no'.

"No question of revising the levy rice collection target. It is the State government's commitment to ensure that poor people got adequate food," he said and added that as last year the target had not been met, this year the target should be met.

The mill owners said that high quality sona masuri rice, not the ordinary IR-64 rice was being cultivated in the State. As the price of sona masuri rice in the open market was about Rs. 4,000 a quintal, it could not be sold at Rs. 2,200 a quintal. Last year, IR-64 variety of rice was brought from northern India and sold to the government, they said. Harsh Gupta, Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, suggested that mill owners follow the same procedure this year too.

Panel to decide on crop price

UDUPI, November 16, 2013 - Urban Development Minister Vinay Kumar Sorake said on Friday that the State government was planning to have a panel to decide on the prices for agricultural crops. Mr. Sorake said that formation of such an authority would reduce the menace of middlemen and farmers would get just prices for their produce. The State government has already announced a support price of Rs. 1,600 per quintal of paddy.

Compensation

A compensation of Rs. 12,000 per hectare would be given to arecanut growers whose plantations had been destroyed by *kole roga*.

Farmers meeting held

UDHAGAMANDALAM, November 16, 2013 - The threat to standing crops from stray wild animals figured prominently at the farmers' grievances redress meeting conducted by the district administration here on Friday. Farmers lamented that they were losing heavily due to wild animals frequently raiding their crops. The Nilgiris Collector P. Shankar presided.

Water level

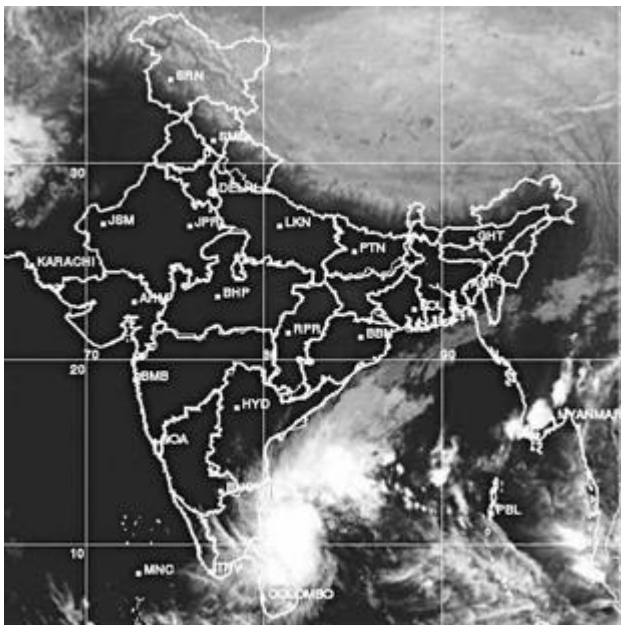
TIRUNELVELI, November 16, 2013 - Water level in the Papanasam dam on Friday stood at 91.75 feet (maximum level is 143 feet).

The dam had an inflow of 1,549.40 cusecs following the rainfall of 46 mm and 1,037.25 cusecs of water is discharged from the dam.

The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 66.95 feet (118 feet).

The dam had an inflow of 254 cusecs and no water is discharged.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on November 15.

ANDHRA PRADESH			
Anantapur	31	150	51
Arogyavaram	28	140	159
Bapatla	30	180	504
Calingapatnam	29	170	922
Gannavaram	31	180	411
Hanamkonda	30	150	284
Hyderabad AP	28	140	239
Kakinada	31	210	622
Khammam	32	210	98
Kavali	30	190	406
Kurnool	31	160	96
Mahabubnagar	31	140	163
Machilipatnam	30	210	384
Narasapur	30	200	606
Nellore	31	210	323
Nizamabad	30	150	106
Ongole	33	200	489
Ramagundam	29	130	201
Tirupathi AP	31	190	256
Tuni	31	200	470
Vizag AP	31	200	555
Vizag	30	220	511
KARNATAKA			
Agumbe	29	120	583
Bengaluru AP	27	160	113
Bengaluru	28	160	104
Belgaum AP	28	120	60
Bellary	30	140	63
Bijapur	29	110	113
Chitradurga	29	130	54
Chickmagalur	29	150	41
Chintamani	27	110	50
Gadag	28	150	88
Gulbarga	31	160	35
Hassan	30	200	83
Honavar	34	220	261
Karwar	36	210	167
Madikeri	24	130	189
Mangalore AP	32	220	305
Mysore	29	180	127
Mandya	29	160	132
Panambur	33	230	235
Raichur	29	130	102
Shirali	33	210	414

KERALA			
Alappuzha	31	250	187
Kannur	33	230	320
Kochi AP	33	2158	451
Kottayam	34	230	470
Kozhikode	33	250	269
Punalur	34	230	533
Thiruvanantha			
-puram AP	31	240	307
Thiruvanantha			
-puram City	32	230	386
Vellanikkara	33	2317	405
TAMIL NADU			
Adiramapattinam	31	220	110
Chennai	30	230	197
Chennai AP	30	22tr	256
Coimbatore AP	31	210	111
Coonoor	20	110	285
Cuddalore	31	220	170
Dharmapuri	30	180	159
Kanyakumari	32	2235	214
Karaikal	29	230	162
Kodaikanal	17	100	165
Madurai AP	33	230	197
Nagapattinam	30	230	154
Palayamkottai	32	240	233
Pamban	31	260	194
Parangipettai	31	230	286
Puducherry	31	210	130
Salem	31	190	153
Thanjavur	30	250	117
Tiruchi AP	31	220	161
Tiruttani	31	190	205
Tondi	31	230	259
Tuticorin	30	240	161
Ooty	19	9 0	204
Valparai	26	130	270
Vellore	30	190	78
LAKSHADWEEP			
Amini Divi	32	250	92
Minicoy	32	251	118
OTHER STATIONS			
Kolkata (Alipore)	28	180	523
Mumbai	32	220	66
New Delhi	26	100	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 ANDHRA PRADESH

CHENNAI: The depression over southwest Bay of Bengal moved southwestward and lay centered at 08-30 a.m. on Friday near latitude 9.5{+0}N and longitude 83.5{+0}E, about 530 km southeast of Chennai and 420 km east-southeast of Nagapattinam. The system would move west-northwestward and cross north Tamil Nadu coast near Nagapattinam around Saturday evening.

Rainfall occurred at a few places over Kerala. Isolated rainfall occurred over Tamil Nadu. Mainly dry weather prevailed over coastal Karnataka and Lakshadweep. Dry weather prevailed over Andhra Pradesh and interior Karnataka.

Forecast (valid till Sunday morning): Rain would occur at many places over coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and at a few places over Kerala and south coastal Andhra Pradesh. Isolated rain or thundershowers may occur over interior Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, north coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema . Mainly dry weather will prevail over Telangana and Karnataka.

Heavy rainfall warning: Isolated heavy to very heavy rain would occur over north coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry during next 48 hours. Rainfall at most places with heavy to very falls at a few places and isolated extremely heavy falls would occur over north Tamil Nadu on 16th & 17th November.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Saturday, Nov 16

Max Min

31° | 24°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 59

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:05

Sunset: 05:39

Barometer: 1006

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Sunday, Nov 17

Max Min

31° | 24°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday
Nov 18



27° | 24°

Cloudy

Tuesday
Nov 19



26° | 22°

Cloudy

Wednesday
Nov 20



27° | 22°

Cloudy

Thursday
Nov 21



27° | 26°

Overcast

Friday
Nov 22



28° | 25°

Overcast

African delegation visits Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to study agricultural practices

COIMBATORE: Julius Khaemba Masinde, part of the agriculture faculty with the department of crops, horticulture and soil sciences at the Egerton University in Kenya, was impressed with the activities undertaken by various agricultural departments in India. He feels the country is moving in the right direction, as far as agriculture is concerned. From subsidies and loans to extension activities implemented, he is confident that many of the practices could be adapted in his country.

Masinde is part of a 30-member delegation from Africa, Liberia and Malawi who were at the [Tamil Nadu Agricultural University](#) (TNAU) on Friday to learn about agricultural practices in India. The team is on a 2-month visit to the country as part of the Indo-US agreement in 2010 when US President [Barack Obama](#) visited. The agreement to address global food security includes India's efforts towards capacity building operations for agricultural officers especially in extension activities. The team which came to India on October 15 will be here till December 13. They visited Punjab, Delhi and Kerala before coming to Tamil Nadu where they will be interacting with farmers, scientists and research institutions. The delegation will be in Coimbatore for another 2 days and will leave on Sunday to visit the Northern states.

S Senthil Vinayagam, an officer with the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, in charge of the team, said that the delegation is here to observe and understand our agricultural practices.

"India is a developing nation and we have several aspects to learn," remarked Julius. For instance there are several agricultural developments in Kenya but as interest rates for loans are high, Kenyan farmers are unable to make use of them. "The interest rate for loans in Kenya is more than 18 percent. This makes it very difficult for farmers there to avail loans while in India, farmers get substantial subsidies," he said.

"In our country, farmers are left to do all their activities including marketing by themselves. Co-operatives of farmers is an idea which we can easily adapt and implement successfully," said Matilda Mtambo, an agricultural officer with the Agricultural Ministry of Malawi. Similarly, many agricultural institutes have active interactions with the media. Reaching out to farmers through the media is another aspect to consider, he added.

"Our farmers are mostly illiterate so we need more programmes broadcast on radio and television. We need several programmes showcasing successful farmers on television for motivation," she noted.

The use of communication devices by various agriculture related agencies and departments was of interest to Aquay Michael, an extension officer from Liberia. As a country which has recovered from a bloody civil war in 2004, many of the systems are yet to develop. "We officers still need to go physically to submit reports and get information. Internet facilities are yet to be developed. This is a powerful tool which can be developed without much investment," he said.

From farmers' delight to a liability

DHARWAD: There's nothing you can tell Yellappa Bendigeri to make him step inside the agricultural museum at Dharwad. The farmer from Chikkamalligwad says the 98-year-old structure has been rotting away for about four years now.

The museum at Shivaji circle, run by the [Karnataka Krishi Sangha](#) (KKS), was once the go-to place for farmers in the district. They got the low-down on every new farming-related technology - be it an invention, a seed or a crop species. In its heydays, explains farmer [Shivanad Poojar](#), all the rooms in it had on display different kinds of seed and plant breeds. The staff guided visiting farmers on various agricultural aspects - from sowing to harvesting. Woman farmers were also trained, adds Poojar.

The museum's condition today can serve as a study in contrasts. Not only are the exhibit cases empty, but some of them are also broken, alleges Bendigeri. Maps on crop patterns of various regions are damaged and a thick film of dust lines every room. Waste has been generously dumped in some rooms, which many birds like pigeons and sparrows have turned into their homes.

Poojar explains that now, farmers prefer heading off to the [University of Agricultural Sciences](#), instead, when they need guidance.

Blaming the museum's downfall on the severe fund crunch it faces, he claims that the KKS has not got any grant from the state government to run it.

Mallikarjun Malladad, managing director of KKS, admits that the museum is dilapidated. "We have not undertaken any repair work as the building is too old and may crumble during renovations."

He, however, adds that there are big remodelling plans in the pipeline. "We plan to construct a new complex, the [Krishi Smaraka Bhavan](#), which will house the museum. We will develop it in a big way to help farmers."

Agriculture Department to popularise farmers field schools in Kerala

For shifting the focus from intensive to integrated farming for sustainable agriculture, the Agriculture Department is restoring the Farmers Field School (FFS), a group-based field learning process which started years ago. The idea is to strengthen and widen the concept of sustainable farming without damaging the ecosystem and natural resources. In FFS, the farmers are divided into groups of 20 to 25 and they discuss farming related issues and resolve them by considering the peculiar features of a particular region.

The discussions are done by sitting near the farms and there are no formal platforms for this. The normal period for a farmer to be part of the FFS is 14 to 16 weeks in which the officials visit the field every week. It works informally where officials exactly take the role of extension workers rather than that of farmer friends.

“The farmers who participate in the learning process will have a clear idea of controlling insects, each stage of growth of the crop and what he should do in each stage. This would help them in future also. In FFS, learning by doing is followed. The learning was an eye opener for many farmers who believed that they had nothing new to learn in farming,” said K P Jayarajan, deputy director of the Agriculture Department.

Farmers Field Schools have been engaged in the task of controlling insects by not using pesticides and thereby retaining the fertility of soil. FFS also works for doing away with the fertilisers by switching over to organic farming. Fertilisers would be replaced by farm nutrients. Agro-ecological concept, based on ecological principles, is followed in FFS.

“In FFS, pesticides are used only as the last step. As the first step, we visit the fields and identify the insects. Then we sort out the pests and neutral pests. The neutral pests are not harmful. The other ones are killed using the natural enemies. A farmer who is under FFS learning will seldom use pesticides to kill the insects,” Jayarajan said. Also, FFS shares the successful experience of a farmer, the indigenous technology developed by him with others.

“Strengthening FFS is inevitable as the time demands. They are now given more funds,” Agricultural Technology Management Agency coordinator V Vinod said.

Though started in the '90s, FFS is yet to make its presence felt among all the farmers across the state and only a section of them are aware of its existence. By strengthening FFS, the department is attempting to ensure the reach of FFS and thereby make sustainable farming familiar to all the farmers.

Focus on nurturing trees'

Environmentally-sensitive citizens should focus more on nurturing trees than just planting saplings, K Babu, Minister for Excise and Ports, has said.

He was inaugurating a workshop organised by the Kerala Forest Department and Amrita School of Arts and Sciences on “greening urban landscape” on Thursday in Edapally Brahmasthan auditorium, Kochi.

Babu pointed that the failure to nurture is resulting in non-fulfillment of several government-sponsored greening projects.

Hibi Eden MLA, in his address, pointed out that greening projects should go hand-in-hand with scientific waste management system. “To have a pollution-free city, scientific waste management is also extremely important along with greening project,” he said.

The workshop concluded that Kochi is facing grave ecological issues with the ongoing massive urbanisation. Papers were presented that referred to the impact of the massive felling of trees in relation with the ongoing construction of Kochi metro. A large number of roadside trees from Aluva to Tripunithura Petta have been axed as part of metro works. The Forest Department has calculated that at least 14,000 trees would be planted in Kochi in 2014. The strategy of the department is to make residents’ associations, religious institutions, public sector undertakings and educational institutions part of the greening project.

The Forest department has asked these institutions to report the possible extent of the greening campaign that they can potentially take. The department has also decided to accelerate the green campaigning by involving students of visual media department of Amrita School.

Business Standard

Traders' body left abandoned by political parties in Bengal

Around 2007, Foward Bloc led the agitation against organised retail in West Bengal; some big names in retail sector have stayed away from there ever since



It was around 2007 that [Forward Bloc](#), representing a large number of trader's body, led the agitation against organised retail in [West Bengal](#). Some of the big names in the [retail sector](#) have stayed away from West Bengal, ever since.

With the Trinamool government coming to power, the allegiance of trader’s body switched, as most of them came to be known as Trinamool-backed organisations. But with [potato prices](#) soaring, the trader’s body is now suddenly without any political backing.

The differences between the state government and the trader's body became visible, when recently Paschimbanga Pragatisheel Aloo Babsayee Samiti, the traders body in control of potato marketing in West Bengal, decided to on a three-day strike. They were protesting against the state's diktat to market subsidised potatoes at Rs 13 kg and banning of inter-state export of the commodity.

Dealing with a heavy hand, the state decided to develop its own marketing network to sell potatoes at a subsidised rate.

"There were reports of heated exchanges between the traders' body and the chief minister," said sources.

The Forward Bloc, led by leaders like Naren De and Naren Chatterjee, too have disowned the traders' body.

"It is because of the selfish interest of the trader that the prices of potatoes have gone up," said Barun Mukherjee, Rajya Sabha MP from Forward Bloc.

However, many see a conspiracy behind the rise and fall in potato prices.

"It is entirely a staged exercise. The Trinamool themselves were responsible for price rise, and they themselves have brought down the prices," said Congress leader, Manas Bhunia.

"A section of Trinamool Congress leaders have formed a nexus with potato traders and big hoarders to increase the price of potato in the market," West Bengal Pradesh Congress President Pradip Bhattacharya had said yesterday.

In the open market, potatoes continued to sell between Rs 17 and 20 per kg.

Vegetable prices to remain high in next 15 days in Bengal

Majority of the early crop was destroyed in more than districts due to floods



The [West Bengal](#) government might have been able to contain [potato prices](#), but spiraling [vegetable](#) prices could be a new cause of worry for chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

With a majority early vegetable crop destroyed in more than five districts due to floods, disruption of supply of vegetables like onion and tomatoes from Jharkhand and Orissa has added to the price rise.

Vegetable prices in major markets in Kolkata are now soaring between Rs 60-90 per kg. Generally, vegetable prices in the first week of November stay between Rs 15-20 per kg. While onions continue to sell between Rs 60-70 per kg, tomatoes are selling at four times than the normal prices.

However, potato prices in the open market now have come down to nearly Rs 16 per kg, thanks to the strident measures by the state government to stop hoarding.

“In the next 15 days vegetable prices are unlikely to come down, as the early crop has been completely destroyed in districts,” said Pranab Chatterjee, professor at Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya.

While farmers have started fresh plantation of vegetables, the new crop is unlikely to arrive before the middle of December.

Meanwhile, paddy prices have also shot up to Rs 15 a kg, against normal price of Rs 11 per kg, and the MSP of Rs 10 per kg. More than 70 per cent of paddy crop in Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, Purulia , Hooghly and Bankura have been affected. The five districts account for nearly 30 per cent the state’s total rice production. About 1,00,000 tonne of paddy seeds are feared to be destroyed in the floods.

West Bengal produces nearly 13334 thousand tones of vegetables each year, grown over 943 thousand hectares of land.

In July-August, floods in nine of the 19 districts in the state, including the high rice-productivity districts of Bardhaman, Hooghly, Birbhum and Nadia, destroyed a part of standing crop.

Apart flood, decontrol of fertilizer prices has also added to the price rise, according to Barun Mukherjee, Rajya Sabha MP from Forward Bloc.

YEAR	EXPORTS	IMPORTS	TOTAL TRADE
2010-2011	2039.61	332.51	2372.12
2011-2012	1541.57	401.19	1942.76
2012-13	1837.86	513.23	2351.09
2013-14 (April-June)*	432.16	57.87	490.03

*Provisional figure

Source: DGCIIS

Value in dollar million

Potato prices may fall 20% in a week



Curbs imposed by West Bengal govt on potato exports had escalated tuber prices in Odisha up to Rs 50 per kg

Improved supplies from [Uttar Pradesh](#) and a consignment of 1200 tonne of [potato](#) from National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India ([Nafed](#)), are likely to cool [prices](#) of the essential vegetable by up to 20 per cent.

Curbs imposed by the West Bengal government on potato exports had escalated tuber prices in Odisha to up to Rs 50 per kg before the rate fell gradually to the current level of Rs 35 a kg.

“Potato prices are ruling high presently due to scarcity in supplies. But the rates will fall after the supply situation improves. In the next week, potato prices are likely to ease. The potato supplies have improved. We have started receiving potatoes from other states”, said M S Padhi, secretary, food supplies & consumer welfare.

“We have requested Nafed to supply 1200 tonne of potatoes. The Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC) has provided Rs one crore advance to Nafed. The potato laden trucks are expected to reach Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Puri, Sambalpur and Rourkela in next three days. In the second phase, we will urge Nafed to deliver potatoes to Bolangir, Mayurbhanj and Phulbani”, he added.

Nafed has indicated a price of Rs 25 a kg. Retail prices of potatoes sourced from Nafed are expected to be Rs 27-28 a kg.

Asked if the state government would hold further talks with West Bengal on the potato crisis, Padhi said, “There is no logic in continuing talks with the West Bengal government since they are not prepared to lift the export restriction completely. We are trying to source potatoes from alternative markets.”

A huge demand supply gap still persists in Odisha in potato supplies following West Bengal's decision to impose curbs on exports of the essential vegetable.

While the state's average daily requirement of potatoes is around 3000 tonne, supplies are to the tune of 1000-1500 tonne only. A lion's share of this requirement is met by West Bengal.

Veg oil import at all-time high in last 12 months



Import of vegetable oils during October 2013 is reported down by 1.36%

Vegetable oil import in the oil year gone by (November 2012-October 2013) was at an all-time high of 10.6 million tonnes, up 4.8 per cent from the previous year's 10.1 mt, on the back of rising domestic demand, according to data released by the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA).

In the current oil year (Nov '13 to Oct '14) as well, domestic demand for vegetable oil is expected to continue to increase, by at least 500,000 tonnes, on rising demand.

Overall production of [vegetable oils](#) was almost stagnant at eight mt in 2012-13, compared to 8.1 mt the previous year, while consumption rose three per cent, due to increase in per capita consumption and population growth (1.76 per cent). The lower price of vegetable oils globally boosted import.

The inverted export duty structure in Indonesia and Malaysia also added to import of RBD palmolein, which substantially increased during the year. Import of [refined palmolein](#) during April-October 2013 jumped to a little over 1.6 mt, compared to 750,000 tonnes during the same period of last year.

India meets a little over 50 per cent of domestic demand through import. Palm oil is imported from Malaysia and Indonesia, while soyabean oil comes from Argentina and Brazil.

“India's demand for edible oil is on the rise and even in the current oil year, we will import at least half a million tonnes. Imports of vegetable oil will also depend on the domestic production of oilseed,” said B V Mehta, executive director of SEA.

If the price remains low internationally, then import will be higher, he added.

Punjab's waiver of levies on basmati paddy purchase may encourage growers



But mills divided over the impact;
Haryana units upset

New Delhi, Nov. 15:

The Punjab Government's recent move to waive levies on procurement of basmati paddy has put a section of the rice processing industry in a quandary not only in the State but also in neighbouring Haryana.

Punjab had waived levies to the extent of 7 per cent (2 per cent market fee, 2 per cent rural development fund and 3 per

cent infrastructure cess) on purchase of basmati paddy for processing in the State.

Also, the value added tax of about 5 per cent has been waived on exports of basmati, besides imposition of a 5 per cent entry tax on basmati paddy entering from other States.

crop diversification

The latest move is aimed at encouraging the State's food processing industry, while trying to discourage the cultivation of the water-intensive non-basmati paddy as part of the Government's crop diversification programme, said D.V. Kapoor, General Secretary of the Punjab Rice Millers Association.

Also, it would help bring in more investments in the rice processing sector, while creating more jobs in the State, Kapoor, a miller in Jalandhar, said.

millers baffled

However, Anil Mittal, Chairman of KRBL Ltd, the country's largest exporter, which has a basmati processing facility in the State, termed Punjab's move of imposing an entry tax "as confusing."

About 80 per cent of the basmati paddy grown in Punjab is the 1121 variety, while the traditional and Pusa basmati varieties account for the rest.

Large millers such as KRBL have to depend on States such as Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to meet their paddy requirement and the entry tax would make their raw material expensive. Ajay Jakhar, President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, said that the latest move would encourage rice growers to shift to basmati.

shift to basmati

"There would be at least 40-50 per cent increase in basmati area next year," he said.

However, Jhakar believes that restricting buyers from neighbouring States may prove counter-productive, especially during a glut and when prices crash. Farmers may not feel the impact this year because prices are ruling higher than last year. "There should not be any curbs on the inter-State movement of agri-produce. Restricting the movement is like indirectly taxing the agricultural produce," Jhakar said.

Cartel fears

Rice mills in Haryana, which depend on Punjab to meet a sizeable chunk of their paddy demand, are upset over the latest move.

"Reduced competition from buyers is a loss to farmers. Avoiding competition would lead to cartelisation of buyers in Punjab," said Vijay Setia, Executive Director at Chaman Lal Setia Exports Ltd, which has processing units in Karnal and Amritsar, demanding a level-playing field.

However, Kapoor and KRBL's Mittal dismissed fears of cartelisation.

"There are more than 500 millers in the State," Kapoor said.

Punjab accounts for about 40 per cent of India's basmati rice production estimated between 4 and 5 million tonnes.

Domestic, global prices converge in a falling rubber market

From Rs 196 a kg on August 10 to Rs 156 on November 8, natural rubber prices in the country have dropped by 22 per cent. Prices could drop further as the bearish trend seems to continue.

However, one thing that has emerged in this downtrend is that domestic and global market prices have converged.

"The Government is not taking any steps to improve the situation or implementing decisions taken earlier. Sentiments would worsen further if the present situation is not properly handled," said Joy Nadukkara, former MP and a leading spokesman of rubber growers.

Unprecedented imports and the absence of buyers in the domestic market have triggered panic among rubber growers in Kerala, which accounts for over 90 per cent of the production in the country. The rubber sector, as a whole, is passing through a difficult phase even as the price has dropped by 40 per cent. RSS-3 has dropped by 10.4 per cent in Bangkok between January and October compared with the same period a year ago. The corresponding fall in the domestic market RSS 4 is 8.5 per cent.

"The main reason for the large-scale imports of rubber was due to supply crunch which, in turn, resulted in low domestic demand. Any how enhancing the import duty is not a solution to the present situation," said N. Radhakrishnan Adviser, Cochin Rubber Merchants' Association.

There are various factors that are keeping international prices at a low key. The demand outlook for rubber is sluggish. Rubber stocks in warehouses managed by China's Quingdao Free Trade Zone remains high.

Import demand for China is muted. Import of rubber increased by 5.5 per cent year-on-year to 1.67 million tonnes during January-September. China has withdrawn its plan to procure 2,00,000 tonnes for the reserve stocks.

Thailand holds an inventory of about 2,00,000 tonnes of domestically procured RSS. Its earlier statement that it will offload about 200,000 has had no impact on the market. Later, it said that as prices were ruling low, it would not sell now.

A record 2,14,448 tonnes of rubber were imported during April-October. At least 58 per cent of the import was made during August-October when domestic production became normal. This has made the situation complicated and domestic demand dropped sharply, hastening the process of price fall.

The automotive tyre sector stayed away from the market as it had ample reserves of imported rubber. Domestic consumption is estimated to have fallen by 2.1 per cent during the first quarter and by 2.08 per cent during the second.

The Indian Rubber Dealers Federation, a major stakeholder in the plantation sector, has said that if the present crisis is not resolved at the earliest, the situation would be grave.

Due to the loss in the number of tapping days, leave fall disease, fall in rubber prices and extended rain, only 70 per cent of the income is expected from rubber plantations during 2012-2013, said the federation President George Thomas Valy.

“The Government should come forward to support rubber growers and make arrangements for lifting a minimum of 50,000 tonnes before the end of peak production season,” said N. Radhakrishnan.

Spot rubber stays unchanged

Kottayam, Nov.15: Rubber prices closed unchanged on Friday.

Trading activities were extremely dull, as the domestic futures markets were closed owing to Moharum.

Sheet rubber finished flat at Rs 158 a kg at Kottayam and Kochi, according to traders and the Rubber Board. The grade was quoted steady at Rs 155 by dealers.

RSS 3 (spot) weakened to Rs 158.40 (Rs 158.87) in Bangkok. November futures closed at ¥ 248.6 (Rs 156.66) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were: RSS-4: 158 (158); RSS-5: 149 (149); Ungraded: 145 (145); ISNR 20: 149 (149); and Latex 60%: 106 (106).

Depression in Bay lingers over Tamil Nadu coast

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov. 15: The laggard depression in the Bay of Bengal practically stalled on its tracks on Friday and bided time to hit home stretch towards Tamil Nadu coast. India Met Department appeared to have withdrawn its watch for its further intensification, which would have taken the system within striking distance of being called a cyclone.

LANDFALL AREA

The Met located the system centred about 530 km south-east of Chennai and 420 km east-southeast of Nagapattinam on Friday afternoon.

It is now expected to move west-northwest and cross north Tamil Nadu coast near Nagapattinam by Saturday evening.

Some international weather models took the system towards south-west eyeing the south Tamil Nadu and adjoining Sri Lanka coast instead.

Meanwhile, the depression will bring heavy to very heavy rainfall along coastal Tamil Nadu and rough seas.

HEAVY RAIN

Friday will have already seen heavy to very heavy rainfall over north coastal Tamil Nadu.

On Saturday, heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy falls of 25 cm or above may lash north coastal Tamil Nadu and south coastal Andhra Pradesh.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall has been forecast over south coastal Tamil Nadu. A heavy to very heavy rainfall watch is also valid at a few places over Rayalaseema and isolated heavy over Kerala.

FRESH 'LOW'

On Sunday, the heavy to very heavy rainfall belt will sit over south coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema and north coastal Tamil Nadu. It will be isolated heavy over Kerala.

Meanwhile, a fresh low-pressure area would emerge over south Andaman Sea and adjoining south-east Bay of Bengal by Sunday.

As in the preceding cases (very severe cyclone Phailin and the current depression), this too will originate as a 'storm pulse' from west Pacific/South China Sea.

POTENT CORE

On Friday, tropical depression 32W in the South China Sea (locally named 'Podul') had washed over the Vietnam coast and broken up on impacting land.

Its remnants were expected to float into the Gulf of Thailand, a potent core of which will cross over into the Andaman Sea to set up the 'low'.

Early forecasts suggest this comparatively weak but fleet-footed system will negotiate the Bay in quick time and wash over the Tamil Nadu coast by mid-week next week.

Avataa tea adjudged the world's best

Coonoor, Nov. 15: Avataa specialty teas, which created a record at the Nilgiri Winter Specialty Tea Auction 2013 earning the highest overall realisation, has been adjudged 'the world's best' at the competition held as part of the Fourth North American Tea Conference in Bermuda, Southampton.

"We received two top honours – 'Overall Award of Global Gold Medal Tea Competition 2013' and 'India's Gold Medal' acknowledging our quality supremacy amidst all entries from India, on the one hand, and from any country, on the other. Besides the 'pride trophy', we received recognition certificates signed by Joe Simrany, President, Tea Association of the US and Louise Roberge, President, Tea Association of Canada," E.N.R. Vejaya Shekara, Avataa Speciality Tea Production Head, told *Business Line*.

Green leaves pilferage hits small tea growers along India-Bangladesh border

Kolkata, Nov. 15: Large-scale pilferage of green leaves has hit hard small growers producing tea along the 35-km- long India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district. The stolen leaves are being smuggled out to meet the demand of tea processing factories located across the border in Rangpur district of Bangladesh, complained a spokesman for Jalpaiguri District Small Tea Growers Association. The matter has been taken up with the district administration, he said.

There are about 1,000 tea estates spread over 8,000 acres along the border and the total production of green leaves will come to about 50 million kg annually. At an average price of Rs 13 per kg, the market value of the produce is about Rs 65 crore.

The pilferage has been going on for the past several months and the items being targeted are not only green leaves but also pumpsets and other farming implements.

The crux of the problem lies in the location of the tea estates in areas earmarked as zero point. Many years ago when the Government had granted permission to produce tea in these areas, the border was not clearly demarcated, nor was there any fencing.

Once the fences were put up along the border, these tea estates fell at the zero point outside the fencing and therefore, outside the operational jurisdiction of the contingents of the Border Security Force posted along the border. The ownership of land of many of these estates too are not clearly defined, it is learnt.

An estimated 4,000 people directly employed by the small growers in tea estates along the border are a worried lot these days as their employers threaten to suspend production if the present problem

Marriage season may help moong, urad rally



Indore, Nov. 15: Pulse seeds were mixed in Indore mandis on Friday with masoor and chana gaining marginally on improved demand and weak arrivals. Moong, urad and tur ruled firm. In the past few days with imports turning costlier due to a weakening rupee and decline in crop output, both moong and urad have been witnessing an uptrend for quiet sometime. Rally in both moong and urad will likely to continue further with increased demand during the marriage season ahead, said a trader

With the dollar rising, the price of imported moong has gone up to \$1,000 a tonne. As a result of this, moong prices in domestic mandis are currently ruling in the range of Rs 6,000-6,500 a quintal. In Indore mandis, moong (best) on Friday ruled at Rs 5,600-5,900,

while moong (Maharashtra) was quoted at Rs 5,800-6,300, moong (medium) ruled at Rs 4,800-5,000.

Moong dal (medium) was at Rs 6,600-6,900, while moong dal (bold) ruled at Rs 7,000-7,200 and moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,400-7,600.

Urad prices ruled firm at Rs 4,400-4,500, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,700-3,900.

Higher imports have also lifted urad prices in the domestic market to Rs 4,800-4,900 a quintal.

Urad dal (medium) was being quoted at Rs 5,100-5,200, urad dal (bold) at Rs 5,300-5,400, while urad dal mongar ruled at Rs 5,700-6,100 respectively.

Masoor also gained on weak arrival and improved demand with masoor (best) at Rs 4,250, while masoor (medium) ruled at Rs 3,900. Currently, imported masoor is costing around Rs 3,900 a quintal.

Pepper continues to rule hot

Kochi, Nov. 15: Pepper markets continued to rule high on Friday on strong demand amid tight availability.

On the IPSTA platform, both December and January contracts increased. Some resistance has emerged from upcountry buyers at prices above Rs 500 a kg. There are no sellers as those having the material are holding back due to prices rising daily, market sources told *Business Line*. In the international market, there are buyers at even \$8,125 a tonne. At the same time, resellers are offering January-June shipments at \$7,700 a tonne in a bid to push the market down. There are, however, no sellers below \$8,200-8,300 a tonne. Malabar is totally out priced at \$8,750 (c&f) for Europe and \$9,050 (c&f) for the US, they said.

On the IPSTA platform, December and January contracts increased by Rs 482 and Rs 510 to Rs 50,732 and Rs 50,510. Spot prices were Rs 49,800 (ungarbled) and Rs 51,800 (garbled).

Poultry-feed seen ruling flat

Karnal, Nov. 15: Poultry-feed prices are likely to rule flat in the near-term as input costs hold steady, according to trade experts.

A marginal fluctuation in input prices kept poultry-feed prices unchanged on Friday.

Commodity expert Aditya Mishra told *Business Line* that key ingredients have been ruling steady with marginal fluctuations, which have made no major impact on input costs.

The demand for feed products is also likely to improve and the market may continue to rule around current levels for the next few days, he said.

In the physical market, soyameal dropped by Rs 800 to Rs 35,000 a tonne, while bajra remained unchanged at Rs 12,600 a quintal.

Di-calcium phosphate eased by 80 paise to Rs 34 a kg, MBM moved down by 50 paise and sold at Rs 31 a kg while maize went down by Rs 30 and went for Rs 1,490 a quintal. Rice bran oil was at Rs 60 a kg, DRB improved by Rs 200 and sold at Rs 8,500, while mustard de-oiled cake was unchanged at Rs 15,000 a tonne.

After witnessing a price rise earlier this week, feed products remained unchanged on Friday. Broiler concentrate quoted at Rs 2,010 while Broiler Starter Mash sold at Rs 1,550 for a 50 kg bag.

Pre-lay mash sold at Rs 1,040 . Layer concentrate 25 per cent was at Rs 1,480 while Layer concentrate 35 per cent sold at Rs 1,165.

Meanwhile, a mixed trend was witnessed in the poultry products market on Friday. Broiler dropped by Rs 8 and quoted at Rs 62 a kg, egg was up 10 paise and quoted at Rs 4, while chick went for Rs 24, unchanged.

Single platform likely for spot, futures trading: FMC

Mumbai, Nov. 15: Commodity market regulator Forward Markets Commission is considering a proposal to allow trading in commodity futures and spot on a single platform. Speaking at the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) event 'The Changing Regulatory Paradigm and the Road Ahead', Ramesh Abhishek, Chairman, Forward Markets Commission, said that some of the exchanges have submitted a proposal to offer an integrated trading platform for both spot and futures market and it is under active consideration.

"The new proposal would be in line with the capital market which trades both cash and derivatives on a single platform. We are also encouraging existing futures exchanges to come out with short-term contracts to widen participation and align futures market more with spot," he said.

However, he did not name the exchanges that have submitted such proposal. Once the integration is done the spot price can be used as a reference price to settle futures contract. The integration of back-end operations across markets would also help bring down cost by having a common client registration, trade clearance through common depository besides sharing basic infrastructure facilities. The growth of futures exchange has been hampered by the absence of a transparent spot market on electronic platform.

The recent Rs 5,600-crore settlement crisis at the National Spot Exchange has shaken investor confidence in online commodity trading. This is reflected in the sharp fall in trading volumes on all the six FMC-regulated futures exchanges.

On retail participation in commodity exchanges, Abhishek said there are about 70,000-82,000 retail investors who trade daily with 5,000 of them trading on the agriculture commodities. The scope for improving participation is huge considering the fact that there are about four million registered clients, he said.

Stating that banks and financial institutions are barred from participating in commodity trading by their respective regulators, Abhishek said that things may change soon as there is a better coordination with other financial market regulators now after the Commission was recently brought under the Ministry of Finance.
