

Training in production of vegetable products

COIMBATORE, November 19, 2013 - A training in commercial production of fruits and vegetables will be held at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on November 27 and 28. According to a TNAU release, the training will cover making of dehydrated fruits and vegetables, mixed fruit jam, squash, pickles, candy, fruit bar and fruit toffee. Those interested can send in a Demand Draft for Rs. 1,000 drawn in favour of Dean (Agricultural Engineering), Coimbatore, to Head, Post Harvest Technology Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore – 641003. For details, call 0422-6611268.

Grafting jackfruit saplings is his forte



Gururaj Balthillaya holding grafted jackfruit saplings at his nursery at Athrady village in Udupi district.

His fingers work magic as he grafts rare cultivars of jackfruit in his nursery on 10 cents of land at Athrady village in Udupi district.

Gururaj Balthillaya (45) is so involved in his job for the last 15 years that he shuns publicity.

He was attracted to grafting in 1989

when he saw his elder brother do it with flower saplings.

Mr. Gururaj started grafting jackfruit saplings after he read an article about it in *Adike Patrike*, an agriculture journal, in 1991.

He lived in a remote area near Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada before moving to Kondady village near Hiriyaadka in Udupi district in 2000. But the one-and-a-half-acres of land purchased by him and his brother had no water source. Then he moved to Athrady in 2005. His nursery now has jackfruit saplings of different varieties arranged in neat rows. "In the last 15 years, I have grafted and helped conserve 141 cultivars of jackfruit," Mr. Gururaj claims.

He is also a member of the Halasu Snehi Koota, an organisation of farmers in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts, which conserves rare varieties of jackfruit.

If any one informs them about a rare variety of jackfruit, a team of seven to eight experts from the koota visits the place to check the tree. They test the fruit's taste, colour, smell and filling. Only after the experts give a green signal, its saplings are taken for grafting.

"People are not aware of many rare varieties. It is necessary to create a network to inform the koota if there is any rare variety," says Mr. Gururaj.

The flesh of the jackfruit is used for domestic consumption and for making chips and ice creams. They are used for making papads too.

The flesh comes in colours such as milk-white, ivory, yellow, golden, saffron and yellowish red. "Tender jackfruits can be used as a vegetable too. Their use as vegetables needs to be popularised," he says.

Mr. Gururaj has done jackfruit grafting for institutes such as the Zonal Agricultural and Horticultural Station, Brahmavar; offices of the Horticulture Department in Shimoga district; and the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore.

He charges Rs. 40 to Rs. 100 a sapling for grafting. Mr. Gururaj earns his livelihood from this. According to Shree Padre, editor of Adike Patrike, government and research organisations have neglected jackfruit. "They are unaware of its potential. It is a money-minting crop in Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam," he said.

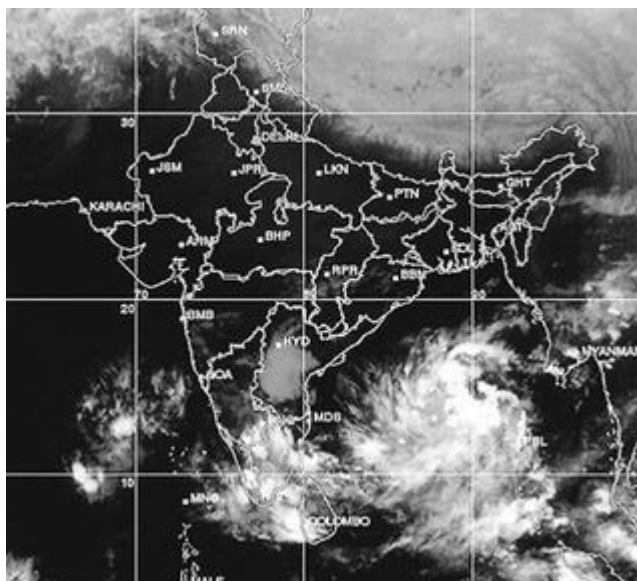
Foot and Mouth disease reported near Mudumalai

CHENNAI, November 19, 2013 - Outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) for cattle has been reported in a few villages around Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in the Nilgiris.

Veterinary department officials said three days ago a villager from Mavanallah near Mudumalai called up a local veterinarian and informed that his cattle had been affected by FMD. He sought the veterinarian's help to treat his bovine. The veterinarian also received similar complaints from Bokkapuram, Chemmanatham, Masinagudi, Moyar and Vazhathottam, located around the Tiger Reserve, the sources said. So far no casualty of cattle has been reported from these areas.

Naturalists pointed out that villagers living close to the forest areas in the State took their cattle for grazing in the forest areas only. When the FMD affected cattle entered a reserved forest, chances of the disease spreading among wildlife such as Indian Bison, Elephants, Spotted deer and Sambar were very high, they cautioned. In the 1974 FMD out-break in Mudumalai, a large number of Indian bison, elephants, spotted deer and sambars had died. The Animal Husbandry Department took action on a war footing to control the disease. When contacted forest officials in Mudumalai said they had not received any information about the spreading of disease among the cattle in and around the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on November 18.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	28	22	0	51
Arogyavaram	24	20	03	174
Bapatla	31	22	0	505
Calingapatnam	30	20	0	922
Gannavaram	32	21	0	411
Hanamkonda	29	17	0	284
Hyderabad AP	29	19	0	239
Kakinada	31	22	0	622
Khammam	32	19	0	98
Kavali	23	21	75	534
Kurnool	29	21	0	96
Mahabubnagar	31	19	0	163
Machilipatnam	32	23	0	384
Narasapur	32	21	0	606
Nellore	23	21	65	436
Ongole	28	22	12	507
Ramagundam	26	17	0	201
Tirupathi AP	26	23	2	311
Tuni	33	22	0	470
Vizag AP	32	23	0	555
Vizag	31	24	0	511

KARNATAKA

Agumbe	28	16	0	583
Bengaluru AP	26	19	0	121
Bengaluru	26	19	0	112
Bagalkote	31	19	0	—
Belgaum AP	28	19	0	60

Bellary	31	19	0	63
Bijapur	26	18	0	113
Chitradurga	24	19	1	55
Chickmagalur	28	17	0	41
Chintamani	25	19	10	63
Gadag	26	20	tr	88
Gulbarga	31	20	0	35
Hassan	29	19	0	86
Honavar	32	25	0	261
Karwar	36	26	0	167
Madikeri	22	17	tr	189
Mangalore AP	32	23	0	305
Mysore	26	20	0	142
Mandya	27	19	0	139
Panambur	33	24	0	235
Raichur	30	18	0	102
Shirali	32	23	0	414
KERALA				
Alappuzha	32	24	tr	236
Kannur	34	25	tr	321
Kochi AP	32	23	0	451
Kottayam	32	23	0	473
Kozhikode	33	23	2	271
Punalur	33	22	tr	533
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	31	24	0	323
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	31	24	0	386
Vellanikkara	30	23	22	437
TAMIL NADU				
Adirapattinam	31	24	0	118
Chennai	29	24	43	331
Chennai AP	28	23	6	397
Coimbatore AP	27	22	0	117
Coonoor	16	12	20	373
Cuddalore	31	24	0	250
Dharmapuri	28	21	0	249
Kanyakumari	31	25	0	248
Karaikal	30	24	13	248
Kodaikanal	13	9	17	197
Madurai AP	32	23	tr	197
Nagapattinam	30	24	18	205
Palayamkottai	29	25	2	235
Pamban	31	25	1	195
Parangipettai	31	25	4	398
Puducherry	31	24	0	256
Salem	30	21	0	202

Thanjavur	30	25	0	164
Tiruchi AP	30	23	0	311
Tirupattur	28	29	0	174
Tiruttani	29	23	4	315
Tondi	30	25	0	259
Tuticorin	29	25	5	191
Ooty	13	10	03	240
Valparai	26	13	10	280
Vellore	27	23	03	97

LAKSHADWEEP

Amini Divi	34	24	72	164
Minicoy	32	25	0	118

OTHER STATIONS

Kolkata (Alipore)	28	18	0	523
Mumbai	33	25	0	66
New Delhi	26	11	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.

RAIN LIKELY IN COASTAL A.P.

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

TAMIL NADU: DGP Office (Chennai Dist), Chembarambakkam (Tiruvallur Dist) and Coonoor (Nilgiris Dist) 5 each. **KERALA:** Amini (Lakshadweep) and Irinjalakuda and Vadakkancherry (both in Thrissur district) 7 each. **ANDHRA PRADESH:** Kavali and Nellore (both dist Nellore) 7 each, Kavali(a), Nellore(a) and Atmakur (all dist Nellore) 6 each. **KARNATAKA:** Koratagere (Tumkur dt) 1.

Davanagere recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 14 degree celsius in the plains of the region.

FORECAST (Valid until Wednesday Morning): Rain or thundershowers would occur at many places over Lakshadweep and at a few places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Isolated rain or thundershowers may occur over Rayalaseema, coastal and south interior Karnataka. Mainly dry weather will prevail over north coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and north interior Karnataka.

New veterinary college to be set up in Bathinda

CHANDIGARH, November 19, 2013 - The Punjab Government on Monday approved setting up of a veterinary science college and hospital in Bathinda district.

The institute, which will also house a livestock farm complex, will come up on a sprawling 25 hectares in Rampura Phul area. A decision to this effect was taken by Chief Minister Parkash

Singh Badal during a meeting with senior officers of the animal husbandry, dairy development and fisheries department, an official spokesperson said here. The college and hospital will be built over 5 acres of land besides other facilities. It will be affiliated with Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University. – PTI

Nature in danger

Many people cut trees all over the world. These are people who do not know they are harming themselves by their action. Recently, there was news about the destruction of lives and property in Uttarakhand due to flash floods caused by a cloud burst. According to ecologists and environmentalists, one of the main causes of this catastrophe was deforestation.

Actually, people cut trees for the sake of luxury and money. Deforestation results in global warming, drought and famine. People should be made aware of the ill effects of deforestation. Organisations like WWF (World Wildlife Fund) should be encouraged in their efforts and guided in all possible ways to help promote preservation of forest land. If deforestation continues at the current rate, a day will come when the human species itself will be endangered.

MDMK to lead sugarcane farmers' demonstrations

ERODE, November 19, 2013 - The MDMK would conduct demonstrations at Chennai and New Delhi next month to highlight the sufferings of sugarcane farmers, party general secretary Vaiko said on Monday.

Soliciting votes at Nadupalayam, Pasur, Thevampalayam, Unjalur, Kodumudi and other rural parts of the district for the party's sitting Erode MP A. Ganesha Moorthy for next year's general elections, Mr. Vaiko said he would lead a demonstration in Chennai on December 9. The Delhi demonstration would be conducted under the leadership of Mr. Ganesha Moorthy on December 12. The demonstrations would highlight the need for a ban on sugar imports and remunerative price for sugarcane. The party would also demand the rights for farmers to determine the price of turmeric, Mr. Vaiko said.

CHOGM

In the speeches he made in the villages, Mr. Vaiko charged the Congress party with facilitating Sri Lanka to conduct the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) successfully, and enabling the country's President Mahinda Rajapaska to become the Chairman of the forum.

Farmers to intensify stir for Kodumudi scheme

KARUR, November 19, 2013 - Farmers associations in Karur have decided to intensify their struggle for implementing the Kodumudi Irrigation Link Canal Scheme that has remained on paper for a long time. Claiming that the State Government has never given a fair hearing to the plan, the farmer's outfits have given a call for a protest fast at Taragampatti in Karur district on Friday to draw attention of the Government in pressing for the project.

Some years back the Public Works Department saw the merit in forming a link channel originating at the Jedarpalayam Bed Regulator across the River Cauvery in the neighbouring Erode district to draw excess flood waters during monsoon and that which flow through Athipalayam, Punnam Chatram, Velliyanai to feed Thathampalayam, Velliyanai, Uppidamagalam and Veerarakkiam tanks.

The plan also envisaged diverting the excess water from those tanks to Seeththapatti and Mavathoor tanks in the southern parts of Karur district from where the major irrigation tanks such a Sundarapandian Tank, Udayapatti and Panjapatti Peria Eri could be replenished. Farmers also claim that the original idea was to form an irrigation channel as the basis for the first intra-state river link plan by chaining the Mamundiyaru in Manapparai area of Tiruchi district, Neppiliyaru, Koraiyaru, Agniyaru, South Vellar, Pambaru, Virusuliyaru, Manimutharu and ultimately Vaigai and Gundaru to feed Karur, Tiruchi, Pudukkottai, Sivaganga and Madurai districts.

Besides irrigating over five lakh acres, the plan would help in preserving the irrigation tanks, raising the water table in the region. However, four years back the DMK regime decided to dump the Kodumudi plan and pitch for the Mayanur link channel to form the intra-state river link process. The Mayanur Barrange-cum-road scheme is nearing completion and the farmers are now pressing for the Kodumudi plan.

The Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, Farmers and Toilers' Party, Tamil Nadu Farmers Welfare Association, Tamil Nadu Farmers Association have joined hands to for a fast calling attention at Taragampatti on Friday.

'CM has betrayed farmers'

DAVANGERE, November 19, 2013 - *Urges government to announce MSP for paddy and maize*

: Karnataka Janata Paksha leader M.P. Renukacharya has criticized Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for allegedly 'betraying' farmers who were hit hard by the sudden fall in prices of crops such as paddy, maize and called Mr. Siddaramaiah an 'anti-farmer Chief Minister'. Addressing farmers here today after completing his 'padayatra' from Honnali to Davangere to draw the government's attention to the plight of farmers

Promote organic farming: Gowda

GULBARGA, November 19, 2013 - *The agriculture minister says low farm productivity is a cause for concern*

Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda has said that about 745 posts of clerks will be created in raitha samparka kendras (RSKs) across the State to ease the burden on the department staff.

Addressing a press conference after a review meeting with the Agriculture Department officials here on Monday, Mr. Gowda said the functioning of RSKs was not satisfactory in the districts in Hyderabad Karnataka region due to shortage of staff. Agriculture Department personnel had been deputed to RSKs and this had added to their burden. It had also created a situation where RSKs would not work effectively as extension points. The government would consider appointing 745 additional trainers on contract basis, he said. The Minister said that the State government had launched Savayava Bhagya to promote organic farming. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had earmarked Rs. 100 crore for the project in the budget this year as the initial step towards popularising it. In later years, more funds would be allocated in the budget for this scheme, he said. Mr. Gowda said that 100 acres of farmland would be identified in each hobli for demonstration purposes under the Savayava Bhagya scheme. An association of organic farmers would be formed at hobli level and a federation at the State level. The government would help farmers in branding, packaging and marketing their products. Once the products entered the market, the next challenge would be to popularise the brands in urban areas. They would be certified as organic products. "A certification agency has been set up in the department for this purpose," he said.

The State government was concerned about the low productivity in agriculture. Therefore, it was launching several schemes to encourage farmers on using advanced technology, Mr. Gowda said.

☒ *Government to soon create 745 posts of clerks in RSKs*

☒ *'100 acres of farmland in each hobli to be identified for demonstration of organic farming'*

Organic farmers to go online to sell produce

MANGALORE, November 19, 2013 - A group of students from a Mangalore college is working on a website that will provide a platform for the producers and consumers of organic products. Ten students and two faculty members of St. Aloysius Institute of Management and Information Technology (AIMIT) are working on the website to get it going.

Mohammed Moideen Shihab, Project Head and MCA student, AIMIT, said, "We are confident of completing the website in two months' time. We have done some modules and they are working well." At least 100 organic farmers from Dakshina Kannada have joined the website. He said the students agreed to take up the project after the dean of their college and the Organic Promoter Collective from the centre for Development Studies and Education (CDSE) spoke about the website.

N.V. Paulose, Head, Global TV, who is associated with the website, said people will be able to register themselves as farmer or consumer.

"It is a national project," he said. The initial plan was to add farmers from Mangalore only but now the team is working on adding farmers from all over the country to the website. There are 10,000 farmers who are willing to supply organic products provided they can get a good price for it. "It has become a huge movement," he said.

Dairy farmers' meeting

KOZHIKODE, November 19, 2013 - A meeting of the dairy farmers of Chelannur block panchayat will be held at Narikkuni Upperas Auditorium here on Tuesday. Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan will inaugurate the meeting. — Staff Reporter

Farmers will be protected: Joseph

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, November 19, 2013 - Rural Development and Planning Minister K.C. Joseph has said that the State government will not implement any recommendation of the K. Kasturirangan committee report that would hurt the farmers in the high ranges of the State.

In a statement on Monday, Mr. Joseph accused the Opposition of trying to fool the people with its hartal after having boycotted an all-party meeting convened by the Chief Minister to discuss the panel's recommendations.

Farmers seek water for second crop

VIJAYAWADA, November 19, 2013 - Farmers having lands irrigated by the Krishna waters staged a rasta roko on the State Highway at Mudinepalli demanding that the State government announce a date for release of water for second crop.

Kaikalur MLA Jayamangalam Venkataramana and Kisan Services Association district general secretary P.S.R. Das extended solidarity to the farmers by raising slogans along with them.

Mr. Das said the farmers in Krishna delta are anxious to know whether the government was going to release water for the second crop.

IAB meet

The Irrigation Advisory Board meeting should have been conducted for fixing the date for water release. But there seems to be no indication of it either from the district Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy or the district administration.

The farmers are keen that water be released for a second crop as there are ample reserves in the Nagarjunasagar Project.

There was 280 tmc ft in the dam today compared to 170 tmc ft on the corresponding date last year.

Announcement

“Unless the State government makes the announcement, the farmers cannot buy seed. If the water is released they will purchase paddy seed and if the water is not released they will purchase seed for black or green gram,” Mr Das said.

The rabi season usually begins by November-end in Krishna delta. By mid-December, the seed beds are ready and by mid-January the transplantation comes to a conclusion, Mr Das said. The Agriculture Department should also announce the Rabi Plan so that farmers would know the areas where water would be released, he said.

Farming season begins (Photo)



At a brisk pace: Bullocks pulling the plough as agriculture activities pick up speed after rains in Nellore district.— Photo: By Arrangement

Vegetable prices in a swing

Arrivals expected to pick up after a week, say retail vendors



Mixed bag: Vendors sorting vegetables at Gandhi Market in Tiruchi on Monday. — Photo: M. Moorthy

TIRUCHI, November 19, 2013 - The recent showers following depression in the Bay of Bengal has brought in fluctuation in the prices of vegetables in the district. The retail vendors-cum-hawkers at Gandhi Market were seen vying with one another in selling the produce on Monday. The Saturday's downpour has affected their business to a great extent.

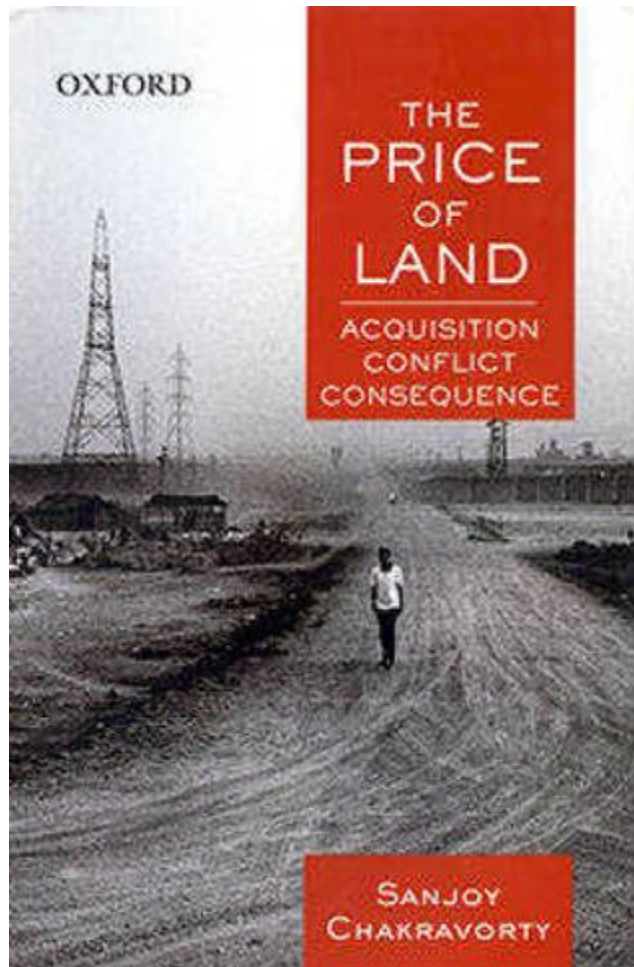
Vendors, making a comparison with the demand for the vegetables during

Deepavali, said they were selling with marginal profit. The price per kg of potato, which stood at Rs. 40 last week, had dwindled to Rs. 30 today. The price of yam sold at Rs. 40 (medium) and Rs. 30 (small) last week, has come down to Rs. 30 and Rs. 20 respectively. "Despite fall in prices, the demand for yam has been low," says K. Thiyagarajan, a vendor. The price of beans has gone down from Rs. 40 to Rs. 30. "We have reduced the profit margin," said Shankar of Gandhi Market. Raffik said that the brinjal was sold for Rs. 20 today against Rs. 25 last week. Lemon was sold between Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

The price of lady's finger and chillies has shot up in the last few days. The price per kg of lady's finger had stood at Rs. 15 on Friday, but rose to Rs. 20 today. The price of chillies had shot up by Rs. 5 per kg from Rs. 15 yesterday to Rs. 20 today. A section of vendors said that the showers would boost the yield. The arrivals would pick up after a week.

U.S. Karuppiah, president, Gandhi Market Wholesale Vegetable Merchants Association, said that all is not rosy with horticultural farmers. While the rain had battered parts of the district, it was not evenly distributed, causing some shortfall for vegetable cultivation. As of now, there was not much increase in the arrivals indicating that the farmers would harvest the produce only after a few days.

Privileging landowners over farm workers



P. V. Srividya

Can the new land acquisition law make up good for the historical wrongs committed on the marginalised by the Indian State?

Sanjay Chakravorty, researching the bill (now an Act) as it stood in 2011, attempts to extrapolate the consequences of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act by dissecting the history of the Indian State in land acquisitions and the economics of land markets.

The primary criticism of LARR by Chakravorty rests in its pricing approach. LARR envisions an effective price of land that combines its purchase cost (for land owners) with rehabilitation and resettlement costs (for livelihood losers). The purchase cost would be double the market price in urban settings, and quadrupled in rural settings. This multiplication of market price is bound to create a new class of windfall gainers, who, by virtue of

ownership of land, stand to multiply their incomes several times over their lifetime earnings. The approach is blind to the way land markets function. It does nothing for the constituency of the historically dispossessed and displaced such as Dalits and Adivasis (primarily users of Common property resources), who lack ownership.

Chakravorty characterises the Indian State as a 'giving State' and a 'taking state'. The 'giving State' brought in half-willed land reforms that led to marginal redistribution. The 'taking State' indulged in 'regressive redistribution', where the poor were dispossessed and the benefits given away to the non-poor and less poor (through power subsidies as a consequence of thermal plants, irrigation projects through dams). The State has been the egregious land taker leading to change in land use of over 50 million acres leaving over 60 million people affected. According to Chakravorty, the historical dispossession by big projects was not 'accumulation by dispossession' as projected by activists, since the private sector had no role to play in this dispossession by the State. It was 'development by dispossession' and the Indian State was culpable for 90 percent of large scale displacement and dispossession.

The author critiques the moral high ground assumed by the State through LARR, where it steps in with an enlarged bureaucratic apparatus necessitated by the Act. Chakravorty

locates the success of an acquisition on the 'reservation price'. Past acquisitions by the State were marked by market price way below the reservation price, imposing costs on the landholder. However, LAAR seeks to over compensate the landowner, a move that will trigger social costs for users. Dwelling on current land markets, the author says there is already a known price in urban/peri-urban regions, where the gap between the reservation price and the market price is narrow or absent (he calls them Type A and B lands). These are regions where there is no need for 'market price discovery'. LARR has been designed for Type C lands – in rural areas, where market price had to be discovered, based on proximal land dealings. Then there are Type D lands, that are 'priceless' – tied to cultural values and belief systems.

The author also contests the assumption that a high price for land is sufficient to avoid conflicts. Price is inconsequential where the land is 'priceless' like the Type D regions. Chakravorty lauds the inclusion of the hitherto excluded livelihood losers and users of Common property resources in the rehabilitation package. But the extent of compensation to livelihood losers would pale in the light of exorbitant land owner compensation envisaged in LARR. The author sees the proliferated media space and information revolution as viable checks and balances to unjust acquisitions. While at one level, Chakravorty calls for the State to withdraw from the acquisition process, at another, he critiques LARR for disallowing acquisition by the State for private sector. Instead, he suggests the use of 'informed consent' by the project-affected as the only yardstick for both public sector and private sector acquisitions.

The author stops short of suggesting one ideal alternative and instead believes States should evolve state-specific acquisition processes, tailored to regional variations of tenancy, ownership and economic potential. LAAR is more of 'playing to the gallery', and agnostic to economic and urban geography. The author claims a middle path — one that he believes will be responsive to the historically marginalised and dispossessed and balances the necessity of urban growth and development.

Environmentalists fear for Perumbakkam wetland



Many concerns Experts are worried the creation of an IT corridor has permanently altered the natural course of water from this wetland to Pallikaranai—Photo: M. Srinath

CHENNAI, November 19, 2013 - Perumbakkam wetland in Sholinganallur is among the last surviving vast patches

of prime wetland and a hotspot for bird-watchers in Chennai's immediate suburbs in the south.

Residents, bird lovers and environmentalists want the State government to notify it as a protected wetland at the earliest.

Located beside Perumbakkam Main Road, that connects arterial Velachery Main Road and Rajiv Gandhi Salai, and opposite a special economic zone, the wetland is home to several rare and migratory birds.

The laying of a 'kutchra' road — by dumping and levelling construction rubble — six months ago, close to the wetland's fringes has alarmed long-time residents as well as environmentalists.

Incidentally, this wetland forms the southernmost boundary of Pallikaranai marshland.

Environmentalists and political parties have expressed concern that the creation of an IT corridor around the wetland has permanently altered the natural course of water from this wetland to Pallikaranai.

U.P. asks for food security advance as Congress plans campaign



U.P. Food and Civil Supplies Minister Raghuraj Pratap Singh

LUCKNOW/ALLAHABAD, November 19, 2013 - The Uttar Pradesh Government has requested the Centre for advance payment to implement the food security scheme even as the Congress declared that it will launch a State-wide campaign from November 21 for the implementation of the scheme in the State .

The request for advance was made in a three-page letter, dated November 6, by State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya, principal secretary food and civil supplies Deepak Trivedi told *The Hindu* .

“The letter points out that the Act mentions that the Centre will be sharing the costs, so funds should be made available to the State in the form of revolving advance,” he said.

The letter also requests the Centre to share the formula for the “devolution” of funds with the State since “a number of activities under the Food Security Act require expenditure.”

The Centre is yet to respond to the State’s request,

Mr. Trivedi said.

The Congress, in the meantime, is gearing up for the mass mobilisation programme from November 21.

For the Congress, the UPA Government’s flagship scheme is seen as a game-changer in next year’s Lok Sabha elections, especially in Uttar Pradesh which elects 80 MPs.

It wants the programme to be implemented without any delay and plans to protest against the Samajwadi Party Government's "failure to implement the Food Security Scheme". It also plans to gherao the Vidhan Sabha.

Nodal officers

In an attempt to pre-empt the Congress move, the State Government appointed four nodal officers for the implementation of the programme, albeit in a phased manner.

In an official statement released by the Food and Civil Supplies Department, it was stated that the four nodal officers have been appointed for the successful implementation of the Food Security Scheme in Uttar Pradesh.

The four nodal officers are the Principal Secretaries of the departments of Women's Welfare, Child Security and Nutrition; Basic Education; Medical and Health and Food and Civil Supplies.

Mr Trivedi said the nodal officers have been appointed to implement the scheme in a phased manner.

Accordingly, the nodal officers have been assigned the task of ensuring food for pregnant and lactating mothers, free food for children between six months and six years and malnourished kids and children between six years and 14 years of age, kitchen arrangement, drinking water and sanitation facilities at Anganbari centres and schools.

Benefit

Providing delivery benefit worth Rs.6,000 to pregnant and lactating mothers is another incentive.

But, the Congress is not willing to buy the State Government's move.

"The implementation of the Food Security Scheme cannot be postponed indefinitely," said Madhusudan Mistry, the Congress general secretary in charge of Uttar Pradesh.

Water Level

MADURAI, November 19, 2013

The water level in Periyar dam was 117.10 feet with an inflow of 294 cusecs and a discharge of 501 cusecs.

The water level in Vaigai dam was 45.57 feet with an inflow of 467 cusecs and a discharge of 1,760 cusecs. The combined storage in Periyar credit was 2,894 mcft.

Vaigai dam recorded 11 mm of rainfall during the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, PWD officials said.

TIRUNELVELI, November 19, 2013

The level in the Papanasam dam on Monday stood at 93.35 feet (permissible level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 820.42 cusecs and 602.25 cusecs of water was discharged.

The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 68 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 212 cusecs and 35 cusecs of water was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The level at dams in Kanyakumari district (in ft): Pechipparai - 25.50, Perunchani - 60.45, Chittar I - 9.96, Chittar II - 9.77, Poigai - 3.50 and Mambazathriyaru - 41.50.

Foot-and-mouth disease affects cattle in two villages

DINDIGUL, November 19, 2013 - Eleven cattle heads have been affected by foot-and-mouth disease at Kallimandhayam and Thoppakkavalasu in Oddanchatram. The cattle had raw sore in the mouth, tongue and feet.

A veterinary team visited these villages on Monday.

Preventive medicine had been administered to the cattle in the villages. Assistant Director (in-charge) of Animal Husbandry Department P. Duraisamy said farmers complained of symptoms of foot-and-mouth disease in some areas. Cattle growers did not have to panic as all necessary steps had been taken to control the disease, he added.

The administration has already banned cattle fairs in the district to prevent the spread of the disease.

Animals come under foot-and-mouth attack



Aggrieved lot: A group of farmers going to present a petition to the Collector on Monday.—PHOTO: R.M. RAJARATHINAM

TIRUCHI, November 19, 2013 - A group of farmers from Adhavathur in the district has complained that the foot-and-mouth disease has claimed lives of many animals in the last couple of weeks. They have sought the district administration's assistance to contain the spread of the epidemic. A memorandum was presented to Collector Jayashree Muralidharan by the farmers led by A. Nagarajan, former village panchayat president of Puliyyur.

R. Shankar (55), a broker in livestock, said that he had sold out all his four cows at a throwaway price. "Against the price of Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 each, I have sold four cows at Rs. 10,000 each," he said. K. Kannan from Manian Nagar at Posampatti said that he had lost two cows, three calves, and three goats - all within a week. He pointed out that the animals could not be taken to the nearest veterinary hospital as they could not stand once afflicted with the disease. The nearest veterinary hospitals were located at Kuzhumnai, three kilometres from Posampatti, and at Adhavathur, five kilometres from Posampatti. Another woman P. Saraswathy from the village said that she had lost a cow and a calf. Mr. Nagarajan said that the district administration should organise mobile veterinary camps. He sought compensation of Rs. 30,000 each towards loss of cow and Rs. 10,000 towards loss of goat.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 62

Wind: normal

Tuesday, Nov 19

Max Min

31° | 24°

Sunrise: 06:06

Sunset: 05:39

Barometer: 1009

Tomorrow's Forecast



Sunny

Wednesday, Nov 20

Max Min

30° | 24°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday

Nov 21



28° | 24°

Cloudy

Friday

Nov 22



29° | 24°

Cloudy

Saturday

Nov 23



30° | 24°

Overcast

Sunday

Nov 24



27° | 25°

Overcast

Monday

Nov 25



27° | 25°

Overcast

Aavin to ensure 100% vaccination of COWS

COIMBATORE: In the backdrop of the increasing incidence of [foot and mouth disease](#) (FMD) in various parts of the state, the district administration has asked the [Aavin authorities](#) to ensure 100% vaccination of cows by members of milk producers' cooperative society. Instructing officials to this effect at a recent meeting, Coimbatore district collector Archana Patnaik said that they should also ensure that preventive measures are being taken by members of the cooperative society supplying milk.

Cows reared in a farm located at No: 4 Veerapandi town panchayat in the district were diagnosed with FMD recently. "Calves are in danger of contracting the disease when feeding from an infected cow, leading to further spread of the disease. However, FMD is purely a cattle disease and human beings are not at risk even if they consume the infected milk," said veterinary surgeon Dr. D Vishnugurubaran.

However, transmission of FMD through milk is acknowledged as a risk factor as movement of infected milk in tankers and by other means will result in spread of the disease that is said to be extremely contagious. As [convergence](#) and transportation of cattle are the main reasons for spreading of this disease, Archana Patnaik has also temporarily suspended the cattle fairs in the district and instructed farmers not to purchase cattle from neighbouring districts.

Erode district collector V K Shanmugam has also ordered temporary suspension of the cattle fairs. Regional joint director of animal husbandry department, V Muthugopalakrishnan, said that the department has completed 98% vaccination in Coimbatore district. The remaining cattle would be covered through vaccination camps. "Apart from vaccination, we have also stepped up measures to provide medical treatment to infected cattle," he added.

Salem and Krishnagiri district administrations have also ordered suspension of weekly shandies for cows and goats, due to outbreak of the disease on Sunday. In each block across the district, an advisory committee comprising assistant veterinary surgeon, panchayat president, village administrative officer and town panchayat executive officer would monitor the situation.

Officials have also instructed farmers and other cattle breeders in the district to spray washing and bleaching soda to prevent the spread of FMD. Village administrative officers in Coimbatore district have been instructed to update the cattle mortality register and all concerned officials have been asked to ensure that dead cattle are buried in the prescribed manner. To spread awareness among the public, officials have also planned to carry out

awareness programmes and distribution of pamphlets.

Meanwhile, in Trichy, district collector Jayashree Muralidharan on Saturday ordered the suspension of the famous weekly cow market in Manapparai on the outskirts of Trichy. Likewise, Karur district collector S Jayanthi banned the weekly cattle markets in Uppidamangalam, Puliur, Irumboothiyur, Manalmedu and Sengal. R Gopinath, the joint director of animal husbandry, Trichy, said that some cows in Nangavaram area were affected but timely treatment has cured them. As of now, they have vaccinated 1, 65,000 cattle in Karur.

However, Ayilai Sivasurian, agriculture wing leader of CPI, said that though the markets have been closed, the present rains may intensify the spread of FMD. He has urged the animal husbandry department to be equipped with adequate manpower and supplies to implement preventive measures.

Negotiators pinning hopes on rich nations' bounty at climate talks



A Greenpeace activist protests on Monday in front of the Polish economy ministry headquarters building against the World Coal Summit and the 19th conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP19) in Warsaw. (Reuters Photo)

WARSAW: Though the ongoing [climate talks](#) has failed to bring cheer to developing countries as rich nations have, so far, not made any commitment to set aside a corpus to battle [global warming](#), hope springs eternal for the negotiators.

They are expecting that the high-level ministerial round may throw up a pleasant surprise, where developed countries would finally pledge a sum —\$20-\$30 billion annually — for assisting poor nations towards their adaptation and mitigation efforts. Ministers from various countries start arriving here from Wednesday.

The United States' stand to link assistance to market-based mechanism, where it wants private players must play a key role without depending on public funding, continues to dominate the space, but inclination of other developed countries — largely from Europe — to provide aid is fuelling the hope.

Indian negotiators got a hint that some of the developed countries may try to impress upon the US so that the talks would not send a negative signal before the crucial climate pact that is slated to be finalized in Paris in 2015. "There have been discussions on enhanced action in the field of adaptation, mitigation, [finance](#) and technology transfer during structured dialogue. But in terms of action, we have not seen much coming further. We have not seen much movement on the implementations of the earlier decisions," said an Indian negotiator here.

He rued that though the participants gathered here to work on implementing the Kyoto Protocol, there is no timeline on this.

There is a growing belief that the developed nations may not be inclined towards a breakdown of talks.

The pledge for \$100 billion per annum beginning 2020 — meant for reduction of future emissions by developing countries — has caused heartburns among the rich nations who want a market-based mechanism that advocates private players to take the lead without government's direct role.

Participants from developing countries, however, believe that the instead of settling for \$100 billion annual fund, developed countries like the UK, France, Canada, Japan and Germany may commit \$20-\$30 billion for the next couple of years.

"There has to be some kind of roadmap for that... So we are looking for all these decisions when the ministerial rounds start," said the Indian negotiator.

He said developing countries would also like to be clear about how private investment work. "Is it some decision which private companies take on the basis of their own calculation, or on their own metrics of profits? How does it come to play and when does it come to play? What would be the size, what would happen if markets turn choppy? There is no clarity on private investment," he added.

Articulating developing countries' skepticism towards market-based mechanism, the official asked, "Is it just a diversionary tactics to put the discussion away from public funding?"

According to the principles of convention, it is public [funding](#) which has to address the climate change.

Addressing a press conference, the executive-secretary of the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC), Christiana [Figueres](#), however, said, "This is not a pledging moment for the Green Climate Fund."

"Let's wait for the ministerial round to begin. We hope that the rich nations won't derail the process which will have adverse impact on the final climate deal which is to come up in Paris," said the negotiator.

The hope and despair come at a time when G77+China group is learnt to have threatened to

walk out of the Warsaw negotiations if the developed countries did not stop blocking the key issue of loss and damage where the rich nations have to provide financial assistance to poor countries for the losses caused to them by the emissions from rich nations during the industrialization phase.

The Group has submitted a collective proposal on the negotiating table to set up a separate new mechanism of loss and damage. But, the US has blocked it.

Reacting over this contentious issue, the Indian negotiator said, "We have not been able to see any mechanism being put in place, which was decided during the last climate conference in 2012."

He added, "We (developing countries) have said that even if you don't create a new structure, create a window under Green Climate Fund for loss and damage".



Agents late, fail to file plea in HC against curb on potato trade

A writ petition challenging the government notification restricting free movement of potatoes for trade could not be filed Monday as the agents who were to move it, failed to reach the Calcutta High Court on time. Their counsel, Sukumar Bhattacharya, however, said it would be filed Tuesday.

"Two agents --- one from Bankura and the other from East Midnapore --- would file the writ petition against the government notification which restricts the free movement of potatoes within and outside the districts. The notification curbs the constitutional right of the traders to carry out business freely," Bhattacharya said.

He said the agents may also claim compensation for the losses they had incurred for being unable to send potatoes to other districts and states where they had been in a prior agreement with buyers.

Bhattacharya said the state could intervene in the trade of essential commodities, but not "potato as its is not included in the schedule of essential commodities."

Meanwhile, Subrata Biswas, principal secretary, department of agriculture and marketing, said they were ready for a legal explanation.

"We have got a notice from only one agent from Bankura. If the HC asks us for an explanation, we will present one," he said and added that according to the West Bengal Agricultural Produce Marketing Control and Regulation Act 1974, the state government had the right to control all agricultural produce, including potatoes and paddy.

Illegal cotton cultivation detected in Srikakulam tribal areas

The illegal cultivation of herbicide tolerant BT cotton (HT cotton) was detected in the tribal areas of Srikakulam district. Farmers were cultivating illegal cotton without permission. A fact-finding team which visited the fields of Srikakulam confirmed the same and lodged a complaint with the Agriculture department.

However, farmers in Pedda Dimili and Bokkuduguda in Kothur mandal in Srikakulam district were unaware of that cultivating HT cotton was illegal and also that it was not suitable for their soils.

HT cotton is cultivated in 1,550 hectares in Bamini, 510 hectares in Kothuru, 60 hectares in Sarbujili, 41 hectares in LN Peta, and 30 hectares in Hiramandalam.

Kavitha Kuruganti, member of Coalition for a GM-Free India; Ananthoo of Safe Food Alliance, Tamil Nadu; and HR Prakash, founder, ARTIC, Srikakulam district collected leaves and other materials. They confirmed that the samples tested positive for HT cotton.

According to the team members, herbicide tolerant (HT) cotton was being cultivated in the tribal belts of Seethampet mandal of Srikakulam district. Seeds were sold by a person from Guntur and the brand of the seed has been named as “Kalpavriksha”. The seeds’ cover contain no address and name of the supplier, they said.

In and around Kotturu, nearly 200 acres was under HT cotton. In Kotturu itself, a farmer by the name Siridi Bhaskar Rao currently has 50 acres under this variety this year. Other villages include Bukkuduguda, Puliputti village (four farmers growing in nine acres), Dantalaguda village (six farmers in 14 acres), Vempaliguda village (six farmers 14 acres), Mukundapuram village (two farmers cultivating HT cotton in seven acres) and Rekulaguda village (two farmers in seven acres).

“The strip tests we conducted confirmed that the cotton hybrid grown here is resistant to glyphosate,” said the team members. They also video recorded interviews with the farmers. The samples tested positive for glyphosate, a chemical used to cultivate HT cotton. Glyphosate is extremely toxic to the soil life.

The HT cotton was not yet approved by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) for commercial cultivation and biosafety tests were not completed.

There were serious health concerns with the herbicide HT cotton and the glyphosate which was used. The spread of such unapproved, untested and highly dangerous seeds to farmers in the tribal areas had to be immediately curbed, demanded Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA) executive director Dr GV Ramanjaneyulu.

The team members met local agriculture officials including SBS Nand and A Murali and also lodged a complaint with the agriculture commissioner.

Herbicides are chemicals used to kill unwanted plants or ‘weeds’. The risk of Parkinson’s disease has been shown to increase with occupational exposure to herbicides and pesticides, said the team members.

DECCAN Chronicle

29% deficit rainfall: Tamil Nadu keeps fingers crossed



Following rain in catchment areas of Red Hills reservoir for the last three days, the city reservoir has witnessed an increase in water level - DC

Chennai: While the rain gods have not been kind to most of the Tamil Nadu, including Chennai this monsoon, the close to 40 per cent rainfall deficit recorded between October 1 and mid- November, has improved to 29 per cent owing to the heavy rain received since Sunday, according to the weathermen.

“Isolated showers are being reported across the state and more rain can be expected if the low pressure over the east bay develops further,” said Y. E. A. Raj, deputy director general, Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) Chennai.

So far only Dharmapuri and Coimbatore districts have received normal rain this monsoon with even the Nilgiris falling short. In fact, the rain in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Tiruvarur and Puducherry is nearly 50 per cent lesser than normal.

“The monsoon arrived late this season by about nine days and the wetlands in and around Chennai have not received their usual rain. The water level in bird sanctuaries like Vedant-hangal, Kunthankulam and Karikilli is not encouraging either,” said K. V. R. K. Thirunaranan, founder, Nature Trust.

Noting that coastal districts have fared better than the interiors, astro meteorologist S. Ramachandran claims this trend will continue. North Tamil Nadu and South Andhra will get more rain this monsoon, which will extend till February and there will be more showers between November 25 and 27 on account of a low pressure system, he maintains. Meanwhile, the immediate forecast for Chennai is generally cloudy sky with rain or thundershowers in some areas. The expected maximum temperature in the city is around 31 degrees Celsius and the minimum, 25 degrees Celsius.

Business Standard

Exports take a coffee break, refuse to inch up



Coffee export growth is expected to be stagnant or even drop this year, due to both delayed showers and two months of drought.

The April-November period has seen export growth remain flat from last year, at 184,000 tonnes. “Where the number will finally stand at the end of the coffee year (September 2014) is difficult to estimate but it is very difficult to expect [exports](#) to climb this year, as production has been affected and crop yields are falling,” said a senior member on the board of the Karnataka Planters Association. The state contributes about 75 per cent to total production in India.

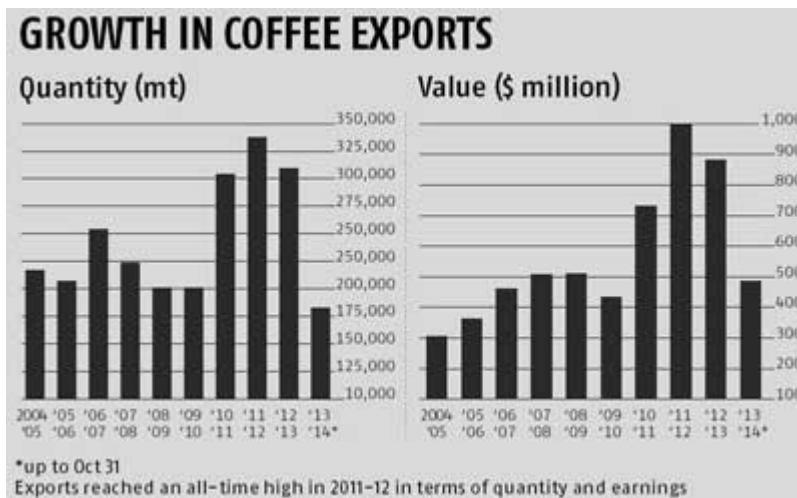
Despite a large market for Indian coffee outside the country, growers are unable to exploit this, even in a favourable currency situation, as crop yields are low and input costs high. Research on improving the yields has been muted and the possibility of mechanisation low, as coffee grows under the cover of trees in India.

Exports were at an all-time high in 2011-12, at 333,000 tonnes, earning nearly \$1 billion, when global coffee prices were rising. This fell to a little over 300,000 tonnes in 2012-13. Indian Arabica export typically fetches a 40 per cent premium over the international average, as the quality of coffee grown under shade is superior to that grown under the sun in other countries.

However, the Board expects to slash its post-monsoon estimate by 10 per cent from its post-blossom estimate of a production of 347,000 tonnes in coffee year 2013-14, after the rain and drought caused damage. Production was 318,000 tonnes in 2012-13.

Growers peg their own estimate of output for the year much lower, at 280,000-292,000

tonnes. Fighting the white stem borer in Arabica crops, shortage of labour, encroachments on their land and lack of government support on genetically-improved crops leaves little time to develop own brands for exports, growers allege.



The Coffee Research Foundation has been in existence for close to 100 years now, but growers say their research has lost its steam in the past two to three decades, just when other countries took the lead. Crop yields in [Brazil](#) shot up to 1,257 kg a hectare in 2011 from 830 kg in 2003. India saw yields drop sharply over the same period, from 859 kg a ha in

2003 to 838 kg in 2011 and 748 kg in 2013. Brazil has also seen genetically improved crop varieties increase their yield to 3,000 plants a ha in 2013; regular seeds in India yield 1,200 plants a ha..

The planters association has embarked on a slew of measures to take it upon themselves to remedy the situation. They have initiated efforts to tie-up with a Brazilian Research agency to improve the crop-yield in India and make plants more resistant to unfavourable weather conditions.

“On a short term basis, we'll try to ensure the adequate implementation of measures like drip irrigation, closer spacing, etc but the longer term is identifying plants, adapting them to Indian situation through clonal propagation, etc. However, this will have to be largely grower-funded, as accountability is lost in a government funded research,” says Chairman of the KPA, Nishant Gurjer.

The Coffee Research Foundation has been in existence for close to 100 years now, but growers say their research has lost its steam in the last 2-3 decades – just when other countries took the lead. Crop yields in Brazil shot up to 1,257 kg per hectare in 2011 from 830 kg per hectare in 2003.

India on the other hand, has seen crop yields drop sharply over the same period from 859 kg per hectare in 2003 to 838 kg per hectare in 2011 and 748 kg in 2013. Brazil has also seen genetically improved crop varieties increase their yield to 3000 plants per hectare in 2013, while the regular seeds in India yield 1200 plants per hectare, as of 2013.

Brazil and Vietnam dominate [coffee production](#) in the world with very high productivity and the planters associations are making trips to high-producing countries in order to learn their process and adapt improved methods back home in India. However, they allege they have not been incentivised enough as the Government has a more urban-centric focus, away from the realm plantations.

“In coffee, we're only taking on other emerging markets but they have embarked on clonal propagation of the plant, while we're still planting seeds. We're strong on the processing front, but we don't acknowledge the superiority of our coffee bean,” says an official at a top coffee exporting firm in India.

“We export to Europe, US, Australia, Iceland and even Scandinavian countries, among others. Indian coffee enjoy superior brand equity but we do not realize it here in India. Our coffees fetch a very high premium but that is only because the raw material is so good. However, our government fails to acknowledge it and grow the industry despite their massive budgets,” he added.

If beans are processed well, Indian coffee can rank about 85 on the quality scale which typically counts any ranking above 80 as specialty coffee. Brazil's coffee averages a ranking of 75 on the same scale.

Windfall gain for basmati farmers in Punjab

Aromatic varieties of basmati paddy are fetching Rs 2,900 to 5,720 per quintal as against Rs 1,550 to Rs 3,450 per quintal last year



On the back of strong demand, farmers in Punjab are reaping rich dividends, as the prices of [basmati](#) crop continued to rule high in various mandis of the state despite increase in arrival. According to the Punjab State Agriculture Marketing Board (PSAMB) data, Aromatic varieties of basmati paddy are fetching Rs 2,900 to 5,720 per quintal in this Kharif market season as against Rs 1,550 to Rs 3,450 per quintal last year.

Speaking to Business Standard, a senior official in PSAMB said, “There is huge demand of aromatic varieties of Basmati in overseas market, so farmers are getting better price for basmati crop as compared to last year. This year they are getting almost twice the price, they got last year. There is an upswing in prices of all kinds of basmati varieties this year as a result there prices are hovering around Rs. 2,900 to Rs 5,720 per quintal, which is almost two fold increase in price compared to last year.”

It is worth mentioning that popular basmati varieties like Pusa 1121 and 1509 are commanding price between Rs 3,600 to Rs 5,720 per quintal as against Rs 2,200-2,600 per quintal that prevailed last year. Also, Punjab is a major grower of Basmati crop especially PUSA 1121 around 70% and overall area under Basmati in the state is pegged around 6 lakh hectares out of total area of 28 lakh hectares.

As far arrival is concerned, the state have witnessed over 80% increase in arrival in the current procurement season as compared to the corresponding period last year. This year, the total arrival was 13.74 lakh tonnes as on November 17 compared to 7.58 lakh tonnes during previous year. While, last year the total arrival was 14.05 lakh tonnes.

Experts informed that the Punjab government recently abolished market fees, rural development fee and infrastructure development cess on Basmati, which is the main reason behind increase in arrival. One of the senior official in state mandi board added that for the promotion of Basmati exports, the state government has exempted various taxes. Earlier, traders and millers used to procure the crop directly from the farmers in order to avoid these taxes, as a result mandis used to witness less arrival of Basmati.

He added that exemption of 2% Rural Development Fee (RDF), 3% of Punjab Infrastructure Development Fund and two per cent market fee would entail an extra expenditure to the tune of Rs 200 crore annually on the state exchequer.

India gets bids above floor price for wheat exports

Last month, the government cut the floor by \$40 a tonne to \$260 for supplies to make exports attractive



The traders received bids above the floor price for [wheat exports](#), trade sources said on Monday, reflecting good response after a cut in the floor price intended to boost shipments from the world's second-biggest grower.

Last month, the government cut the floor by \$40 a tonne to \$260 for supplies from government stocks, to make exports more attractive to the West Asia and

neighbours such as Bangladesh.

The three state-run trading companies had all failed to sell in the last round of global tenders in October, when the \$300 floor made Indian wheat expensive in comparison to rival supplies from the Black Sea.

In Monday's tenders, PEC Ltd received the highest bid at \$290 per tonne for its offerings on the west coast for shipment in December, while [State Trading Corp.](#) and [MMTC Ltd](#) recorded bids of \$286 a tonne in their respective tenders.

"Indian supplies have become on par with Black Sea origin," said Tejinder Narang, adviser at New Delhi-based trading company Emmsons International.

Traders said supplies from the Black Sea were available at \$280-\$290 a tonne FoB.

They said Indian wheat was benefiting from expectations that global prices would rise next year as supplies from the Black Sea fell.

The Indian government stuck to its floor price of \$300 until last month after managing to export nearly 4.5 million tonnes between August 2012 to March 2013 as part of its strategy to cut huge stockpiles.

On November 1, India's wheat stocks stood at 34 million tonnes, three times more than the target for the Oct-Dec quarter.

The high level of stocks at government warehouses, boosted by a series of bumper harvests since 2007, has forced the state-run Food Corporation of India ([FCI](#)), the main grain procurement agency, to store wheat under tarpaulins.

Gur prices fall on increased supply, reduced offtake

At Delhi, gur chakku and pedi fell by Rs 200 each to Rs 2,600-2,800 and Rs 2,750-2,800 per quintal



Weak conditions prevailed on the wholesale Jaggery market today as [gur prices](#) fell up to Rs 300 per quintal on reduced offtake by stockists and local parties against increased supplies from producing areas.

Marketmen said increased supplies from producing areas against reduced offtake by stockists and local parties mainly pulled down gur prices. At Delhi, gur chakku and pedi fell by Rs 200 each to Rs 2,600-2,800 and Rs 2,750-2,800 per quintal, respectively on poor offtake by local parties.

Gur dhayya and shakkar followed suit and eased by Rs 200 and Rs 100 to Rs 2,800-2,900 and Rs 3,000-3,100 per quintal, respectively. At Muzzafarnagar, gur chakku weakened to Rs 2,600-2,750 against last close of Rs 2,650-2,950 and ladoo lost Rs 100 at Rs 2,600-2,650 per quintal, respectively. Pedi and dhayya in Muradnagar, also fell to Rs 2,500-2,550 and Rs 2,550-2,600 against last close of Rs 2,650-2,700 and Rs 2,700-2,750 per quintal, respectively.

Sugar ends lower on subdued demand, higher supply

Traders said low demand against higher supplies mainly kept pressure on sugar prices

[Sugar](#) prices fell on the wholesale sugar market in the national capital today on low demand against higher supplies.

Traders said low demand against higher supplies mainly kept pressure on sugar prices.

Sugar ready M-30 and S-30 were down by Rs 20 each to Rs 3,060-3,260 and Rs 3,050--3,240 per quintal, respectively on reduced offtake against sufficient supplies.

Mill delivery M-30 and S-30 followed suit and traded lower by the same margin to Rs 2,860-3150 and Rs 2,850-3120 per quintal, respectively.

In the millgate section, Mawana, Kinnoni, Asmoli and Doralá were traded lower at Rs 3,005, Rs 3,265, Rs 3,185 and Rs 3,000 against last close of Rs 3,040, Rs 3,305, Rs 3,190 and Rs 3,030 per quintal, respectively.

Budhana, Thananabhavan, Dhanora and Simbholi were eased to Rs 2,985, Rs 2,985, Rs 2,990 and Rs 3,250 per quintal, respectively.

Khatauli, Dhampur, Ramala, Anupshar and Baghpat were weakened to Rs 2,975, Rs 2,980, Rs 2,885, Rs 2,860 and Rs 2,895 from previous close of Rs 3,000, Rs 2,980, Rs 2,905, Rs 2,880 and Rs 2,915 per quintal, respectively.

Morna, Sakoti, Chandpur and Nazibabad were also traded in negative zone at Rs 2,895, Rs 2,900, Rs 2,885 and Rs 2,875 against last close of Rs 2,915, Rs 2,925, Rs 2,900 and Rs 2,895 per quintal, respectively.

Chilli moves up by 2.38% in futures trade on strong demand

The spice for delivery in November advanced by Rs 138, or 2%, to Rs 7,042 per quintal in 670 lots



[Chilli](#) prices rose by 2.38% to Rs 7,324 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions on strong demand in the spot market against limited supplies.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), chilli for delivery in December rose by Rs 170, or 2.38% to Rs 7,324 per quintal in an open interest of 6,390 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in November advanced by Rs 138, or 2%, to Rs 7,042 per quintal in 670 lots.

Analysts said speculators enlarging their positions on strong demand in the spot market against restricted supplies from producing regions mainly pushed up chilli prices at futures trade.

Sugar futures rise 0.78% as demand picks up

The sweetener for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 2, or 0.07%, to Rs 2,829 per quintal in 11,180 lots



[Sugar](#) prices rose 0.78% to Rs 2,957 per quintal in futures market today as speculators built up fresh positions after pick up in demand in the spot market supported by ongoing marriage season.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), sugar for delivery in November rose Rs 23, or 0.78%, to Rs 2,957 per quintal with an open interest of 7,370 lots.

Similarly, the sweetener for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 2, or 0.07%, to Rs 2,829 per quintal in 11,180 lots.

Analysts said speculators built up fresh positions after pick up in demand supported by ongoing marriage season led to rise in sugar prices at futures trade.

Potato futures fall 1.16% on higher supply

Potato for delivery in April shed Rs 3.70, or 0.43%, to Rs 860.80 per quintal in 24 lots



[Potato](#) prices fell by 1.16% to Rs 883 per quintal in [futures](#) trading today as speculators offloaded their positions triggered by higher supplies from producing regions in spot market.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for delivery in March fell by Rs 10.40, or 1.16%, to Rs 883 per quintal in a business turnover of 185 lots.

Likewise, potato for delivery in April shed Rs 3.70, or 0.43%, to Rs 860.80 per quintal in 24 lots.

Analysts said fall in potato prices was mostly due to offloading of positions by speculators driven by higher supply from growing belts.

Chana futures fall 0.83% on profit-booking

Commodity for delivery in December traded lower by Rs 25, or 0.77%, to Rs 3,219 per quintal



Amid profit-booking by speculators and low demand in spot markets, [chana](#) prices declined 0.83% to Rs 3,090 per quintal in [futures](#) trade today.

Further, expectations of higher output this season also influenced chana prices.

At the [National Commodity and Derivative Exchange](#), chana for delivery in November declined by Rs 26, or 0.83%, to Rs 3,090 per quintal with an open interest of 1,110 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in December traded lower by Rs 25, or 0.77%, to Rs 3,219 per quintal in 1,02,130 lots.

Analysts said speculators booked profits at prevailing higher levels and fall in demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position mainly kept pressure on chana prices at futures trade.

Mentha oil edges up on spot demand



Oil for delivery in December moved up by Rs 2.20, or 0.25%, to Rs 890 per kg in 87 lots

[Mentha oil](#) prices edged up by 0.29% to Rs 877.50 per kg in futures market today as speculators enlarged their positions, tracking a firm trend at spot market on pick up in demand.

Tight stocks availability in the physical market due to restricted arrivals from Chandausi in Uttar Pradesh also supported the uptrend.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), mentha oil for delivery in November edged up by Rs 2.50, or 0.29%, to Rs 877.50 per kg in business turnover of 229 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in December moved up by Rs 2.20, or 0.25%, to Rs 890 per kg in 87 lots.

Market analysts said speculators enlarged positions on the back of a firm trend at spot market following increased demand from consuming industries that helped mentha oil prices to trade higher at futures trade.

Cardamom futures gain 0.78% on rising demand, tight supply

The spice for delivery in January traded higher by Rs 5.50, or 0.73%



Cardamom prices gained 0.78% to Rs 734.20 per kg in [futures](#) trade today as speculators created fresh positions, driven by a rising demand in the spot market.

Besides, export enquiries and tight supply due to less arrivals from growing regions fuelled the uptrend.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in December gained Rs 5.70, or 0.78%, to Rs 734.20 per kg in business turnover of 364 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in January traded higher by Rs 5.50, or 0.73%, to Rs 764 per kg in 81 lots.

Analysts said fresh positions built-up by speculators on the back of rising demand in the spot market against tight supplies from producing regions mainly led to rise in cardamom prices at futures trade.

Domestic rubber futures turn weak

Kottayam, Nov. 18: Domestic rubber futures finished weak on Monday. The December contracts declined to Rs 157.90 (Rs 158.57), January to Rs 160 (Rs 160.74), February to Rs 162.50 (Rs 167.05) and March to Rs 166.36 (Rs 173.29) per kg for RSS 4 on National Multi-Commodity Exchange (NMCE). RSS 3 (spot) weakened to Rs 157.31 (Rs 158.40) per kg at Bangkok. The November futures dropped to ₹ 248.6 (Rs 155.10) from ₹ 249.2 a kg during the day's session but then remained inactive in the night session on Tokyo Commodity Exchange. The benchmark TOCOM rubber futures dropped as declines in other financial markets dented sentiments towards the soft commodity.

Physical rubber prices were not available owing to a 12-hour hartal from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the State.

Tomato prices seen stable till mid-December

Coimbatore, Nov 18: The farm-gate price of tomato will remain stable over the next one month. It will rule between Rs 16 and Rs 20 a kg, say analysts of Agro Marketing Intelligence and Business Promotion Centre at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University here.

The analysts, after studying the price movement of the hybrid tomato over the past decade, said that they did not foresee any big change in the price up to mid-December. If the North-East Monsoon intensifies in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the farm price could increase. However, it would quote Rs 2-5 a kg lower at the Oddanchatiram market in Tamil Nadu compared with prices in Coimbatore, they said.

Tomato prices have fallen by half to its current level since July–August, when it was quoting at over Rs 45 a kg. Traders attributed the rise to severe drought in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Bengal curbs on potato exports: Traders move High Court

Kolkata, Nov. 18: A group of potato traders have moved the Calcutta High Court, challenging the West Bengal Government's decision to restriction to inter-state movement of potato.

According to a lawyer who filed a writ petition on behalf of the traders, an affidavit was filed on Monday challenging the State Agricultural Marketing Department's notification.

Such a restriction on “right to practice” free trade, profession and commerce was “unconstitutional” and could only be imposed by the Union Government in appropriate cases of public interest, the lawyer said.

Subrata Biswas, Principal Secretary, State Agricultural Marketing Department, had said the notification “restricting” export of potato to other States was issued on October 20 based on provisions in the West Bengal Agriculture Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1972.

Wheat exports tender gets bids higher than floor price



New Delhi, Nov. 18: Buyers in Singapore and Dubai have placed the highest bids for export of Indian wheat through State agencies — STC, MMTTC and PEC Ltd — for which tenders were opened on Monday.

At the top-end, bids received by these agencies ranged from \$284.70-289.90 a tonne, broadly in line with the prevailing global prices, which have increased in the last three weeks.

PEC Ltd received the highest bid of

\$289.90 a tonne from the Singapore-based Agri Commodities International for about 30,000 tonnes of the 70,000 tonnes wheat offered from Krishnapatnam port.

MMTTC received highest bid of \$285.95 a tonne for 50,000 tonnes of the 60,000 tonnes offered from Kakinada Port by Agrocorp International Pte Ltd, another Singapore-based firm.

Agri Commodities was also the highest bidder at \$286.20 a tonne for 30,000 tonnes of the 1.2 lakh tonnes offered by STC through Mundra Port.

Bids from Dubai

The Dubai-based Al Ghurair had placed a highest bid of \$284.70 for 30,000 tonnes of the 90,000 tonnes offered through Kandla Port.

The responses to the latest tenders are higher than the floor price of \$260 a tonne. On October 30, the Government had cut the floor price for wheat exports by \$40 a tonne to \$260 to make Indian wheat shipments more viable in the global market after the State entities received poor response to export 1.6 lakh tonnes last month. Against a floor price of \$300 a tonne, the bids received by these entities for the October tender ranged between \$260 and \$267 a tonne, forcing the Government to cut the price.

“It is interesting that the large and medium-sized traders in Singapore and Dubai have made the highest bids. May be they are taking new positions,” said Tejinder Narang, a grains trade analyst. Further, none of the multinationals, such as Cargill and Louis Dreyfus, submitted bids at the highest levels.

Narang also pointed out that the Indian wheat has come at a par with supplies from the Black Sea region, where it is quoted between \$280 and \$290 a tonne.

The Government has decided to ship out about two million tonnes of wheat to cut surplus stocks and create space for other cereals such as rice, for which paddy procurement is currently on in states such as Punjab and Haryana. On November 1, India's wheat stocks stood at 34 million tonnes, three times more than the target for the October-December quarter.

The State entities had exported 4.2 mt of wheat in fiscal 2012-13 and the value of these shipments was \$1.4 billion. The average price fetched by the Indian wheat stood at \$311.38 a tonne last fiscal.

Fresh 'low' over Bay heads towards TN coast

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov. 18: The Met Department has upgraded the outlook for a rain-generating system brewing in the Bay of Bengal back to that of a low-pressure area. It is expected to intensify one round within the next two days with a track likely set straight towards the Tamil Nadu coast.

SYSTEM RESET

An earlier outlook had suggested that the 'low' would merge with a comparatively loosely knit 'easterly wave' and ride the Bay waters to the destination. This has now been reset by giving it status as a full-fledged 'low' with prospects for intensification by at least a round. International weather models do not signal further strengthening of marked significance but does not preclude the prospects of fresh rain for the southern peninsula.

Meanwhile, the Met Department has picked yet another system developing in the south Andaman Sea by the weekend.

FOLLOW-UP SYSTEM

This too has been forecast to intensify, with a track that looks once again at Tamil Nadu, making it the third such on a trot from the last week and into the current.

US National Centres for Environmental Prediction suggests marked intensification of the system bringing heavy rain over north Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh coasts.

The sudden spurt in activity in the Bay of Bengal is being attributed to simmering waters just upstream in South China Sea/West Pacific basins.

The latest 'storm pulse' crossing (and setting up 'low' in the Bay) originated from tropical storm Podul that hit the Vietnam coast a couple of days back flooding the mainland.

WESTERLY SYSTEMS

In the North, a feeble low-pressure wave in the form of a western disturbance lay parked over Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining north Pakistan. Another fresh western disturbance would affect Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday and Thursday.

Arrival of a western disturbance with moisture picked along the way from the Mediterranean has the effect of bringing rain/snow and lifting night temperatures.

This is because associated cloud cover blocks terrestrial radiation from escaping into the atmosphere.

During the day, however, the clouds would allow only limited solar radiation to reach the surface and puts a cap to the extent to which day temperatures can build.

Passage of the western disturbance onward to the east clears up the skies but also brings colder Arctic air wafting into the plains of northwest India bringing down the mercury.

Cardamom continues to gain flavour on buying support

Kochi, Nov. 18: Cardamom prices gained from the middle of last week on buying support from upcountry markets at the auctions.

Upcountry dealers were active and covered for the upcoming wedding and festival season. Despite heavy arrivals, the market moved up from Friday onwards.

Auction average

Prices increased from the individual auction average of Rs 613.60 a kg on Friday to Rs 615.22 on Saturday and to Rs 635 a kg on Sunday.

The third round of picking is coming to a close and from the next round onwards, arrival is expected to decline. Wednesday's auction by CPMC Kumily is unlikely to be held as no registration for it might take place on Tuesday, P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, told *Business Line*.

Arrival of 8mm bold capsules has started diminishing as growers and primary market dealers might have started holding it back, trade sources said.

The variety is being sold at Rs 850 a kg. Bulk was fetching Rs 680-700 a kg, they said.

Total arrivals at the Sunday auction of the KCPMC increased to 105 tonnes from 97 tonnes the previous Sunday and the entire quantity was sold out, Punnoose said.

The maximum price increased to Rs 891 a kg and the minimum declined to Rs 370 a kg. The auction average rose to Rs 635 a kg from Rs 612 a kg the previous Sunday.

Sales were at 7,591 tonnes and 3,341 tonnes respectively. The weighted average price as on November 17, 2013 stood at around Rs 606.16 a kg against Rs 737.39 a kg as on the same date last year.

Prices of all the graded varieties moved up last week on buying support and their prices in Rs per kg at last weekend were : AGEB 760-80; AGB 635-655; AGS 595-605; and AGS-1: 575-585.

'Brood stock scarcity affecting vannamei shrimp farming'

Kakinada, Nov. 18:

Andhra Pradesh is leading in vannamei shrimp culture in the country and contributing substantially to the export earnings from the seafood sector. But non-availability of enough brood-stock is turning out to be a serious issue, according to L. Satyanarayana, President of the All-India Shrimp Hatcheries' Association.



He said in an interview here on Monday that there was not enough brood stock to meet the demand for vannamei shrimp seed and therefore hatcheries, most of them located in East Godavari district, were importing the brood stock from Hawaii and other countries. But there were too many restrictions on import and each hatchery was being given a certain quota, which was

inadequate, he said.

The association had represented the issue to S. Ayyappan, Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, when he visited the port town last week to participate in a review meeting. He expressed hope that corrective steps would be taken. Satyanarayana said that there were many unregistered vannamei shrimp farms in the State and therefore, demand was much higher than projected. "According to the Coastal Aquaculture Authority of India, only 6,000 hectares may be under vannamei culture, but actually the figure may be four-fold or even five-fold higher. For a variety of reasons, farmers are not registering the farms. The authorities are allowing import of brood stock only on the basis of official statistics and it is proving to be a major problem," he said and pleaded that import restrictions should be eased taking into account the ground realities.

He said the scarcity of vannamei seed was forcing farmers to use inbred inferior seed and that may lead to many problems in the future. Quality seed was the first requisite for sustainable shrimp culture, he said. He added that efforts should also be made to bring down feed cost to make culture sustainable.

Cotton set to bloom on low arrivals; futures may wilt



Rajkot, Nov. 18: Cotton price ruled steady on limited buying by mills and exporters. According to market sources, arrivals are rising but not as expected. Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton was traded at Rs 39,500-600 for a candy of 356 kg. *Kapas* or raw cotton stood at Rs 925-975 for a *maund* of 20 kg and gin delivery kapas at Rs 980-985 .

About 50,000-55,000 bales of 170 kg each of cotton arrived in Gujarat and 152,000 bales arrived across the country.

A broker said that demand is slack from domestic mills and exporters.

However, traders believe that price of the fibre may gain in near future as arrival of the commodity is below expectations.

On the NCDEX, kapas February contract dropped by Rs 20 to Rs 868.50 and April contract remained flat at Rs 937 for 20 kg.

According to traders, since yarn export is slow, demand from spinning mills has dropped.

Reuters reports: Cotton futures are expected to trade steady-to-lower this week on better supplies.

“In the short term prices may remain steady because of some demand from mills and also as farmers are bringing less due to the elections. But prices tend to fall gradually on higher production,” said Arun Kumar Dalal, a trader from Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

“Imports (by China) will not be completely banned as very expensive raw material would push local textile industry in crisis. As a result, exports to China will take place but at much lesser extent,” Kotak Commodities said in its quarterly report published last week.

China, the world's top cotton buyer, has imported 3.37 million tonnes of the fibre in the first 10 months of this year, a drop of 21.7 per cent on the same period last year, the association said, citing customs figures.

The most-active March cotton contract on ICE Futures US slipped 0.04 per cent to 78.17 cents a lb.

Pepper rules firm as Kerala hartal hits trade



Kochi, Nov. 18: Pepper futures ruled firm, while spot prices remained steady on limited activities.

Activities in primary markets in Idukki and Wayanad districts and the terminal market here were limited due to the hartal called by the protesters against the implementation of the Kasturirangan Report on the Preservation and Conservation of the Western Ghats. On the NMCE, December and January contracts were up by Rs 184 and Rs 483 respectively to (Rs 52,235 and Rs 52,209

a quintal.

On the IPSTA, December and January rose by Rs 300 and Rs 295 to Rs 51,314 and Rs 52,227 a quintal.

Spot prices remained unchanged on limited activities at Rs 49,800 (ungarbled) and Rs 51,800 (garbled) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$8,750 (c&f) for Europe and \$9,050 (c&f) for the US. All the other origins are reportedly firmer on tight supply situation.

Indonesian and Vietnam Asta grade pepper, according to an overseas report today, was quoted above \$8,000 and up to \$8,450 a tonne (c&f) Europe.

According to S. Kannan, Executive Director, International Pepper Community (IPC), as pepper players from major producing countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Brazil,

Malaysia, Sri Lanka, China and Cambodia were attending the 41st annual meet at Kuching, Malaysia, prices in most of the producing countries stayed relatively stable.

“In India, the price increased by 5-6 per cent. Marginal decreases (in dollar) in domestic market of Lampung and Kuching, Sarawak were recorded due to weakening of their local currency against the dollar,” he told *Business Line*.

Retail traders keep away from rice market



Karnal, Nov. 18: The rice market witnessed a mixed trend on Monday. After rising last week, Pusa-1121 and Sharbati varieties witnessed some correction, while all other aromatic and non-basmati varieties remained unchanged.

“The rally over the last weeks was unjustified. Therefore, prices of Pusa-1121 varieties dropped,” said Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company.

Retail traders are keeping away from the market as they are reluctant to make fresh purchases at current levels, he said.

Domestic demand is not picking up and rice prices may rule range-bound this week, said market experts.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) eased by Rs 200 and sold at Rs 9,100, while Pusa-1121 (sela) moved down by Rs 400 and quoted at Rs 8,000 a quintal.

Pure Basmati (Raw) quoted at Rs 12,700 . Duplicate basmati (steam) sold at Rs 7,500 .

In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) decreased by Rs 400 and sold at Rs 5,500 while Sharbati (Sela) quoted at Rs 5,200 , Rs 300 down.

Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,350-2,400 while Permal (sela) was at Rs 2,400 . PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs 3,300 while PR-11 (Raw) quoted at Rs 3,000-3,100 .

PR14 (steam) sold at Rs 3,400 .

Paddy arrivals

About 20,000 bags of PR paddy arrived and quoted at Rs 1,300, around 30,000 bags of Pusa-1121 arrived and sold at Rs 3,700-4,000, while 10,000 bags of Sharbati arrived and sold at Rs 2,300-50. Around 5,000 bags of Duplicate Basmati arrived and went for Rs 3,800, while 1,000 bags of Pure Basmati sold at Rs 5,700-5,900. Some 5,000 bags of Sugandha-999 were sold at Rs 2,950 a quintal.

Poor quality, slack buying crush soyabean



Indore, Nov. 18: Weak demand for soyameal and soya oil have dragged soyabean prices in Indore mandis in the past one week by Rs 250-275 a quintal. On Monday, soyabean in Indore mandis declined to Rs 3,550-3,750 a quintal. Besides weak demand in soyameal, weak global cues and arrival of poor quality have added to the sluggish trend in soyabean.

According to Suresh Kukreja, a trader, since stockists are farmers are holding

the best quality soyabean, there is virtually no demand for the inferior quality on offer and demand for infected and poor quality soyabean in mandis has declined leading to a sharp fall in its prices.

Soya seeds futures traded marginally higher notwithstanding weak global cues with its November and December contracts on the NCDEX closing higher at Rs 3,840 and Rs 3,803 a quintal. Amid slack demand in soya oil, plant deliveries have also declined to Rs 3,750-3,850 (almost down Rs 100 from last week).

Soyameal DOC continued to rule flat with its prices on Kandla port being quoted at Rs 34,800, while it is ruling at Rs 32,200-300 on the domestic market. Arrival was recorded at 3.50 lakh bags.

Sluggish trend also continued in soya oil on slack domestic demand and weak global cues with soya refined declining to Rs 665-75 for 10 kg (Rs 680-85). Similarly, soya solvent also declined to Rs 630-35 ((Rs 642-45) on weak demand.

In futures, however, soya oil showed mixed trend with its November and December contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 708 (down Rs 3.50) and Rs 716.50 (up Rs 3.50) respectively.
